



Announcement

Executive Director of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme

The International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) invite applications for the important post of Executive Director of the new Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme.

IRDR is an exciting decade-long, internationally integrated, all-hazards research programme bringing together the talents of the natural, social, medical and engineering sciences in a way not attempted before. Its objectives are the scientific characterization of natural and human-induced environmental hazards, vulnerability and risk; the understanding of decision-making in complex and changing risk contexts; and the reduction of risk and curbing losses through knowledge-based actions. The programme is founded on the recognition that disaster prevention and mitigation are critical dimensions of the global poverty reduction agenda and efforts to adapt to climate change, and should be an integral part of all international and national development efforts.

The Executive Director will head an International Programme Office (IPO) for IRDR being established at the Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth (CEODE) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, China, with core funding from the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). The location of the IPO was selected following an international call for offers to host the Office.

The IPO will be expected to meet the management needs of the IRDR programme and fully support the work of the international Scientific Committee for the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme (SC-IRDR) responsible for its overall scientific planning, coordination, guidance and oversight.

Under the authority of the SC-IRDR, the Executive Director of IRDR will be expected to:

- facilitate the development, implementation and co-ordination of IRDR science projects and joint projects with partner programmes;
- liaise with such international centres as may be established within IRDR;
- ensure effective representation and links between IRDR and other relevant research programmes and their sponsoring organisations, relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as the international policy community and funding agencies;

- support the development and implementation of an information strategy which promotes networking within the disaster risk research community and the wider practice community;
- play a major role in organizing capacity building and outreach activities;
- promote the establishment and/or strengthening of national IRDR committees and regional initiatives; and
- promote IRDR internationally and assist in the acquisition of funding for the programme.

The Executive Director will oversee a staff of at least two professionals, and will direct all activities of the IPO, especially in respect of the preparation for, and conduct of, meetings of the SC-IRDR and of the implementation of actions decided upon by the Committee. He/she will have responsibility for drawing up annual programme and budgets of the Office, and ensuring that they are implemented. The Executive Director will maintain effective cooperation on administrative and technical matters with the host institution and relevant local organizations.

The host institution, CEODE, is recognized for its commitment to scientific research, with wide experience and expertise in research on disaster mitigation—especially remote sensing, data collection and modelling. The Center also has a proven track record in international cooperation, establishing long-term partnerships with institutions from more than 20 countries and international organizations. The IPO will be located within CEODE's brand new Headquarters being built within Space City, a major new research park on the edge of Beijing.

The Executive Director will hold a PhD in a natural, social, medical or engineering science discipline related to natural hazards and disaster risk reduction and have several years of direct experience of international research collaboration in an interdisciplinary setting. International science management and diplomatic skills would be at a premium. He/she will have an excellent command of written and spoken English, and a working knowledge of other major languages would be desirable. Some experience in the use of on-line consultation techniques and web-based collaborative tools (e.g. Google Groups) would be an advantage.

Applications should include: (i) a Curriculum Vitae; (ii) a letter outlining the skills and experience you feel you, the candidate, could bring to IRDR and its IPO; and (iii) the names and addresses of three individuals who have indicated their readiness to provide a reference.

The address to which applications should be sent is:

Dr Howard Moore
 International Council for Science (ICSU)
 5, rue Auguste Vacquerie
 75116 Paris
 France
 e-mail: howard.moore@icsu.org

The closing date for applications is 14 January 2010.

The annual salary of the Executive Director of IRDR will be negotiable in the range 75,000-90,000 euros equivalent and will take due account of the experience and qualifications of

the candidate. The initial contract of employment will be of two years' duration, renewable. It is expected that the successful candidate would take up his/her appointment, located in Beijing, as soon as possible and no later than end-May 2010.

For more information on the IRDR see *A Science Plan for Integrated Research on Disaster Risk – addressing the challenge of natural and human-induced environmental hazards* which is posted on:

www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2121_DD_FILE_Hazard_report.pdf