

Minutes of the ASC Business Meeting in Sapporo

A Business Meeting of the IASPEI Asian Seismological Commission was held on 4 July, 2003 during the IUGG2003 General Assembly in Sapporo, Japan.

Twenty-five participants from 13 countries attended in the meeting. Prof. S. Balassanian, President of the ASC, presided.

Dr. Rhoades, D (1st Vice-President), Prof. Ghetanchi, M. R. (2nd Vice-President), Prof. Chuanzhen Zhu (Secretary General), Dr. Engdahl, E. R. (IASPEI Secretary-General) and Prof. Zhongliang Wu (IASPEI Executive member) were present.

I. 5th ASC General Assembly

As decided at the previous Meeting in Kathmandu, the 5th ASC General Assembly will be held in Armenia in 2004. The Chairman proposed that it be held in Yerevan from October 18th-21st, and that it should include a Symposium on Seismic Hazard Evaluation and Risk Reduction (October 18-20); Pre-Symposium training course on Recent Trends in Seismic Networks Data Processing & Exchange, Hazard and Risk Assessment (October 11-17) and Post-Symposium Field-Trip (1988 Devastating Spitak Earthquake Epicentral Area, October 21).

The following tentative topics for the symposium were suggested:

- Recent devastating earthquakes
- Earthquake source physics: pre-seismic, co-seismic and post-seismic phenomena
- Stress field, seismotectonics, paleoseismology, focal mechanisms & GPS observations
- Strong ground motion, earthquake hazard and risk assessment
- Current seismic hazard assessment, early warning, earthquake forecasts and predictions
- Seismic risk reduction & management
- Heatflow, volcanology, lithosphere, structure of Earth's interior
- Public awareness, education, training, and social impact of strong earthquakes

Any further suggestions should be sent to the Secretary General during the next month.

II. ASC Pilot Projects

The Chairman reported that the ASC Pilot Projects Steering Committee had been formed, comprising S. Balassanian, Zhu C. Z., D. Rhoades, M. R. Ghetanchi, G. Gibson, H. Gupta, and Wu Zhongliang. Dr. B. Engdahl suggested that Dr. Matsu'ura from Japan might also be invited to join the steering committee.

Prof. Balassanian introduced proposed pilot projects:

- Further improvement of the seismic hazard evaluation in developing countries
- Seismic risk assessment: regional and local contexts
- Seismic risk reduction in the selected most vulnerable urban areas
- Current seismic hazard assessment for early warning and notification

He mentioned the following important data for each ASC Pilot Project:

- Participants: ASC Member Countries
- Duration: 3 years
- Approximate Cost: 300,000 USD
- The Potential Funding Organizations:
 - International (UNESCO, UNDP, UN-ISDR, World Bank, and others)
 - Regional (ADPC, ADRC, Asian Banks, and others)
 - National (ASC Member Countries)

Possible funding sources include UNESCO, UNDP, World Bank, UN-ISDR, IDPC, IDRC as well as regional organizations, such as ADPC, PDR, Asian Bank & National Sources (The ASC

member countries). A number of international sources have already been approached & have expressed informal support for the projects. It was stressed that the projects need to be carried out in cooperation with other interested groups, e.g. IASPEI Commissions & Working groups. Dr. Engdahl pointed out that IASPEI was already providing financial assistance to ASC, as seeding finance. The Chairman expressed ASC's appreciation of the funding received from IASPEI.

Prof. Wu expressed the support of the IASPEI Commission on strong ground motion, earthquake hazard & risk for the ASC pilot projects. Dr. Shapira supported the idea of cooperation with the European Seismological Commission. Dr. Gibson said that there is very little knowledge of the link between seismology and engineering in some parts of Asia. There is a need for seismologists to provide hazard maps in formats the engineers require. It would be useful to hold a workshop on what is needed from both sides.

Dr. Mandel said that in preparing maps for earthquake engineers, one needs to get input from a number of different points of view; so that the result will be of maximum benefit to engineers.

III ASC Cooperation Plan

Prof. Balassanian proposed the ASC Cooperation Plan based on ASC Cooperation with:

- IASPEI Commissions & Working Groups, in particular, SHR, ESC, & Others
- Regional Organizations: IDPC, IDRC, & Others

IV. ASC Information Sources

Two main ASC information sources were pointed out by Prof. Balassanian: ASC Websites and ASC Newsletter. The Chairman noted that two websites were built that post the information concerning ASC. These are:

<http://aaspei.topcities.com>
<http://asc1996.netfirms.com>

He also informed that the Russian Representative promised to undertake the publication of ASC Newsletter in Russia.

Dr. Gibson suggested that our newsletter be incorporated in a Developing Countries Newsletter, he hoped that this would soon be managed by a committee of the IASPEI Commission on Education and Outreach.

Dr. Engdahl proposed to incorporate ASC Newsletter in Electronic form with IASPEI Newsletter.

V. ASC Membership Strengthening

Prof. Zhu announced the concern of the ASC President regarding the current state of the ASC membership. He reported that six years ago, national representatives were appointed. But so far the contacts with some representatives were weakened. We need to renew the representative appointments as suggested by Prof. Balassanian. After this Assembly, a letter will be sent out to the national committees for IUGG or other authorities to do this.

Dr. Shapira informed that same practice exists at the ESC regarding the renewal of national representatives. It was agreed that the ASC statutes regarding the Country Representatives were not as clear as they should be on this matter, and are in need of revision.

VI. Other ASC-related Issues

Prof. Chen Y. T. expressed his appreciation to Prof. Balassanian for leading the ASC activities and willingness to support ASC. He pointed out that next year the 3rd International Conference on

Continental Earthquakes will be held in Beijing, China. Prof. Wu said that a training course will be held in conjunction with this conference, and all countries are invited to participate.

Prof. Balassanian propose to create ASC Earthquake Prediction Research Working Group taking into account the interest of Asian seismologists and willingness to cooperate in that issue. Prof. Zhu and Prof. Wu supported that idea. It was agreed to establish the working group officially during the ASC 5th General Assembly.