

Contents:

1. Election of Natural Hazards Focus Group Officers: Call for nominations
2. Call for session proposals for the 2012 AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco
3. Call for nominations for the 2012 Natural Hazards Focus Group Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award
4. Call for nominations for the 2012 Natural Hazards Focus Group Graduate Research Award
5. Final Report on the Project “Extreme Natural Hazards and Societal Implications (ENHANS)”
6. News from the AGU Council (Policy conference)

Important Deadlines for 2012

Fall Meeting Session Proposals: **20 April**
Nominations for the Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award: **1 May**
Nominations for the Graduate Research Award: **15 May**
Abstract and Town Hall Submissions: **8 August**

AGU NATURAL HAZARDS FOCUS GROUP NEWS

No. 6 (April 2012)

1. Election of Natural Hazards Focus Group Officers: Call for nominations

The Natural Hazards (NH) Focus Group will elect for the first time the group’s officers. It will allow the focus group to have two sits (President and President-elect) on the AGU Council according to the AGU ByLaws, and hence the group can directly contribute to the scientific policy and activities of the Union. The current Vice Chair of the NH Focus Group cannot continue for the next term as President of the group; hence in 2012 the Focus Group will elect the President, President-elect and Secretary.

The Chair of the NH Focus Group appointed the Nominating Committee consisting of four people: Harsh Gupta (Chair), Susan Cutter, Alik Ismail-Zadeh, and Ilya Zaliapin. As a response to the call for nominations, 10 nominations for the positions of the NH Focus Group officers were received: 3 for the President, 3 for the President-elect and 4 for the Secretary positions. The Nominating Committee considered carefully the nominations and selected two candidates for each position (please see a list of the candidates below). When selecting the candidates for the officer positions, the Nominating Committee considered the following criteria: willingness to serve on the focus group, position statement, previous involvements in AGU activities, previous involvements in NH activities, scientific excellence and career, gender, geographic location, and age.

The names of the candidates are forwarded to the AGU Headquarters. The candidates will be placed on a list of candidates for the Union, Sections and Focus Groups officers and published in EOS. The election will be held in September 2012. The term of the new officers will start on 1 January 2013 and will continue for two years.

Position	Candidates
President	<i>Rick Murnane</i> , Bermuda Institute for Ocean Sciences, Bermuda <i>Vasily Titov</i> , NOAA Center for Tsunami Research, Seattle, WA
President-elect	<i>Upmanu Lall</i> , Columbia University, New York, NY <i>Gerassimos Papadopoulos</i> , National Observatory of Athens, Greece
Secretary	<i>Amir AghaKouchak</i> , University of California, Irvine, CA <i>Ning Lin</i> , Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

2. Call for session proposals at 2012 AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco

The dates for the 2012 AGU Fall Meeting have been changed to **Monday, 3 December – Friday, 7 December**. Previously published deadlines will not change. The deadline for Session Proposals will remain **20 April**; Abstract and Town Hall Submissions will open on **12 June** and will close on **8 August**; and Registration and Housing will open on **12 July**. Due to a change in the Moscone Center schedule, AGU was able to change the meeting dates for 2012. The new dates will allow the meeting to return to its traditional Monday – Friday schedule, and will help to address peak travel day concerns, and other expense and scheduling issues for attendees.

The call for session proposal is open until 20 April 2012. Please submit a session proposal. For those, who would like to submit a proposal for the first time, the following message will guide you in the preparation of the proposal.

1. Define a topic about which you think a session should be organized. For example, exciting scientific development in the natural hazards and disaster risk research or fresh insights on an old controversy, applications of natural hazard research to societal needs, early results from a major collaborative studies.
2. Think about up to three other people who are excited about that topic and can help to organize and run the proposed session. Note that you need at least 2 conveners, and one of you must be an AGU member.
3. Go to the AGU website (<http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2012/>) and click on the session proposals link.
4. Fill in all the required information: title and description (limited to 800 characters), convener names, affiliations and email addresses, index terms. It is done.
5. Wait for the decision of the 2012 AGU Scientific Program Committee regarding your proposal.
6. Meanwhile you can start thinking about possible invited speakers, but invitations cannot be formally extended until after your session has been approved (sometime in May 2012). After the sessions are finalized, you will drum up interest in your session by talking with colleagues and broadcasting the description to listservs.

Organizing a session is a great idea. It is not a lot of work, and it is a huge service to the community. It is also a great way to focus the attention of leading experts on problems that

interest you!

The deadline for session proposals is April 20!

