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The *IAG Newsletter* is under the editorial responsibility of the *Communication and Outreach Branch* (COB) of the IAG.

It is an open forum and contributors are welcome to send material (preferably in electronic form) to the IAG COB ([newsletter@iag-aig.org](mailto:newsletter@iag-aig.org)). These contributions should complement information sent by IAG officials or by IAG symposia organizers (reports and announcements). The *IAG Newsletter* is published monthly. It is available in different formats from the IAG new internet site: <http://www.iag-aig.org>

Each *IAG Newsletter* includes several of the following topics:

- I. news from the Bureau Members
- II. general information
- III. reports of IAG symposia
- IV. reports by commissions, special commissions or study groups
- V. symposia announcements
- VI. book reviews
- VII. fast bibliography

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## General Announcements

### IAG Young Authors Award

According to the IAG Bylaws, the IAG Young Authors Award is granted to young scientists for important contributions in the Journal of Geodesy and to foster excellence in scientific writing. The presentation of the awards is made at each IAG General Assembly and each Scientific Assembly. At the IAG Scientific Assembly 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the Young Authors Award was granted to **Dr. Franziska Wild-Pfeiffer**, Stuttgart, Germany,

for the paper

*"A comparison of different mass elements for use in gravity gradiometry"*, published in Journal of Geodesy, Volume 82, pages 637-653, 2008.

The IAG Bureau congratulates on the award!

IAG BUREAU

### Summary of the Fifth Meeting of the IAG Executive Committee 2007-2011

*Place:* Hotel Intercontinental, Buenos Aires, Argentina

*Time:* Sunday, August 30, 2009, 09:00 – 13:00

*Attendees (voting):* M. Sideris (IAG President), C. Rizos (IAG Vice-President), H. Drewes (IAG Secretary General), G. Beutler (Immediate Past President), Z. Altamimi (President Commission 1), Y. Fukuda (President Commission 2), S. Verhagen (President Commission 4), M. Rothacher (Chair of GGOS), J. Ádám (President of the COB), S. Kenyon, R. Neilan, H. Schuh (Representatives of the Services), K. Heki, (Member at Large)

*Attendees (non-voting):* F. Sansò (IAG Past President), P. Novák (Vice-President ICC on Theory), H. Hornik (IAG Assistant Secretary)

*Guests:* T. Beer (President IUGG), C. Pacino (LOC IAG 2009 Scientific Assembly), M. Lilje (FIG representative), R. Sarib (FIG Commission 5), G. Johnston (Geoscience Australia)

*Regrets:* M. Bevis (President Commission 3), R. Wonnacott (Member at Large), N. Sneeuw (President ICCT), R. Klees (Editor in Chief J. of Geodesy)

### Summary of Agenda Items

#### 1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

M. Sideris welcomed the members of the IAG Executive Committee (13 out of 15 voting members, 3 non-voting members) and several guests. All participants introduced themselves. The agenda was unanimously adopted.

#### 2. Information on the Scientific Assembly IAG2009

C. Pacino informed on behalf of the LOC about the status and logistics (rooms, splinter meetings, social events etc.) of the IAG 2009 Scientific Assembly. 480 participants from about 60 countries were pre-registered, 40 of those cancelled up to date<sup>1</sup>. An icebreaker party on Monday evening and a gala dinner on Wednesday evening are the major social events. H. Drewes reported on the travel grants provided by IAG, IUGG, and PAIGH. Altogether, 17 participants were supported, i.e., ten by the IAG travel award for young scientists,, four by IUGG for developing countries, and three participants from the Americas by PAIGH. In this context H. Drewes thanked T. Beer for the support of IUGG, and PAIGH for the support in particular of the SIRGAS meetings. He extended his thanks to the LOC for waiving the registration fee for the IAG awardees. He further informed that the icebreaker party is sponsored by IAG and serves thus as the traditional IAG reception.

