

## Mission Statement for Prof. Robin Robertson for the Position of Secretary General

Natural disasters and climate changes are affecting the Asia-Oceania region, impacting agriculture, pollution, loss of land, and many other factors. I see one of the goals of AOGS is to develop scientific knowledge in the geosciences and provide a pool of scientific advisors to assist the countries of the region to better use land, ocean, space, and atmospheric resources and deal with geoscientific concerns.

AOGS will better serve the geoscience communities in the Asia-Pacific region if it expands its role, increases its membership, and becomes a premier place for geoscientists to present their results. In these times of tight budgets, it makes sense to have a place closer to home than the USA or Europe for scientists from Australia, Asia, and Oceania to disseminate their findings internationally. I hope to expand the footprint of AOGS and improve the services to our members.

I really enjoyed serving as President of the Ocean Sciences Section of AOGS and after it was over, I both missed being involved in AOGS at that level and I felt there were still contributions that I wanted to make, but I was unable to complete during the short term. As a result, I would like to continue to serve AOGS, but in another capacity, as Secretary General.

As Secretary General, first I would like to implement some of the suggestions of the Strategic Review, which was held a couple years ago. They suggested:

- Reviewing the present policy of having meetings in Singapore on alternate years. We are now getting enough bids from cities, that we may be able to change this policy.
- Having posters more than 1 day a week. Posters should be presented nearer to the day of their session.
- Invest in social media. It is the way people are communicating now. We should have WeChat and WhatsApp etc. We need young people to lead on this.
- New programs to support Early Career Researchers and post-graduate students to develop collaborations and contacts.
- Job advertisement website
- Promotion of small meetings, like last year's one on Natural Hazards
- Renewal of membership notices
- The possibility of new sections: for example, Education or Cryosphere.
- Education: An Education section where we can trade teaching tips and techniques to help alleviate our teaching loads. Since many of us are teaching and covering similar material, it is possible that through teaching collaboration, we might be able to both improve our teaching and reduce our teaching workloads. Also, with the trend towards Outcome Based Learning (OBL) or Outcome Based Education (OBE), the data sets developed for our research could be used for teaching, which could help both our research and teaching.

I also see other possibilities for AOGS to develop and support its members.

I believe I have a good track record for this position. As President of Ocean Sciences, our section grew considerably (30%), although I have to share credit with my secretariat and the past Presidents. I also started the Meet-the-Experts Mentoring program, first in Ocean Sciences and then for all sections. I would like to see that continue, in order to assist our young researchers and encourage them to attend the conferences regularly. I have been an Associate Editor for Geoscience Letters for 5 years. And

during my time as Ocean Sciences President, I helped implement a MOU between AOGS and the Australian Meteorological and Atmospheric Society (AMOS).