

AGU Natural Hazards Executive Committee Meeting

Dec. 16th, 2015 12:30-13:30pm, San Francisco Marriott Marquis, Salon 5

Participants

Executive Committee Members present in the meeting: Upmanu Lall (President), Ramesh Singh (President-Elect), Amir AghaKouchak (Secretary), Tony Song, Jenny Suckale, David Green, Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Richard Murane.

Invited Participants: Susan Hough (EOS Representative), Daniel Wright (Early Career Committee), Naresh Devineni (Graduate Research Award Committee), Phu Nguyen (OSPA Coordinator), Daliab Kirschbaum (OSPA Coordinator), and Kirsten Orwig (Program Committee).

Agenda

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| 1. Welcome and introductions | 3 minutes |
| 2. Brief report on sessions, past and upcoming meetings | 5 minutes |
| 3. Nomination for upcoming elections and fellows | 10 minutes |
| 4. Setting up Technical Committees with other sections/FGs | 10 minutes |
| 5. Developing a NH journal | 10 minutes |
| 6. Developing and articulating Disaster Science | 10 minutes |
| 7. AGU NH Position Paper | 5 minutes |

Summary Report

- President Lall and President-Elect Singh welcomed the Executive Committee Members.
- President Lall briefly reported on the Gilbert White Lecture and the NH sessions, and thanked the program committee members for their efforts in organizing the NH sessions.
- Both President and President-Elect urged the EC Members to nominate potential candidates for NH Fellows and Gilbert White Lecture in 2016. EC Members were encouraged to send their suggestions to Secretary AghaKouchak (amir.a@uci.edu).
- In 2016, AGU will hold a general election for two NH positions: President-Elect and Secretary. The EC members were encouraged to nominate/recommend potential candidates for the open positions. President Lall will send a newsletter (already distributed and enclosed to this report) to the broader community to solicit help with a number of items including nominations (and self-nominations) for the following committees, since some of the members have completed their 2-year term:

Natural Hazards Award for Graduate Research

Fellows Committee

Gilbert White Lecture

Early Career Committee

Executive Committee

Program Committee

Please forward your nominations/suggestions to Secretary AghaKouchak (amir.a@uci.edu).

- Following the recommendation of President Lall, the NH Executive Committee Members decided to establish Joint Technical Committees with other AGU Sections and Focus Groups for better coordination across different disciplines.
- President Lall initiated a discussion on whether there is a need for a NH journal. Prof. Ben van der Pluijm, Editor-in-Chief of Earth's Future, provided an overview of Earth's Future which aims to bridge across disciplines. Editor van der Pluijm mentioned that Earth's Future considers themes and special issues (for example, water and food,

energy). Natural Hazards can potentially be included as a theme (or Special Issue) in Earth's Future. Prof. Alik Ismail-Zadeh also suggested that instead of a new journal, NH should seek a section in one of the existing journals (e.g., JGR or Earth's Future). The Executive Committee Members and the broader community are encouraged to send their views to the President.

- Finally, President Lall reported that AGU NH Position Paper is approved and will be released to the public soon.

[Click here to access the web version of this message.](#)



Natural Hazards (NH) Focus Group Newsletter: December 2015

Dear NH members,

We hope that you had an outstanding time at the AGU meeting and will have a great holiday season. We thank you for your participation, for organizing sessions, and for supporting the young researchers.

Through this note we are also soliciting your help with a number of items we need to get done administratively by the first week of January. Please do take a few minutes to address our request at this busy time.

Here are the items with which we need help:

(1) Matching opportunity. AGU is actively soliciting donations. If you are a primary member of the focus group and contribute \$50 this year, identifying your association, and if 15% of the group do so—about a 100 members—then AGU will add \$5000 to the focus group budget, which we could use to support student and international participant travel and/or awards as the group decides. This would really give us an opportunity to nurture contributions from that segment and also develop new activities for the group. Please do consider contributions. AGU has a sliding matching scale: If 5% of the group contributes \$50 each, they will match it with \$1000 and so on. Being a small group, we have an advantage in that we don't need very many people to contribute to get the matching money.

(2) We need nominations for the next program committee by 2 January 2016. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, please send your nomination to [Amir AghaKouchak](#). The term of the member will be 2 years.

(3) We need nominations for the following committees since some of the members have completed their 2-year term:

- Natural Hazards Award for Graduate Research
- Fellows Committee
- Gilbert White Lecture
- Early Career Committee

- Executive Committee

(4) AGU will hold elections for the group president and secretary soon. If you would like to run for one of these offices or if you have suggestions for candidates, please write to [Amir AghaKouchak](#).

(5) The AGU honors nominations will also be due soon. If you have suggestions for the Gilbert White Lecture for 2016 (the main award for our focus group) or for people to be nominated as Fellows, please let us know, including whether you would be interested in helping develop the nomination that will be forwarded to AGU.

Minutes of our executive committee meeting at the AGU Fall Meeting are being prepared and will be sent shortly. We wanted to get this email out to you immediately, given the early nomination deadline for the Program Committee.

Thanks very much and happy holidays!

Upmanu Lall
AGU Focus Group President, Natural Hazards

Ramesh Singh
AGU Focus Group President-Elect, Natural Hazards

Amir AghaKouchak
AGU Focus Group Secretary, Natural Hazards

AGU galvanizes a community of Earth and space scientists that collaboratively advances and communicates science and its power to ensure a sustainable future.