#### 3. IAG mid-term reports (*Travaux de l'AIG*)

<sup>1</sup>Finally 363 participants have been registered.

H. Drewes presented the draft of the “Travaux de l’AIG – Volume 36 – IAG Reports 2007 – 2009, established for the IAG Scientific Assembly, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August/September 2009 (eds. H. Drewes and H. Hornik)”. He explained that the main objective of these reports is the evaluation of the work done during the past two years with the option to dissolve inactive groups. The texts have been put on the IAG Office website. Almost all groups have delivered reports for this volume; the missing will be delivered in the next future. The updated volume will be put on the IAG webpage, hard copies will be made available on demand by the IAG Office.

The Commission Presidents gave then a review on the work of all relevant groups.

Z. Altamimi informed on the work of the Commission 1. A “School on Reference Frames” and a “Commission 1 Symposium” are planned to be held in 2010. Within Sub-commission 1.3 - Regional Reference Frames a new sub-commission for Asia and the Pacific (APREF) is planned. Geoscience Australia has offered to organize the work.

Y. Fukuda gave an overview of Commission 2 and reported that all sub-components of this commission have made good progress. Several relevant meetings are planned for 2010.

There was no representative of Commission 3 present, the report will be published in the webpage.

S. Verhagen pointed out that Commission 4 works in close contact with FIG, ION, ISPRS and other organisations. On behalf of the FIG, M. Lilje confirmed the excellent cooperation. The Working Groups 4.1.3 “Multi-Sensor Systems for Environmental Monitoring Applications” and 4.3.2 “GNSS-Based Sounding of the Atmosphere” were dissolved because no visible results have been yielded up to now.

Acting for N. Sneeuw, Vice-President P. Novák gave an overview on the work of the ICCT. The ICCT was engaged in the organization of the VIIth Hotine-Marussi-Symposium 2009 in Rome with about 100 participants. F. Sansò emphasized the great activities of the ICCT by which especially young scientists can find an adequate platform for discussions and new ideas as well as cooperation with other colleagues.

M. Rothacher reported on the activities of GGOS. New Terms of Reference (TOR) have been released last year with several new elements. A Bureau for Standards and Conventions has been installed in Munich in cooperation of the Technical University with DGFI (Director U. Hugentobler). The Bureau for Networks and Communications is hosted at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (Director M. Pearlman). In order to improve the outreach and awareness level, a GGOS portal has been created; the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) in Frankfurt a.M. has taken over the task. The planned Coordinating Office and the Bureau for Satellite Missions could not yet be realized; the Working Group on Satellite Missions is therefore continued. As a special effort, M. Rothacher mentioned the newly issued book “Global Geodetic Observing System” edited by H.-P. Plag and M. Pearlman in the Springer book series. M. Sideris congratulated and thanked the authors for the excellent work. G. Beutler added the need for more public relations and commitments for GGOS by other institutions.

S. Kenyon gave a summarizing report on the activities of the International Gravity Field Service (IGFS) including the five Services Bureau Gravimétrique International (BGI), International Center for Earth Tides (ICET), International Center for Global Earth Models (ICGEM), International Digital Elevation Models Service (IDEMS), and International Geoid Service (IGeS). M. Sideris thanked S. Kenyon also for chairing the Scientific Committee of the IAG 2009 Scientific Assembly.

H. Schuh reported on the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS). He mentioned in particular the ten years anniversary celebration. Topics of the IVS Directing Board Meeting were the verification of the next generation of radio-telescopes and the further development of the techniques. From 2010 on, altogether 10 worldwide distributed new radio-telescopes are planned. At present, eight IVS Analysis Centres are operating. Z. Altamimi and G. Beutler emphasized that the VLBI data represent a fundamental contribution to the ITRF and the increase for 10 radio-telescopes symbolizes a highly welcomed improvement for this work.

