



IFEH DRR COMMITTEE

**Meeting by the
IFEH Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (IFEH DRR Committee)**

Zoom meeting
Sunday 15 November, 17:00 GMT.

MINUTES

Participants:

Henning Hansen, Chair of IFEH DRR Committee, EnviNa Denmark
Prof. Susana Paixão, IFEH President, Portuguese Society of Environmental Health (PSEH)
Dr Henroy Scarlett, IFEH President Elect, Chairperson IFEH Americas Regional Group, Jamaica Association of Public Health Inspectors (JAPHI)
Martin Fitzpatrick, IFEH Hon Secretary, Environmental Health Association of Ireland (EHAI)
Bruno Cvetkovic, Chairperson IFEH Europe Regional Group (EFEH), Croatian Chamber of Health Professionals (CCHP)
Dr Selva Mudaly, Imm. Past President IFEH, South African Institute of Environmental Health (SAIEH)
Prof. Peter Furu, Head of department, University of Copenhagen, Department of Public Health, Global Health Section
Stephen Cooper, member of Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)

Apologies:

Dr David T. Dyjack, Executive Director, National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), US
Jerry Chaka, Chairperson IFEH Africa Regional Group, South African Institute of Environmental Health (SAIEH)
Charles D. (Chuck) Treser, Principal Lecturer Emeritus, University of Washington, School of Public Health Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences
Abelkassim Beshir, Ethiopian Environmental Health Professionals Association (EHPA)
Tim Hatch, National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), US
Prof. Fernando Miguel Moreira, Coimbra Health School, Portugal
Jesse C. Bliss, Director PPD Department, National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), US

1. Welcome by chair

The Chair Henning Hansen welcomed everybody to the meeting acknowledging the participation on this very short notice for the meeting.

2. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Short intro from all participators

All participators gave a brief presentation of themselves.

4. Discussion of input to UNDRR regarding items for Global Platform (GP 2022)

Henning Hansen informed the meeting that the UNDRR had invited the IFEH to participate in a survey on the possible themes for the GP2022 for Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled to take place in May 2022, hosted by the Government of Indonesia. Responding to the survey would give the IFEH an opportunity to influence the agenda for the forthcoming GP2022 – as the IFEH has done before. IFEH participated in the latest two UNDRR Global Platforms. GP2017 and GP2019 which took place in Cancun, Mexico respectively Geneva, Switzerland. Leading up to the GP2017 IFEH was a formal member of the organizing committee planning the GP2017 as well as participating in stakeholder meetings with the UNDRR. It is always complicated to influence the agenda for such global UN conferences as many stakeholders have many different foci in regard to DRR. But as DRR by its nature is, and must be a multi stakeholder task to achieve, it is important to break down silos in order to do a concerted effort to reduce the disaster risk. But at the same time carry to the table, all the different specialist areas of which Environmental Health is a very important area that need to be onboard. Leading up to the GP2017 the IFEH succeeded in highlighting local as well as national strategies and plans on DRR in which EH plays an important role. The IFEH presented some draft indicators on this topic – which in fact ended up as being implemented as formal indicators to the UN SDG's (UN sustainable Development Goals) that all Governments need to report on to the UN. Previously to these GP's the IFEH participated and gave presentation at the initial UNDRR Science and Technology Conference on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Geneva.

Henning Hansen had for this IFEH Committee meeting prepared a draft response to the UNDRR GP2022 survey which had been circulated to all members of the IFEH DRR Committee. Deadline for response to the UNDRR was 20 November 2020. This item was the main purpose for this meeting and which again gave due to the short notice for the meeting.

At the meeting there was a very fruitful and constructive discussion what should be the final IFEH answer to the UNDRR survey for the topics for the GP2022.

The final IFEH response to the survey is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

The response has now been given to the UNDRR in due time of the deadline.

5. Further potential IFEH engagement in the GP 2022

The meeting agreed that the IFEH should seek further influence on the agenda for the GP2022 and seek involvement in relevant UNDRR organizing committees leading up to GP2022 in Indonesia. In that context it seemed very relevant to seek engagement from the IFEH member of Malaysia, Malaysian Association of Environmental Health (MAEH) as MAEH is hosting the coming IFEH World Congress 2022 in Kuala Lumpur which just underscores this relevance. Henning Hansen will contact the TEE Eng ONG, President of MAEH, in this regard.

