



## Summary of UR2020 Planning Meetings

### First Planning Meeting

October 27, 2018

World Bank Tokyo Office, Tokyo

#### Background

Understanding Risk (UR) is an open and global community of more than 8,000 experts and practitioners active in the creation, communication, and use of disaster risk information. UR community members share knowledge and experience, collaborate, and discuss innovation and best practice in assessing and conveying disaster risk.

The community convenes every two years at UR Forums, five-day events which highlight best practices, facilitate non-traditional partnerships, and showcase the latest technical know-how in disaster risk identification and communication. The structure of the forum combines a conference over three days plus two days of events hosted by partner organisations.

The forum's aims include to:

- Showcase risk information and communications innovations;
- Provide a venue for community members to launch initiatives, hold training sessions, convene meetings and exhibit products;
- Stimulate networking and partnership formation;
- Attract a diverse group of participants and build the community.

UR2020 will be held in Singapore from 18-22 May 2020. The Lloyd's Register Foundation Institute for the Public Understanding of Risk (LRFI) at the National University of Singapore (NUS) is partnering with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) to host UR2020 at Singapore EXPO. The forum will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UR and it will be the first time that the event is held in Asia.

The effective communication of risk is increasingly recognized as an essential complement to improvements in risk data collection and analysis. UR2020 will build on previous editions of the conference to highlight risk communication approaches that have been shown to be effective in improving understanding, promoting preparedness action, and changing behaviours in ways that allow people to manage risks better across different cultures and contexts.

One of the key goals of UR2020 will be to build the UR community in Asia, encompassing research institutions, companies, government agencies, and regional organisations. This is particularly important as the participation of Asian organisations in previous rounds of UR has been limited, despite the relevance of these issues to the region.

A brainstorming session was organized in Tokyo to begin the planning process for UR2020. This note summarises points raised during the discussion.

### 1: Building the UR Community in Asia

Two days are catered for community members to get involved and dovetail their events with UR. Possible programmes include hands-on workshops, training sessions, board meetings or annual

conferences. In previous years, GFDRR donors, Global Earthquake Model Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation Global Resilience Partnership, InsuResilience Global Partnership have all convened board meetings during the event. Art, culture, inspiration, and fun are also important parts of the UR model to which partners contribute. Partners can also sponsor lunches, dinners, refreshments or networking activities during the conference.

Annex 1 lists organisations which are already active members of the UR community and organisations in Asia to whom we plan to reach out. Annex 2 shows past and potential partners from the private sector.

***Which organisations in Asia should we approach to join the UR community to host or sponsor events?***

**Participants/Partners**

- National government agencies in SE Asia – Governments are using technologies in a range of ways which could be showcased at the forum
- Smart nation/smart city agencies and initiatives in ASEAN
- Japanese government: Cabinet Office, Disaster Risk Reduction; Cabinet Office, National Space Policy
- Reinsurance/financial institutions
- NASA (e.g. initiatives in Mekong and Himalayan Kush region)
- CSIRO (Vietnam)
- Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies
- University of York Assuring Autonomy International Programme
- ECLEI
- SG Secure
- Singapore robotics company
- Konrad Adenauer Singapore
- Mercy Corps
- ASEAN/ AHA (ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Affairs)
- Sentinel Asia
- ADRC
- JICA
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- Japan Bosai Platform (Japanese business community interested in international business opportunity for DRR)
- Chiba University (leading R&D on earthquake forecasting technology and information interface)
- Kobe University
- Metropolitan University of Tokyo (one of the leading agencies for GNSS application for early warning platform)
- National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Resilience (NIED) (Japan's national research institute for disaster risk reduction)
- Dialogue & Dissent
- Partners for Resilience
- NTU-Alibaba AI Institute
- UNESCAP
- ICRC/IFRC
- WMO

- Industry: energy sector: Petrochemical, energy companies, and nuclear power companies) – development of local/regional risk management standards
- Chinese energy companies including nuclear power companies (Jiuchang)
- Sarawak hydro-dam company (Janot)
- Companies with strong social media presence – communication strategies to reach out to large populations (Jiuchang)
- Insurance companies (Yom)
- Companies with different bottom lines/CSR-driven companies e.g. Lloyd's Register itself
- Companies with a circular economy model e.g. Thailand biofuel company (Janot)
- Ant Financial China
- Organisations/companies which function as intermediaries in communication or coordination. These include international organisations, media agencies, even translators and people who facilitate interactions and community leaders.