H. Schuh informed also on the work of the International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS). At present eight Analysis Centres are sharing the enormous data processing. In the discussion, G. Beutler pointed out that the ILRS data represent the only optical data for the ITRF and thus represent an indispensable contribution. Unfortunately the ILRS chairperson had to retire due to severe sickness. The next ILRS meeting will be held in September in Greece.

R. Neilan gave the report for the International GNSS Service (IGS). An IGS brochure and a new Implementation Plan are in preparation. In December 2008 the IGS hosted the third meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) in Pasadena. Two resolutions of this conference couch the installation of Task Forces for the establishment of a global vertical reference frame as well as the time system. Finally R. Neilan informed that the website of the IGS will be re-designed basically in the next future. The elections for the IGS Governing Board will take place this year; the present board chairman John Dow will step down. The new structure will be confirmed on the IGS Workshop in Newcastle, July 2010. M. Sideris appreciated the revision of the website.

#### **4. Report of Journal of Geodesy**

On behalf of R. Klees, H. Drewes gave a report on the Journal of Geodesy (JoG). At present, the Editorial Board of the JoG comprises an Editor-in-Chief, an Editorial Assistant, an IAG information editor, a Book Review Editor, and the Past Editor-in-Chief. Moreover, 20 other persons are members of the board. In all, about 150 contributions are submitted per year for publication in the JoG. Meanwhile the online-submission is working sufficiently and the time period between submission of a paper and the publication could be reduced considerably. The “ISI Impact Factor” for the JoG has increased in 2008 to 1.689; the journal is now among the highest ones in the field of geo-sciences. The IAG Symposia Series has been included for the first time in the Web of Science (ISI Web of Knowledge). Together with Springer it is striven for a high ranking.

#### **5. Status of IGFS and Call for Central Bureau**

S. Kenyon reported on a call for proposals for hosting the Central Bureau (CB) of the International Gravity Field Service (IGFS). The call was advertised in spring 2009; only one proposal was submitted. Considering this poor response, a decision was not yet made. The application should be updated with respect to some requested details and be submitted once more till end of Oct. 2009. The paper will then be circulated among the competent community. The IAG EC will make its definite decision on the meeting at the 2009 AGU Assembly in December, 2009. In the case of a positive decision, the CB can start to work according to the initial plans with January 2010.

#### **6. Status of IERS and Call for GGFC**

As H. Schuh reported, the Global Geophysical Fluid Centre (GGFC), which is hosted by the IERS, is going to be re-organized. Instead of the hitherto eight Special Bureaus, the GGFC will be structured by an Operational and Science Support. The goal of the GGFC is to provide operational data sets to the public, e.g. time series for various purposes. B. Richter, director of the IERS Central Bureau sent the call for participation for various components within the re-structured GGFC. Eight applications have been received. The proposals will be evaluated; the final decision on the future work will be made at the 49th meeting of the IERS Directing Board in Warsaw, Oct. 2009.

#### **7. Status of IAS establishment**

Y. Fukuda gave an overview on the IAS business meeting on occasion of the IAG Symposium on Gravity, Geoid and Earth Observation in Chania/Crete. The Steering Committee consists of Y. Fukuda (President IAG Commission 2), C. Hwang (chairing Sub-commission on Altimetry), O. Anderson (representative of IGFS), R. Gross (GGFC and Vice-President of Commission 3), P. Woodworth (PSMSL and GLOSS), A. Braun (ice applications), W. Bosch (Chairman of former IAS Planning Group). Representatives have been nominated for the GGOS-EC: W. Bosch and C. Hwang (as substitute), and O. B. Andersen for the IERS WG on Data and Information Systems (DIS). The IAS website <<http://ias.dgfi.badw.de>> is installed. As product classes are to be considered mean sea surface models, marine gravity data, dynamic ocean topography and ocean tide models. An IAS Pilot-project on Ocean Tides (IAS-PP-OT) will be issued. M. Sideris proposed to send out another call for an IAS Central Bureau.

