



## Report

Period covered: 01.01.2004-01.04.2005

URL: <http://www.iugg-georisk.org/>

The IUGG Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (IUGG GeoRisk Commission) established by the IUGG Bureau in August 2000 is dedicated (i) to promoting scientific studies applied to the reduction of risk from natural hazards in an increasingly urbanized world and sustainability and (ii) to reducing death and destruction from natural and technological hazards by providing hazards data and information to emergency managers, policy-makers, scientists and the general public in the most timely and effective manner as possible. This includes the integration of knowledge concerning environmental, social and economic processes. The fundamental scope of this Commission is to facilitate communications – between scientists via meetings, workshops and publications, as well as between scientists and decision makers, between scientists and the public, and between scientists and schools.

The GeoRisk Executives and Commissioners are:

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Duty/Association</b>	<b>E-mail address</b>
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The GeoRisk Commission Executive was appointed by the IGG Executive during 2004 and took office at the Hyderabad meeting in December 2004.



During the Hyderabad business meeting of the GeoRisk Commission.

## Publication of Sapporo Symposium

The Commission convened and organized two sessions at the IUGG General Assembly in 2003. One of these was an invited session that formed part of the “State of the Planet” theme. Papers from this session have been published by AGU as a Geophysical Monograph Volume 150. Further information is available at:

<https://www.agu.org/cgi-bin/agubookstore?memb=agu&topic=..GM&book=GEGM1504157>

## Stockholm Symposium

The GeoRisk Commission again combined with EuroScience to arrange a symposium at the EuroScience Open Forum in Stockholm in August 2004. Professor G. Papadopoulos delivered the Rammal Award lecture at the GeoRisk organized symposium on Risk Science, Society and Sustainability that was held in Stockholm on 26-27 August 2004. Other presentations were made by E. Kontar (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow), A. Makarenko (National Technical University, Kiev, Ukraine), U. Shamir (Technion, Haifa, Israel; IUGG President), T. Beer (CSIRO, Australia; IUGG Vice-President), F. Wenzel (Karlsruhe University, Germany), P. Wiedemann (Julich Research Center, Germany), and J. Paterson (Westminster University, London, UK). A report of the meeting was published in

*EOS, Transactions of the American Geophysical Union*, **85** (44) 453 (2 November 2004).

## Hazards 2004 – Hyderabad Workshop

Hazards 2004 was the name given to the combined meeting that constitutes the Third Workshop of the IUGG Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability & the Tenth International Symposium on Natural and Human-Induced Hazards of the Natural Hazards Society. The meeting was held in Hyderabad, India 2-4 December 2004. There were 120 attendees comprising 40 foreign scientists and 80 Indian scientists.

The conference itself was excellently organized. Dr R.K. Chadha and Dr. D. Srinagesh – the Chair and Secretary-General of the Local Organising Committee – had the full support of Dr. V.P. Dimri, their employer and the Director of the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) – one of the Indian CSIR research institutes and the location where the conference was held.



**Tom Beer at the opening ceremony lighting the lamp to inaugurate the Conference.**

Plans are presently underway to have a special issues of the Springer journal Natural Hazards with papers from the meeting and from the Stockholm symposium.

## **Webcyclopedia**

The webcyclopedia at: <http://www.iugg-georisk.org/webcyclopedia/index.html> continues to collate information. The presentations given at the Sapporo Assembly have been incorporated into the webcyclopedia, and authors in the GeoRisk portion of the Hyderabad meeting will also be invited to submit their power point presentations for inclusion in the webcyclopedia. The Commission continues to search for an editor for the project.

## **GeoScience Unions Initiatives**

The GeoSciences Unions of ICSU (namely IGU, IUGS, IUSS, IUGG) met in Paris in February 2004 and in Boulder in September 2004. They determined five topics for further action. One of these topics is Hazards, and IUGG agreed to lead action on this topic. Dr. Tom Beer has been asked to co-ordinate action on this. An IYPE brochure on the topic, that outlines four key research questions has been published by IUGS. See <http://www.esfs.org/downloads.htm>.

The GeoUnions Initiative Joint Science Team on Hazards met during the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe 18-22 January 2005. Twenty invitees attended this meeting, which also functioned as a planning meeting (run by Gordon McBean) for an ICSU programme on Natural Hazards.

A positive and exciting outcome of the meeting was an offer from Hormoz Modaressi for BRGM (France) to host a project office for the GeoUnions Hazards Initiative. They already host the IGOS Geohazards Bureau. The Commission looks forward to the possibility of the IGOS Geohazards program becoming a strong part of the GeoUnions initiative.

## **ICSU Projects**

### **Ongoing project**

The Commission has been involved with the ICSU project “Near Earth Orbit Objects” during the past year. Dr V. Gusiakov attended a planning meeting on this project. The project was successful in being funded.

## **Submitted project proposals**

The Commission is involved into two new ICSU project proposals:

1. Geohazards: Extreme Natural Events and Societal Implications – *GENESIS* (led by IUGG). Supporting partners of the project proposal are: Geoscience Unions (International Union of Geological Sciences, International Geographical Union, International Union of Soil Sciences, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing), Interdisciplinary Bodies / Initiatives (Integrated Global Observing Strategy – Geohazards, Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research, Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative, International Consortium on Landslides).
2. The Role of Science and Data in Disaster Risk Management (led by ICSU CODATA). Supporting partner: IUGG

## **Statement of the Commission**

The GeoRisk Commission adopted the Statement on the Greatest Earthquake and Tsunami of the Early XXI Century and the Need for Urgent Action to Reduce Natural Disasters in the Indian Ocean Region and Elsewhere. The Statement can be found at web:

[http://www.iugg-georisk.org/reports/IUGG\\_GeoRisk\\_st\\_full.pdf](http://www.iugg-georisk.org/reports/IUGG_GeoRisk_st_full.pdf)

## **Future Plans**

1. The next workshop will be "Recent Geodynamics, Geophysical Risk and Sustainability in the Black Sea to Caspian Region", to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 3-6 July 2005. The workshop will bring people of natural, social and political sciences together with the representatives of industry and national governments to analyze the problems of geohazards and risks in the Black sea to Caspian sea region and to prepare the social and political background for sustainable development. Nowadays, this region plays a key role in the energy supply for many countries, and one of the important problems is safety in transportation of hydrocarbons through pipelines located in areas endangered by earthquakes, landslides and volcanic activities.
2. Association representatives were asked to organize special sessions on Risk and Sustainability at their Association scientific assemblies. We are aware only of the session on Marine Risk and Sustainability being organized at the IAPSO scientific assembly in Cairns, August 2005.
3. The Commission supported a proposal put forward by Slava Gusiakov titled: "Comprehensive historical earthquake and tsunami database for the South-West Pacific" that received funding from IUGG. Following the December 2004 Tsunami such a meeting is very appropriate.
4. The Commission is part of a proposal for an EC initiative for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, known as SPICES. Evgeny Kontar represents the Commission. (see [http://www.ruoa.org/jsp/fiche\\_pagelibre.jsp?STNAV=&RUBNAV=&CODE=42971561&LANGUE=0](http://www.ruoa.org/jsp/fiche_pagelibre.jsp?STNAV=&RUBNAV=&CODE=42971561&LANGUE=0))