

Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (*GeoRisk* Commission)

1. Introduction

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.

2. Administration

2.1 Membership

There was one appointment into the Georisk Commission Executive Committee during 2013: Dr Andreas Kaab from the University of Oslo, nominated by IACS. The Executive Committee now has improved representation from across the IUGG Unions. Note that Paula Dunbar remains as Treasurer despite having completed 2 terms in this role. This is because a new Treasurer could not be found, despite the best efforts of the Executive Committee (EC). Ms Dunbar has agreed to remain in the role until a new Treasurer can be found.

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2.2 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Georisk Commission were modified in order to remove some ambiguities and clarify some details relating to membership of the Commission. The modified Terms of Reference were approved by the IUGG Executive Committee in September, 2013.

3. Activities

3.1 Website

A new website for the Commission was designed and all content from the existing website has been transferred to the new website. The new website will be launched in the first quarter of 2014.

3.2 Second IUGG GeoRisk conference

A call for Expressions of Interest to host the second IUGG GeoRisk Commission conference was issued and Executive Committee members voted for a proposal from Joan Marti to hold the conference in Madrid, Spain, from November 18-21, 2014. The theme of the conference will be “Improving Geophysical Risk Assessment, Forecasting, And Management”. A number of provisional scientific sessions have been developed and a conference website has been established at <http://www.georisk2014.com>

3.3 Awards

Several Georisk Commission members were acknowledged with prestigious awards during 2013:

- Kuniyoshi Takeuchi was awarded the International Hydrology Prize on 22 October 2012 in Delft, the Netherlands on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of IAHS. The International Hydrology Prize is awarded annually by IAHS, with UNESCO and WMO, to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to hydrological science.
- John LaBreque was awarded AGU’s Edward A. Flinn III Award, which is presented to one awardee annually, for individuals who personify the Union's motto "unselfish cooperation in research" through their facilitating, coordinating, and implementing activities.
- The U.K. Royal Astronomical Society elected Alik Ismail-Zadeh as an Honorary Member of the Society. Honorary Memberships are made in recognition of services to astronomical and geophysical sciences such as distinguished leadership of a school, observatory or laboratory; outstanding services to national or international scientific organizations; exceptionally important work in editing scientific publications; influential work in education and public outreach in these sciences; or specially outstanding distinguished work in the history of these sciences.

4. Planned Future Activities

The main activity for 2014 will be the organisation of the second IUGG GeoRisk conference in Madrid, Spain, in November 2014.

The GeoRisk Commission will organize a Union symposium on Extreme Natural Hazards and Integrated Disaster Risk Science (tentative title) at the XXVI General Assembly of the Union (to

be held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 22 June to 2 July 2015). This will be undertaken in close cooperation with IAHS (as the Lead Association) and other Union Associations as well as with the IRDR Scientific Committee.