

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

Wednesday, 7 December 2011, 6:45AM-8:00AM
Moscone North, San Francisco, California

Call to order at 6:45 AM

Attendance

Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Chair), Kelli Klima (EC Member), Yev Kontar (EC Member), Vasily Titov (EC Member), Victor Baker (AB Member), Yehuda Bock (AB Member), Andrew Newman (AB Member), Howard Singer (AB Member). **Guests:** Dalia Kirschbaum, Katya Kontar, Ramesh Singh.

Apologies for absence were received from the following EC Members: Susan Cutter (Vice Chair), Ilya Zaliapin (Secretary), Servando De la Cruz-Reyna, Harsh Gupta, Bruce Malamud, Richard Murnane, Roger Pielke Sr., Gezahegn Yirgu.

Note taker: Alik Ismail-Zadeh

AGENDA TOPICS

1. General announcements, introduction of the meeting participants

2. Approval of Agenda

Approved

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2010 Executive Committee meeting

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

http://www.agu.org/focus_group/NH/events/meetings/Minutes_Dec15_10.pdf

Approved

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

The report can be found at the NH focus group webpage:

http://www.agu.org/focus_group/NH/about/reports/ChairReport2011.pdf

The topics of the report covered:

4.1. Inter- and trans-disciplinary science, and science for the benefit of humanity

At the last AGU Council meeting on 4 December, The Council discussed how AGU could promote inter- and trans-disciplinary research and the research, which benefits society. The NH focus group is in fact an AGU body, which directly links many disciplines of geophysical and geodetic sciences and contributes to studies on mitigation of disasters caused by natural extreme events.

4.2. Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award

AGU Council in August 2011 approved the proposal of the NH focus group to establish a distinguished lecture award. The Award Committee chaired by Susan Cutter will choose the distinguished person to deliver the lecture at the 2012 Fall Meeting. Call for nominations will be announced soon (deadline is 15 April 2012)

4.3. Natural Hazards FG Award for Graduate Research

The last call for nominations was quite successful: the Award Committee considered 6 nominations, each candidate was of a talented graduate students, and competition was quite strong. We hope that the next call we will be at the same or higher scientific level.

4.4. AGU Fellowship, Awards and Medals

NH focus group members should be proactive in nominating colleagues to AGU fellow, awards and medals

4.5. 2012 AOGS-AGU Joint Meeting in Singapore 2012

Three proposals (jointly with AOGS and IUGG) were submitted to the Joint Meeting.

4.6. 2012 IUGG GRC Conference on Extreme Hazards, Chapman University, CA

Ramesh Singh (local conference organizer) will speak later on the conference.

Our focus group is a co-sponsor of the Conference.

4.7. Election of the New Officers in 2012 to take office from January 2013.

One of the important topics was to decide whether NH focus group intends to participate in the 2012 elections of AGU. Alternatively, officers of the focus group will be appointed by the new AGU President. In the case of election, the NH focus group will get two seats at the AGU Council; otherwise, no seats are reserved for focus groups.

After some discussion, the attendees of the meeting agreed that the NH focus group should go for the 2012 election. It was suggested to ask the Executive Committee and Advisory Board members (who did not attend the meeting) for their opinion.

4.8. Current Financial Statement

The group has insignificant funds at its account. The most funds received and used have been from external bodies (e.g., Munich Re and ENHANS project)

AIZ thanked the Executive committee members and especially Ilya Zaliapin for their voluntary service for the AGU NH focus group.

5. Report of the Secretary (I. Zaliapin).

AIZ told the participants that Ilya Zaliapin could not attend the meeting as his son was born a few days ago. The report was written by AIZ.

5.1. Preliminary results of NH Focus Group activity at the 2011 AGU FM

- The NH FG is represented by 36 session slots = 18 oral and 18 poster and a Union session U23C: "Predicting Extreme Events in Natural and Socioeconomic Systems: State-of-the-Art and Emerging Possibilities". The NH sessions run each day except Thursday.

5.2. Web page: maintenance

- The webpage is maintained at <http://nh.agu.org>
- During the last year the page had 10,388 visits from 1,991 unique visitors. This includes 19% of new visitors comparing to the previous year. The page has been visited from 100 countries, with the largest traffic from USA, Spain, UK, Switzerland, Germany, India, Canada, and France (over 100 visits from each country).
- Chuck Hakkarinen, AGU Section/Focus Group Web Editors Committee Chair, has expressed interest in the organization of the group web site and sharing this expertise with other sections and groups.
- Please, consider placing a link to the group page on your institutional and personal web sites.

