

# **BUSINESS MEETING, GEOMORPHOLOGY DIVISION EGU**

## **22 April 2009, 12.15-13.15**

**Chair: Niels Hovius, Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge**

**Attendance: ~50**

### **AGENDA:**

- 1) Summary of EGU Council meetings
- 2) Report on GM 2008-2009
- 3) GM programme 2010
- 4) GM strategy
- 5) Division officers
- 6) Awards
- 7) Any other business
- 8) Announcements

### **1) SUMMARY OF EGU COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Brief explanation of EGU budget, including redistribution of net income from general assembly.

Review of meeting structure and location.

Introduction of EGU president Tuija Pulkkinen.

Summary of Executive Secretary position.

Sponsorship.

Division affiliation.

### **2) REPORT ON GM 2008-2009**

Growth of GM abstract numbers sustained: 95 (2004), 217 (2005), 169 (2006), 384 (2007), 569 (2008), 670 (2009).

It was stressed that the division has an increasing number of abstracts in co-organized sessions. Hosting of these sessions switches between divisions.

Ratio of abstracts per session proposals constant at 15:1. It was noted that effective recruitment of session proposals is a key to health and growth of the division.

Ratio of abstracts per session increased to 23:1, due to session consolidation and reservation of time block 5 for posters.

22 sessions plus 7 co-organized sessions; 14 co-listed sessions.

Union Symposium on Critical Zone.

It was felt that the session solicitation, coordination and consolidation process had been handled efficiently, openly and fairly. There were no negative comments on the process.

The 2009 programme was structured in thematic blocks, the order of which was appreciated. The programme stretched over five days with double sessions on most days.

There were no negative comments on the scheduling of parallel sessions.

Block five was reserved for posters. This scheduling was much appreciated. On day 1 oral sessions used block 5. This did draw a negative comment, but the late session was very well attended. Posters have been very well attended throughout the meeting.

Use of room 19 as permanent base for GM in the general assembly was appreciated. Attendance of some session blocks exceeded room capacity.

Room 29 is an adequate space for the larger Geomorphology sessions. It too has been filled to potential. A larger room is needed for future medal lectures. In general this set of rooms served the GM programme well.

Potential for growth of the division through increase of session numbers and diversity and improvement of abstract per session ratio was noted.

The chair expressed concern about the growing phenomenon of truancy. Several speakers have cancelled their contributions at short notice.

Mike Ellis was Programme Secretary in 2009, and will serve in this role in 2010.

Expressions of interest in participation in the 2010 programme committee were invited.

### **3) GM PROGRAMME 2010**

Call for session proposals and overview of milestones. This call will be emailed to all people who have submitted an abstract to GM in 2006-2009, and others on major geomorphology lists.

The chair committed to circulating monthly updates on session proposals to all people who have submitted an abstract to GM in 2006-2009.

Future session convenors were encouraged to actively recruit abstracts, and seek support for invitees.

The chair encouraged attendees to generate ideas for GM-based splinter meetings and topical meetings, and for sponsored sessions at the general assembly.

Attendees were encouraged to submit ideas for special sessions, and notified of the chair's desire to have a co-organized session with each of the major divisions bounding on GM. The mechanism of co-organization will be explained in session call.

### **4) GM OFFICERS**

Niels Hovius (Department of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge, UK) was re-elected as Division President, unopposed. He stressed that a further re-election will not be possible, and encouraged others to consider taking over the position.

The chair called for programme committee members and Division Secretaries. Several expressions of interest were received.

Continuing officers are:

Michael Ellis: Programme Secretary.

Mike Kirkby: Chair Medal Committee.

### **5) GM STRATEGY**

Strategy for three years from 2009 includes drives to

- Achieve comprehensive coverage of geomorphology.
- Raise profile of Geomorphology in the Geosciences and beyond.
- Work across boundaries with other disciplines/divisions to foster new lines of inquiry.

- Consolidate the EGU General Assembly as *the* platform for annual meeting of the (European) geomorphology community. Another annual international meeting does currently not exist in Europe.
- Initiate an EGU topical conference/workshop on a geomorphological topic.

This strategy was approved.

It was observed that the EGU General Assembly is increasingly seen as a can't miss occasion for Geomorphology. The quality of presentations has risen together with the quantity.

## **6) AWARDS**

The Ralph Alger Bagnold is reserved for individuals in recognition of their outstanding scientific contribution to the study of geomorphology, by means of:

11. a substantive recent contribution to a particular research area
22. the originality and innovative nature of the research
33. timeliness and significance of the research

The 2009 Medal Committee consisted of:

Mike Kirkby (Leeds, UK) *Chair*  
 Philippe Davy (Rennes, France)  
 Manfred Strecker (Potsdam, Germany)  
 Tom Dunne (UC Santa Barbara, USA)  
 Kelin Whipple (2008 medalist)  
 Niels Hovius (Cambridge, UK) *ex officio*

4The 2009 Bagnold Medal was awarded to Gerard Govers, and presented on the 22nd of April 2009. The occasion was attended by about 150 people.

The chair raised awareness of the Outstanding Young Scientist Medal, and pressed the community to advance a competitive candidate for this major award.

The chair introduced the Young Scientist Outstanding Poster Presentation Award with 16 candidates in the Division. The winner of the 2008 competition, Jakob Heyman, was presented with a framed diploma.

Uptake has doubled: the 2009 competition has 32 participants.

Andreas Lang was thanked for coordination of the 2008 competition, and will continue his work in 2009

## **7) ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No items were brought forward.

## **8) ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- European Surface Processes Meeting, Roscoff, France, July 2009
- AGU focus group Earth and Planetary Surface Processes.

End of meeting.