#### Events

- Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- [Intermet Asia](#) (Annual conference held in Singapore, example of a successful 'market place' format for companies to present new technologies)
- LRF-Gallup survey results launch

## 2: Conference Themes

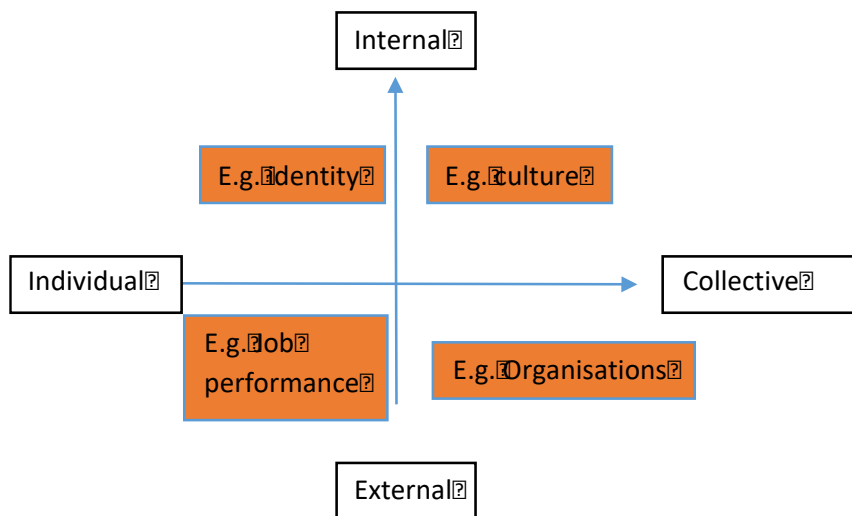
In order to allow for new ideas to emerge, the conference will not have a single overarching theme, but each day or half-day of the conference could have a central focus in order to provide coherence and to maximise the event's contribution to knowledge-building. Annex 3 shows some potential themes for UR2020.

***Which of these themes, or other themes, would be most compelling for each of the three days of the core conference?***

UR2018 themes included cascading hazards, artificial intelligence, robotics, and communicating risk through art. UR2016 themes included big data, open data and shared risk analysis, social media analytics, impact-based forecasting, gender, and compounding events.

- The Understanding Risk **value chain**: identifying risk, assessing/predicting risk, using risk information, action
- Multi-disciplinary approaches/ cross-cutting themes e.g. trust, public perceptions
- Risk communication framework
  - Identification of the risk
  - Identification of Risk Perception and what information is used for decision-making
  - Two-way communication of risks
    - Communicating to the masses vs interactive communication
    - Communicating between different expert groups and with the layperson
    - Processes and frameworks on engagement
- Trade-offs
- Decisions under stress
- Social science (would need to be made more specific)
- Nature-based solutions (more for managing risk than understanding it)
- Risk integration

- Role of professional intermediaries
- History of a technology e.g. what was expected from space techs 10 years ago and what has actually been achieved through other applications
- Transformative change/resilience/agility/creative destruction/risk as opportunity
- Building resilience by embracing risk; resilience engineering for people
- Different ways of doing business: CSR-driven, circular-economy driven
- Fast & furious
- Rural resilience/managing risk at the local level e.g. through localized insurance schemes
- Functional urban environments and sustainable cities
- Ageing populations and risk
- Rethink the meaning of 'people' and their concerns; introduce a model which can be used by UR2020 to cover topics which cover the four quadrants of a person's concerns and outlook on risks



- People:
  - As Asia is extremely diverse, intermediaries are essential for communication to ensure that the end users understand the information. Intermediaries include media, translators/ interpreters, and even community leaders.
  - Linguistics and the role of social scientists in the discussions
- Frameworks
  - Governance structures, information dissemination chains and processes dictate the interaction process between policy makers and end users. Consider the process from a macroperspective.
  - Community-initiated groups can be a useful resource and well managed, could prove to be an effective medium for communication. Focus on how to build social capital and support community projects.

