

The G-EVER1 Accord

The first Workshop of Asia-Pacific Region Global Earthquake and Volcanic Eruption Risk Management (G-EVER 1) was held in Tsukuba, 22-24 February 2012, to discuss how to reduce the risks of national and international disasters due to natural geohazard events like earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes. One hundred fifty two participants came from twelve nations and regions and fifty-six national and international institutes. Participants are deeply saddened by recent disasters, from Sumatra to Christchurch to Tohoku, but also encouraged by cases of successful mitigation and progress on a variety of local and global risk reduction efforts. We believe that increased international collaboration between geohazard institutes and organizations in the Asia-Pacific can advance the science of natural hazards and contribute to reduction of disaster risks from earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions.

We, the participants, agreed unanimously on several recommendations that we call the G-EVER1 Accord.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We agreed that the following 10 recommendations should be communicated to Asia-Pacific research institutes and relevant organizations, and encourage all participating institutes, and also those Asia-Pacific research institutes and organizations not represented in Tsukuba, to embrace these recommendations:

- Establish a consortium of Asia-Pacific geohazard research institutes, with the goal of enhancing collaboration, sharing resources, and making information about risk from earthquakes and volcanic eruptions freely available and understandable.
- Promote the use of hazard information in decision-making by citizens, governments, and businesses, so our science supports mitigation actions.
- Develop a website hub for the consortium in English and major Asian languages, which would link to websites of allied global efforts, such as VHub, GEM Nexus, and the International Seismological Centre (ISC).
- Establish or endorse data interchange standards and standardized analytical methods for geohazard institutes of the world to promote data sharing and comparative analyses.
- Actively participate in related global risk reduction efforts, such as Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Program, Global Earthquake Model (GEM), Global Volcanic Model (GVM) and their component databases like World Organization of Volcano Observatories Database (WOVOdat) and GEM Faulted Earth.
- Promote “the borderless world of science” with trans-border hazard maps built using common data sets, and more uniform and advanced methods and software than has been possible in the past.
- Promote exchange visits among researchers of the consortium, and encourage opportunities for graduate study in geohazards.
- Encourage the formation of working groups for broad, multi-disciplinary, unifying themes.
- Promote best practice training on interaction with the media, on outreach to citizens and school children on hazard preparedness, and on interaction between volcano scientists and Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres in the region.
- Convene a G-EVER workshop every 2 years in Asia-Pacific countries in conjunction with major regional events (such as AOGS, WPGM and AGU meetings).

This accord was produced and unanimously endorsed by participants at the G-EVER1 Workshop in Tsukuba, Japan, 24 February 2012.