



International Federation of Environmental Health

Date: 27 April 2017

Our ref: Henning I. Hansen (Denmark)
Hon. Vice President IFEH

Timothy N. Hatch (USA)
M. IFEH UNISDR Committee

Peter Archer (England)
President IFEH

Phone: +45 2030 4540 (H. I. Hansen)
Email: henning.hansen@ifeh.org

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

International Federation of Environmental Health

UNISDR 2017 Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

**International Federation of
Environmental Health**
Chadwick Court,
15 Hatfields.

The International Federation of Environmental Health, IFEH, endorses the principles and agenda behind the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

IFEH is a worldwide umbrella organisation made up of national environmental health organisations as well as associated members and universities. IFEH represents various national member organisations in 43 countries across the globe with an estimated 50,000+ professionals working in the field of environmental health, mainly at local, regional and state governmental level as well as academics within colleges and universities. The UNISDR DRR agenda will be highlighted many years to come by the IFEH – and coming up next at the IFEH Academic World Conference on EH in Jamaica 22-26 Oct. 2017 and at the IFEH World Conference on EH in Auckland, New Zealand 20 – 23 March 2018. At those occasions, all have the opportunities to meet collectively with IFEH leadership.

Many years ago, IFEH decided to use its vast network to propel the exchange of experience between member organisations on environmental health in relation to emergency preparedness, disaster recovery, prevention, and risk reduction. A partnership between IFEH and the UNISDR has been established to use the great network of IFEH with the aim of providing information to all corners of the world by providing educational frameworks for environmental health professionals as well as students at universities in order to build up needed competences at all levels.

A successful disaster risk reduction strategy needs to be initiated in a concerted effort and include many different technical skills and different stakeholders. In this setting, IFEH would like to highlight the importance of including environmental health disciplines and the many thousands of environmental health professionals throughout the world. The core function of this professional group is to prevent impacts on human health and prevent impacts on the environment, which could affect living conditions. Environmental health disciplines cover a wide range of different specific topics, such as: drinking water, waste management, air pollution, housing and shelter, waste water, food safety, communicable diseases, vector & pest control, and debris management. Experience and knowledge on all of these disciplines is very relevant in a disaster situation as well as the planning to reduce the risk of a severe natural or man-made situations turning into a human disaster.

There are five regional groups within IFEH: Africa, Americas, Asia & Pacific, Europe and the Middle East. All of IFEH member organisations are connected to its respective regional group. The organisation of IFEH, in terms of DRR, gives us an ideal platform because the different types of disasters, responses and preventive measures differ due to location as well as infrastructure, financial capacity, and institutional capacity.



International Federation of Environmental Health

IFEH endorses and assists in setting up courses on environmental health disaster management and disaster risk reduction through national member organisations or universities. In specific, IFEH itself does not run such courses, but assists some of our member organisations to do so. IFEH has a Memorandum of Understanding with the course host and member nation. The IFEH endorsed course on EH and Disaster Management (www.ifeh.org/ehdm) covers many core areas of environmental health and DRR. The trainers have been certified by the UNISDR. It should be noted that the IFEH does not undertake any responsibility nor financial liability in relation to the course.

Recently, IFEH has formed a high level IFEH UNISDR committee with representation of the IFEH President, IFEH Treasurer, representatives and specialists from all IFEH Regions, chaired by Henning I. Hansen, Hon Vice President IFEH.

IFEH has developed a platform using LinkedIn for all IFEH members in order to interact, discuss, and disseminate information on DRR. IFEH firmly endorses and supports the UN in sending a strong message to all governments who have signed the Sendai Framework to elaborate National Strategies with a particular focus on national and regional/local action plans on DRR with the UN monitoring implementation.

Final messages

- IFEH endorses the Sendai Framework and its implementation.
- The IFEH is a global convener, catalyst, and capacity builder for environmental health DRR issues.
- IFEH has offered partnership to the UNISDR to use the vast network of IFEH members. Through our 5 regional groups, we provide information to all corners of the world and assist in establishing educational frameworks for environmental health professionals as well as students at universities in order to build up needed competences at all levels. Through its members, IFEH can provide UNISDR and others situational awareness in virtually every part of the planet.
- IFEH assists and endorses the establishment of suitable and appropriate courses on disaster management and disaster risk reduction by member organisations and universities.
- IFEH has formed a high level committee in order to coordinate its efforts
- IFEH has created a digital platform for all individual members to communicate and distribute information on DRR.
- IFEH highlights the importance of including environmental health disciplines and the many thousands of environmental health professionals throughout the world in the further work on DRR. Be that national – as well as through the partnership with IFEH.
- IFEH firmly endorses and supports the UN in sending a strong message to all governments who have signed the Sendai Framework to elaborate National Strategies with a particular focus on national and regional/local action plans on DRR with the UN monitoring implementation.

Peter Archer
President IFEH

Henning I. Hansen
Hon. Vice President IFEH
Chair IFEH UNISDR Committee

Timothy N. Hatch
M. IFEH UNISDR Committee