# GLIDEnumber Stakeholder Meeting.

Time: 15:00-17:00, 14 May 2019

Venue: IDMC, Geneva, Switzerland

## Participants:

## Objectives:

Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) proposed Global IDEntifier (GLIDE), globally common Unique ID code for disasters in 2001. The concept of GLIDE was promoted by CRED, OCHA, ReliefWeb, UNISDR (now UNDRR), UNDP, WMO, IFRC, OFDA-USAID, FAO, La Red, World Bank and since then GLIDE operation has been supported by these organizations as well as DRR and humanitarian communities. In the meantime we have experienced significant progress in disaster information management and its technologies, resulting in enhanced disaster data management.

This meeting aimed to share the latest situations of the GLIDE system and various information schemes to discuss the way forward of disaster data collaboration by inviting long-time and new GLIDE partner organizations.

## Opening Session

# Mr. Koji Suzuki - Presentation and introduction to the subject, challenges and opportunities

1) **Need of widening Coverage**: Some disaster events have not yet been assigned with the GLIDE number:

2) **Need of a Steering Committee**: Over the past few years, several stakeholders have been strongly suggesting that opening the Governance of the GLIDE system through a mechanism such as a Steering Committee will broaden the vision of the evolution of the initiative and at the same time will enhance the ownership of the GLIDEnumbers and its application by external institutions.

3) **GLIDE server and system in collaboration with UN:** Over the past few years UNDRR (UNISDR), UNOCHA, and other UN agencies have collaborated with GLIDE. It is expected the collaboration will continue.

4) **GLIDE operator training tool with e-learning system needs to be developed:**  as more institutions and users are allowed to participate, new ways of training GLIDE operators need to be developed

5) **More flexibility to trace disasters with cascading damages:** At this point in time only one hazard can be associated to a disaster, and extensions to other disaster types are allowed but require separate manual entry.

6) **Allowance to register additional information** such as mortality, injured, housing and infrastructure damage and economic losses for advanced analysis, and to help countries to obtain the indicators needed to report to Sendai Framework and SDG’s monitoring systems.

## Mr. Yuichi Ono - Presentation on GCDS

The basic function of the Global Centre for Disaster Statistics (GCDS) at Tohoku University was explained with its purpose and application.

It was explained that it helps policy makers to generate evidence-based decision on disaster risk reduction. The application includes various practical analysis such as cost-benefit analysis, macro-economic analysis, and other causal analysis depending on needs from the government.

Mr. Ono also emphasized that Improved disaggregated data, would enhance the quality of analysis which would be more precise and effective.

The GCDS will use the GLIDE numbering system in its database system, which is still under development and scheduled to be finalized and released in November 2019, including an interface with a Geographic Information System (GIS).

Finally Mr. Ono reaffirmed the will of Tohoku University / IriDeS / GCDS for collaboration with the GLIDE initiative, which explains their presence in the Stakeholders Meeting.

## Discussion Session – Moderated by Julio Serje

After the first two presentations, a discussion session was started, and in following up Mr. Suzuki presentation about GLIDE challenges, the following suggested topics were proposed:

* Governance of the GLIDE
* How to promote the initiative
* How to improve the website
* **Governance of the GLIDE**
  + Creation of a Steering Committee with specific functions: The first step to improve the GLIDE number initiative itself is to give active stakeholders and contributors a more visible role in determining the future and evolution of the initiative. The Steering committee was proposed to be formed by a subset of the following institutions, which have contributed during the lifetime of the GLIDE:
  + Steering Committee potential members (to be invited)
    - UNOCHA
    - Tohoku
    - UNDRR
    - UNDP
    - IDMC
    - WMO
    - PDC
    - JRC
    - UNOSAT
    - CRED/EMDAT
    - Red Cross

ADRC will invite these institutions to become part of the Steering Committee (SC) with all the privileges and responsibilities it will entail. These privileges and responsibilities will be stated in Terms of Reference (TOR) that will accompany the invitation to the SC.

The Stakeholders group discussed the following potential elements to be included in the TOR for Steering Committee:

* + - **Classification of hazards:**  The SC should review the current list of hazards and codes and suggest a wider list of hazards that should match the set that has been stated in the Sendai Framework, including human-made hazards, technological hazards, biological and environmental hazards. The SC will make an effort to align this list with the Technical Guidance Notes issued by UNDRR.
    - **Thresholds:** The SC will discuss, if a threshold of minimum damage should be adopted to set a lower limit for small disasters, and to determine, if so desired, what those thresholds should be.
    - **Private indicators of damage:** The SC should reconsider the current policy of disclosure of Indicators of loss and damage, allowing or not the move of the GLIDE towards becoming also a disaster database that could make the GLIDE database more useful for policy and DRR analysis.
    - **Indicators:** independent of the decision made about the previous point, the SC should also recommend or not the expansion of the current set of indicators of loss and damage to also match better the Sendai Framework Targets A-D indicators.
    - **Participating institutions:** The SC will consider, as an initial way to promote and broaden the usage, how to facilitate the enrolment of additional Participating institutions, defining what types of participating institutions, the process of how to become one and to obtain more privileges, the level of audit and curation of their information, etc.
    - **The SC will consult and allow the Rotation of specific responsibilities,** such as the curation of crowd-source data, and the periodic review of the overall quality of the GLIDE.
    - **SOP’s: for GLIDE** The SC will recommend and review Standard Operating Procedures for GLIDE operations, especially those related to curation of data, audits, quality control, etc.
    - **Decisions on the evolution and Future of the GLIDE:** The SC will consult and make decisions that would have an impact on the initiative, including proposing additions and changes on current functionality of the site, partnerships, other initiatives to connect with, inter alia.
* **How to promote the initiative**
  + **Crowd-sourcing: i**t was discussed that implementing both the external user and external participating institution permission to propose and enter data for new GLIDE entries would greatly improve the coverage, usage, adoption of GLIDE as standard, and usability of the GLIDE data. It was also discussed that it would require very well defined Curation, Audit and Quality control procedures. It is important to note that DRR/DRM Agencies in countries can potentially become participating institutions with permission to generate GLIDEnumbers, directly engaging countries as stakeholders and users of the GLIDE system.
  + **Revised API for automated generation** (Machine-machine): Exposing a secure API to authorized institutions to issue GLIDEnumbers upon the occurrence of events (for example when earthquakes or cyclones happen and are detected by technological means). This API could also be connected to specific hazard observers such as Early Warning Systems and others. Another possibility if to allow National Disaster Database systems to allow the automated generation of GLIDE numbers when disasters are registered in the National Disaster Database. An example would be to interlink DesInventar or Humanitarian Data exchange mechanisms with the GLIDE:
  + **Usage of Social media**: it was discussed the use of social media mechanisms, such as Facebook, Tweeter, Instagram and others for the promotion and dissemination of GLIDE numbers and initiative. For example the generation of automated Tweets (in addition to the current email alert mechanism) and/or Facebook/Instagram posts in case of large disasters.
  + **Pre-made Presentations**: A set of presentations including 2—3 slides should be developed for partners who could be presenting as part of their own initiatives when they are interlinked with GLIDE.
  + **Attending/Presenting in forums**: ADRC, the SC, and stakeholders are encouraged to present the initiative in DRR/DRM forums, especially when those initiatives are contributing and/or interlinked with the GLIDE.
  + **Enhancing and Supporting mutual linking by GLIDE robot:**  currently the GLIDE website has a small internet Robot the checks for the existence of the GLIDE in other databases. Including more databases to browse and enhancing the capabilities of the GLIDE Robot to detect GLIDE numbers in other websites will encourage the use and adoption of GLIDE numbers.
  + **Synchronizing the GLIDE database with other disaster sources:** Align with WMO meteorological events, CRED/EMDAT database, MunichRe and SwissRe information, for example, would greatly increase the coverage of the system.
* **How to improve the website**
  + Crowd-sourcing: discussed also in the previous point, Stakeholders agreed that a source of frustration of many users arise when they come to the site and they don’t find a GLIDE number. Giving the possibility to those users to propose and submit a GLIDE disaster record will relief this frustrations and will definitely increase the coverage of the initiative. Same for self-registered participating institutions.
  + Mobile/Tablet support: The current site only supports PC type of screens. Adding support for mobile phones, and touch devices such as tablets will widen the audience and facilitate browsing.
  + Better maps of disaster location: in addition to the current single-coordinate location of a disaster, other methods could be allowed to specify the location of a disaster. For example, the use of a circular radius, or a rectangular region, the ability to specify that a disaster affected an entire country, defining a polygonal area, etc.
  + Images and/or Videos (or other documents) attached: The current GLIDE record could be enhanced with media documenting the disaster, and these could play an important role as “means of verification” of crowd-sourced data.
  + Secure hosting (https://): The server should move to an SSL connection over the Internet.
  + Cloud server: Current server is located in ADRC with limitations on bandwidth, memory and monitoring. A cloud based solution will ensure growth and scalability over time, and adjustable depending on the success and demands to the system.
  + New technology (HTML5/REST/Web2.0): enabling new technologies on the site will ensure a better User Experience, and targeting other types of client devices.
  + Other:
    - Welcome screen with questions, may help to understand audience and to taylor interface:
    - Use statistics to make conclusions: Look at what is being demanded, by whom, when, to design a better growth strategy.
    - Baseline data: Helping countries to obtain the Baseline Data required to report to Sendai and SDG’s give the system a real boost and encourages the direct participation of countries.
    - Users – how to streamline new users, to avoid hacker and non-reliable entries.