

AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group
Joint Executive Committee (EC) and
Advisory Board (AB) Business Meeting
Minutes

Wednesday, 5 December 2012, 6:45AM-8:00AM
Moscone North, San Francisco, California

Call to order at 6:45 AM

Attendance

Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Chair), Richard Murnane (President 2013), Ning Lin (Secretary 2013), Yev Kontar, Howard Singer, Vasily Titov, Hans Lechner. Guests: Christy Hanson, Dalia Kirschbaum, Katia Kontar.

Apologies for absence were received from the following EC Members: Susan Cutter (Vice Chair), Ilya Zaliapin (Secretary), Upmanu Lall (President-Elect 2013), Harsh Gupta, Mary Lou Zoback, Gezahegn Yirgu,

Note taker: Ning Lin

AGENDA TOPICS

1. General announcements, introduction of the meeting participants

2. Approval of Agenda

Approved

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2011 Executive Committee meeting

The Minutes can be downloaded from the NH web-page:

http://www.agu.org/focus_group/NH/events/meetings/Minutes_07Dec2011.pdf

Approved

4. Report of the Chair (A. Ismail-Zadeh – AIZ).

The topics of the report covered:

4.1. Introduction of New Officers

President: Richard Murnane; President-Elect: Upmanu Lall; Secretary: Ning Lin

4.2. The best thing that happened in the Natural Hazards Focus Group this year

- The first recipient of the new Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award in Natural Hazards was selected: Ross Stein, U.S. Geological Survey;
- The 2012 AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group Graduate Research Award went to James Belanger, Georgia Institute of Technology.
- The 2011 AGU Outstanding Student Paper Award in Natural Hazards went to Jonas von Ruette (ETH Zurich), Themistoklis Stefanakis (ENS de Cachan), and Michael Verrier (San Diego State University).

- Early career scientist Kelly Klima, a representative of the NH focus group, was elected a member of the AGU Council (2013-2014).
- The Chair of the NH Focus Group Alik Ismail-Zadeh met with Gretchen Kalonji, Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences of UNESCO, to discuss issues related to disaster risk assessment.
- The Vice Chair of the NH Focus Group Susan Cutter was invited to speak at the first AGU Science Policy Conference (Washington, D.C., 30 April-3 May 2012).
- The Secretary of the NH Focus Group Ilya Zaliapin is a co-organizer of the international workshop “Mathematics of Climate Change, Related Natural Hazards and Risks” (29 July – 2 August 2013, Mexico City)
- The Member of the NH Focus Group Harsh Gupta was appointed by the Indian Prime Minister to serve on the Board of the National Disaster Management Authority of the Government of India.

4.3. How is NH focus group promoting the science?

- Fostering a focus within AGU on studies of geophysical hazards and promotes fundamental research into the links between extreme natural hazards and dynamic processes on Earth and in space.
- Promoting science on disaster risk analysis for the benefit of society to mitigate (and to prevent, if possible) harmful consequences of disasters caused by extreme natural events.
- Promoting NH sciences via networking with distinguished stakeholders dealing with NH and disaster risk (DR) studies: the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG); the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Program of the International Council for Science (ICSU), International Social Sciences Council (ISSC), and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the Asian Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS).

4.4. Engaging students and early career scientists

- Awards of the group (Graduate Research Award and OSPA) concern young talents.
- The Executive Committee (EC) of the NH focus group has a seat reserved for a student member (at present Hans Lechner, PhD Candidate at Michigan Technological University).

4.5. Encouraging diversity and inclusiveness

- Three seats of the EC are reserved for NH experts from Africa, Asia and South America.
- The NH focus group collaborates with AOGS, IRDR, and IUGG

4.6. First Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award to Dr. Ross Stein (U.S. Geological Survey)

4.7. 2012 AGU Fall Meeting

- The NH Program run for the whole week and included 450 oral talks and posters in 38 NH sessions. A 30% increase in the number of submitted abstracts compared to the 2011 FM.
- The Frontiers in Natural Hazards talk “USGS research on geohazards of the North Pacific: past, present, and future” was presented by Dr. Marcia McNutt (Director of the U.S. Geological Survey)