5.3. FG Newsletters

- Newsletter #5 has been distributed to the group members in December 2011. It is available on the group web site.

5.4. Project proposal on development of database for natural hazards research

- Responding to the AGU general move to create a data base on science experts for communications with public and press, the NH focus group has prepared a proposal to develop a web-based dynamically updated Natural Hazards data base that will include three modules: NH programs in US, info on the AGU-related research in NH, and the NH expert data base. The proposal will be submitted to various private and governmental organizations for possible funding. The timeline for the launching the proposed web site is two years.

5.5. Membership of NH focus group

| 2010 | | 2011 (on 31 October) | |
|---------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Primary | Secondary | Primary | Secondary |
| 400 | 4,175 | 514 | 4,374 |

- The table above summarizes the NH membership information for 2010 and 2011
- The group membership increased slightly in 2011
- Due to the group mission and goals, the main type of membership in NH is secondary. Proposal: Ask AGU to distribute the group newsletters and messages to both primary and secondary members, as the primary membership largely under-represents AGU members involved in NH research.

AIZ thanked Ilya for his voluntary service and leadership.

6. Outstanding Student Paper Awards. Student survey for Natural Hazards (K. Klima)

6.1. Outstanding Student Presentation Award.

- The implementation of the online system had some large difficulties, which appear to be resolved for future years.
- In the end at least one volunteer had signed up online to judge every student.
- A student should not be in charge of OSPA process.

6.2 Student survey (shows communication with students is a severe problem):

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- **Methods:** The survey was created in conjunction with student representatives to all executive boards in AGU. The survey was administered by AGU Student Coordinator Kara Smedley through an online tool called Survey Gizmo. For each group, Kara and the student representative to that executive board slightly altered the basic questions to create an individualized survey. Kara then emailed a personalized survey link to all members who were listed in the AGU database for that subdivision as primary affiliated students. Note, these students did not necessary include all students, who were listed as presenting at Fall AGU 2011. Beginning of Survey: 22 November 2011. End of Survey: 30 November 2011
 - **Results:** Only 5/140 students responded (one was myself). Students report:
 - They do not visit the NH website. They didn't know it existed
 - They do not receive the NH newsletter (and therefore do not read it).
 - They prefer email communications
 - 4/5 have heard of OSPA, but not through NH. Other NH programs are unknown.

In accordance with the AGU requirements, the Student Rep should be a current student. Kelly ceased being a student in September 2011. The goal of the Student Rep position is to assist the focus group to attract students to the NH community. Current students have expressed interest in the Student Rep position, so it is to NH's advantage to recruit them as a Student Rep now. Kelly will remain active in NH, including completing the OSPA 2012 process as agreed.

AIZ thanked Kelly for her excellent work on the 2012 OSPA coordination.

7. Report of the NH representative at the AGU Program Committee (Y. Kontar)

The 2011 AGU Fall Meeting featured 394 papers in 18 oral and 18 poster sessions with primary and secondary NH affiliation. In addition an NH symposium within the ENHANS framework is held as a Union session.

AIZ thanked Yev for his great efforts to structure the scientific program of the NH sessions.

8. 2012 IUGG GRC Conference on Extreme Hazards, Chapman University, CA

Ramesh Singh presented briefly the scope of the Conference "Extreme Natural Hazards and Their Impacts" to be held in Chapman University, Orange, CA, 11-14 December 2012 (immediately after the Fall Meeting). The Conference topics are as follows:

- Some of Major Recent Earthquake and Tsunami events
- Recent Volcanic events
- Connection between Extreme Climate and Natural Hazards
- Early Warning of Natural Hazards
- Recent Satellite sensors for Monitoring Natural Hazards
- Disasters Management in Developing Countries
- Natural Hazards and Infrastructures
- Natural Hazards Mitigations

The AGU NH focus group agreed to co-sponsor of the event.

Adjournment 8:00 AM



Participants of the NH Focus Group business meeting.

Sit (left to right): Dalia Kirschbaum, Victor Baker, Kelly Klima, Ramesh Singh.

Stand (left to right): Vasily Titov, Howard Singer, Yehuda Bock, Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Yev Kontar.