

Minutes of the SHR Business Meeting at Sapporo

The IASPEI Commission on Earthquake Hazard, Risk, and Strong Ground Motion (SHR) held its business meeting on July 8 at Sapporo. There were 17 delegates from Armenia, China, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, and United States participated in the meeting, among whom there were Prof. K. Kudo and Prof. H. Kawase, leaders of the IASPEI/IAEE Joint Working Group on Effects of Site Geology on Strong Ground Motion (JWG-ESG); Prof. S. Yu. Balassanian, Dr. D. Rhoades, and Prof. C. Z. Zhu, president, vice-president, and secretary general of the Asian Seismological Commission (ASC); and Prof. D. Jackson, chairman of the IASPEI Commission on Education and Outreach. SHR chairman Z. L. Wu presided the business meeting.

In the meeting Prof. Wu reported the works carried out by SHR since its founding in 2001. Prof. Kudo introduced to the history and the state-of-the-art of IASPEI/IAEE JWG-ESG. Prof. Balassanian introduced to the ASC pilot projects on seismic hazard and risk evaluation in Asian-Pacific regions. Dr. F. Romanelli, on behalf of Prof. G. F. Panza, introduced to the training activities related to earthquake hazard and risk assessment (Workshops on 'Earthquake prediction' and on 'Seismic waves propagation and generation') at the Abdus Salam International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy. Dr. Wu, on behalf of Prof. Y. T. Chen, introduced to the training courses on seismic hazard reduction for developing countries in Beijing.

Four issues were discussed at the commission meeting.

1) For 2005 Santiago IASPEI General Assembly: a joint session 'Understanding Strong Ground Motions: from Source Process to Site Effects' be organized together with the IASPEI Commission on Earthquake Sources – Modeling and Prediction, based on the discussion between Prof. Wu and Prof. M. Matsu'ura, chairman of the Commission on Earthquake Source. It is suggested that a joint session should be organized together with ASC focusing on the seismic hazard and risk in Asian-Pacific regions. At the same time, a SHR student award is to be launched, supporting the (partial) international travel and/or local accommodations to outstanding student papers, based on the review of the extended abstracts. The full papers should be put onto the website. It has also been proposed that inside each session, the thematic choices should be more clearly identified; in this way more fruitful discussions could rise.

2) SHR formally welcomes the IASPEI/IAEE JWG-ESG to be a working group of SHR, with Prof. H. Kawase being the group leader on the IASPEI side. SHR suggests that IASPEI Bureau contact the IAEE, at the association level, for the cooperation between IASPEI and IAEE through the functioning of this joint working group. It is hoped that the joining of this working group will make SHR more active in the international cooperation on the study of earthquake hazard, risk, and strong ground motion, and will promote the communication between seismologists, engineering seismologists, and earthquake engineers.

3) Based on the discussion with ASC leaders, the ASC-SHR Joint Working Group on Seismic Hazard and Risk Assessment for Asian-Pacific Regions is formally formed.

The general purpose of the new working group will be to promote the international cooperation and academic advancements in the study of seismic hazard and risk for the Asian-Pacific regions, a region with dense population, diversity of economic development and culture, and intense seismic disasters. The missions of the working group is defined as: (a) organizing joint meetings; (b) working on the pilot projects; (c) organizing joint training activities; and (d) working on joint publications. Dr. F. Romanelli is nominated as the SHR-side leader of the working group, and Prof. S. Yu. Balassanian is nominated as the ASC-side leader.

4) The council meeting passed the nomination of SHR Commission members made by Z. L. Wu. Y. T. Chen (on behalf of the mega-city initiative), G. F. Panza (on behalf of ICTP-SAND Group), K. Shedlock (on behalf of ILP) continue to be the commission members. H. Kawase and K. Kudo (on behalf of IASPEI/IAEE JWG-ESG) and F. Romanelli (on behalf of ASC-SHR JWG) are nominated to be new commission members.

Participants proposed valuable suggestions for the future works of SHR. The suggestions mainly dealt with the cooperation between SHR and other commissions, such as the cooperation with FDSN to promote the deployment of high-quality strong motion networks (as proposed by Prof. K. Irikura from Japan and Dr. Wu), the cooperation with Commission on Education and Outreach and ASC on the standardization of the professional terminology related to earthquake hazard and risk (as proposed by Prof. D. Jackson), the cooperation with Commission on Source and Prediction in the study of (long-term and intermediate term) predictions (as proposed by Prof. A. Sidorin from Russia and Prof. Zhu), and the cooperation with the Sub-Commission of Developing Countries to transfer observation technologies to developing countries (as proposed by Dr. P. Mandal from India).

The study of the fundamental scientific problems associated with seismic hazard and risk caused much attention of the participants. Dr. Rhoades proposed that methodologies and fundamental scientific problems should be paid more attention during the activities of SHR, as well as IASPEI in a broader perspective. Prof. Kudo emphasized the importance of the study of time-dependent hazard estimation. Prof. Irikura suggested that strong motion observation should be further promoted, which is the basis for further studies. Prof. R. Singh from India and Prof. Wu proposed that new technologies such as remote sensing have significant potentials in the study of earthquake hazard and risk. Prof. Z. F. Ding from China mentioned that the 3rd International Conference on Continental Earthquakes (ICCE) in Beijing the next year welcomes all the seismologists to join together discussing the problems of seismic hazard and risk.