#### **8. Report of FIG Representatives**

On behalf of International Federation of Surveyors (Fédération Internationale des Géomètres, FIG) M. Lilje presented ideas on “our role and how FIG and IAG can co-operate”. FIG and IAG are both organisations to present developments within geodesy, surveying and mapping to the surveyor. Traditionally IAG is more science, FIG more practice oriented. With the development of the recent techniques this differentiation, however, redundant. FIG includes a huge network around the world, which also can be used by the IAG. At present FIG comprises 99 member organisations in 81 countries and even will increase in future. Special relations between FIG and IAG are given within FIG Commission 5 - Positioning and Measurement (chair: R. Staiger, Germany). In 2001 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FIG and IAG has been signed. Special interest for current and future cooperation is given to large projects such as AFREF or APREF. M. Lilje thanked the IAG for its participation and engagement in various FIG congresses and meetings. C. Rizos added that the cooperation between IAG and FIG has been considerably deepened and developed now to a basis for common work. Z. Altamimi mentioned several links with Commission 1. M. Sideris recommended inviting one another especially for training courses and other educational activities. The COB should announce IAG activities to the FIG.

#### **9. IUGG General Assembly Melbourne 2011**

T. Beer, President of the IUGG, expressed his thanks for the invitation to this IAG Assembly and EC-Meeting. He explained that the Union is fully organized on a volunteer basis. The IUGG itself does not achieve very

much research, but it unites the eight Associations under one umbrella, thus initiating the contacts and relations among the geo-scientific disciplines. He emphasized the need to make the IUGG known as the competent representative for geo-sciences. The IUGG has to take care not to lose its competence to other organizations. H. Drewes reported on the meeting of the IUGG and Associations Secretaries General in Munich, May 2, 2009, concerning the IUGG General Assembly, Melbourne 2011. Instead of the traditional twelve days, the scientific sessions will be limited to ten days only; the first and last day (Monday of the first and Friday of the second week, respectively) will be reserved for business meetings. For IAG sessions five days are planned in the middle of the Assembly. Days before and after should be used for joint sessions with other Associations. There will be nine plenary sessions, each one organized by IUGG and each Association. They should be of interest to all associations. In order to prepare these topics in time, the EC members are asked to propose speakers for the Plenary Session organized by IAG. There will be organized Union Symposia of common interest, Inter-Association Symposia by at least two Associations, and Association Symposia. M. Sideris mentioned a suggestion of the IAG Bureau to have the IAG Symposia topic-related rather than structure-related. EC members shall submit proposals to the IAG Secretary General, H. Drewes.

## **10. Report of Outreach Branch**

J. Ádám distributed the IAG Brochure which had just been completed to this Assembly. It has been compiled by the COB together with the IAG Office and aims to inform the public about geodesy. The brochure will be distributed in the next future for further distribution, and also be put into the IAG website. M. Sideris thanked the COB for the work to compile this important brochure and to print it in. The IAG website is continuously completed and updated.

## **11. IAG Young Authors Award: Result of voting**

Altogether 32 publications had been suggested and discussed for the IAG Young Authors Award. The applicant must be 35 years of age or younger, and the paper must have been published in the two annual volumes of the Journal of Geodesy (JoG) preceding the IAG General or Scientific Assembly. R. Klees as Editor-in-Chief of the JoG has submitted three proposals to the IAG EC. Finally the EC decided for the article "A comparison of different mass elements for use in gravity gradiometry" by F. Wild-Pfeiffer (JoG, Vol. 82, No 10 / Oct. 2008). As the awardee is not participating in this IAG Assembly, the notification of the award will be sent by mail.

## **12. Representative to IAU Commission 19**

H. Schuh has been elected for President of IAU Commission 19; thus he cannot fulfil anymore his hitherto function as IAG representative in this Commission. The EC congratulated H. Schuh for his election. As new IAG representative Z. Malkin from the Pulkovo Observatory has been proposed. H. Schuh embraced this nomination as Z. Malkin would dispose over much competence for this task. The EC unanimously accepted the proposal.

