

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

Annual Operating Plan for Fiscal Year 2003

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) is charged with facilitating and promoting natural and technological disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. To accomplish this mission, the SDR provides a senior-level interagency forum to leverage expertise, inform policy-makers, promote technology applications, coordinate activities, and promote excellence in research.

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Re-vet and Reconstitute Membership

Consistent with the SDR's mandate to engage with Agencies involved in disaster reduction, the SDR will re-vet membership. This re-vetting process serves two purposes. First, it provides an opportunity for the Agency or Organization to refocus on the SDR and its role in disaster reduction and recovery. Second, it reconnects the designated representative to the Agency, ensuring support for the work of the SDR, particularly as relates to the coordination of Agencies and Organizations involved in natural disaster reduction.

Action: The SDR will re-vet all members by October 31, 2002.

Web Site

An SDR web site will support the critical coordination function of the Subcommittee and the many Agencies who contribute to natural and technological disaster reduction and recovery. The web site will serve as a central, publicly accessible source of information on relevant resources and work within SDR agencies, as well as current disaster situation response information.

Action: The new web site (<http://SDR.gov>) will be online by December 31, 2002.

Briefings with Agencies

To coordinate national research goals for Federal research related to natural disasters; facilitate liaison with the Administration, Congress, NGO's, and other policy development bodies; and integrate collection, management, and dissemination of disaster information, the SDR will facilitate informational and technical briefings. Briefings from appropriate agencies will be made to the monthly meetings of the SDR and the SDR membership will in turn brief non-SDR member agencies and organizations, as required. The SDR will pursue comprehensive and consistent coordination and liaison with organizations such as the National Academies of Science, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Natural Hazards Caucus Working Group, Congress, and others, as appropriate in support of the SDR mission.

Action: The SDR will coordinate the requisite briefings to highlight disaster reduction and recovery capabilities and opportunities within the US Government.

White Papers

The SDR will write and distribute white papers to provide the Administration and Congress with information in response to current disaster situations and to summarize relevant resources and work within SDR agencies. The SDR will prioritize and develop a series of concise white papers to facilitate the development and promotion of disaster reduction practices. Possible topics include papers on research goals for Federal research related to natural and technological disasters (including best practices for research strategy), risk communication / alert systems, remote sensing needs and opportunities, and the International Strategy on Disaster Reduction.

Action: The SDR will coordinate and distribute, as appropriate, high-impact white papers addressing high-priority disaster reduction and recovery cross-agency efforts.

Budget Document

An important objective of the NSTC and the SDR is the establishment of clear national priorities for natural and technological disaster reduction and recovery. The SDR will write and distribute a report that provides an overview of current natural and technological disaster programs, an assessment of the most pressing needs, and a summary of cross-cut Agency budget information, as feasible. This report will contribute to U.S. Government planning activities on a number of levels and is intended as a supplement to the President's FY 2004 budget.

Action: This document will be complete and published by April 2003.

Fora

The SDR was established to ensure significant benefit from the collective wisdom of the many Government organizations and agencies involved in natural and technological disaster reduction and recovery. There is also a need for on-going liaison with public/private partners, leaders in the Congress, and many other individuals and organizations. The SDR will organize workshops, roundtable discussions, and other *fora* to facilitate coordination with groups such as the Natural Hazards Caucus Working Group and to facilitate discussion on topics such as creating a platform for the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, coordinating U.S. Government participation in the International Charter: Space and Major Disasters, and development of U.S. requirements for Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR).

Action: The SDR will coordinate *fora* as appropriate, with a minimum of one per year.

WORKING GROUPS

The SDR will create or reactivate ad hoc working groups where necessary to address specific SDR goals (see also Working Group Charters). These include, but may not be limited to, the Remote Sensing Applications Working Group and the International Working Group.

For additional information or additional copies of this Plan, please contact Executive Secretariat to the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction: 703-560-7448 or dori@grs-solutions.com.

Appendix: Timeline and Projects

Project	Deadline
Briefings with Agencies	Ongoing as required
Fora	Ongoing as required
Web Site: New site complete	December 31, 2002
Budget Document: Complete and published	April 1, 2003
White Papers: Two white papers are complete	September 30, 2003