Next it was anticipated that the IFEH should elaborate a letter to be send to the UNDRR by which we seek to be involved in the UNDRR organizing committees and at the same time highlighting the importance of having Environmental Health profiled as an important area in terms of DRR planning. EHP's are at the forefront when disasters strike, constituting a main and highly skilled workforce, as it is seen in in regard to COVID-19 but also in regard to many other kinds of disasters – in terms of disaster management and mitigation of the effect of disasters. Seen in this light the world community of Environmental Health Professionals are similarly a very important branch in regard to planning and implementing strategies on how to **reduce disaster risks** (Disaster Risk Reduction). *UNDRR definition on DRR: "Disaster risk reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development."*

6. Discussion of other initiatives in the IFEH DRR Group

Educational programs on DRR and EH Disaster Management is vital.

At the meeting it was decided to seek to get an overview of which courses and educational programs on DRR and Disaster Management are provided by IFEH members including associated universities as well as universities covered by the IFEH Faculty Forum. And as a result get this overview displayed on the IFEH website www.ifeh.org/drr in due time. This will just be the start. Maybe on a longer term further cooperation between those institutions and association that deliver courses and educational programs - with or without the IFEH as an catalyst - could be a beneficial option.

As the chair of Faculty Forum, Andrew Mathieson, who also have an observer status in the IFEH BOD, is already conducting at survey on EH courses it was decided that IFEH hon Secretary Martin Fitzpatrick at the next BOD meeting will raise the question and ask Andrew Mathieson to include courses and educational programs on DRR and EH Disaster Management in his survey as well.

7. Any other business

None.

The meeting was adjourned 19.00 GMT

Henning Hansen

Chairperson IFEH DRR Committee

Hon Vice President IFEH

EnviNa Denmark

Appendix attached: The final input to the UNDRR Survey re. Global Platform 2022 on DRR.

Survey on the possible themes for the GP2022

The 7th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is scheduled to take place in May 2022, hosted by the Government of Indonesia. As a first step of the consultation process on the possible themes, we would like to hear from you. Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and give us your feedback on the possible themes that you would like to see in the agenda of the next Global Platform. Your inputs will inform the first phase of the consultation process. Please submit your answers through the survey, no later than by 20 November 2020.

Question Title

1. Your name (optional)

Henning Hansen, Chair IFEH DRR Committee, International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) - www.ifeh.org

2. Which of the following professional category you identify yourself with:

- National Government
- Local Government
- United Nations or other international or regional inter-governmental organizations
- Private sector
- Academia
- NGO
- Other (please specify)

3. The world is rapidly changing, and new issues are emerging. Which new themes or topics that are relevant for the implementation of the Sendai Framework would you like to see discussed at the next Global Platform? Select up to 3 topics either from the below options or add new ones:

- Disaster risk governance
- Systemic nature of risk
- Financing for disaster risk reduction
- Disclosing risk of Investments
- Biological hazards
- Cyber risks
- COVID-19

- Vulnerability and social risk management
- Nature based solutions and Eco-based DRR
- DRR and Climate change
- DRR in humanitarian contexts
- Update on DRR innovations
- Other (please specify)

DRR and Environmental Health. (EH as def. by WHO)

4. Which of the following topics that featured in the agenda of the GP2019 would you like to see further discussed at the next Global Platform in 2022? Please select up to 10 topics.

- Progress made in implementing the Sendai Framework
- National and local DRR strategies (target E)
- National DRR strategies and National Adaptation Plans
- Coherence between the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- Leaving no one behind – investing in local action and empowering those most at risk
- Global risk assessment framework
- Women’s leadership in DRR
- Risk-informed public and private investment
- Economics of DRR or Risk-informed financing
- Unlocking the resilience dividend
- Working with the media to promote DRR
- Innovative DRR investment modalities
- Health in all disaster risk management strategies
- Recovery and Build back better
- Promoting locally-led DRR/DRM
- Disaster displacement and DRR
- Integrating risk management ecosystems and water-related risks
- The role of green, blue and gray infrastructure in reducing disaster risk
- The role of financial instruments in disaster risk management
- Multi-hazard early warning systems
- Cities in the forefront of achieving inclusive climate and disaster resilience

5. What type of sessions/format of discussions would you like to see more of at the next Global Platform? Please select up to five.

- Dialogue between governments (i.e. ministerial roundtables)
- Dialogue between governments and all stakeholders
- Presentations by experts/scientists with Q&A
- Peer to- peer learning & sharing (I.e. Learning Labs)
- Technical workshops
- Official statements
- Voluntary commitments
- Innovation platform (sharing innovation for DRR in multiple formats)
- Ignite Stage
- Preparatory Days (regional or stakeholder focused sessions, etc)
- Virtual/online sessions
- Other (please specify)

6. The COVID-19 'next normal' may require some parts of the next Global Platform to be organized virtually. What type of events and features should we offer online?

- Live webcast
- Prerecorded sessions
- Ask me anything sessions
- TedEx type of presentations
- Joint working/problem-solving sessions
- Speed networking sessions
- Other (please specify)

DONE