



Minutes of GEOSNet board meeting, 18 Oct 2007, Shanghai

Date: 18 Oct 2007

Location: Meeting room on first floor, Experts Service Centre of Tongji University

Time: 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Present: KK Phoon (acting chair), MH Faber, Y Honjo, HW Huang, CH Wang, JR Chen, JY Ching, T Hara, B Simpson

Apologies: DE Becker, CT Chin, K Horikoshi

1. Introduction and welcome

KK Phoon convened the meeting at 5.30 pm. Members and guests present introduced themselves.

2. Report on past activities

GEOSNet was initiated by CT Chin to sustain activities beyond our Taipei2006 symposium. The network was formed during a meeting on 3 Nov 2006 (minutes posted on website). CT Chin and KK Phoon were nominated as chair and co-chair, respectively, to drive the establishment of this network. One key terms of reference is to expand the base of participation beyond researchers to other stakeholders in industries and government agencies. The main activity carried out in 2006-2007 was the organization of ISGSR, under the chairmanship of HW Huang.

CT Chin conveyed his deepest regrets for not being to attend this meeting. CH Wang noted the significant contributions made by CT Chin during our critical formative year. The Board thanked CT Chin for his valuable contributions and service as founding chair of the first GEOSNet Board.

3. Succession planning

The basic leadership renewal and succession plan was drafted by CT Chin and given in Appendix A of the agenda.

The following plan was approved after discussion and some amendments:

1. Term of Chairperson and Co-Chairperson is from conference to conference, with a maximum of 3 years.
2. The Co-Chairperson is the next Chairperson. The next Co-Chairperson is nominated by the next Chairperson, in consultation with the Board.
3. The Board shall consist of the following 9 or less members:
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. Co-chairperson

- c. 7 or less members – immediate past Chairperson and past or newly co-opted board members nominated by the Chairperson in consultation with the Board
- 4. The immediate past Chairperson shall stay as member of the Board for only one more term.
- 5. As a guide, 3 or more members of the Board should be drawn from the industry (broadly defined as non-academics).

The 2-member secretariat is also renewed by allowing one existing member to retire and bringing a new member on board during each conference.

4. Second GEOSNet Board

The proposed second Board was circulated in Appendix B of the agenda. KK Phoon invited B Simpson to participate in the second Board during ISGSR. B Simpson would confirm if he can participate in this capacity after checking with his company. The meeting unanimously accepts the following board members:

KK Phoon (Chair), National University of Singapore, Singapore
 Y Honjo (Co-chair), Gifu University, Japan
 DE Becker, Golder Associates, Canada
 CT Chin, Moh & Associates, Taiwan
 MH Faber, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
 K Horikoshi, Taisei Corporation, Japan
 HW Huang, Tongji University, China

Secretariat: CH Hwang, M Uzielli

5. Membership

- a. Current status
 JR Chen distributed current GEOSNet membership in Appendix C of agenda. The secretariat has drafted an application form for individual member. This form is provided in the symposium bag.
- b. Admission of new individual members
 “Core members” were invited to join GEOSNet during the start-up period of the network. The definition of “core members” was quite vague. Some guidelines on admission of new members were proposed in Appendix D of the agenda. After some discussion, the Board decided to eliminate the category of “Core members” to simplify the GEOSNet organization. All past and new members would be categorized as “Members”. Members can participate more actively as task group coordinators/members.

Three outstanding applications (Appendix C of agenda) for membership were approved.

- c. Institution member
 A brief writeup on benefits of institution membership was circulated as Appendix E. KK Phoon highlighted the importance of engaging the industry and urged board members to suggest ideas and improvements on how this can be achieved. The secretariat has drafted an application form for institution member.

6. Future Activities

a. Gifu 2009 conference

Y Honjo presented some details on the organization of the next symposium in Gifu, Japan. He indicated that this symposium can be a joint activity between GEOSNet, ISSMGE TC23, and ISSMGE TC32. The tentative date of the symposium is between 21 and 22 May 2009. It is recommended that the theme “Geotechnical Safety and Risk” should be retained if possible for the next symposium. HW Huang recommended continuing the symposium title “International Symposium for Geotechnical Safety and Risk” so that a more impactful symposium series can be created.

b. Task Groups

i. Application procedure

Potential task group coordinator should submit a simple proposal to the Board for approval. The proposal should contain: title, coordinator, task group members, objectives, working items, deliverables, and schedule. The secretariat has drafted a simple task group proposal form.

ii. Report of TG1: Conference organization

HW Huang (coordinator of TG1) reported the following statistics for ISGSR: paper contributions (110 papers submitted; 81 full papers accepted; 77 papers published of which 31 are international authors and 46 are authors from China), delegates (90 full registrations; 114 delegates out of which 46 are international), and countries represented (16). This symposium was financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the National High-tech R&D Program (863 Program) of China.

The Board thanked HW Huang and his dedicated local organizing committee from Tongji University for their tremendous efforts over the past one year and congratulated him on the highly successful organization of this symposium.

iii. Report of TG2: Design codes in Asia

Y Honjo (coordinator of TG2) reported that preparation of a glossary is in progress.

iv. Proposal of TG3: Reliability benchmarking

JY Ching proposed TG3 to establish benchmark problems and solutions for validation of reliability softwares and for tutorial. B Simpson mentioned that T Orr is doing similar work for ERTC. MH Faber mentioned that JCSS is interested in this activity as well. JY Ching would liaise with ERTC and JCSS and try to rope some members from these committees into TG3.

c. Other Activities

B Simpson recommended exploring web-based meeting to reduce amount of travel for task group activities. CH Wang would contact YM Hsieh to find out if it is practical to organize such meetings.

7. Other Business

i. Secretariat renewal

JR Chen is stepping down and M Uzielli has agreed to join secretariat. The Board thanked JR Chen for his valuable contributions and service to the first GEOSNet.

ii. New website for GEOSNet

New URL for GEOSNet is: <http://geosnet.geoengineer.org>.



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Clockwise: B Simpson, JY Ching, HW Huang, JR Chen, KK Phoon, Y Honjo, T Hara, MH Faber (Photograph courtesy of CH Wang)