



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

International Platform for Reducing Earthquake Disasters (IPRED)

The newly established IPRED is a platform for collaborative research, training and education in the field of *seismology* and *earthquake engineering*. It was established in collaboration with the International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (IISEE) of Japan, which acts as the “Centre of Excellence” of this Platform.

Background

Buildings, especially housing, should protect human beings from natural disasters. When buildings are themselves damaged by earthquakes, the impact on the lives of the occupants is enormous. Damage to buildings caused by disasters can also seriously hinder relief and repairing efforts.

In January 2005, the United Nations *World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR)* was held in Kobe, Japan and the WCDR adopted the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters*. At one of the Conference Sessions, it was discussed that it is important to improve the safety of buildings and housing as a basic and vital priority for the world’s disaster reduction efforts. It was then proposed that the “Building Disaster Reduction Network” should be established.

In June 2007, the 1st Session of the *Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR)* was held in Geneva, Switzerland. At one of the side events, it was proposed to establish a “Taskforce Group on Building Code” with regards to its enforcement and dissemination.



“We must share our knowledge and experiences. Natural disasters including earthquake disasters do not recognize geographical borders. Knowledge about earthquakes must be shared for the benefit of all.” – Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, July 2008

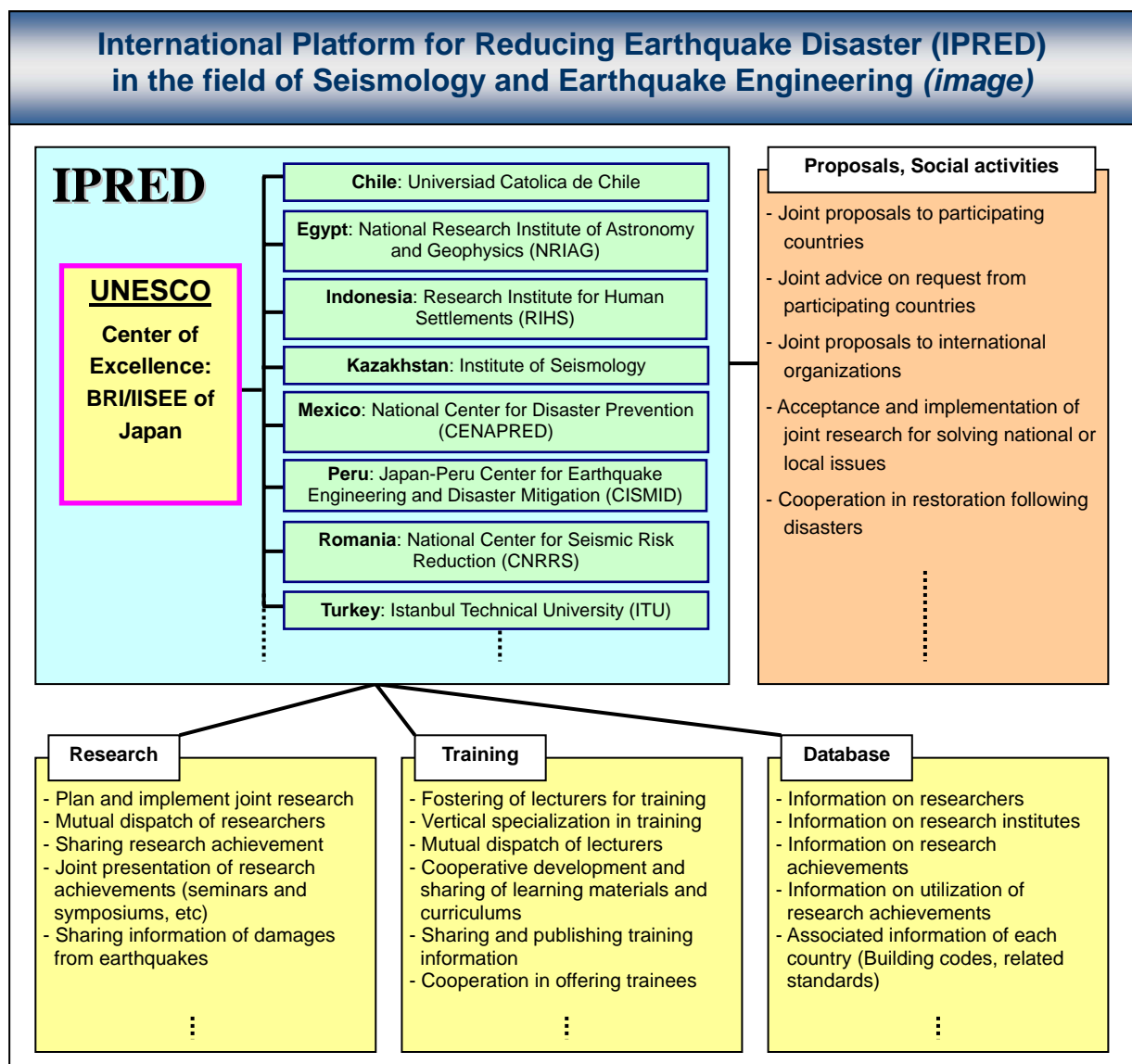
IPRED's Mission (draft)

