

Alik Ismail-Zadeh Receives 2009 International Award

Alik Ismail-Zadeh received the AGU International Award at the Joint Assembly, held 26 May 2009 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The award honors "an individual scientist or a small team for making an outstanding contribution to furthering the Earth and space sciences and using our science for the benefit of society in less favored nations."

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Citation

It is a pleasure to introduce Alik Ismail-Zadeh, recipient of the 2009 AGU International Award. Alik Ismail-Zadeh, a theoretical geophysicist born in Azerbaijan and educated in Russia, built international cooperative linkages at the detailed research level. He then widened those linkages to deal with the societal implications of his research. He heavily invested his time and energy to foster international collaboration among geophysicists at international, regional, and national levels. Since the early 1990s he has established international research cooperation with universities and research centers worldwide. The list includes prestigious European, American, Japanese, and Israeli universities as well as research institutes of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, Georgian Ministry for Science and Education, and Pakistani Academy of Sciences. For more than a decade he has worked and taught at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics to promote geophysical science and education in the third world.

My involvement with Alik started about 10 years ago after he agreed to become vice chair of the Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). In that role, we jointly organized a meeting at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Alik was successful in attracting participants from Eastern European countries and finding funding for them. The meeting issued the Budapest Manifesto on Risk Science and Sustainability (www.iugg.org/publications/reports/budapest.pdf), which guided the subsequent work of the commission.

In due course Alik became chair of the commission, and after the 26 December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami he prepared a special IUGG resolution (<http://www.iugg.org/resolutions/>) that was presented to the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction, in Kobe, Japan, and formed the basis for similar resolutions from the International Council for Science (ICSU). The subsequent implementation of the Indian Ocean Monitoring System is, in part, attributable to the credibility that these resolutions imparted to the process. He is an indefatigable organizer of international workshops in many locations that attract outstanding contributors, promote

international cooperation, produce high-quality publications, and generate tangible outcomes.

Alik has long been involved with AGU, and displaying the spirit of unselfish cooperation that AGU seeks to foster, he has worked actively to expand AGU activities in Eastern Europe, especially in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union; in 2002 he founded the Russian Contact Center of the AGU to promote cooperation between AGU members in the former Soviet Union. He served several terms on the AGU Committee for International Participation. Most recently, he was appointed chair of the newly established AGU Focus Group on Natural Hazards.

Alik is an extremely organized and prodigious worker. His organizational abilities led to his being elected secretary-general of the IUGG. As one of the most senior IUGG officers, he promotes cooperation between IUGG and ICSU regional offices. He is co-organizing the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM)/IUGG Spring School, "Fluid Mechanics and Geophysics of Environmental Hazards," which will take place in Singapore later this year, and he is part of the IUGG project "Geoscience for Africa" on the topic of geohazards in Africa.

His success in these endeavors arises not only because of his energy and drive, but also because of his engaging personality and a fluency with languages that enables him freely to converse in English, Russian, German, and, of course Azeri, his mother tongue, which is sufficiently akin to Turkish that he can freely converse with the Turks as well.

Today we honor Alik Ismail-Zadeh in recognition of his outstanding work for the international geocommunity.

—TOM BEER, International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Aspendale, Victoria, Australia

Response

Thank you, Tom, for your kind and generous citation and for your friendship. It is a great and unexpected honor for me to have been selected for the 2009 AGU International Award. I know that today I am a recipient of this award because an international group of distinguished scientists decided that I deserve to receive this honor. I thank Tom Beer (Australia), who nominated me, and Harsh Gupta (India), JoAnn Joselyn (United States), Volodya Kossobokov



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(Russia), Lawrence Mysak (Canada), Giuliano Panza (Italy), and Uri Shamir (Israel) for their generous support. And surely I am very grateful to AGU for this honor.

I was a bit surprised when I read an e-mail from the AGU president about the award and found that the International Award is given for "advancing science and benefiting society, while laboring under adverse circumstances with limited resources." I have not viewed myself as a scientist who works under adverse circumstances with limited resources, but this phrase has brought me to remember life in Russia after Perestroika, the difficulties in the Russian economy, and the critical situation in Russian science.

Because of a lack of state funding, Russian academic institutions felt starved of international journals in libraries or access to them via the Internet. Russian scientists, especially young researchers, could not participate in major international meetings. I am thankful to AGU, particularly to Fred Spilhaus, and to the ExxonMobil Corporation for their support of my project to establish the Russian Contact Center of the AGU in Moscow. The Center has been promoting activities of geophysicists living in Russia and the former Soviet republics and assisting them to access AGU publications and to attend AGU meetings.

Since the mid 1990s, I have been working in Europe, particularly at the Universität Karlsruhe (Germany) and at the Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (France), and I still keep my position and graduate students at the Russian Academy of Sciences. A decade ago, I joined the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, and today I try to do my best to promote activities of geophysicists working in many parts of the world.

I am happy to seize the opportunity to thank all my colleagues around the world with whom I have shared great moments of scientific findings and who helped me to strengthen research cooperation between nations. I must mention one person who profoundly influenced me in my scientific thinking, in my style of research work, and in developing international cooperation.

