

GUR ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, December 5th 2003, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., Club Mediteranee, Pontresina

Minutes (preliminary version)

Participants: Van T.V. Nguyen, Peter Steen Mikkelsen, Simon Beecham, Baxter Vieux, Dominique Faure, James Li, Thomas Einfalt, Patrick Willems (members)
Peter Molnar, Claudia Golz, Niels Ejnar Jensen (guests)

1. Welcome

Thomas Einfalt (GUR Secretary) welcomed the GUR members and the other persons interested in rainfall.

He proposed Patrick Willems as deputy chairman, because of the absence of Guido Vaes (GUR Chairman) due to family reasons. Patrick Willems is working closely together with Guido Vaes at the Leuven University, and has prepared the meeting. The participants agreed with this proposal.

2. Approval minutes previous GUR Meeting

The minutes of the previous GUR Annual Meeting in Portland, September 2002, were approved.

3. Overview of GUR activities since previous GUR meeting

An overview was given of the GUR activities since last Annual Meeting in Portland:

- Reports to the Joint Committee (JC) on Urban Drainage:
 - o Small report for the Urban Drainage Newsletter, January 2003, including announcement of Pontresina workshop
 - o 3-year working plan for the JC on Urban Drainage in January 2003
 - o Summary of GUR activities 2002/2003 for JC meeting in Thessaloniki August 2003
 - o Small report for Urban Drainage Newsletter to appear in January 2004
- Preparation of the Pontresina workshop:
 - o The workshop was considered successful
 - o The Deputy Chairman and GUR members thanked T. Einfalt, P. Burlando and W. Schmid and their collaborators for the very good organisation of the workshop
 - o 27 papers and 14 posters were presented at the workshop, 45 participants from 17 countries were present. All reviewers were thanked for their time and effort in reviewing the abstracts.
- Course on global development of urban drainage management in India, February 2003. It was decided at the previous annual meeting to support this event by a contribution if it was convenient to one of the GUR members. Unfortunately no GUR member attended this meeting. Ole Mark from AIT sent a short impression on the course, saying that it was relatively broad and general.
- Reviewing of papers on rainfall for Novatech 2004. Thanks were given to the reviewers: 8 abstracts were reviewed by Thomas Einfalt, Dominique Faure and Guido Vaes. 7 abstracts were found to be appropriate. In the next stage the GUR will be contacted to review the papers.
- A state of the art paper on Radar rainfall in urban drainage has been prepared as a joint action of GUR members and submitted to the special issue on Urban Drainage in Journal of Hydrology. The cooperation was considered successful and instructive due to the collaboration between people with different backgrounds: Thomas Einfalt, Karsten Arnbjerg-Nielsen, Dominique Faure, NielsEjnar Jensen, Markus Quirmbach, Guido Vaes, Baxter Vieux and Claudia Golz. The paper is under revision in the mean time.

4. GUR Website

- It was decided that the GUR Website needs to be updated. T. Einfalt pointed out that he is looking for other candidates to take over the responsibility for the website. P. Willems said that G. Vaes (GUR Chairman) is volunteering to take over this responsibility. The GUR Website needs to be moved then to the server of the University Leuven. The IT staff of the university then can take care of security and other practical arrangements. The GURmembers agree with this proposal.
- It was discussed what information should there be on the website and who will deliver this information, which links should be made, etc. It was agreed that the following elements need to be covered by the website:
 - o Mission statement
 - o Membership conditions
 - o Members list
 - o Minutes of meetings and other documents
 - o Links to supported activities
 - o Links to members home page in members list + contact details
- T. Einfalt will provide G. Vaes with the updated members list. G. Vaes will send a request to all GUR members to provide him with their home page links and contact details.
- Also the website of the IWA Specialist Group is outdated. The GUR Chairman has send several requests to IWA to change, but is still waiting for reply.

5. Overview of future activities

An overview of future activities was given and discussed:

- Further dissemination of Pontresina 2003 papers. This topic was discussed earlier during the Pontresina Workshop by the Organizing and Scientific Committee of the Workshop. It was decided that the Organizing Committee will contact Water Science and Technology and Atmospheric Research, and that a choice will be made out of these two journals based on the citation index and the publication time.
- The rainfall papers for the Novatech 2004 Conference have to be reviewed by the GUR.
- The GUR probably can chair a session on rainfall at this Novatech 2004 Conference.
- The GUR will follow up the paper submitted for Journal of Hydrology.
- A list of forthcoming conferences, which include rainfall as a topic, is given:
 - o Novatech Conference, June 2004, Lyon, France
 - o Erad Conference, September 2004, Visby, Sweden
 - o British Hydrological Society, July 2004, London, UK
 - o Urban Drainage Modelling, September 2004, Dresden, Germany
 - o International Conference on Urban Drainage, 22-26 August 2005, Copenhagen, Denmark:
 - This Conference will be chaired by P. S. Mikkelsen (GUR Member)
 - The GUR will chair a session on rainfall, and will review the abstracts and papers
 - A higher scientific level (at the same time limiting the number of participants) is envisaged by the organisers. Therefore, the session topics will be specified in a more detailed way.
 - A short course on Radar rainfall might be organized during this conference (e.g. 1 day before the conference). This will be further discussed with the organizers.

6. Miscellaneous

- The next GUR Annual Meetings:
 - o In 2004: at Novatech Conference, Lyon, France, in June
 - o In 2005: at the 10th International Conference on Urban Drainage, Copenhagen, Denmark, in August
 - o In 2006: the next Workshop on Urban Rainfall in Pontresina
- Considering the decision made by the Organising and Scientific Committee of the Pontresina Workshop that the workshop papers will be published in a journal, the links on the Pontresina Workshop website to the abstracts and full papers had to be removed.
- V.T.V. Nguyen proposed to consider for the future also other activities on common research and comparative studies within the GUR. Sub working groups could work on topics such as

radar rainfall, design rainfall, IDF relationships, types of rainfall input for urban drainage modelling applications, etc. T. Einfalt drew the attention to overlaps with other activities such as the COST 717 working group. A coordination to use synergies should be envisaged in such cases. Also potential overlaps with the FRIEND projects of UNESCO needs to be considered. The FRIEND projects focus, however, mainly on river catchment hydrology. The GUR members are asked to consider the possibility to work within the GUR more actively on common research topics. It would be interesting if some topics could be outlined during the next year. In this way, the GUR also will be better prepared for the submission of project proposals when calls related to urban rainfall will be launched in the future (e.g. by the E.C.).

7. After closure

- Jovan Despotovic pointed towards a GUR decision taken in 2000 to support a rainfall related workshop on the Balkan. This course up to now did not take place, but the GUR maintains its support statement for such an event.