

Near Surface Geophysics Asia Pacific Conference 2015

Around 15 Australian delegates made the trip to the big island of Hawaii for the second Near Surface Geophysics Asia Pacific Conference. This conference was jointly organised by the SEG, ASEG, SEG Japan, Chinese and Korean Geophysical Societies. The first conference was hosted by the Chinese Society in Beijing in 2013 and the ASEG will host the next one in Cairns in July, 2017.

The range of papers was eclectic with topics from forensics through to volcano geophysics. The content of the papers from different countries was interesting. Most papers from China were theoretical studies with some excellent development of new ideas but little practical experience. Chinese geophysicists, it seems, are highly trained but struggling to get geophysics adopted into engineering investigations. Japanese presenters, however, showed how their work is beginning to be adopted into mainstream engineering studies in a country with high degree of natural hazards. The Australian papers were mostly case histories.

Unfortunately US Immigration was particularly vigilant and more than 20 presenters could not obtain a visa to attend the conference. This left many holes in the programme and only 176 delegates plus a small exhibition. Some lessons were learnt that can usefully be applied to holding the next Near Surface Geophysics Conference in Cairns.

A keynote presentation on volcano geophysics whetted our appetite for the volcano tour on the day after the conference. Forty-six delegates and family members bussed around the island to scenic sites as well as to the volcano observatory on the crater rim of Kilauea, currently the most active volcano in Hawaii. Sensitive seismometers around the crater pick up not only the rumblings of the ancient Hawaiian Volcano god Pelehuma, but also the passing of tourist helicopters, distinguished by the change in frequency as aircraft approached and departed. The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory is in the process of producing lava hazard maps for the island. These will be an essential asset for

intending land buyers because once land is inundated by lava it is considered new land and title reverts back to the government.

The newly formed ASEG Near Surface Group (NSG) will be taking the lead in organising the next Near Surface Geophysics Asia Pacific conference in Cairns. If you would like to get involved please contact Greg Street (pastpresident@aseg.org.au), Geoff Pettifer (Geoff.Pettifer@ghd.com) or your state representative on the NSG Committee (see table below)

Greg Street
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ASEG Near Surface Group Committee (elected on 20May 2015)

| | |
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| Chairperson | Greg Street |
| Vice-Chairperson | Ron Palmer |
| Secretary | Geoff Pettifer |
| Treasurer | Romney Rayney |
| Overseas ASEG NSG Members Representative | Meng Heng Loke |
| ACT ASEG NSG Members Representative | Marina Costelloe |
| NSW ASEG NSG Members Representative | Timothy Pippett |
| NT ASEG NSG Members Representative | Tania Dhu |
| QLD ASEG NSG Members Representative | Binzhong Zhou |
| VIC ASEG NSG Members Representative | Zivko Terzic |
| WA ASEG NSG Members Representative | Lee Tasker |
| SA ASEG NSG Members Representative | Position Vacant – no nominations/volunteers |
| TAS ASEG NSG Members Representative | Position Vacant – no nominations/volunteers |



Koya learning to dance the Hula.



Conference delegates emerging from an Hawaiian lava tube.