



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*. The International Institute of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering (IISEE) acts as the “Centre of Excellence” of this Platform. Supported by UNESCO, the IISEE was established in Japan in 1962 as an organization dedicated to training researchers and engineers in developing countries.

Background

Buildings 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 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 adopted the *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters*. During one of the conference sessions, it was discussed that it would be important to improve the safety of buildings and housing as a basic and vital priority for the world’s disaster reduction efforts, and it was proposed that the “building disaster reduction network” should be established.

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



“Natural disasters including earthquake disasters do not recognize geographical borders. Knowledge about earthquakes must be shared for the benefit of all.”

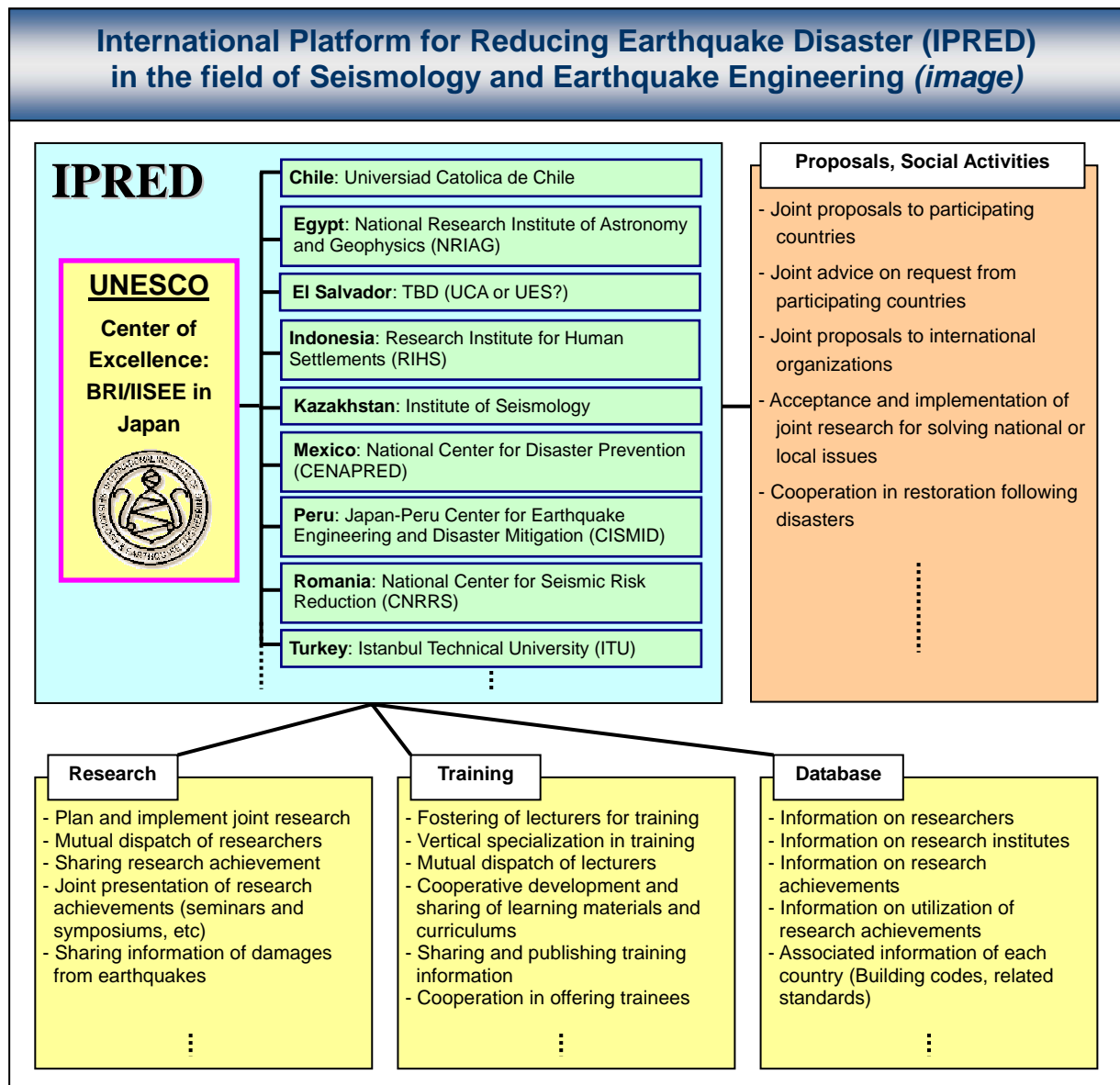
– Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, at the 1st Session of the IPRED in Paris, July 2008

The establishment of the IPRED

Following the kickoff meeting in Japan in June 2007, the 1st Session of the IPRED was held at UNESCO in Paris in July 2008. It was attended by representatives of major earthquake-prone countries (Chile, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Peru, Romania, and Turkey). The 1st Session shared the lessons learned from other recent earthquake disasters including the Wenchuan Earthquake, and discussed the future IPRED activities. The 2nd Session of the IPRED was held in Istanbul in July 2009 and the membership of El Salvador was approved.

