

International Working Group

US Department of State, Washington, DC

Minutes of the March 10, 2003 Meeting

Room 5336a, 1pm - 2:30pm

DRAFT

Host: State/IO

Co-Chairs Attending:

Larry W. Roeder, Jr., State/IO, Fernando Echavarría, State/OES, Larry Weber, NSF

I. Welcome and introductions: Larry Roeder, State

II. Mission and Charter: Larry Roeder, State: The Working Group made final edits to the draft charter statement for the International Working Group, with the understanding that the text can be amended in the future, as needed.

"The Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction's International Working Group (IWG) is charged with facilitating and promoting international cooperation in science and technology as it relates to all phases of natural and technological disasters. The IWG facilitates a dialogue between policy, and science and technology communities. The IWG provides an interagency forum to exchange information on disaster-related science and technology programs and facilities in other countries, and to identify and coordinate opportunities for beneficial international collaborations. Similarly, the IWG facilitates from a science and technology perspective, the U.S. government's contribution to and participation in relevant international program and organizations, e.g. the United Nations International Strategy on Disaster Reduction (ISDR)."

Note: This text was agreed within a context established in the previous IWG meeting. A partner State Department led interagency working group with non-USG elements will develop policy links to the ISDR. All members of the IWG and SDR are invited to attend and participate in all meetings of the State Department working group. Further, there is to be an exchange of information between the two bodies so that both are fully informed as appropriate on the others activities and needs. This is intended to stimulate collaboration.

III. International Strategy on Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Larry Roeder, State:

Sálvano Briceño, Director, Secretariat for the ISDR was invited to attend meetings in Washington with the SDR at 10am on April 10th followed by a working lunch at the Department of State. However, post-meeting email traffic indicates he can only attend on the 3rd of April. The Department of State recommends that the schedule of April 3rd be

honored, as Mr. Briceno must be on travel on the 10th. The IWG recommended that one hour of the morning session be devoted to ISDR. Under this scenario, Mr. Briceno would provide the SDR an overview of his vision of the direction of SDR and in particular discuss the goals envisioned for the Yokohama conference. He would also identify areas where S&T cooperation between SDR and ISDR might be fruitful. This is intended to be the first of series of collaborative discussions with ISDR, which will mainly be in the forum of the IWG. Participants in the SDR meeting are invited to ask questions and discuss S&T collaboration avenues.

Following the SDR meeting, invited guests will join Mr. Brisenio for a meeting of the ISDR policy group at the Department of State. Space is limited to 15. All guests pay for their own lunch and share in the cost of Mr Brisenio's lunch, which will probably be held in Mr. Powell's dining hall. This will be a working lunch and focus primarily on areas of policy collaboration and resources, though S&T collaboration can also be discussed. Private sector guests and USG officers not in the SDR with an interest in the ISDR will also be invited. This meeting will also be the first in a series of sessions on policy and will be the main forum for coordinating US participation in the Yokohama Conference.

If you wish to attend the Lunch, please email Larry Roeder at roederla@state.gov.

IV. OECD Systemic Risks Project

Dr. Mr. Pierre-Alain Schieb at Pierre-Alain.Schieb@oecd.org. of OECD was invited to attend a future meeting of the IWG. This will be handled by the Department of State. The purposes of the meeting will be to discuss the science and technology aspects of the Systemic risks Project and to make recommendations. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development groups 29 member countries in an organization that provides governments a setting in which to discuss, develop and perfect economic and social policy. They compare experiences, seek answers to common problems and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies that increasingly in today's globalised world must form a web of even practice across nations. The OECD has launched a promising initiative to conduct a thorough and forward looking examination of the changing nature of systemic risks and its implications.

The purpose of this OECD "Futures Project on Emerging Systemic Risks" is to provide OECD governments, major players in the business sector as well as civil society, with a comprehensive picture of possible future developments in this field. It will also offer an opportunity for the development of a common assessment of the means needed to ensure that risk management can contribute fully to the sound and sustainable evolution of the OECD area and the world economy at large over the coming decades.

<http://www.oecd.org/sge/au/risks.htm>. There is growing concern that extensive disruption to, or collapse of, these systems could significantly impair future economic and social development. In order to better understand what is at stake and what needs to be done, the OECD has decided to conduct a thorough and forward looking examination of the changing nature of systemic risks and its implications.

The OECD Futures Project on Emerging Systemic Risks is a two year project conducted within the framework of the OECD International Futures Programme with the purpose of providing OECD governments, major players in the business sector, as well as civil society, with a common assessment of the means needed to ensure that risk management can contribute fully to the sound and sustainable evolution of the OECD area and the world economy at large. OECD Futures Projects are mostly financed by grants and voluntary contributions. A financial contribution is requested from participants to support the Project.

The Steering Group to the Futures Project on Emerging Systemic Risks consists of 32 members originating from various government departments (Prime Minister's Offices, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Health, Rescue and Emergency Planning Services, Industry and Technology, Economics, Research), from the private sector (construction, food, biotechnology, insurance, banking and financial services) and from NGOs.

V. Interaction with other governments Larry Roeder, State and Larry Weber, NSF

This item received considerable discussion. Initially, the IWG will contact ISDR committees, as those are national organizations, and then as the White Paper is expanded and more information brought to the attention of the IWG, develop regular discussions on S&T with other governments as it relates to disaster management.

VI. International Science and Technology Cooperatives, Larry Weber, NSF

It was decided that the IWG would organize a meeting to bring together a variety of organizations that deal with disasters in an international context. The purpose of the meeting will be to exchange information about S&T policies, programs and challenges, and to initiate dialogues about how to coordinate and benefit from each other's activities. All SDR agencies will be invited to attend. IWG members are invited to suggest organizations, together with the specific individual that should be invited and what they should be asked to talk about. This information should be sent to Larry Weber at NSF. Representatives from the following organizations will be invited to make presentations:

World Bank

Organization of American States

Pan American Health Organization

Research Committee on Disasters (of the International Sociological Association)

National Academy of Science

It was proposed that the meeting be organized to last 3 hours, and be held in May or June at the White House Conference Center, Department of State K Street conference room, or NSF.

In terms of possible dates (for scheduling White House Conference Center), Mr. Weber proposed that we use the date of one of our already scheduled IWG meetings - that is afternoon of either May 20 or June 17.

VII White Paper, Fernando Echevarria, State

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. The group agreed that Dr. Echevarria will present a summary of the White Paper to the March 13 SDR meeting and hand out an edited revision of the entire report to the IWG on April 10. This revision will be based on research coordinated by Dr. Echevarria. It was also agreed to ask for suggestions from Dr. Brisenio of ISDR and the members of the SDR. A final version for clearance by the IWG is to be done by May 1 and then to be published by May 30.

IIIX: Web Site: Dori Ackerman

It was decided that the outline of the website would be as agreed up in January. Larry Roeder of the Department of State has asked if the Department of State could host this site.

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