

**Report of the February 10, 2003 meeting of the
SDR International Working Group Co-Chairs**

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In attendance:

Larry W. Roeder, Jr., State/IO, Co-Chair
Fernando Echavarria, State/OES, Co-Chair
Larry Weber, NSF, Co-Chair
Dori Akerman, GRS, SDR Secretariat

The co-chairs of the International Working Group on Disaster Reduction met in IO/SHA on Feb 10th and agreed upon the following:

1. **Mission Statement:** The group had been asked to revise their mission statement to reflect recent discussions in the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction, an element of the National Science and Technology Council's Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The following mission statement was discussed in concept, and which will be discussed at the IWG meeting to be held on February 18, 2003.

As part of its government-wide mission, SNDR's International Working Group will facilitate the U.S. Government's international science and technology activities related to all phases of natural and technological disasters. This will include the development of special studies, inviting international experts to speak to the IWG and SDR, the completion of a white paper on international scientific cooperation and the facilitation of the U.S. contribution to, and participation in the scientific and technical aspects of the United Nations International Strategy on Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and other relevant disaster reduction activities sponsored by the UN and other international organizations, though the Department of State and other agencies as appropriate will retain their traditional lead on policy coordination.

The Department of State (IO/SHA) for example will retain the lead on the interagency discussions on USG policy vis a vis ISDR and the upcoming Yokohama conference, which will also include discussions with non-government experts that can't be party to IWG meetings. The Department of State in turn has agreed to ensure that policy discussions will take into account IWG's discussions on science and technology and that IWG members will be kept informed and invited to participate in State led discussions. This process is intended to form a model for interaction with other international bodies as well to make sure that policy makers have the best scientific and technical advise and to make sure that the IWG is aware of what direction the policy level is going.

2. **International Science and Technology Cooperative Initiatives:** Larry Weber of NSF agreed to coordinate the development of an inventory of international science and technology cooperative initiatives that IWG will focus on as a priority. These include OECD, ISDR, UNDP, UNEP, but will include others as well. The relationship with each will be handled essentially as with ISDR. Larry Roeder of State/IO/SHA agreed to invite Pierre Alein Sheib of OECD to come to a meeting of the IWG to discuss a study on systemic risks to society and to make arrangements for Louis Buys, the Head of the South African Disaster Response Center, to address the IWG and SDR during the week of the GDIN2003 conference in Washington. A report on these activities will be due at the monthly IWG meeting on March 18, 2003.

3. **International Strategy on Disaster Reduction** (ISDR) Pursuant to the general plan, Larry Roeder was asked to develop a plan of action for ISDR and Yokohama Plus 11. Larry mentioned that Salvano Briceno, head of SNDR will come to the April session of SDR as well, so Larry also will be developing a plan for his visit.

4. **IWG Web Site:** This site is maintained by NOAA. The following items were recommended for inclusion on the IWG website, all open to the public, except for meeting notes, which will be password-protected.

- List of the three co-chairs
- List of IWG members
- Mission Statement
- useful links to the main SDR links page
- IWG Products, e.g. the International White Paper
- Agenda and Meeting Reports
- Calendar of Meetings and location information

5. **International White Paper** Fernando Echaveria of OES has responsibility for this effort, which is an inventory and description of international disaster related science and technology cooperative agreements and programs of interest to the United States. Initially, Dr. Echevarria is to draft an introduction on the added value of the paper and update the paper, which was first drafted in 2002. This will then be distributed to the IWG and SDR for comment, updating and eventual posting in web code on the website. IWG will also seek to locate international partners to add content.

6. **Secretariat Responsibilities:** The group agreed that the State/IO intern would be rewarded as the official meeting notetaker, though each member will have responsibility for feeding the intern their input on the results of meetings.

7. **Agenda for the IWG meeting of Feb 18th.** This will follow the items discussed in the co-chair meeting.