3. Call for nominations for the 2012 Natural Hazards Focus Group Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award

The AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group accepts nominations for its newly established Gilbert F. White Distinguished Lecture Award. The award will be given annually, starting in 2012, to an individual for original contributions to the basic knowledge of natural hazards and/or disaster risks. The lecture will be presented by the awardee at the AGU Fall Meeting of the year of the award. The main evaluation criteria (i) include stature of the candidate and her or his contributions to the field of natural hazards research and practice, and (ii) focus on the lifetime achievement and contribution across the research fields. Nominations should include a letter of nomination, two (but no more than four) letters of support from peers (from outside of the nominee's institution), a curriculum vitae, and selected bibliography with a brief introductory summary (no more than one paragraph, indicating the total number publications). The award consists of a certificate and recognition at the Natural Hazards Reception. The awardee will deliver a lecture at the AGU Fall meeting. Please refer to the group web site for the nomination requirements:

http://www.agu.org/focus_group/NH/awards/gfwhite.html

In order to be considered by the Award committee for 2012 Award, nominations should be received by **1 May 2012**. Please send nominations in an electronic form (as a single PDF file) to:

Dr. Ilya Zaliapin
Secretary, AGU Focus Group on Natural Hazards
Department of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557, USA
Tel: +1-775-784-6077
E-mail: zal@unr.edu, nathazards@gmail.com

Gilbert F. White Award Committee was appointed by the Chair of the NH Focus Group:
Susan Cutter, University of South Carolina (Chair)
John Eichelberger, U.S. Geological Survey
Kerry Emanuel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Upmanu Lall, Columbia University
Ilya Zaliapin, University of Nevada Reno
Mary Lou Zoback, Stanford University

4. Call for nominations for the 2012 Natural Hazards Focus Group Graduate Research Award

The AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group calls for nominations for its award to young scientists engaged in studies of natural hazards and risks. This award recognizes one or more promising young scientists for outstanding contributions achieved during their Ph.D. research. Accordingly, eligibility is restricted to current Ph.D. students and those who have completed the requirements

for a Ph.D. degree up to 12 months prior to the nomination deadline. Nominees should be AGU members.

The major criterion in the evaluation of candidates nominated to this award is the impact (or potential impact) of the research on the field of natural hazards. The award consists of \$500 for support of travel to the AGU Fall meeting, a certificate, and recognition at the Natural Hazards Reception.

The awardee(s) will have the opportunity to deliver an invited paper in an appropriate Natural Hazards session at the AGU Fall meeting. The awardee(s) will also be announced in EOS.

Please refer to the group web site for the nomination requirements:

http://www.agu.org/focus_group/NH/awards/gra.html

Nominations should include (i) a letter of nomination, (ii) a curriculum vitae, (iii) two supporting letters, coming from outside of the nominee degree-granting institution, and (iv) up to three PDF reprints (or preprints) of the nominee's work.

In order to be considered by the selection committee, nominations should be received by **May 15, 2012**. Please send nominations in an electronic form to Dr. Ilya Zaliapin (see contact details above).

The Award Committee is chaired by Michael Ghil (UCLA and ENS), and the members of the committee are Efi Foufoula-Georgiou (University of Minnesota) and Friedemann Wenzel (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology).

5. Final Report on the Project “Extreme Natural Hazards and Societal Implications (ENHANS)”

<http://www.enhans.org>

The AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group participated in the ENHANS Project together with several international and intergovernmental organizations including International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), International Geographical Union (IGU), International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM), Scientific Committee on Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) Program of the International Council for Science (ICSU), International Social Sciences Council (ISSC) and U.N. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Global Oceanic Observing System (GOOS) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and in cooperation with three ICSU Regional Offices: ROLAC (for Latin America and the Caribbean), ROA (for Africa), and ROAP (for Asia and the Pacific) and U.S. SPIDER. The principal goals of the ENHANS project were (i) to improve understanding of critical phenomena associated with extreme natural events and to analyze impacts of the natural hazards on sustainable development of society; (ii) to promote studies on prediction of extreme events reducing predictive uncertainty and on natural hazards mitigation; to bring the issues into the political and economical policies; (iii) to disseminate knowledge and data on natural hazards for the advancement of research and education in general and especially in developing countries; and (iv) to establish links and networks with the international organizations involved in research on extreme natural hazards and their societal implications

setting up a consortium of experts of scientific unions of the International Council for Science involved in the project.

The goals of the ENHANS project have been achieved via scientific meetings and open forums bringing together research experts, decision makers, and disaster management, insurance agency and mass media practitioners. The project placed a special emphasis on the importance of research on extreme natural hazards and disaster risk mitigation in the most vulnerable regions of the world, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Africa, in the Middle East, in Asia, and the Pacific region. The project events were held around the world focusing on extreme natural hazards and disaster risks in a particular region:

- Latin America and the Caribbean (Iguassu, Brazil, 9-11 August 2010, more than 40 participants);
- North Africa (Cairo, Egypt, 1 November 2010, about 30 participants);
- North America and Europe (San Francisco, USA, 13-15 December 2010, more than 300 people);
- sub-Saharan Africa (Pretoria, South Africa, 17-20 January 2011, more than 40 participants);
- the Middle East (Antalya, Turkey, 7 May 2011, about 20 people), and
- Asia and the Pacific region (Melbourne, Australia, 29 June- 2 July 2011, more than 300 people).



