

Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (*GeoRisk* Commission)
Report of 2014 activities

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

The current membership list is summarized below. Paula Dunbar has kindly agreed to remain in the role of Treasurer until a successor is found.

Kuniyoshi Takeuchi	IAHS	Chair	kuni.t@pwri.go.jp
Vladimir Kossobokov	IASPEI	Vice-Chair	volodya@mitp.ru
John Labrecque	IAG	Vice-Chair	jlabrecq@mac.com
Diana Greenslade	IAPSO	Secretary	d.greenslade@bom.gov.au
Paula Dunbar	IAPSO	Treasurer	Paula.Dunbar@noaa.gov
David Jackson	IASPEI	EC Member	djackson@ucla.edu David.Boteler@NRCan-
David Boteler	IAGA	EC Member	RNCan.gc.ca
Joan Marti	IAVCEI	EC Member	joan.marti@ictja.csic.es
Servando de la Cruz Reina	IAVCEI	EC Member	sdelacrr@geofisica.unam.mx
Alan Thomson	IAGA	EC Member	awpt@bgs.ac.uk
Gerd Tetzlaff	IAMAS	Member	tetzlaff@rz.uni-leipzig.de
Hermann Drewes	IAG	Member	drewes@dgfi.badw.de

A. Jayawardena	IAHS	Member		hrecjaw@hkucc.hku.hk
Yevgeniy Kontar	IAPSO	Member		ykontar@findlay.edu
Susan McLean	IAGA	Member		Susan.Mclean@noaa.gov
Kosuke Heki	IAG	Member		heki@mail.sci.hokudai.ac.jp
Steve McNutt	IAVCEI	Member		steve@giseis.alaska.edu
Martin Funk	IACS	Member		Funk@vaw.baug.ethz.ch
Tom Beer	IAMAS	Honorary Member		tom.beer@csiro.au
Alik Ismail-Zadeh	IASPEI	Honorary Member		Alik.Ismail-Zadeh@kit.edu
Ramesh Singh	IASPEI	Honorary Member		rsingh@chapman.edu
		Advisory	Board	
Harsh Gupta	IASPEI	Member		harshgupta@nic.in
		Advisory	Board	
Viacheslav Gusiakov	IAPSO	Member		gvk@sscc.ru
		Advisory	Board	
Uri Shamir	IAHS	Member		shamir@tx.technion.ac.il
		Advisory	Board	
Gordon McBean	ICSU	Member		gmcbear@uwo.ca

2.2 Business meeting

An informal Business meeting of the Commission was held in the occasion of the 2nd GeoRisk Conference in Madrid on 20 November 2014. Six GRC members (Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Ramesh Singh, Joan Marti, Viacheslav Gusiakov, Yevgeniy Kontar and Kuniyoshi Takeuchi) were present and discussed various commission matters including plans for the Union Session at the IUGG General Assembly in Prague, 2015.

3. Activities

3.1 The Second IUGG GRC conference

The Second IUGG GRC Conference on "Improving Geophysical Risk Assessment, Forecasting, and Management" was held at Real Observatorio de Madrid, Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN), Madrid, Spain from 18-21 November 2014 hosted by Joan Marti, GRC member of IAVCEI. About 80 participants from over 15 nations participated. A total of 31 keynotes, 4 special speeches and 20 posters were presented and two special discussion panels "The Risk of Extreme geohazards: How prepared is a globally interdependent society?" and "Final discussions" were held. The six plenary sessions were: 1. Global risks assessment for natural

hazards: methods and practices; 2. Modelling and assessment of geophysical hazards; 3. Vulnerability assessment methodologies; 4. Monitoring and early warning systems for geophysical hazards; 5. Decision making models and protocols; and 6. Communication protocols and practices. The presentations and discussions were transdisciplinary and of an integrated nature with geo-scientists, engineers, geographers, sociologists, media experts etc. Reports included examples such as the Eyjafjallajökull eruption in Iceland, rare earthquakes in Spain, emergency responses in the remote Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, citizen participation in Catalonia, Spain, and the development of a game “Kazan” for disaster education. A guided tour of the Observatory, one of the oldest cosmic observatories in the world was a superb experience for the participants.

3.2 Website

A new website for the Commission was designed and all content from the previous website has been transferred to the new website. This was launched in May 2014 and can be found at: <http://www.iugg-georisk.org/>

4. Planned Future Activities

4.1. During the 26th IUGG General Assembly, 22 June-2 July 2015, the GRC will hold jointly with IAHS, IRDR, IAVCEI, IAPSO, IACS, IASPEI, IAG, IAGA, a Union Symposium U02 “Integrated Disaster Risk Science: Accounting for Extremes” on 24 June.

4.2. During the IUGG GA in Prague, a GRC Business meeting is planned to be held.

The agenda will include:

- 1) The renewal and strengthening of the Commission.
- 2) Plans for the 3rd GeoRisk Conference in 2016. Initial discussions have been held with the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme in relation to a possible joint meeting.