
THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS SESSION

IN THE IIASA-DPRI FORUM ON INTEGRATED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
(NEXUS-IDRiM)

INVITATION FOR THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS GROUP

The issue of disaster risk management involves many complicated and different aspects. For this reason, the forum is organized to challenge the problem in an integrated way by calling for world's top disaster researchers from natural and social sciences. Now the forum is recognized as a very unique effort and has achieved successful outcomes. "Integrated" is a very fundamental concept of the conference.

However, integration also means that different disciplines and its specific typologies have to find together a common language to understand the complex relationships and to find integrated risk management strategies for given systems shocked by disasters. Putting it another way, that is one of the reasons why integrated disaster risk management is difficult to realize.

Moreover, for disaster problems, our society expects scientists to find an implementable solution to reduce our risks by something instantly in effect. Therefore, leading disaster researchers are sometimes forced to elicit a solution even before he completes sufficient scientific investigation.

Recognizing this antinomy for integrated science of disaster risk, we have to adhere to be scientific as far as we are a group of scientists. The group of young scientists who are conscious of this question, and have strong motivation to apply basic principles of science to research problems started the NEXUS young scientist project. The members work in their own bases, and the achievements are presented in the young scientist session of the IDRiM forum every year. The project is a unique activity of the forum in that it is organized by the young scientists group itself, and for the last three years, the participants made challenges where they presented critical reviews based on the papers previously published in the IIASA-DPRI annual conferences and developed the past IDRiM research works. We believe that discussions in the annual IDRiM conferences should not be fragmentary, and ideas should be continuously "improved".

As will be described below, the session style will be revised this year to be more familiar one, although this is an exceptional chance for young researchers to challenge and discuss with top disaster experts, and to contribute for the development of integrated disaster risk management.

The NEXUS young scientists group is waiting for new fellows getting on this stage together!

THE PAST YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROJECT, 2005-2007

To foster our idea in the session, the young scientists group had one project that lasted for the first three years as follows:

2005 - THE KICK OFF YEAR

We initiated our session by reviewing senior researchers' work.

2006 - THE DIRECTING YEAR

Being based on the review, we showed a hypothesis to be scientifically tested. Participants expanded reviews on papers in each academic field and tried to summarize what had been attained in the preceding IDRiM, what was still ambiguous and/or on which points conclusions were in conflict with each other. New participants introduced their interests and research results.

On the third year, we investigated the hypothesis either theoretically or empirically.

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS SESSION 2009

The NEXUS young scientists group is sending a proposal for an organized session in the IIASA-DPRI forum on "INTEGRATED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT", October 12-16, 2009 in Kyoto, Japan. The session will take place on 16th.

We welcome speakers from any academic areas as well as practical fields. Although it is named like "Young" scientists session, physical age never matters. We would like to encourage particularly Ph.D candidates, assistant professors and practitioners who have few experience of talking in international conferences. The session is organized in the following way;

- Speakers make presentation on their recent results whose themes are chosen by each speaker without any constraint.

- Speakers are requested to submit a paper (hopefully full-length paper) by September 25th.

- Special discussants are allocated to presentations (one discussant to one presentation), who will give sophisticated comments and questions after presenters' talks. The discussants are served by former young researchers who have just graduated the Young Scientists Session (former participants of YSS). They are expected to read papers that they will discuss on in advance.

- 25 minutes are allocated to each presentation, which is composed of 14 minutes for presenter's talk, 3 minutes for discussant's comment, 2 minutes for reply to the comment by the presenter and 6 minutes for discussion with audience. (However, they can be revised according to the number of presentations.)

BEST PAPER AWARD

Papers and presentations are judged by 5-6 senior professors. The screening standards are organized by contents of study (60%), attractiveness of presentation (20%) and performance in question-and-answer (20%).

REGISTRATION

Presenters are requested to submit to an organizer, Muneta Yokomatsu (yoko@drs.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp), (1) Title of the presentation, (2) Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the presenters, (3) Abstract (250 words) by July 1st.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you want to join the session, or have an interest in the NEXUS young scientists group, please get contact with us by the following ways.

1. JOIN OUR MAILING LIST from <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/youngscientists-iiasadpri/>
2. INQUIRY TO THE SESSION ORGANIZER to Muneta Yokomatsu, DPRI, Kyoto University, yoko@drs.dpri.kyoto-u.ac.jp, or Stefan Hochrainer, IIASA, hochrain@iiasa.ac.at.