### 3: Keynote Speakers

Inspiring speakers from outside the UR community will help spark new ideas. Start-up entrepreneurs, extreme sport enthusiasts, journalists, traders, farmers all deal with risk in their professions and lives on a daily basis. Historians, novelists, comedians, doctors, parents – all spend time using different forms of communication to convey risk information and spur action.

***Which individuals could be invited as keynote speakers for UR2020?***

- James Dyson
- Michael Lewis
- Mixed martial arts entrepreneur (Singapore)
- Tony Fernandez
- Richard Branson
- Local community leaders; the elderly; children; people with disabilities
- Charitable foundation/NGO leaders
- Jack Ma
- Bill Gates
- Experts on decision-making: Daniel Kahnemann, Eldar Shafir
- Singapore Prime Minister
- Supercell (mobile game company)
- Adeline Delavande: <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/people/aldela> - Research on how to ask people to assess risk if they have no education
- Ellen Peters: <https://psychology.osu.edu/people/peters.498> - research on how to communicate risk to people who are innumerate
- People who deal with precision and high levels of risk - Aviation industry, space expeditions, surgery
- Celebrities and youth speakers
- Historians

Note: important to curate the speakers to bring insight and to be aligned with the overall conference agenda. It is important to ensure that the speakers have the subject/audience at heart and do not only advertise their achievements.

#### 4: Risk Assessment and Communication Innovations

Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and blockchain are a few examples of technologies changing the way risk is assessed and communicated. Which innovations have proven effective in improving understanding and management of risk?

##### ***Which areas of innovation should be highlighted at UR2020?***

- Earthquake forecasting
- Employment of satellite technologies for dissemination of information
- Augmented reality e.g. The Weather Channel on flooding
- Organisational innovation (including revamping existing practices)
- Process innovations
- Blockchain
- Robotics
- Autonomous vehicles, drones
- Back to the basics – How innovating “backwards” reducing dependency on technology could be useful
- Innovation as a process of study – i.e. Dartmouth University

##### **Issues relating to innovation – as topics to be covered in the conference**

- Regulatory environment
- Procurement process – introduction of agile procurement

- Issues of acceptability, applicability, affordability and reliability
- Wide gap between the scientists developing technologies and the policy-makers who could adopt them: Need to translate advanced technologies to allow policy-makers to appreciate their value.

#### **Innovative/stimulating interventions & activities at UR:**

- Pecha-Kucha style short-form presentations
- Provide opportunities for hands-on experiences with innovative tech: hyperwall, touch tables
- Table top exercises & games e.g. for cyber security
- 3-D printing of take-home objects for participants
- Spaces to showcase innovations: robots, drones
- Hands-on emergency drills, or simulations
- TED talk style of presentations
- Lightning talks
- Pre-talk interaction: allow audience or participants to ask questions through different platforms before the session to shape the speaker's presentation i.e. keeping the presentation relevant
- Contests and competitions
- An intangible "gift" that participants can use to spread the word and learnings from UR2020 e.g. sharing an idea, or something that can last through till UR2022
- Job segment e.g. hackathon or competitions sponsored by companies with potential offers of internships or attachments.
- Hackathon to attract younger participants
- Include sign language interpreters for events
- Partnering with museums. Art and Risk exhibitions.

## 5: Bringing the forum to Asia and bringing Asia to the forum

UR2020's location in Singapore provides an opportunity for participants to learn about risk in a highly connected urban environment and to think deeply about how cultural, space, scale and dynamic factors affect the understanding and management of risk.

