

## Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

DRAFT NOTES, 3 February 2005

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MEETING was hosted at State Department Annex 23, 1990 K Street, NW,  
Suite #410, 1:30-3:30 PM, Wednesday, 3 Feb. 2005

DRAFT NOTES prepared by F.REchavarria

### ATTENDANCE:

F.R Echavarria, State

Gene Whitney, OSTP (phone in)

Dori Ackerman, SDR Secretariat- GRC (phone in)

Kelly Sponberg, NOAA/NWS/IA

Jennifer Lewis, NOAA/NWS/IA

Pai-Yei, Whung, NOAA

Dennis Wenger NSF

L.Karry Webber, NSF

Will Hottel, SDR Secretariat

Gene Whitney began the meeting with a clarification of the SDR White Paper on the Tsunami response lessons learned which Kathy Olson (~~title~~) tasked to SDR -during the January 6 2005 SDR meeting. The point of contact on the coordination of this effort continues to be Margaret Davidson and ~~X~~-David Applegate. The deadline for providing input to this effort is in April 2005. However, we are ~~eognissant~~cognizant of Dennis Winger's caveat...." *Let us make sure we have learned something before we complete such a report.*"

Gene Whitney has become aware of similar efforts that are being launched by various intra and interagency groups within the USG, including the US Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research's Humanitarian Information Unit (HIU). Melba Crawford and ~~FR~~-Fernando Echavarria, who both participate in SDR and within the State's Tsunami Humanitarian Information Sub-group (THIS) would like to facilitate a smooth process by which the HIU "lessons learned" document can be incorporated within the broader SDR White Paper on the Tsunami response. The scope and time frame of the HIU document seems to be focused on information requirements of the Tsunami response, and has a much shorter time frame. Input for the HIU document is due this week. There is an opportunity here for SDR to leverage what the HIU is doing ~~here~~-to provide additional input to the SDR White Paper. The HIU effort seems to be focused on information requirements, much of it geo-referenced, including satellite imagery, maps, GIS databases, maps, reports, etc. If the focus of the HIU manages to stay within its predefined boundaries this could become a resources for the SDR White Paper.

## MAIN ACTION ITEMS

- The International Working Group (IWG) will begin an analysis of the recommendations that came out of the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) which met in Kobe, Japan last month. The International Working Group (IWG) will review the Conference Recommendations and identify which of these recommendations are candidates for action by the SDR, particularly if the recommendation in question requires inter-agency coordination. ~~FEREchavarria~~ ~~Fernando Echavarria~~ will begin this analysis process by circulating the final UNWCDR recommendations. Members of the International Working Group envision this feedback to the SDR in the form of either a 1-page spread sheet listing the recommendations and/or a 2-3 page summary. [A conference call has been proposed for Wednesday, February 23, 2005 be organized by the SDR-IWG that attended the Kobe Conference to review the preliminary concept/or draft of this document. Although Fernando Echavarria will be on leave that week, it is important to get confirmation from Larry Roeder as to the appropriateness of the date. ~~It has been proposed that a conference call between~~](#)
- The idea here is to invest some thinking into what this conference was about, its preparation, execution and most important of all its outcomes. This is a major international event who's focus is disaster reduction and which theoretically should only happen once every ten years. What should the SDR learn from what happened at Kobe? What are some of the key recommendations that the SDR should consider further in the aftermath of this event?
- In addition to the UNWCDR Final Recommendation document, Fernando Echavarria offered to locate and circulate three other documents:
  - ~~T~~he final draft of the State Cable on UNWCDR which was sent to all U.S. diplomatic posts on around the world last Monday February 7, 2005.
  - The longer, more comprehensive version of the cable will also be circulated to SDR-IWG members
  - The SCIENCE article on the UN Conference (NSF's Dennis Winger offered to help locate this article.
- Larry Roeder was unable to attend the meeting due to a last minute requests on the part of his Bureau in order to prepare the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs for a Tsunami briefing to a Senate Subcommittee for the following day, Thursday, February 10. Numerous questions were raised of these items including: What is the interaction

of the SDR with the US National ISDR platform? What is the current membership of the US National ISDR platform? Is there any input on the part of the National Research Council's Disaster Roundtable into the US National ISDR Platform? In the 1990, there was almost a complete ~~coincidence~~ convergence between the ISDR National Platform and the National Academy of Sciences with expertise on disasters.

- Larry Weber commented on the need for the SDR-IWG to begin ~~to start~~ thinking about our long term strategy and purpose...as we start moving beyond the Indian Ocean Tsunami reconstruction and the preparation of the UNWCDR which has been the primary focus of the energy and focus of this group. What are some of the next challenges the SDR International Working Group would like to focus its efforts?
- Pai-Yei Whung asked about the activities, formats and procedures of other CENR Subcommittee international working groups. Let us look at where is it that our IWG has commonalities with those groups in other subcommittees. Many of the same issues ~~that~~ addressed by the International Working Groups of ~~those~~ other CENR ~~SubCommittees~~ Subcommittees are of interest to our SDR-IWG (i.e. human health, biodiversity, climate, earth observation, etc.) Is there a possibility for cross-fertilization here? Gene Whitney suggested we contact the OSTP Chris Flaherty to get the name and contact information of those other point of contacts in other subcommittees

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## **SDR Meeting Schedule**