



Minutes of GEOSNet board meeting, 4 June 2017, Denver CO

Date: 4 June 2017

Time: 1:00-2:30 pm

Venue: Mount Oxford Room, Grand Hyatt hotel, Denver

Present: P Cools (Chair), LM Zhang (past Chair), DV Griffiths (Chair-Elect), S Nishimura, R Gilbert, I Papaioannou (Secretariat)

Absent: J Ching, D Li, D Straub (represented by I Papaioannou)

1. Opening and welcome

Paul Cools convened the meeting at 1:00 pm. The present board members introduced themselves.

2. Report on ISGSR 2017

P Cools asked DV Griffiths to report on the organization of Geo-Risk/ISGSR 2017. DV Griffiths reported that over 300 people registered for the conference and that participation exceeded the one of the previous Geo-Risk conferences. The conference includes 2 short courses, 8 keynote speakers (including which the Suzanne Lacasse and Wilson Tang lectures), 4 parallel sessions of 90 minutes (with 6 or 7 presentations per session) and 2 excursions on Wed. June 7. The Banquet is scheduled for Monday June 5.

On behalf of the executive board, P Cools thanked DV Griffiths for his efforts and successful organization of 6ISGSR.

DV Griffiths mentioned that there would not be a closing ceremony during the 6ISGSR. LM Zhang suggested that V Griffiths could report on the organization of the conference to the participants during the opening ceremony.

3. GEOSNet awards

DV Griffiths noted that the GEOSNet awards are scheduled to be presented during the Banquet.

DV Griffiths mentioned that GEOSNet does not provide funds for the framing of the GEOSNet awards and that it is sensible to organize sponsoring for the awards. LM Zhang suggested that a future sponsoring of the GEOSNet awards could also

include the Banquet tickets of the awardees. DV Griffiths opined that awardees should be informed in advance to ensure their participation in the award ceremony. LM Zhang noted that in the board meeting in Rotterdam in 2015 it was decided not to introduce "Honour Names" the awards.

It was agreed to add the above items in the agenda of the next board meeting.

4. ISGSR 2019, Taipei

P Cools noted that the 7ISGSR will be held in Taipei, 12-13 December 2019, as decided in the board meeting in Shanghai in 2016.

DV Griffiths noted that J Ching is scheduled to give a short presentation on the next ISGSR during the conference Banquet. R Gilbert proposed that the presentation of next ISGSR could be given in the opening ceremony as not all participants have purchased Banquet tickets. LM Zhang opined that it is more appropriate for the presentation of the next ISGSR to be held during the Banquet. DV Griffiths mentioned that J Ching would bring 200 flyers to advertise the next ISGSR and that the flyers could be made available in the registration desk. P Cools suggested that the chair of ISGSR DV Griffiths should decide on when the presentation will be held. DV Griffiths decided that it should take place during the Banquet.

R Gilbert leaves the meeting to return to the short course, which he co-organized.

P Cools read a message from J Ching on the organization of the next ISGSR 2019 in Taipei. I Papaioannou handed out printouts of the conference flyer, tentative conference program, and powerpoint slides of the presentation to be held in the conference Banquet by J Ching. The tentative conference program includes 6 keynotes, 20 sessions and one panel discussion, including 15 special sessions. In total, there will be about 20 sessions (120 presentations). Apart from traditional topics on geotechnical safety and risk, the next ISGSR will include the topics of robustness and resilience, uncertainty and risk in rock engineering, software developments, and Eurocode revision through continuing interactions with TC205/EC7 group.

P Cools expressed satisfaction on the organization of the next ISGSR and expressed his gratitude to J Ching, G Fenton, D Li (vice chair of ISGSR 2019), KK Phoon, Y Wang (vice chair of ISGSR 2019), and J Zhang (secretary of ISGSR 2019) for their help in organizing the conference.

5. GEOSNet executive board

a. Chair and Chair-Elect

P Cools announced that the new Chair of the executive board of GEOSNet will be the Chair of the 6ISGSR, DV Griffiths. The new Chair-Elect will be the Chair of the organizing committee of 7ISGSR, J Ching.

b. Board members

The 6th board consisted of the following members:

P Cools (Chair)
V Griffiths (Chair-Elect)

LM Zhang (past Chair)
J Ching
R Gilbert
D Li
S Nishimura
D Straub

Secretariat: I Papaioannou

P Cools announced that he would be retiring next month from his position at the Rijkswaterstaat and therefore volunteered to retire from the executive board.

LM Zhang noted that as has been decided in the 2015 chair meeting, new board members would replace board members having served two terms. Therefore, R Gilbert, S Nishimura, D Straub and LM Zhang retired as GEOSNet board members. DV Griffiths suggested that parting members could nominate new members for consideration by the board. LM Zhang noted that places should be reserved for members that could potentially organize the next ISGSR. I Papaioannou noted that the composition of the board should include members from all continents.

P Cools suggested that DV Griffiths collects nominations via email. The final composition of the 7th GEOSNet board will be decided based on an email-voting with the remaining board members. The present members of the board agreed.

I Papaioannou volunteered to continue his role as secretary and webmaster of the GEOSNet website until the next board meeting and to retire afterwards. In addition, he suggested the appointment of a second secretary that would take over after the next board meeting.

DV Griffiths suggested Lisa (Jinhui) Li as the second secretary. The present members of the board agreed.

6. Other Business and closure

The frequency of the ISGSR conferences is discussed. DV Griffiths noted that the current 2-year frequency attracts a sufficient number of participants. P Cools noted that the number of participants at every new event has been increasing. It was agreed to continue the organization of the ISGSR conferences in a 2-year frequency.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.