Moreover, the advanced school (Trieste, Italy, 25 September – 8 October 2011) and scientific sessions (San Francisco, USA, 5-6 December 2011) on predictability of extreme events have been organized as a part of the ENHANS project.

The full report is available at the web: http://www.enhans.org/about/ENHANS_Final_Report.pdf

6. News from AGU

AGU Council Meeting in December 2011

The AGU Council Meeting was held in San Francisco on Sunday, 4 December. The Council Chair

Carol Finn, AGU President Mike McPhaden, and AGU Executive Director Chris McEntee shared what is happening at AGU from each of their unique perspectives. The council plays three distinct roles – policy formation, idea generation/science deliberation, and advisor on science and member issues. Carol Finn walked council members through an example of the role they played in forming policy and working with the Honors and Recognition Committee. Chris McEntee walked through the council's role in generating the idea of a grand challenge. Mike McPhaden walked through how the council advised the board and staff regarding the organizational relationships policy.

The AGU Outreach Committee created new process for reviewing existing position statements and developing new ones. The board reviewed this process and provided feedback strengthening the Council's role. In 2012, the Committee will review six existing position statements and begin to develop new ones off the list. Council members were asked to encourage their Section/Focus Group members to get involved in the comment periods and to identify potential position statement topics.

The Council considered also the current challenges with AGU Fall Meeting, financial plans, AGU's vision of science for the benefit of humanity, honor and recognition projects, and future Council composition. It was decided to increase the size of the Council Leadership Team to 9 members total and to create 3 student and 3 early career scientist positions on the council starting in 2013). Tim Grove updated the council on the status of realigning the leadership terms and the 2012 nominations/elections timeline. Council members provided input into priority topics for the next 3-5 years, criteria for future council members, and job descriptions.

AGU Council webinar in April 2012

The first Council webinar was held on 2 April 2012 using a new technology AdobeConnect. Two major topics, which the Council considered at the webinar, were (i) plans of realization of the AGU vision of science for the benefit of humanity by addressing a societal grand challenge and the 2013 membership dues structure.

AGU Science Policy Conference

Societal relevance of geophysical research is the foundation for one of the goals outlined in our strategic plan: "The American Geophysical Union engages members, shapes policy, and informs society about the excitement of Earth and space science and its role in developing solutions for the sustainability of the planet". AGU will host its inaugural Science Policy Conference on 1–2 May in Washington, D.C. This conference will bring together leading scientists, policymakers, government officials, industry professionals, press, and other stakeholders to discuss some of the far-reaching fields related to AGU's science – including natural hazards, natural resources, oceans, and Arctic science – and how they relate to the challenges facing our society.

The conference will feature a combination of high profile plenary speakers, panel discussions, and poster sessions, presented by experts from across the government, industry, academic, policy, and non-profit sectors. Plenary sessions will include Governance, Security, Economy and the Ecosystem of the Changing Arctic, as well as the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. There will also be a closing plenary on science's impact on the 21st century economy. During the conference's nearly 20 individual sessions, attendees will discuss such topical issues as ensuring sustainable oceans, the future outlook of U.S. energy and the role of new technologies, the effects

of sea level rise, erosion, and changes in infrastructure on our coasts, hydraulic fracturing, and the impacts of space weather, just to name a few. These sessions will feature such experts as: Marcia McNutt, Director, U.S. Geological Survey; Jack Hedin, Farmer/Owner, Featherstone Farms; Timothy Manning, Deputy Administrator, Protection and National Preparedness, Federal Emergency Management Administration; Steve Fetter, Principal Assistant Director for Environment, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; Carl G. Hedde, Senior Vice President and Head of Risk Accumulation, Munich Re America; and Susan Cutter, Carolina Distinguished Professor of Geography & Director, Hazards Research Lab, University of South Carolina and the Vice Chair of the AGU NH Focus Group.

(Source: the AGU President's message on 23 March 2012)

Note: Contributions to AGU Natural Hazards Focus Group Newsletters are welcome from AGU members. Please send your contributions to Ilya Zaliapin by e-mail nathazards@gmail.com or via the "Contact" page at the group Website (<http://nh.agu.org/contact/>) inserting the Subject line: "Contribution to AGU NHFG Newsletters". The contributions will be reviewed and may be shortened.

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