



Metropolitan Resiliency & Crisis Management Academy
Letter of Intent
04/08/2016

Between:

CIOR – the Interallied Confederation of Reserve Officers, an independent confederation of the associations of reserve officers of member and partner nations of NATO, represented by its President, Lieutenant-colonel (R) Dimitar Popov.

CIOR represents the interests of over 1.3 million reservists across 36 participating nations within and beyond NATO, making it the world’s largest organization of military reserve officers. Founded in 1948 by the reserve officers associations of Belgium, France and the Netherlands, CIOR is a NATO-affiliated, non-political and non-profit umbrella organization of member nations’ national reserve officers associations. CIOR is committed, through its member associations, its subject-matter committees, exercised, Symposia and meetings, to promoting the competencies and value of reservists to the defense and security of their respective nations.

and

W-SMART, a non-for-profit International Association of Water & Wastewater Utilities for Sustainable Water Security, incorporated in France, in 2005, represented by its Executive Director, Prof, Ilan Juran.

W-SMART originated at the aftermath of 9/11 under the leadership of the Commissioner of New York City Department of Environmental Protection and presently involves both private and public water supply operators from Europe, North America, and Israel. The main purpose of W-SMART is to create the necessary international forum for promoting and catalyzing information sharing, best practice assessment, and collaboration among metropolitan public and private water utilities and local authorities for upgrading their resilience and crisis management capabilities for protecting their water resources and metropolitan supply systems with respect to terrorism, manmade and natural disasters.

BACKGROUND

CIOR and W-SMART have been cooperating over the past two years in promoting experience sharing of their respective members with other key metropolitan stakeholders on the critical issues of metropolitan resiliency and crisis management. More specifically, two experts-panel sessions were held at the occasion of the CIOR Summer Congresses in Sofia, 2015, and Madrid, 2016, on these themes. They were followed by workshops of experts on the constitution of an integrated framework to facilitate collaboration among CIOR member-associations local governments, industry and other metropolitan stakeholders on resiliency improvement measures and crisis management capacity including. These workshops involved Elected Officials, Top Leadership of Local Governments Associations, Leaders of National Reserve Officers’ Associations, CIOR Congress Host Nations, the Head of the NATO Center of Excellence for Crisis



Management and Disaster Recovery, the President of CIOR, Utilities, Emergency Management Executives, International Defense Experts, Academia, the Water and Food Industry and other key partners.

The CIOR Panels and Workshops have demonstrated the common interest and critical needs of the CIOR, Local Governments, Utilities, Industry and Academia for working together on capacity building for improving urban resiliency, socio-cultural preparedness, corporate readiness and crisis management capabilities. Major stakeholders including Cites Unies France (the French Local Governments Association), the US Big Cities Association of Emergency Managers, the Director of the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, as well as Utilities and International Organizations have confirmed their intent to participate in the partnership for creating the Academy and collaborating in the development of its programs.

In order to follow up on the recommendations of the Panel Experts and Workshops the two Associations have confirmed their intent to work together with other key metropolitan partners towards the constitution of a stakeholders' partnership for creating the Metropolitan Resiliency and Crisis Management Academy. This Letter of Intent summarizes the mission and next phase planning of this initiative.

Mission:

Supporting Capacity building for upgrading crisis management capacity of local governments and industry while promoting public awareness initiatives and event readiness culture to face natural or industrial disasters or terrorist attacks.

Program Co-Development – Next Phase

The parties have confirmed their commitment to collaborate in the preparation and organization of the Metropolitan Resiliency and Crisis Management Symposium during the first half of 2017. The purpose is to bring together the executives of the key metropolitan stakeholders from Government, Industry, CIOR associations and Academy to jointly establish the Mission, Organization, Scope of Programs, Resources, Financing Strategy and timing for the institutional constitution of the Academy and the development of its programs.

The next meeting of the Symposium Steering Committee, including delegates of CIOR, W-SMART, BCEM, CUF, other identified key partners and the Urban infrastructure Institute of NYU, as the symposium secretariat, will be hosted by BCEM at the occasion of its Fall meeting, November 2016, Houston.

For W-SMART Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Juran'.

Prof. Ilan Juran
Executive Director
04/08/2016

For CIOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Popov'.

Lieutenant-colonel (R) Dimitar Popov
President