

Minutes GUR annual meeting 2008

At ICUD Edinburgh, Tuesday September 2nd, 2008, 5 – 6 p.m.

Participants: Guido Vaes (outgoing Chairman), Patrick Willems (incoming Chairman), Thomas Einfalt (Secretary), Simon Beecham, Sara De Toffol, Kapil Gupta, James Lau, Cedo Maksimovic, Mohamed Nor, Marek Sowinski, Karsten Arnbjerg-Nielsen, Nuno Simoes, Surajate Aroonnet

1. Welcome

The chairman Guido Vaes welcomed the participants of the annual GUR meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous annual GUR meeting in Lyon, June 2007

The minutes of the last GUR meeting were approved without any addition.

3. Elections chairman and secretary

Patrick Willems was proposed to be the new chairman, following Guido Vaes whose 6 year period has reached the end as required by the statutes. Patrick was elected with no dissentient.

Thomas Einfalt having served as secretary will assure the continuation as long as there is no candidate for this post.

Patrick thanked Guido and Thomas for the work done in the last six years.

4. GUR activities or supported by GUR since previous GUR meeting

Reports on events where GUR members participated:

- Simon Beecham participated in a rainfall workshop in Kuala Lumpur.
- Cedo Maksimovic reported on an event of the FRMRC (www.floodrisk.org.uk).
- Karsten Arnbjerg-Nielsen reported on a national climate change debate in Denmark.
- Patrick Willems also informed about national activities on climate change in Belgium.
- Thomas Einfalt reported about the ERAD 2008 (European Radar conference) in Helsinki. Main focus was on new technological developments in radar. More info can be found on the website http://www.fmi.fi/weather/rain_13.html.
- Thomas Einfalt participated also in the Weather Radar and Hydrology Symposium and workshop (http://www.wrah-2008.com/index_us.php). Here the focus was much more on the evaluation of heavy flood events, in particular ones in southern France. But also general discussions like "how good can radar measure" played a role.
- Mohamed Nor informed about a new flood forecasting system in Kuala Lumpur, also linked to the combined road and flood retention tunnel SMART.

5. News from the JCUD

The new chairman of the Joint Committee is Peter Steen Mikkelsen.

The GUR produced a contribution to the Joint Committee's newsletter 2008.

6. 8th International Workshop on Precipitation in Urban Areas, St.-Moritz, December 2009

The next workshop on precipitation in Urban Areas will take place from 10 to 13 December 2009 at Hotel Laudinella in St. Moritz. The first announcement is soon available under <http://www.ifu.ethz.ch/stmoritz09>.

7. Other future activities

Patrick Willems suggests writing a review article on climate change related to urban areas. This should be started quite soon – a first draft being only ready in late 2009 seems to be too late. Therefore, Patrick will make a structure and send it around to interested persons. Up to now, Van.T.V. Nguyen, Karsten Arnbjerg-Nielsen, Simon Beecham, Thomas Einfalt and Mohamed Nor showed interest.

Thomas Einfalt informed that starting in 2009 there will be a national working group in Germany about rainfall measurement by radar hosted by the Association of the German Engineers (VDI).

The GUR should try to get a more stable contact to WMO. Patrick will try to establish this. Also, an exchange with the IWA specialist group on climate change could be useful. This will also be attempted by Patrick.

9. Future conferences of importance

- UrbanWaterConference, 15-17 September 2008, Leuven: www.urbanwaterconference.be
- AGU Fall meeting, 15-19 December 2008, San Francisco : www.agu.org/meetings/fm08
- UDM'09 (Data and Modelling), Tokyo, 7-11 Sept. 2009 : www.env.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/8UDM
- 33rd IAHR Congress, Vancouver 2009 : content.asce.org/conferences/iahr09/destination.html
- Nowcasting Vancouver 2009 – details: www.nowcasting2009.ca
- IWA Congress, Montreal 2010 : www.iwa2010montreal.org/
- ERAD 2010, Bucharest, Romania – details will be available soon when searching for ERAD 2010 Romania
- Novatech 2010, Lyon, France, 28 June – 1 July : www.graie.org/novatech
- 12th ICUD 2011, Porto Alegre, Brazil – details: will be available soon when searching for 12ICUD

10. Update of members list and website

Thomas Einfalt will update the list of GUR members. Patrick Willems will take over the maintenance of the web site.

11. Next annual GUR meetings

The next GUR meetings will be

- 2009 in St. Moritz during the Precipitation workshop in December,
- 2010 in Lyon during the NOVATECH conference in June.
- 2011 in Porto Alegre, Brasil during 12th ICUD in September

12. Any other item

Simon Beecham proposed to rename the GUR into International Group on Urban Rainfall (IGUR). This was approved by the members.

Mohamed Nor informed about new IDF curves which have been produced in the context of the FRIEND initiative for the Asia-Pacific region.