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## Preface

This book presents the global landslide risk preparedness implemented through the International Programme on Landslides (IPL) at the opportunity of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL), and provides sources to plan the further development of landslide research and capacity development within the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

The International Consortium on Landslides was established during the UNESCO-Kyoto University joint symposium “Landslide risk mitigation and protection of cultural and natural heritage” on 21<sup>st</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> January 2002 in Kyoto, Japan. This symposium was organized as a milestone meeting of the IGCP (International Geoscience Programme) No.425 project “Landslide Hazard Assessment and Cultural Heritage” starting from 1998. This project is very successful in co-ordinating and promoting landslide research of the participating members of this project. However, IGCP projects terminate after 5 years. The leaders of the IGCP-425 subprojects were willing to create a stand-alone international scientific programme on landslides. UNESCO, WMO, FAO, UNISDR and the Government of Japan, which supported IGCP-425 and also the International Newsletter on Landslides “*Landslide News*” published and distributed worldwide by the Japan Landslide Society during 1987–2003, participated in this initiative to create a new international organization on landslides to host a new international scientific programme on Landslides. Six representatives from different divisions of UNESCO, the deputy Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), technical advisor of UNISDR, and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO in addition to the subproject leaders were present. The Statutes of a new International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) were drawn up and adopted. The International Consortium on Landslides was established by the 2002 Kyoto Declaration “Establishment of an International Consortium on Landslides” drafted by Dr. Badaoui Rouhban, Director for Disaster Reduction of UNESCO.

During 2002, 33 member organizations were registered to ICL and their representatives joined the first session of the Board of Representatives of ICL held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in 19<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>th</sup> November 2002. At this meeting the initial 25 projects of the International Programme on Landslides (IPL) were adopted. The core project (No. 100) was “Landslides: Journal of International Consortium on Landslides”, and No.101 “Landslide Risk evaluation and mitigation in cultural and natural heritage” which continued some of the IGCP projects in parallel to IGCP-425. The International Programme on Landslides at this stage was a programme of ICL, with support from UNESCO, WMO, FAO, UNISDR. This programme was developed into a joint global programme by ICL and five UN organizations and two global stakeholders for Science and Technology (ICSU and WFEO).

The United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) was organized on 18<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> January 2005 in Kobe, Japan. ICL organized a thematic session on IPL and participants agreed to establish a global network of research and learning on earth-system disasters, focusing on landslides. Based on this agreement, all partners joined in a Round Table Discussion at the United Nations University, Tokyo from 18<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and agreed to form a new International Programme on Landslides (the current IPL) in the **2006 Tokyo Action Plan** “Strengthening Research and Learning on Landslides and Related Earth System Disasters for Global Risk Preparedness”. The current IPL is an international joint programme by the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the United Nations University (UNU), the International Council for Science (ICSU), and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO).

ICL will meet for its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2012. Landslides are not a major component in most organizations and scientific disciplines; they involve many organizations and scientific fields. The necessity of landslide research and capacity development is vitally important for development and sustainability in mountainous countries and regions. The necessity can only increase for the next decade of ICL in 2012–2022.

I am deeply appreciative of the contributions from our partners of UNESCO, WMO, FAO, UNISDR, UNU, ICSU, WFEO and all of my colleagues in ICL for the development of IPL up to now. I would request all organizations and individuals to support IPL for landslide-risk preparedness, either by voluntary contribution to IPL activities or by joining the ICL as a thematic Landslides platform in the UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

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