



Minutes of GEOSNet board meeting, 14 October 2015, Rotterdam

Date: 14 October 2015

Time: 5:30-6:00 pm

Venue: Veder Room, World Trade Center, Rotterdam

Present: LM Zhang (Chair), P Cools (co-Chair), D Straub (past Chair), I Papaioannou (Secretariat)

Guests: V Griffiths

1. Introduction and welcome

LM Zhang convened the meeting at 5:40 pm. Members and guests present introduced themselves.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

LM Zhang mentioned that in the previous board meeting, it was decided that the activities of TG2-TG4 would discontinue as they had been inactive and other existing committees have carried out their work (e.g. TC304 of ISSMGE). LM Zhang suggested that a new TG be formed that would maintain a liaison with other working groups. P Cools suggested that this issue could be discussed in the presence of other working groups within the ISSMGE joint meeting. D Straub opined that a new TG is not required and that the activities of GEOSNet could restrict to the organization of the ISGSR conferences (corresponding to TG1) and the facilitation of networking through the maintenance of the GEOSNet website. The board agreed to postpone the discussion on a possible new TG group to a future meeting.

3. Past/current activities

a. Report of TG1 – Conference organization: (P Cools)

LM Zhang invited P Cools to present a brief report on 5ISGSR. P Cools reported that 139 papers have been received, 223 delegates have registered and everything has progressed smoothly thus far.

On behalf of the executive board, LM Zhang thanked P Cools for his efforts and successful organization of 5ISGSR.

b. Report of TG2 – Design code developments in Asia

- c. Report of TG3 – Reliability benchmarking
- d. Report of TG4 – Design code updates

The board agreed that past activities of TG2-4, which were discontinued at the previous board meeting, would not be resumed. It was agreed to remove the TGs from the webpage.

4. GEOSNet awards

LM Zhang announced the inauguration of a series of GEOSNet awards, to be presented to individuals with outstanding contributions to geotechnical risk and reliability. The awards will be given in a two-year frequency at each ISGSR conference. Three categories of awards will be presented:

- The GEOSNet Distinguished award
- The GEOSNet award
- The GEOSNet Young Researcher award

The GEOSNet Distinguished award is a lifetime achievement award and recognizes individuals who contributed substantially to the community. The GEOSNet award is to be presented to two individuals that have made impactful contributions to geotechnical risk and reliability, respectively. The GEOSNet Young Researcher award will be given to maximum three individuals below 40 years old.

LM Zhang presented the procedure followed for selection of the recipients of the GEOSNet awards 2015. Nomination is open to all, not limited to GEOSNet members. A nomination package includes a nomination letter and detailed description of the contributions made (e.g. CV and representative publications). The executive board members were asked to rank the nominees for each category of award. Final selection was made by the Chair, co-Chair and past Chair of the executive board.

The naming of the GEOSNet awards was discussed. Decision on this topic was postponed to a future meeting.

V Griffiths raised the question on whether the GEOSNet awards would be accompanied by a cash award in the future. Decision on this topic was postponed to a future meeting.

5. Next ISGSR

LM Zhang announced that the 6ISGSR will be held in Denver, as proposed by V Griffiths and agreed by the board members via email. The 6ISGSR will be organized together with the ASCE Geo-Risk 2017 specialty conference. V Griffiths announced that the conference will take place from 4-6 June 2017 and that a video would be shown at the conference dinner to advertise this joint event.

6. Sixth GEOSNet Board

a. Chair and Chair-Elect

LM Zhang announced that the new Chair of the executive board of GEOSNet will be the Chair of the 5ISGSR, P Cools. It was agreed to rename the co-Chair of the board as Chair-Elect. The new Chair-Elect will be the Chair of the organizing committee of 6ISGSR, V Griffiths.

b. Board members

The 5th board consisted of the following members:

LM Zhang (Chair)
P Cools (co-Chair)

D Straub (past Chair)
A Bond
RB Gilbert
S Nishimura
S Paikowsky
V Griffiths (Guest)

Secretariat: I Papaioannou

Note: V Griffiths was invited by the board members to join the GEOSNet board on 29 August 2014 via email.

LM Zhang noted that in the previous chair meeting, it was decided that new board members would replace board members having served two terms. Therefore, A Bond and S Paikowsky retired as GEOSNet board members. It was agreed that LM Zhang would inform the retiring member via email. LM Zhang proposed that D Straub remains on the board for another term. The present members of the board agreed. LM Zhang suggested that D Li and J Ching join the GEOSNet board. The composition of the 6th GEOSNet board will be decided following discussion with D Li and J Ching and the remaining board members via email.

I Papaioannou volunteered to continue his role as secretary and webmaster of the GEOSNet website until the next board meeting. The present members of the board agreed.

The tentative composition of the 6th board, subject to approval by the absent board members is as follows:

P Cools (Chair)

V Griffiths (Chair-Elect)

LM Zhang (past Chair)

J Ching

R Gilbert

D Li

S Nishimura

D Straub

Secretariat: I Papaioannou

7. Other Business

No additional other business. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.