

## UNISDR Science and Technology Conference on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

27-29 January 2016, Geneva

The UNISDR Science and Technology Conference on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was held on 27-29 January 2016, Geneva. Dr Takako Izumi, the APRU MH Program Coordinator and Associate Professor at the IRIDeS, Tohoku University is a member of the UNISDR Asia Science, Technology and Academia Advisory Group (ASTAAG). The APRU Multi-Hazards (MH) Program aims to contribute to the international and regional discussions on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through this platform. She made a poster presentation at the Conference to introduce the APRU and the activities and initiatives of the MH program such as the campus safety program.

The Conference objectives were to bring together the full diversity of the science and technology community, policy makers, practitioners and researchers from all geographical regions, at local, national, regional and international levels to discuss how the science and technology community will best support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and to promote and support the availability and application of science and technology to decision-making in DRR. At the conference, the Science and Technology road man was launched to define the expected outcomes of the science and technology work under each of the four Sendai Framework priority areas of actions and the ways to monitor progress and needs.



## Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management on Campus: *the Multi-Hazards Program by the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)*

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### What is APRU (Association of Pacific Rim Universities)?

APRU is a network of 45 research universities around the Pacific Rim. It was established in 1997 to create an association of premier research universities around the Pacific Rim region and foster cooperation in education and research among these universities in area of major importance to the Pacific Rim community.

### What is APRU Multi-Hazards Program?

APRU and IRIDeS at Tohoku University launched the Multi-Hazards (MH) Program in April 2013. The Pacific Rim region is subject to high risks of natural disasters and the universities and research institutions in the region are expected to contribute to reducing disaster challenges. The main objectives of this program are to harness the collective capabilities of APRU universities for cutting-edge research on DRR and to contribute to international policy-making processes to steadily improve DRR.



## Campus Safety Program: *building disaster resilient universities*

### Why Campus Safety?

- Universities have a responsibility to protect assets, buildings, and human lives.
- Universities are required to maintain an environment where students can continue their studies and research activities.
- Universities must promptly respond to disasters, make regular risk assessments on campus to have a proper preparedness plan, and try to eliminate and /or reduce risks.

	Area	Strengths	Potential
1	Governance actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Countermeasure office</li> <li>• Response plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simulation exercise of countermeasure office</li> <li>• Information sharing and early warning</li> </ul>
2	Risk assessment	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk assessment</li> <li>• Strategies and action plan based on risk assessment</li> <li>• Assessment result to be shared</li> </ul>
3	Disaster preparedness mechanism and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency communication system</li> <li>• Disaster-resistant structure</li> <li>• Awareness-raising activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance for foreign students</li> <li>• Safety confirmation</li> <li>• Response handbook and its distribution</li> </ul>
4	Response capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency stockpile</li> <li>• Building inspection implementation and capacity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mutual agreement with neighboring universities</li> <li>• Volunteers list</li> </ul>
5	Support system for students, faculty members, and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies for support to students</li> <li>• Support for psychosocial assistance needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support system for foreign students</li> <li>• Support system for faculty members, and staff, as well as their families</li> </ul>
6	Date preservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data and information gathering after disasters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archival system for preservation of records and information</li> </ul>



### Major areas need to be strengthened:

1. Conducting **risk assessment** and sharing the results openly
2. **Early warning and alert, simulation exercise of response mechanism** as well as **support to foreign students**.
3. Challenges such as financial constraints, lack of human resources and understanding risks as well as getting participation by faculty and staff.

### Potential contribution to implementing S/T aspects of SFDRR by Campus Safety Program

- Universities are recognized as a part of the community. Their preparedness-capacity has a huge impact on the safety and security of human lives and property, even on communities and universities.
- Universities will be able to provide assistance to communities by sharing information and providing spaces.

*APRU is assisting universities in providing learning and information exchange opportunities to learn from others and improve the preparedness capacity.*