

Mission Statement for candidacy of AOGS general election

Benjamin Fong Chao

Jan, 20, 2015

AOGS is celebrating its 12th year. Granted, we are not as large as AGU or EGU, and certainly not as mature (as I, for one, do remember our first years vividly), but as a smaller kid on the block, we are as energetic and eager to grow and full of potentials. We have our goals in promoting mankind's scientific knowledge about Mother Nature and her doings to benefit mankind's livelihood and sustainability. With the largest area and population, Asia-Oceania is indeed the part of the globe specially marked by tremendous diversities in demography, culture and economics. Its geography and natural environment foster beauty, complexity, as well as hidden hazards. As AOGS grows, I see opportunities as well as growing pains. Geoscience disciplines evolve in size as a function of funding emphasis and societal priorities; that is reflected in the changing membership and participation in the annual meetings. For example, the atmospheric science and solid-Earth sciences have (rightfully) seen considerable growth over the last few years within the realm of AOGS, while the ocean sciences can continue to attract stronger attention and interests to match the namesake of Oceania. The interdisciplinary areas can evolve to include specific "themes". The newly launched AOGS official journal of *Geoscience Letters* can use special attentions to become a leader in its area, and more scientific awards can be considered within AOGS. The outreach and educational effort can be further strengthened to touch more people of the nations and societies. All these call for volunteering services from many of us. Following the footsteps of the predecessors I would devote my time and effort to do so, based on my public service experience in NASA and now the academia of Taiwan, as well as the valuable experiences of having served in the Council of AGU. I believe that effective communication and information-flow among members is of foremost importance to the healthiness of a member-driven organization like AOGS. I would commit to do my best to assist and lead the Council team to reach new levels of AOGS for you.