To *identify gaps and priorities* through the sharing of scientific knowledge and experience in the field of seismology and earthquake engineering, and to *support the development of political will and public awareness*, for the purpose of ensuring the better preparation against earthquakes and building a culture of safety for the people in the world.

IPRED's Principal Objectives (draft, extracted)

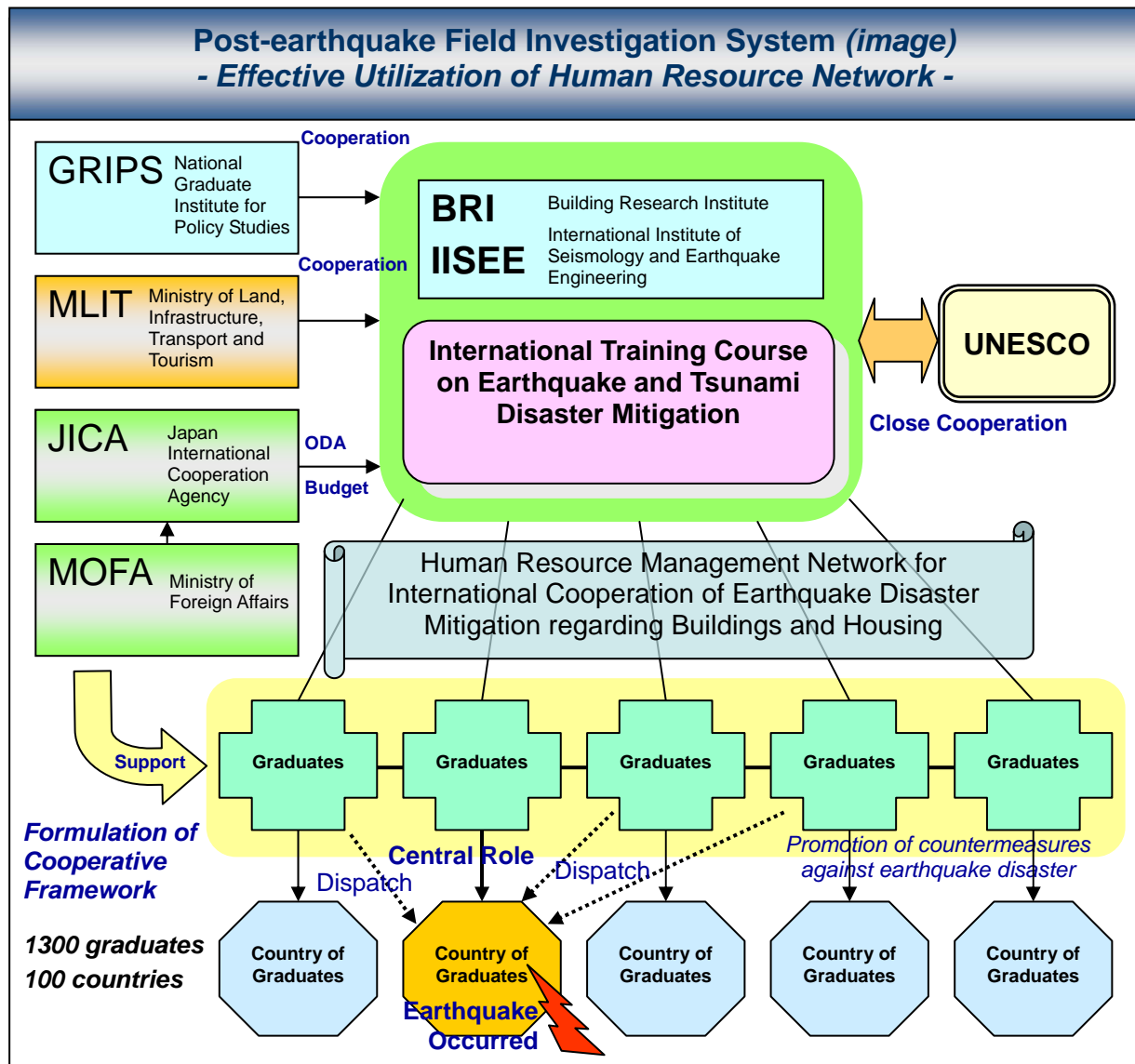
- To *exchange information* and *propose plans* on collaborative research, training, and education regarding seismology and earthquake engineering in order to reduce earthquake disaster, especially on buildings and housing.

