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### **[Abstract Title]**

Social Innovation Hackathon for Driving Innovation in DRR

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Time and again disasters bring forth various challenges concerning risk communication, disaster-resilient infrastructure, last mile delivery, disaster reporting, etc. These challenges often highlight the existing gap between the research & academicians and the policy makers & practitioners. Secondly, it brings forth the lack of/ inadequate collaboration among experts and practitioners of different fields. Most of these challenges require innovative and low cost solutions catering to local and contextualized problems and calls for a multi- and transdisciplinary approach and collaboration. With this vision, amidst the current pandemic of COVID-19, RIKA India and Indo-Japan Laboratory (Keio University, Japan) along with five partnering universities has launched Social Innovation Online Hackathon (SIOH) 2020. SIOH aims to provide a unique virtual platform to student innovators and mission-driven entrepreneurs from different fields like architecture, engineering, disaster management, etc. to collaborate and develop innovative solutions for tackling the issues of pandemic and future disasters. The presentation aims to introduce SIOH and its four step process as a tool of multidisciplinary collaboration for promoting innovation for DRR. Besides the key outcomes of the SIOH, the presentation seeks to flag some indirect positive impacts of such an exercise. Amidst others, these include, firstly, introduction of the field of DRR to the academician & practitioners of other sectors, thereby paving way for mainstreaming of DRR in other sectors.



Secondly, such an exercise involving young students is expected to invoke a spirit of enquiry and innovation in them which is crucial for bringing social change. Thirdly, it highlights the critical role of proper sectoral mentorship in handholding the young innovators in their journey of building resilient societies.

**[Keywords]**

Innovation, disaster risk reduction, resilient, youth, entrepreneurs