***What are some of the unique aspects of Singapore and Asia that should be highlighted during the conference?***

- The Singapore development story
- Use of tech by governments in ASEAN e.g. in smart nation/smart city initiatives
- GFDRR best practices from Japan – building codes, hydromet
- Depth of capacity in the region
- Japanese private sector technologies and companies relevant to the region

## Second Planning Meeting

### December 11, 2018

### Washington, DC, USA

A planning meeting was held with the Understanding Risk (UR) community in Washington, DC, to gather feedback and brainstorm collectively for UR's 10-year anniversary and UR2020 in Singapore. Distinct from the first meeting in Tokyo, this event focused more on the higher level vision and goals for UR. About 30 people attended representing a wide range of sectors and shared valuable ideas for the future of UR.

### Introductions:

- During a “vote with your feet” activity, we learned that half the room had not yet attended a UR forum.
- More participants considered themselves creators or communicators of risk data or information. Few participants considered themselves users of that risk information.

### Plenary feedback on 3 questions:

#### 1. What has this field achieved in the last 10 years?

- Tech has improved (software, hardware, access, availability). But there are some flaws.
- Overall research in risk has grown and developed
- Shifted the conversation from disaster response to identification of risk
- Brought more attention to assessment and models
- Identifying what key information is available, and what needs to be
- Linking various actors together
- Closing data gaps
- More open, accessible data
- Increased demand for information to make decisions
- Acknowledgment of the need to work across sectors (but not totally achieved yet)
- Greater awareness, visibility, and engagement
- More interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral work

#### 2. What are the goals of UR?

- Give visibility to risk assessment and communication
- Serve as a valuable community and resource
- Close the gaps between tech and local communities
- Add complexity in a simple way
- Incorporate more bias awareness into disaster risk identification
- Share information
- Inspire people to keep pushing
- Define the problems that the community should try to address
- Make risk information a donor priority, illustrate the link to all of DRM
- Ensure funding mechanisms are in place
- Bridge the research-policy gap
- Increase access to open data
- Translate science to communities
- Active (not passive) engagement
- Avoiding risk creation, in addition to mitigating existing risk

### 3. Where do we want to go in the next 10 years?

- Ensure greater representation from community leaders and users of risk info
- Highlight barriers that different stakeholders face in using risk info
- Refinement of research that addresses community planners related to risk.
- Provide a space to co-create
- Tell stories about when and where risk has been reduced
- Ethics of data, info, action
- Make UR zero waste / carbon neutral (explore more virtual participation)
- Bias simulations. Statistical simulations that show how bias affects risk for various race/class/gender groups over time. Example: [doesgenderbiasmatter.com](https://doesgenderbiasmatter.com)
- availability/quality of trusted sources of information.
- Provide info on when you take actions regarding risk
- Communicating uncertainty
- Mainstream the understanding of risk
- Stronger links with education and policy spheres/actors
- Link scientists to the communities affected
- Better define some of the concepts we use. Develop consensus around them.
- Look at DRR and conflict, migration, etc.
- Go beyond understanding risk
- Account for compound, cascading events
- Make this an apolitical issue. Non-partisan
- Understand the role of culture in contributing to/creating risk
- Stronger links between individual actions and risk
- Innovative financing to reduce risks and impacts

### Questions answered during the unconference:

#### What should be UR's mission and focus moving forward?

- The (co-)creation of risk information needs to be informed by the users of it, and the communities at risk.
  - Communities and emergency managers are still “over there,” so do more to include them
  - Open up space for co-development of risk information
- Place greater focus on how local priorities, issues, beliefs, attitudes influence people's willingness/ability to mitigate risk and prepare
- UR has a unique position to be more of a bridge between experts and communities.
- Understanding Risk meetup groups – could be created and locally owned in various countries. UR could fund one ambassador from each active group to come to the Forum.
  - Empowering local groups to set and lead their own unique agendas, in their own languages, with more consistency
- UR provides a safe space to work across science and practice. Allows for entertaining the idea of starting the use the information even before it's “finished/perfect/ready”
  - Communities can't wait until scientific information is perfect
  - For example, at UR Pacific, there was a fruitful meeting of Pacific volcano agency representatives with volcano scientists to discuss how they could help each other
- Communities still lack the resources to act on risk information. There's a difference between “What you should know, what you should do, and how you should do it”
- More emphasis on the demand side of risk information will help UR go the extra mile
  - translation of materials to many languages