- To *address policy-relevant issues* related to the reduction of earthquake disaster risks and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, including making recommendations on priorities in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) system.



IPRED's Principal Objectives -continued (draft, extracted)

- To *establish a system to dispatch experts to an earthquake stricken country* in order to carry out post-earthquake field investigations and draw lessons for future risk reduction, by utilizing the worldwide network of the graduates of training courses organized by the IISEE of Japan.



The 1st Session of the IPRED

The 1st Session of the IPRED was held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France from 8 to 10 July 2008, organized by UNESCO. It was attended by representatives of major earthquake-prone countries (Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Peru, Romania, and Turkey) as well as a guest expert from a Chinese university who made a quick report on the Wenchuan Earthquake. During this three-day meeting, lessons learned from other recent devastating earthquakes were shared, and “IPRED Action Plan” was discussed.

IPRED Action Plan (draft)

- Action 1:** *Development of database to contribute to field investigations (database related to anti-seismic performance, etc.)*
- Action 2:** *Establishment of a system for post-earthquake field investigations*
- Action 3:** *Development of educational materials database (for the e-learning system, etc.)*
- Action 4:** *Promotion of international joint research programmes*
- Action 5:** *Promotion of international cooperation with universities*
- Action 6:** *Promotion of sharing engineering data on structural testing, soil properties, etc.*
- Action 7:** *Promotion of ground motion observation network and the data sharing*
- Action 8:** *Training of trainers through the IISEE follow-up trainings, follow-up workshops, etc.*
- Action 9:** *Development of the portal website*
- Action 10:** *Establishment of the “IISEE-UNESCO Lecture Notes Series”*
- Action 11:** *Development of the microtremor array exploration techniques*
- Action 12:** *Dissemination of activities through International/regional events related to seismology or earthquake engineering*
- Action 13:** *Planning of international workshops to raise IPRED’s awareness*
- Action 14:** *Information dissemination by distribution of printed materials*
- Action 15:** *Translation of building codes into other languages*



Kickoff Meeting in Tokyo, June 2007



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