

The informal business meeting of the IUGG GeoRisk Commission
Communicated by Vladimir G. Kossobikov
(Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability, International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics) at the IASPEI (International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior) Scientific Assembly 2009 (10-16 January 2009, Cape Town, South Africa)

12 January 2009, 20:00-21:00

Participants

Members of the IUGG GRC –

Harsh Gupta (IUGG VP);

Viacheslav Gusiakov (IAPSO/IASPEI/IAVCEI Joint Tsunami Commission);

Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Past President (IUGG SG);

David Jackson (IUGG Bureau);

Vladimir Kossobokov, GRC VP; Chair of the meeting

Zhongliang Wu (IASPEI President);

invited participants –

Andrzej Kijko, Director, Benfield Natural Hazard Center, University of Pretoria, South Africa;

Frederic O. Simon, Consultant to UNESCO, former USGS

Agenda

1. The joint IUGG GRC - ICSU Regional Office for Africa (the geo-hazard team) project:

The ICSU Regional Office for Africa has started implementing its science plans, in particular, the one on Natural and Human-induced Hazards and Disasters. Although the project proposals are apparently in their final stages of being developed and include the projects on geo-hazards and hydro-meteo-hazards, we concentrated on those of related to geo-hazards (seismic, volcanic, landslides, tsunami). Alik Ismail-Zadeh invited African colleagues (Sospeter Muhongo and Genene Mulugeta or their representatives from the ROA geo-hazards team) to attend the IASPEI Scientific Assembly in Cape Town and the GRC BM and to present a progress in GRC-ROA projects on geo-hazards supported by IUGG, but, regretfully, no one came to the meeting. The Project HD01: "Geo-hazards" includes the five sub-projects: HD01.1: Assessing and mitigating seismic hazards; HD01.2: Monitoring hazards from volcanoes and explosive crater lakes; HD01.3: Mitigating the impact of landslides; HD01.4: Causes and consequences of sea-level changes, and coastal erosion and ocean pollution; HD01.5: Integrated modeling of the African lithosphere deformation and the implications for geo-hazards. Hopefully, the discussion of the problem with Andrzej Kijko, who has expressed willingness to contact the ROA geo-hazards team (in person) in Pretoria, would help better understanding of the goals and accelerate finalizing the proposals.

2. Geo-Unions Open Forum in Melbourne 2011:

All the participants of BM highly support the idea of having the one full-day Open Forum on Hazards and Disasters at IUGG XXV General Assembly "Earth on the Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet" (Melbourne, Australia, June 27 - July 8, 2011) and invite all the GRC members to think of the list of invited speakers who can contribute to multifaceted presentation of the problem from the prospective of all Geo-Unions of ICSU. Frederic Simon mentioned that UNESCO could contribute to the Geo-Unions

Open Forum.

3. In addition:

Dave Jackson suggested GRC Officers to think about “come together” informal meetings of the Commission at forthcoming Scientific Assemblies of the seven IUGG Associations to discuss the GRC business and scientific plans. The suggestion was supported by the participants.