

**Report of the January 27, 2003 meeting of the  
SDR International Working Group**

**Report by:** Larry Roeder, Jr., Co-Chair, State/IO/SHA  
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**In attendance:**

Larry W. Roeder, Jr., State/IO, Co-Chair  
Fernando Echavarria, State/OES, Co-Chair  
Gene Whitney, OSTP  
Helen Wood, NOAA/NESDIS (via teleconference)

Chris Lewis, NOAA/NESDIS  
Dennis Wenger, NSF  
Dori Akerman, NOAA/GRS  
Michael Hales, NOAA/NESDIS  
Robert Becker, USAID/OFDA  
Sophie Hill, State/IO

The International Working Group (IWG) of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) accomplished the following in their January 27, 2003 meeting:

**1. Purpose of the International Working Group (IWG):** The meeting began with a discussion on the purposes of the IWG led by Helen Wood and Gene Whitney. There was active participation by all members.

The group agreed that the work of the IWG should focus on international cooperation in science and technology as it relates to disaster reduction. This involves the development of special studies, the completion of an International White Paper drafted by the Department of State's OES Bureau, and the development of links to OECD, ISDR and other appropriate bodies. However, it was also agreed that the various member agencies already have policy responsibility for disaster reduction and ISDR, so the IWG's role with respect to those will be limited to providing advice on the appropriate use of science and technology. State, for example, will retain the lead on the interagency discussions on USG policy vis à vis ISDR and the upcoming Yokohama conference. However, there are to be dialogues between the interagency policy discussion groups and the IWG, to make sure that policy makers have the best scientific and technical advice and to make sure that the IWG is aware of what direction the policy level is going.

The IWG co-chairs will modify the Mission Statement of the IWG with this in mind, and will develop a corresponding action plan for this year. Michael Hales will prepare core slides on IWG based on the Mission Statement.

**2. Future Topics of IWG:** The IWG co-chairs agreed to meet on February 10, 2003 to refine the list of three major projects to be accomplished this year, and will also develop a general list of other topics to keep in mind.

**3. International Science and Technology Cooperative Initiatives:** Within the context of the initial discussion, the group agreed to develop a plan for cooperation with International Organizations and international science and technology initiatives related to natural disaster reduction. Some of those bodies are OECD, ISDR, UNDP, UNEP and other international bodies. A list of useful International Science and Technology Cooperative Initiatives will also be prepared with a plan for interaction.

Larry Roeder reported on a study by OECD on systemic risks to society and the IWG asked him to email the package to the group, and to invite Pierre Alein Sheib of OECD to come to a meeting of IWG and discuss the study. Mr. Roeder also informed the IWG that Louis Buys, the Head of the South African Disaster Response Center, has asked for an opportunity to address the IWG or SDR during the week of the GDIN conference in November 2003.

**4. International Strategy on Disaster Reduction (ISDR):** Pursuant to the general plan adopted in the first agenda item, the State Department was asked to create a plan for ISDR and Yokohama Plus 11 for comments and input by SDR and IWG. Mr. Roeder noted that Sálvano Briceño, head of ISDR's secretariat plans to attend the April session of SDR, so the plan will include an approach to making that trip successful.

**5. Website:** Dori Akerman discussed the need to decide what IWG wanted on their website. This will be an active item for the next IWG meeting. Some of the suggestions so far have been:

- A list of the three co-chairs linked to their email addresses
- A list of IWG members
- Mission Statement
- Useful links included in the main SDR links page
- IWG Products. This could be white papers and other reports produced by the IWG.
- Agendas and Meeting Reports
- Calendar of Meetings and location/contact information as it is developed will be included in the main SDR calendar

**6. Update on UN-OOSA Workshop, Thailand:** Michael Hales presented a briefing on the trip he made to UN-OOSA Workshop in Thailand, and reported on an upcoming Integrated Earth Observation Summit to be held in Washington in the near future. Discussion of the Summit will also be a topic of discussion. Michael will email the CEOS slides to the group.

**7. Current International White Paper:** Fernando Echavarria of State/OES reminded the IWG of the International White Paper, which he believed could be a major IWG product. The IWG agreed to complete the paper and ask Dr. Echavarria to coordinate its completion. Dori Akerman will distribute the study to all members by email.

**8. Development of Future Minutes:** At a meeting of the co-chairs on February 5<sup>th</sup>, it was agreed that the State Department would manage the IWG meeting minutes process. A State/IO intern will do an initial sketch of the events and agreements based on his or her notes and those provided by the group and the three co-chairs. The three co-chairs will come to an agreement on text, which they can then send to the IWG for clearance. Once cleared by the IWG, the minutes become the official report. The drafting officer will have notes from different sources and the IWG will have a method to assure accuracy.

**9. Calendar of Meetings:** Dori Akerman proposed a calendar of meetings, which was also accepted. Meetings begin at 1 pm ET.

Meeting Schedule for 2003  
February 18, State Department, Room 5336a  
March 18, USAID, Room TBD  
April 22  
May 20  
June 17  
July 15  
August 19  
September 16  
October 21  
November 18  
December 16

## Meeting Agenda

International Working Group of the SDR  
27 January 2003, 1 pm EST, State Department

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<b>Welcome and introductions</b> .....	Roeder, Echavarria, All
<b>Mission and Charter</b> .....	Roeder, Echavarria
Discussion and updates	
Working group co-chair	
<b>Update on UN-OOSA Workshop - Thailand</b> .....	Michael Hales
<b>International Strategy on Disaster Reduction</b> .....	All
Role of the International Working Group	
Sálvano Briceño's visit to the SDR: schedule, discussion points	
<b>Goals for Yokohama+10</b> .....	All
Influencing any research agenda that may come out of the Yokohama+10 conference	
<b>White papers</b> .....	All
Propose science and technology study papers and drafting officers	
Completing the International White Paper	
<b>International science and technology cooperative</b> .....	All
Science and technology cooperative initiatives	
<b>Website</b> .....	All
International Working Group-related content on the SDR website	
<b>Close</b> .....	Roeder, Echavarria
Summary of actions for the next meeting	

### Meeting Schedule

#### 2003

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December 16, 2003

The SDR International Working Group  
meets on the third Tuesday of each  
month (please see adjacent schedule).  
Meetings are held from 1 am - 3 pm.

