**A blue and white logo

Description automatically generated with low confidence**

**Sponsored Trainee Programme**

**Terms of Reference**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Duration: 12 months**

**Sector: Natural Sciences**

**Organizational Unit**: **Disaster Risk Reduction Unit**

**Location: UNESCO Headquarters, Paris**

**SUPERVISION**

**Direct supervision by: Soichiro Yasukawa (Chief of the Unit)**

The Sponsored Trainee will benefit from the following supervision modalities:

* Structured guidance provided by the supervisor, especially in the beginning of the assignment, with the purpose of gradually increasing the responsibilities of the trainee.
* Easy access to the supervisor. Establishment of a work plan, with clear key results.
* Effective supervision through knowledge sharing and performance/development feedback throughout the assignment.
* Participation in Unit meetings to ensure integration and operational effectiveness. Guidance and advice in relation to learning and training opportunities within the field of expertise.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Sponsored Trainee engages 8 thematic of UNESCO DRR activities, namely 1) Early warning systems; 2) Education and School Safety; 3) DRR in UNESCO Designated sites; 4) Science, Technology and Innovation for Resilience; 5) The Built Environment; 6) Risk Governance and Social Resilience; 7) Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction; and 8) Post Disaster Response. This will be done through assisting the Unit on

- Collaborating with other Sections/Divisions/Sectors in UNESCO HQ and Field Offices

- Seeking opportunities for collaborations with other UN Agencies

- Enhancing collaborating of existing expert networks

- Seeking new potential working partners on academics and practitioners.

- Fund raising for project in DRR

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

**Education:** Master's Degree or equivalent in disaster management, science or other related fields

**Work experience:** Experience in applying expertise in technical issue on DRR

**Competencies and skills:** Fully proficient computer skills in standard software applications.

**Languages:** Fluency in written and spoken English is essential. Working knowledge of another UN language preferably French would be an asset.

**LEARNING ELEMENTS**

The Sponsored Trainee will gain on substantial knowledge on global agendas such as Sendai Framework of Action, Paris Climate Agreement, SDG and policies and procedures to minimize environmental threats to human wellbeing from environmental causes and consequences of existing and potential natural disasters. In addition, she/he will be able to conceptualize and draft project proposals and project documents, draft correspondence in standard UN formats, prepare relevant papers and become familiar with UNESCO and UN regulations for project management. She/he will also gain valuable experience in international consultations. She/he will have opportunities to learn to effectively organize, participate and present at meetings, workshops and conferences. She/he will also gain insight into the UNESCO and UN institutional working structure.

After two years the Sponsored Trainee will be able to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate the assigned projects. She/he will have good knowledge of the UN system and of the environmental needs and problems of the region as well as the environmental institutions and mechanisms in place.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**The UN response on DRR and UNESCO’s role**

UNDRR plays a central role in coordinating the field of disaster management in the UN system and to ensure synergies in disaster management activities. UNDRR served the finalization of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

UN agencies including UNESCO are implementing under their mandates to support the Member States to increase their resilience against natural hazards they face.

UNESCO operates at the interface between natural and social sciences, education, culture and communication playing a vital role in constructing a global culture of resilient communities. UNESCO assists countries to build their capacities for preventing disasters and managing climate risk, and with their ability to cope with natural hazards. The Organization provides a forum for governments to work together and it provides essential scientific and practical advice in disaster risk reduction. As a catalyst, UNESCO is promoting networking to bridge the gap among academics, capacity building to bridge the gap between academic and engineers and policy recommendation to bridge the gap between academic and policy-maker with multi-disciplinary approach.

Working alone or in collaboration with both UN Agencies and other scientific entities, UNESCO has been a catalyst for international, inter-disciplinary cooperation in many aspects of disaster risk reduction and mitigation.

**Eight subjects of UNESCO’s activity on DRR.**

1) Early warning systems: UNESCO works on various hazards, notably tsunami, earthquake, flood, drought, and landslide. These systems are discussed and deployed through our international science network.

2) Education and School Safety: Promoting comprehensive school safety through safe facilities and DRR education collaborating with the international organizations, especially VISUS methodology that UNESCO developed for risk assessment of school facilities.

3) DRR in UNESCO Designated sites: UNESCO has labels of designated sites namely World Heritage sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and UNESCO Global Geopark. All these sites have international/universal significant value, and protecting these sites is not only to preserve the value of the sites but also to protect the local economy such as tourism. UNESCO works with the site managers how to better prepare for natural hazards,

4) Science, Technology and Innovation for Resilience: Science and technology help us to understand the risk we face and provide solutions. This technology includes high technology such as AI to non-high technology such as utilizing civil science and local indigenous knowledge.

5) The Built Environment: Earthquake is one of the biggest causes of death among natural hazards, and more than 80 % of the death by the earthquake is the collapse of the building. UNESCO supports its Member States on how to secure building safety via building code and building control policy.

6) Risk Governance and Social Resilience: UNESCO promotes youth and gender involvement for DRR with both community level and policy-making levels. We also work on the social science approach such as the transmission of memories of disasters to the future generation for raising awareness on DRR.

7) Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction: More attention has been given to the biodiversity and environment in the context of climate change and DRR. UNESCO engages with international organizations to explore and promote the usage of eco-system to protect from natural hazards such as planting grasses on the land surface to prevent landslide.

8) Post Disaster Response: UNESCO supports with other UN agencies to examine the damage and the needs of international support for recovery and reconstruction. UNESCO has engaged in the Post Disaster Response.

**UNESCO’s Headquarter**

The Disaster Risk Reduction Unit in the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO has two functions on DRR. The first one is the disaster risk reduction on geo-hazards such as earthquake, landslide and volcano. The other function is to coordinate the different Sections/Divisions/Sectors in UNESCO for disaster risk reduction, namely Hydrology Division, Intergovernmental Oceanography Commission, Education, Culture, Social Science, Communication and Information Sectors to promote the collaboration and synergies among different disciplines that UNESCO works.

The DRR Unit also functions as the backstop and collaborators of Field Offices around the globe. The Unit communicates with Field Office colleagues to discuss the opportunities and challenges on DRR in their duty stations.

The work of the Organization is being developed and implemented through its different Sectors, Field Offices, Designated and Affiliated Sites, Category I and II Centers, UNESCO Chairs and Networks.