4.8. AGU 2010-2012

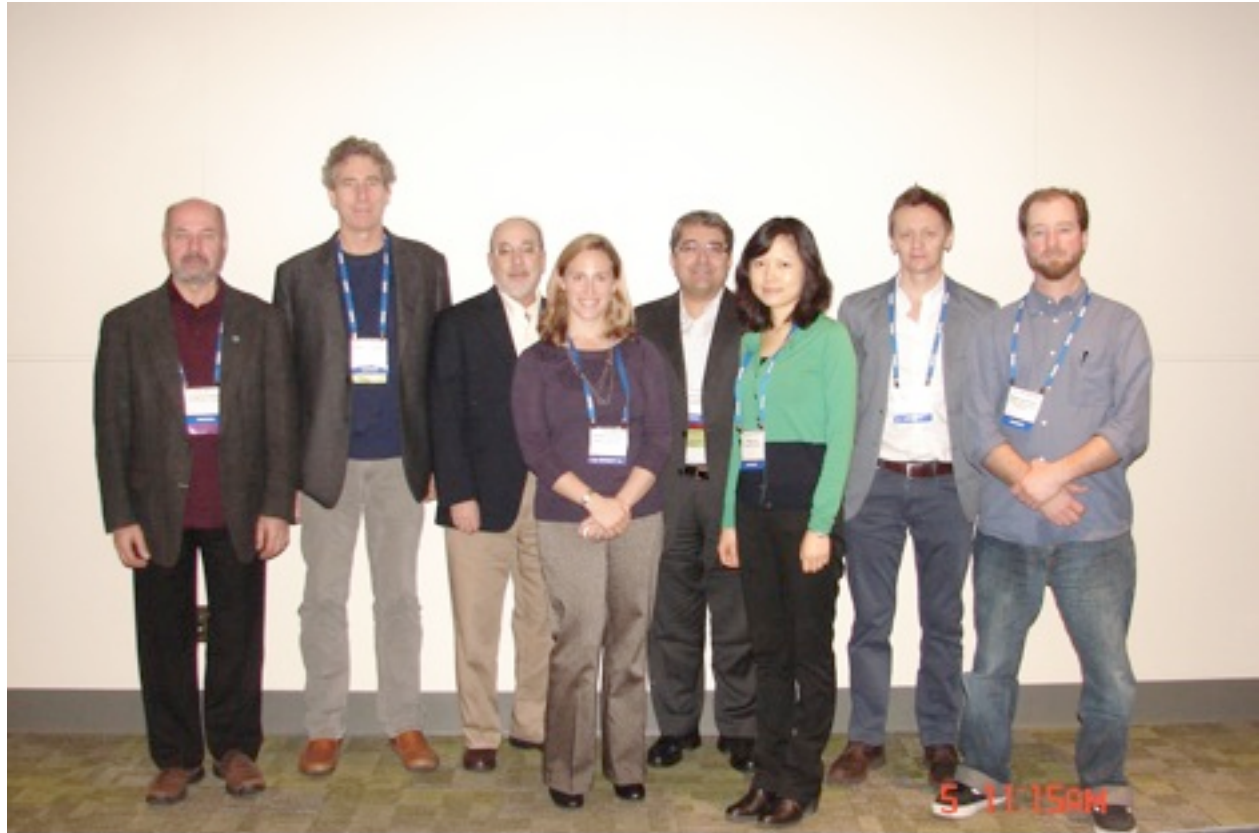
- Thriving Earth Exchange
- AGU will be published by Wiley-Blackwell
- AGU on Wiley Online Library

AIZ thanked the AGU Presidents Tim Grove and Mike McPhaden, the AGU Council (Chair Carol Finn), the AGU Executive Director (Chris McEntee) and AGU Staff Members, the Executive Committee of the NH Focus Group, and the Advisory Committee. In particular, AIZ acknowledged the NH Focus Group Vice Chair Susan Cutter and Secretary Ilya Zaliapin for serving the group with passion and dedication.

5. Group Discussions

- We need a member to attend the science program committee meeting (twice a year in DC).
- AIZ thanked Yev Kontar. Yev agreed to serve for another year as our science program committee representative. Yev has developed mechanism to prompt interdisciplinary sessions at AGU and make links to other sessions. AGU has certain amount of time and space and sometimes conflicts, but the new methodology (software) worked very well, with 30% increase in the number of talks. Yev would be happy to train some other group members to use the method.
- AIZ: We need active people in different hazard areas. The new President could contact the relevant Presidents of AGU Sections early 2013 and request to nominate representatives of the Sections to serve on the Advisory Board. The ToR of the Advisory Board can be found at the NH webpage:
http://www.agu.org/focus_group/NH/about/advisory/.
If Susan Cutter will not continue, Alik suggested Upmanu Lall, President-elect 2013, to replace Susan Cutter as the Chair of the Award Committee and to keep some of the Award Committee members for another year.
- The remaining funding at the NH focus group's account is about \$1000: this will be enough to purchase a plague for the 2013 White lecturer and to award \$500 2013 Graduate Research Awardee. We need to look for funding, which may come from insurance and reinsurance industry. \$3000-5000 a year would be enough. Rick has good connection with insurance industry and suggested that we develop educational program for the industry.
- The Secretary 2013 should take care of the NH webpage maintenance. AGU could be asked to support the website development.
- The President 2013 should select the person to coordinate OSPA. It could be an earlier career scientist (but not a student).

Adjournment 8:00 AM



Participants of the NH Focus Group business meeting.

Left to right: Yev Kontar, Richard Murnane, Howard Singer, Dalia Kirschbaum, Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Ning Lin, Vasily Titov, Hans Lechner.



Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award Winner Dr. Ross Stein (Middle), Yev Kontar (left), and Alik Ismail-Zadeh (right)