

Meeting Notes of the Grand Challenge (GC) Task Force

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

27 October 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., National Science Foundation

Attendees

DHS

Chris Doyle, Chris.Doyle@dhs.gov

NIST

Noel Raufaste, noel.raufaste@nist.gov

NOAA

Pai-Yei Whung, Pai-Yei.Whung@noaa.gov

NASA

Shahid Habib, shahid.habib-1@nasa.gov

NSF

Priscilla Nelson, pnelson@nsf.gov (Task Force Co-Chair)

Robert O'Connor, roconnor@nsf.gov

Larry Brandt, lbrandt@nsf.gov

Helen Gill, hgill@nsf.gov

Handouts

Article, "Grand Challenges in Global Health"

Presentation, GC Framework

GC Framework Template

NSF Earthquakes — GC Framework Template

Notes

Priscilla Nelson provided an overview of the Grand Challenges matrix and explained that the framework will feed into the group's work in 2004. Priscilla Nelson presented a slide presentation that focused on:

1. defining a Grand Challenge;
2. determining the significance of Grand Challenges;
3. stating the goals and approach of the GC Task Force;
4. revealing the three different levels or dimensions of the framework;
5. discussing and formulating National Priorities; and
6. clarifying the concepts, definitions, and path forward of the GC Task Force.

Noel Raufaste presented a cube that represents the Grand Challenges framework as a three-dimensional matrix. He also added that the Task Group should create a Natural Disaster Reduction Initiative to benefit the SDR. Priscilla Nelson suggested that the group should model a plexiglass three-dimensional matrix after Noel Raufaste's cube. The group also talked about the possibility of holding a two-day retreat on Grand Challenges for Disaster Reduction. They discussed having a facilitated overnight retreat for which all participants would be required to provide completed charts establishing agency domains for Level 2 of the matrix two weeks prior to the retreat. The outcome of the retreat would be to engage stakeholders. The group discussed the challenge of framing the Grand Challenges so that a positive outcome is defined for all communities. Larry Brandt proposed the utility of capturing the Grand Challenges Framework information in a database since there are many dimensions to consider and a database is the best means to manage the information for internal use.

Actions:

- Priscilla Nelson will provide the following at the SDR November meeting: a list of hazards for the pink sheets and Level-2 input.
- Priscilla Nelson will explore the feasibility of creating a three-dimensional plexiglass matrix of the Grand Challenges.
- Priscilla Nelson will look into a one to two-day Grand Challenges conference in the winter of 2004 and report back to the GC Task Force.
- The group will decide if they accept NITRD's list of National Priorities.
- The group will input data into the Grand Challenges template by applying Priscilla Nelson's pink matrix to their own agency's hazards and overall mission.
- The group will send the information to Larry Brandt, lbrandt@nsf.gov.
- Larry Brandt will apply the agency information to a database to create a living document.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.