- Develop and provide the pitch/selling point about why community emergency managers and planners should participate, how they could benefit, etc.
- How humans are coupled with nature – the unintended consequences and risk created by human actions

### **What *don't* you like about UR?**

- some hazards are overlooked or left out
- the name is not outcome oriented
- can be an intimidating, big, 'networky' event (could create other smaller/relaxed spaces for connecting, building partnerships)
- we could better direct the community regarding how to be involved in UR between forums
- too much emphasis on successes, not enough on failures / lessons learned
- No outcome at the end of the forum
- 'live' presence could make the community and content more accessible to those not at the events
- Occasional language barriers (spoken/written)
- Could have more non-specialists
- Lack of travel support for invited speakers and attendees
- Need more guidance on which type of government officials to invite
- No opportunity for critical feedback
- No means of reserving space for ad-hoc meetings
- Should be more continuous, less time between events

### **New ideas for themes / topics / sessions**

- learning from other risk communications sectors (e.g. health risk)
- "pitch" a challenge to the UR community, find collaborators
- Storytelling workshop/training
- How to communicate the output from models
- Modelling and informing recovery, to reduce future risk
- Role of culture in DRM
- Why did we fail? Failure cafes
- Understanding barriers to acting on information
- Government reps present the challenges of implementing DRR within the government
- Cascading and compound events
- Ethics in risk assessment and DRM
- Disaster measurement
- Reducing risk to non-human populations (pets, livestock, etc.)
- Gender in DRR
- Displaced persons and migrants and disaster risk
- Cultural perceptions of risk
- Workshop/training in community engagement methods
- How to engage children/youth
- Augmented reality

### **New ways to inspire people**

- Involve journalists and radio professionals (podcast?)
- More stories from the field – e.g. applied tech in DRR
- Highlight Influencers
- Movie / documentary

- Crowdsourcing challenges from the community
- Showcase successes – What was done?
- Immersive risk communication tools (like the Weather Channel AR technique)
- Build a UR app
- Have a “jam” like NATO’s biannual online security jam
- Create a “climate change superhero” for children

### **Who should we bring into the UR community that isn’t well represented?**

- mainstream media
- local community representatives
- urban planners
- users of risk information
- emergency managers (local/regional)
- donor representatives
- more government, diplomatic participants
- women’s organizations in developing countries

### **Miscellaneous ideas from whole room:**

- Funding to attend is a hurdle for smaller/newer organizations, and should be addressed
- The UR LinkedIn group has been used well to open the conversation and share information about how the forum is being organized, what the topics are, etc.
- How can the UR Organizers help the existing UR community take more ownership of inviting and supporting the participation of others?
- We could use the UR community more, earlier on, to get underrepresented participants to UR
  - “Help fund attendees: sponsor a student / non G20 attendee / community manager”
- Help newcomers see better where they fit within this diverse crowd.
  - What’s the selling point for various sectors to attend?
  - Who should they connect with or influence?
  - Who they can get feedback from?
- UR could be made free for local community representatives, to encourage local participation (this was the case for students in Mexico City for UR2018)
- For UR2020 in Singapore, make sure we include participants from Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, etc.
- Funding: how do we get folks who can’t fund their own participation in the room?
  - Example: ResCon: resilience conference in New Orleans every year has more remote participation options
    - uses livestream and active twitter participation
    - had skype open in some of the rooms for people to call in with questions, etc.

