

Meeting Notes of the Grand Challenges Task Force

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

23 January 2004, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., National Science Foundation

Attendees

EPA

Regan Murray

NIST

Noel Raufaste (Co-Chair)

NOAA

Helen Wood (by telephone)

Dori Akerman (SDR Secretariat)

Mary Kate Rubin (SDR Secretariat)

NSF

Priscilla Nelson (Co-Chair)

Dennis Wenger

Jon Leland

OSTP

Gene Whitney

USFS

Sue Conard

USGS

John Filson

Handouts

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Notes

The discussion began with introductions and with the attendees stating their goals for the Grand Challenges (GC) initiative.

Noel Raufaste and Priscilla Nelson provided background information on the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR), the SDR's 2003 Interim Report, and the purpose of the GC Task Force. Priscilla Nelson explained that themes from the Interim Report—specifically, the key focus areas for the development of a national science and technology framework and the elements of disaster risk reduction and hazard management—form the basis for the GC conceptual framework. She emphasized that the 2003 Grand Challenges Report by the National Coordination Office for Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) and other reports will serve as additional resources.

Gene Whitney led a discussion on the relationship of the SDR to the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and, in turn, the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). He underscored the relationship between national priorities and national needs by looking at the NITRD report. Using the NITRD report, he listed national priorities according to NITRD and then encouraged the group to complete the chart by defining the national needs. The brainstorming session produced a chart (see attachment) that was circulated afterwards to the wider SDR group for feedback by close of business Friday, January 30, 2004.

Actions

Item	Lead	Action	Completion Date
1.	Secretariat	E-mail “National Priorities and National Needs” chart to the group	January 27, 2004
2.	All	Send feedback to the Secretariat and Task Force Co-Chairs	January 30, 2004 Close of business
3.	Secretariat	E-mail meeting notes	February 3, 2004
4.	Secretariat	Catalogue information and redistribute chart as an attachment to the meeting notes	February 3, 2004
5.	All	Attend next meeting	February 27, 2004 1 pm - 4 pm Location to be announced

Attachment: National Priorities and Needs Related to Disaster Reduction

Relying on the national priorities outlined in the Interagency Working Group on Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) 2003 report, the GC Task Group developed the following complementary national needs related to disaster reduction.

National Priorities	National Needs
Leadership in Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prediction and modeling technologies• Database availability• Disaster-resistant construction practices• International cooperation
Homeland Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improvement in emergency preparedness and response capabilities leveraged from natural disaster experience• Improvement in infrastructure services• Improvement in security of food and water supplies
Healthy Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable built environment• Reduction in negative impact of disasters on national environment and resources like fisheries, living marine resources and their habitats, other wildlife, forests, water, and air quality
Healthy Citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduction of public health morbidity and mortality• Improvement in prevention strategies and control measures for disease, injury, and disability• Improvement in the capacity of the health care system to respond quickly and effectively to public health threats

Economic Prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in direct and indirect economic loss • Increase in reliability of services • Decrease in susceptibility to disruption
Well-Educated Populace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trusted mechanism for disaster warning • Effective risk communication • Rational risk reduction decisions • Sound policies for recovery and prevention • Reliable communication of good information
Vibrant Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater participation in policy process and implementation to build trust • Community-based preparedness • Rapid disaster recovery • Effective disaster response