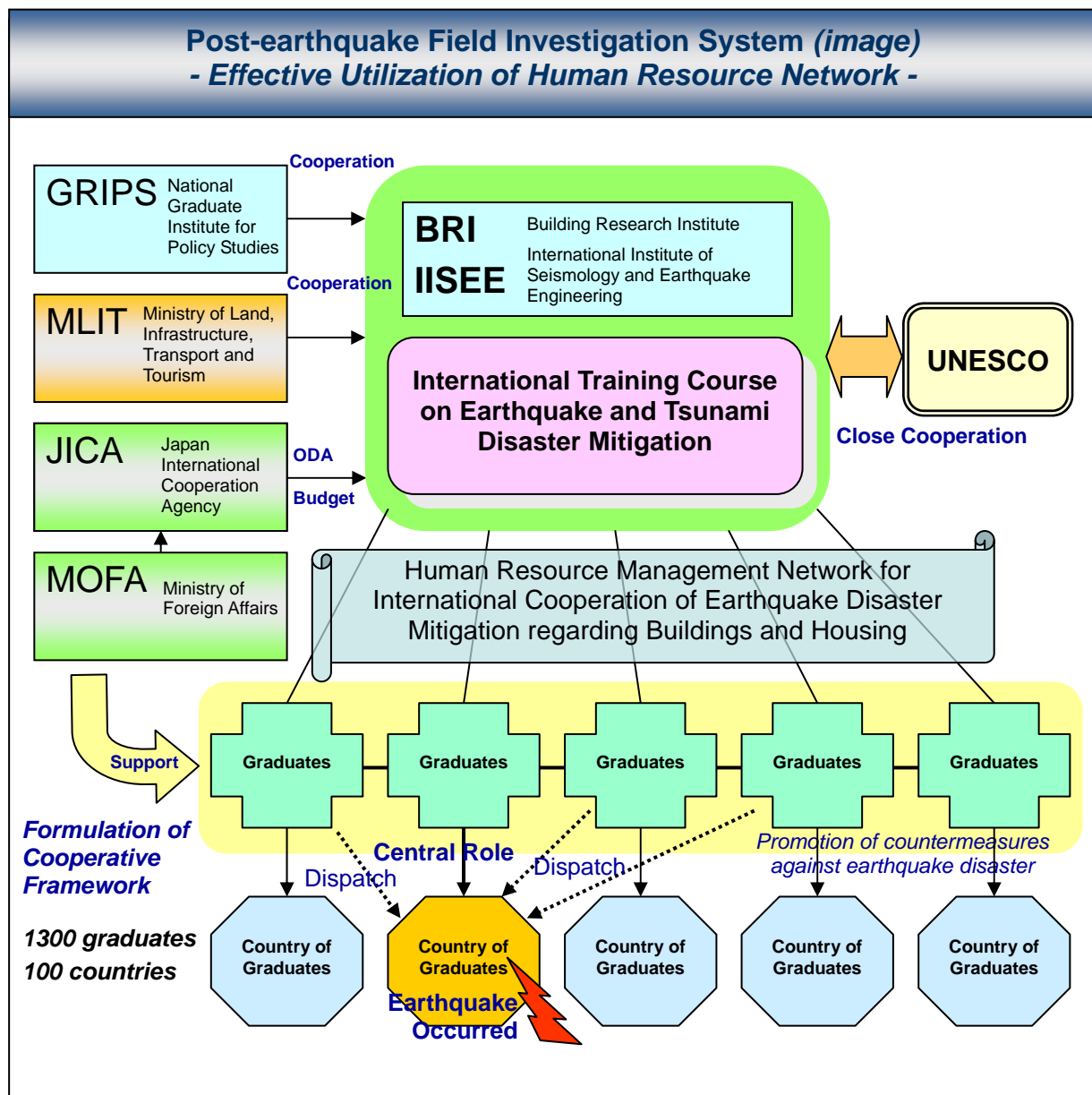
IPRED's Mission

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 (extract)

- 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 of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).
- 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 ISEE (over 1300 graduates from some 100 countries).



IPRED Action Plan (extract)

- 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 (<http://www.unesco-ipred.org/>)*
- Action 10:** *Establishment of the “IISEE-UNESCO Lecture Notes Series”*
(<http://iisee.kenken.go.jp/lna/>)
- 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*



(Left) Kickoff meeting in Tokyo, June 2007, (Right) The 2nd session of the IPRED in Istanbul, July 2009

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