## Annex 1: UR Community – Partners &amp; Event Hosts

Existing Partners		Potential Future Partners	
Multilateral Organisations			
International		Region	
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)		ASEAN	
UNDP		Asian Development Bank	
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)		UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence	
UNISDR		UNESCAP	
United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY)		World Bank Singapore	
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA)		Interpol Singapore	
WMO			
Government & Public Agencies			
International		Singapore	
AUSAID		Ministry of Communications and Information (Smart Nation and Digital Government Group)	
DFID (UK)		Ministry of Manpower	
USAID		Prime Minister’s Office	
GIZ		National Climate Change Secretariat	
European Commission		Centre for Strategic Futures	
European Commission Joint Research Centre		National Research Foundation, CREATE	
		Centre for Livable Cities	
		NUHS	
		EU Centre Singapore	
		Region	
		BNPB (Indonesia National Agency for Disaster Management), Indonesia	
		Philippines Department of Science & Technology	
Academic Institutions			
International		Singapore	
Boston University		NUS AI Singapore Asia Research Institute Institute of Data Science NERI Singapore Cybersecurity Consortium	
Ca’ Foscari University		Nanyang Technological University Inst. of Catastrophe Risk Management Earth Observatory NEWRI	
Columbia University International Research Institute for Climate and Society		Singapore Management University	
ESRIN		Singapore University of Technology and Design LKY Centre for Innovative Cities	
Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change		Singapore Institute of Technology	
King’s College London		SIM University	
NYU GovLab		Singapore Polytechnic Ngee Ann Polytechnic Temasek Polytechnic Nanyang Polytechnic Republic Polytechnic	
Stanford		Singapore-ETH Centre Future Resilient Systems	

	Future Cities Laboratory
University College London	Singapore-Delft Water Alliance
VU University Amsterdam	Foreign universities and institutes in Singapore INSEAD Edhec-Risk ESSEC
	<b>Region</b>
	University of Tokyo
	Osaka University
	University of Tohoku
	Keio University
	ICHARM (International Centre for Water Hazard & Risk Management) UNESCO Centre, Japan
	University of the Philippines (NOAH Project)
	Ateneo de Manila University
	Universiti Indonesia
	Asian Institute of Technology
	<b>International</b>
	Atomium (CAPUR Project)
	Society for Decision-Making under Deep Uncertainty
<b>Civil Society &amp; Foundations</b>	
<b>International</b>	<b>Region</b>
100 Resilient Cities	International Water Management Institute
Open Street Map/ Humanitarian OSM	Kathmandu Living Labs
GEM (Global Earthquake Model) Foundation	
Geneva Association	
Global Resilience Partnership	
The Resurgence Trust	
Red Cross-Red Crescent	
Nature Conservancy	
Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)	

**Annex 2: UR Community - Private Sector Partners/Sponsors**

AECOM	Facebook	PwC
Alibaba (research lab)	FM Global	Renaissance Re
Allianz	Gen Re	Riocom
Amazon	General Motors	RMS (Risk Management Solutions Inc.)
Ambiental Technical Solutions Ltd.	Google	safehub
AON	IBM	Schneider Electric
ARUP	ImageCat	SecondMuse
Bloomberg	Jones Lang Lasalle	Sidley Austin
Boskalis	Kartoza	Siemens
Chicago Mercantile Exchange	Liberty Mutual	Swiss Re
China Reinsurance Group	Linklaters	Tata
CIMA Research Foundation	Lloyds of London	Tokio Marine
Cisco	MMC (Asia Pacific Risk Centre)	UBS
Citibank	Morgan Stanley	Unilever
Coca-Cola	MSIG	Willis Towers Watson (Willis Re)
Dell	Munich Re	Zurich Insurance
Deloitte	Nephila Capital (Markel Corp)	
Deltares	Nomura	
ERN International	Oxford Economics	
Esre	PARIMA	
ESRI	PepsiCo	

*Includes: Contacts established/past sponsors/conference participants*

### Annex 3: UR2020 Possible Conference Themes/Day Themes

