

**AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group**  
**Executive Committee (EC) Business Meeting**  
**Minutes**

Wednesday, 15 December 2010, 6:45AM-7:45AM

Place: San Francisco Marriott Marquis, Salon 1

San Francisco, California

**Call to order at 6:45 AM**

**Attendance**

Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Chair), Ilya Zaliapin (Secretary), Kelly Klima (Member), Yev Kontar (Member), Corne Kreemer (Member), Rick Murnane (Member), Vasily Titov (Member)

**Advisory Board members:** Victor Baker (Atmospheric Sci.), Yehuda Bock (Geodesy), Upmanu Lall (Hydrology), Jian Lin (AB: Ocean Sci.), Andrew Newman (Geodesy), Roger Pulwarty (Atmospheric Sci.), Howard Singer (Space Weather), Mary Lou Zoback (Seismology) **Guests:** Dalia Kirschbaum, Jane Rovins (IRDR), Ramesh Singh **AGU staff:** Danica Williams

Apologies for absence were received from: Susan Cutter (Vice Chair), Servando De la Cruz-Reyna (Member), Harsh Gupta (Member), Bruce Malamud (Member), Roger Pielke Sr (Member), and Gezahegn Yirgu (Member).

**Note taker:** Ilya Zaliapin

**AGENDA TOPICS**

1. General announcements, introduction of the meeting participants	3 min
2. Approval of Agenda	2 min
The agenda was approved	
3. NH focus group teleconference	2 min
A teleconference was held on Tuesday, December 2, 2010 among the EC members to discuss the ongoing activities of the FG and prepare to the Fall AGU meeting. Participants: Servando de la Cruz-Reyna, Susan Cutter, Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Kelly Klima, Yevgenyi Kontar, Bruce Malamud, Rick Murnane, Roger Pielke, Ilya Zaliapin.	
4. Report of the Chair (A. Ismail-Zadeh - AIZ). The report can be found in the Agenda Materials.	12 min

The topics of the report covered:

- 4.1. New AGU: first steps
- 4.2. AGU Natural Hazards FG Award for Graduate Research: Future Calls
- 4.3. Proposal for Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award
- 4.4. Nomination to AGU Fellowship, Awards and Medals

- 4.5. Chapman Conference and Joint AGU-EGU meeting on Natural Hazards
- 4.6. Budget of the Focus Group and Current Financial Statement

The Advisory Board members asked for a mission statement of the group that would include a clear statement of interaction of the FG with other groups/sections. AIZ explained that the *mission of the AGU Natural Hazards focus group is to promote studies of natural hazards for the benefit of society*. It is not explicitly stated in the web-page and we will place the mission statement on web soon. Meanwhile the NH web page presents details of what the NH focus group promotes. Namely it is stated:

“The Group promotes fundamental research into the links between extreme natural hazards and dynamic processes on Earth and in space; real-time and long-term monitoring of active processes in the Earth and in space; quantitative natural-hazard modeling that combines geophysical, ecological, societal, and economic aspects of disaster scenarios; studying predictability of natural extreme events, their operational forecasting, and reducing predictive uncertainties; comprehensive interdisciplinary research aimed at reducing vulnerability to both current and future natural hazards; and implementation of effective strategies and designs for hazard mitigation and disaster management worldwide, with particular focus on the most risk-prone areas. The effects of human activities in enhancing geophysical disasters are also of interest of the group.”

AIZ specifically mentioned that the NH focus group competes with no AGU Sections or focus groups and promotes inter-Sectional research. If each Section builds a strong disciplinary pillar, the NH focus group tries to link the pillars into a magnificent colonnade of trans-disciplinary research. The Focus Group concentrates its efforts on scientific problems of natural hazards and geo-risks analysis and on the development of solid links between geophysical sciences and mathematical, engineering, and social sciences communities and users of knowledge concerning natural hazards.

Howard Singer and Roger Pulwarty asked for an exec summary of the group for possible publication in the journals of the AGU Sections. Ilya Zaliapin and AIZ will work on the summary and it will be e-mailed to the Advisory Board members for possible actions.

5. Report of the Secretary (I. Zaliapin). The report can be found in the Agenda Materials.	10 min
--	--------

- 6.1. Preliminary results of NH Focus Group activity at the 2010 AGU FM
- 6.2. AGU Index terms for Natural Hazards
- 6.3. Web page: maintenance
- 6.4. FG Newsletters

6. Outstanding Student Paper Awards – preliminary Report (K. Klima)	3 min
<p>62 poster and 14 oral student presentations were submitted to OSPA 2010; each presentation was assigned 3 judges. Several dozen co-conveners have been invited to judge the OSRA 2010. AGU Staff will deliver the results of the evaluation to the officers of the NH focus group by 10 January 2011.</p> <p>Mary Lou Zoback proposed to appoint another person (not a PhD student) more experienced in science and education to coordinate the program. Ilya Zaliapin clarified that the OSPA coordination is focused on assigning appropriate number of judges to each paper but does not necessarily involve evaluation of OSPA nominees. Final decision on the award is made by the officers of the NH focus group, and not by the coordinator.</p>	
7. Report of the NH representative at the AGU Program Committee (Y. Kontar and C. Kremer)	3 min
<p>Fall 2010 meeting features 328 papers in 15 oral and 17 poster sessions with primary NH affiliation. In addition an NH symposium within the ENHANS framework is held as a Union session.</p>	
8. Advisory Board for the AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group: Introduction and Terms of Reference	5 min
9. Integrated Research on Disaster Risk – a new International Program (Jane Rovins, Executive Director of the International Program Office, invited)	10 min
<p>The IRDR program addresses the impacts of disasters on regional and global scales and brings together the combined talents of the natural, socio-economic, health and engineering sciences from around the world. IRDR will focus on hazards related to geophysical, oceanographic, climate and weather trigger events – and even space weather and impact by near-Earth objects.</p> <p>There are three major research objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to address the gaps in knowledge and methods for the effective identification of disaster risks;</li> <li>2. to better understand just how decisions can contribute to hazards becoming disasters – or reduce their effects; and,</li> <li>3. to develop knowledge-based actions that will reduce risk and curb losses.</li> </ol> <p>More information on the Program can be found on the web:  <a href="http://www.irdrinternational.org/">http://www.irdrinternational.org/</a>  <a href="http://www.icsu.org/1_icsuinscience/ENVI_Hazards_1.html">http://www.icsu.org/1_icsuinscience/ENVI_Hazards_1.html</a></p>	

10. AGU involvements in the ENHANS project

7 min

11. Other topics

3 min

Designation of a member to serve as press liaison to work with AGU Staff to assure timely and accurate information for the press.

- It was decided to search for a person and to send names of potential press liaisons to the Secretary of the NH focus group.

### Adjournment 7:45 AM



#### **Participants of the Fall 2010 focus group business meeting.**

Sit (left to right): Jane Rovins, Kelly Klima, Victor Baker, Mary Lou Zoback, Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Vasily Titov. Stand (left to right): Roger Pulwarty, Howard Singer, Upnamu Lall, Ramesh Singh, Yehuda Bock, Jian Lin, Rick Murnane, Yev Kontar, Andrew Newman, Corne Kreemer, Ilya Zaliapin