

Meeting Notes of the Grand Challenges Task Force

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

2 December 2003, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., National Science Foundation

Attendees

NIST

Noel Raufaste, noel.raufaste@nist.gov
(Task Force Co-Chair)

NASA

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

NSF

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

Robert O'Connor, roconnor@nsf.gov

Doug James, ldjames@nsf.gov

Handouts

Template — GC Framework with Revised Terminology

Report — Grand Challenges: Science, Engineering & Societal Advances Requiring Networking & Information Technology Research and Development

Notes

Priscilla Nelson began the discussion by addressing the need to increase agency involvement in the Grand Challenges (GC) Task Force. She explained that the GC Task Force is gearing up for a winter retreat, and all agencies must provide Grand Challenges inputs prior to the retreat.

Noel Raufaste presented the handouts that he emailed to the group on November 26, 2003. He communicated the Task Force vision of shaping a disaster reduction initiative by working with the nineteen agencies that comprise the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR). He stated that the goal of the Task Force members is to generate a sense of excitement around the Grand Challenges in order to entice the absent agencies to offer their input. He advised that the Task Force members both define the purpose of the winter off-site meeting and determine the frequency of Task Force meetings. He asked the group to consider how to increase agency participation. He explained that the agencies should consider the Grand Challenges in relation to their own 10-year plan and then extrapolate to provide inputs to the GC chart.

Shahid Habib asked Noel Raufaste to define the Level 2 GC. Noel Raufaste explained that the purpose of Level 2 is to develop a product or an outcome as a result of multiple agencies working together. Bob O'Connor added that creating a GC chart demonstrates that hazards are multi-agency problems. The members agreed that the lower-level Grand Challenges augment the broader issues found in Level 1 of the framework and outlined in the SDR report. Furthermore, the overlapping nature of the hazards indicates that multiple agencies can address multiple hazards, providing an all-hazards approach to research, technology, and mitigation. In their discussion of Level 2 Grand Challenges, the members decided that it will make the discussion less complicated if they strike references to the levels of GC.

The Task Force will meet again on January 23, 2004.

Actions:

- Dori Akerman will send contact information to Noel Raufaste and Priscilla Nelson so that they can contact agency representatives.
- Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste will inform the SDR members in the December meeting of the GC activities, including the intention to call agency.
- Priscilla Nelson and Noel Raufaste will contact representatives by December 19, 2003 to solicit agency inputs.
- SDR members will submit their Grand Challenges inputs by January 9, 2003.
- Priscilla Nelson will email the members with details on the January 23, 2003 meeting.
- Task Force members will strike reference to Levels 1, 2, and 3 and refer instead to Grand Challenges.
- Priscilla Nelson will call Rosalind Helz, co-chair of SDR's Earth Observation Task Group, to identify opportunities for coordination.
- Priscilla Nelson will coordinate a Grand Challenges Task Force off-site in March 2004.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.