This person is Vladimir Keilis-Borok, a distinguished professor at University of California, Los Angeles, and the Russian Academy of Sciences. I will always be very grateful to him for starting me off in the right direction.

My wife, Sonya, keeps asking me why I go to the Institute seven days a week returning sometimes close to midnight. The answer

is simple. I am a scientist, and my research and my work for the geophysical community are a pleasure and a boundless joy. I thank Sonya, my sincere supporter, who accepts my frequent and sometimes prolonged absences, and who makes it possible for me to focus my energies on science and on international scientific cooperation.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to AGU. The International Award is the most splendid award in recognition of contribution to the international geophysical community.

—ALIK ISMAIL-ZADEH, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia

M E E T I N G A N N O U N C E M E N T S

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■ 25–27 August 2009 **Arctic Freshwater Budget Symposium**, Nuuk, Greenland. Sponsor: Danish Meteorological Institute. (G. Adalgeirsdottir, Danish Climate Centre, Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI), Lyngbyvej 100, Copenhagen DK-2100, Denmark; Tel.: +45-3915-7428; Fax: +45-3915-7460; E-mail: gua@DMI.dk; Web site: <http://freshnor.dmi.dk/afb2009/>)

Sessions will include climate change effects in Greenland, permafrost and terrestrial hydrology, change in ice caps and small glaciers, atmospheric moisture transport in the Arctic, and pathways and storage of freshwater.

■ 25–27 August 2009 **Changes of the Greenland Cryosphere Workshop**, Katuaq, Nuuk, Greenland. Sponsors: U.S. National Science Foundation; Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets. (L. Bettenhaus, DTU Space, Technical University of Denmark, Juliane Maries Vej 30, Copenhagen DK-2100, Denmark; Tel.: +45-3532-5701; Fax: +45-3536-2475; E-mail: nuuk2009@space.dtu.dk; Web site: <http://conferences.dtu.dk/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=22>)

The workshop will focus on the nature and magnitude of the Greenland ice sheet, sea ice and permafrost changes, and the underlying causes and future projections of change.

■ 18–20 September 2009 **Earth Science Teachers' Association (ESTA) Conference**, Southampton, United Kingdom. Sponsors: ESTA;

National Oceanography Centre. (L. Marshall; E-mail: linmarshall@btinternet.com; Web site: <http://www.esta-uk.org/main.html>)

Seminar topics will include teaching new ideas in geology, practical and field-based teaching, teaching the dynamic Earth, and a boat-based "discover oceanography" workshop. Lecture topics will focus on climate and evolution, deep-sea drilling, supervolcanoes and ocean fertilization, and other topics.

■ 10–11 November 2009 **Fourth International Conference on Impacts of Climate Change on Natural Resources**, Ismailia, Egypt. Sponsor: Egyptian Society for Environmental Sciences (ESES). (S. R. Mansour; Tel.: +2-012-272-4263; Fax: +64-3230-416; E-mail: samirarmansour@yahoo.com; Web site: <http://www.eses-catrina.com/>)

Session topics will include climate change in arid lands and desert margins, climate change and oceanography, climate change and water resources management, and socioeconomic indicators of climate change. Abstract deadline is 20 September.

■ 13–14 November 2009 **17th Arctic Conference**, Boulder, Colorado, USA. Sponsor: Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR). (C. Lee; E-mail: craig.lee@colorado.edu; Web site: <http://instaar.colorado.edu/ArcticConference/>)

This informal symposium will provide participants with an opportunity to share data and new findings and to plan collaborative research activities. Abstract deadline is 30 September.

■ 16–20 November 2009 **XVIII International Scientific Conference on Marine Geology**, Moscow, Russia. Sponsors: Russian Academy of Sciences; Russian Fund for Basic Research. (A. Lisitzin, 36, Nakhimovske prospekt, Moscow 117997, Russia; Tel.: +7-499-1248528; Fax: +7-495-1245983; E-mail: lisitzin@ocean.ru; Web site: <http://www.ocean.ru>)

Topics will include Arctic sea geology, geophysics, ocean bottom tectonics, biogeochemistry, and oil and minerals formation. Abstract deadline is 15 September.

■ 25–26 February 2010 **Conference on Energy Transitions in an Interdependent World**, Brighton, United Kingdom. Sponsor: Egyptian Society for Environmental Sciences. (L. Stapleton, Research Fellow, Sussex Energy Group; Tel.: +44-1273-678166; E-mail: l.stapleton@sussex.ac.uk; Web site: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexenergygroup/1-2-27.html>)

Topics will include low carbon energy innovation and the politics of sustainable energy transitions. Abstract deadline is 1 August.

■ 25–29 April 2010 **Seventh National Monitoring Conference: Monitoring From the Summit to the Sea**, Denver, Colorado, USA. Sponsor: National Water Quality Monitoring Council. (C. Spooner, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D. C., USA; Tel.: +1-202-566-1174; Web site: <http://acwi.gov/monitoring/conference/2010/>)

The conference will focus on the many facets of water quality and quantity monitoring, including applying innovative monitoring, assessment, and modeling tools and approaches; and addressing climate, energy, water availability, and other emerging water issues. Abstract deadline is 19 September.