## **13. Adoption of ABLOS revised Terms of Reference**

C. Rizos explained the objectives of ABLOS (Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea) as an interdisciplinary body of IAG and IHO. In September this year ABLOS will have a meeting at which the new Terms of Reference are to be adopted. They had been presented to the EC before the meeting. The IAG EC accepted the draft of the ToR.

## **14. Nomination Committee for officers 2011-2015**

M. Sideris explained that elections of the IAG Officers for the next legislature period 2011-2015, i.e., after the next IUGG General Assembly, have to be prepared. According to IAG Bylaw 39 the IAG President has to appoint a Nomination Committee consisting of a Chair and three other members after taking advice from the EC. Traditionally, the Chair is taken by the immediate IAG Past President, i.e. G. Beutler. However, the EC members are invited to contribute for the nominations. A concerning circular will be sent out in the next future.

## **15. IAG Travel Award**

The rules for the IAG Travel Award state that applicants are asked to send their application at least three months before the meeting to the IAG Office. H. Drewes explained that an application deadline of three months before the meeting is too short to meet the early bird. Therefore he proposed to shift the deadline backwards to six months. H. Schuh stated that six months are rather early as then often only rather few information on the meeting and its topics is available. S. Verhagen recommended to hold the deadline flexible according to the specific meetings. Finally M. Sideris moved to set the deadline to 5 months, H. Schuh seconded. The IAG EC unanimously accepted the proposal.

## **16. IAG individual membership**

The rules for the fee for the IAG individual membership of students as well as retired colleagues are not clearly enough defined in the IAG Bylaws. Meanwhile the students' membership is restricted to one year and has to be renewed annually by submitting a certificate from the respective university. H. Drewes proposed to grant the hitherto existing free membership for retired colleagues only for those colleagues who are IAG Fellows, i.e. have had a function within IAG for a longer time. For all others the fee for a 4-years membership will be set to 100 USD, for those coming from a country listed as a developing country according to the rules of the UN, the fee will be reduced to 50 USD for four years. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

#### **17. Sponsorship of symposia**

As *H. Drewes* presented applications for IAG sponsorship of the following 3 meetings:

- North American Geoid Meeting, 21 – 23 October 2009 (*D. Roman*, Chair CP2.2);
- 6th IVS General Meeting, 8 – 13 February 2010, Hobart, Tasmania (*H. Schuh*);
- Theory of Reference Frames, 31 May – 6 June 2010 (*A. Dermanis*, IC-SG1).

The EC accepted to support these conferences.

#### **18. Joint GGOS StC / IAG EC Meeting**

*M. Sideris* pointed to the joint GGOS StC / IAG EC Meeting in the afternoon of this day. Everybody interested in this topic is encouraged to participate.

#### **19. Any other business**

*R. Neilan* announced the installation of the new World Data System (WDS) as a merging of the former Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services (FAGS) and the World Data Centres (WDC) with definite instructions and rules so that all groups can find themselves very clearly (see <http://www.icsu.org/index.php>).

*H. Schuh* informed on the date of the next EGU Assembly in Vienna: May 2-7, 2010.

The next EC Meetings will take place on occasion of the EGU Assembly, Vienna, May 2010.

#### **20. Adjourn**

*M. Sideris* stated that this EC Meeting was very successful and thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the session at 13:15 (1:15 pm).

#### **21. Joint GGOS Steering Committee and IAG EC Meeting**

The joint GGOS Steering Committee and IAG EC Meeting started at 14:00 (2:00 pm), see separate minutes.

Respectfully submitted  
HERMANN DREWES, Secretary General  
HELMUT HORNIK, Assistant Secretary

#### **IAG2009 - Important information**

Dear participant,

We are pleased to inform you that you can download the full list of participants at IAG2009 from our website [www.iag2009.com.ar](http://www.iag2009.com.ar). If there is any wrong or missing information, please let us know. You are also able to download the abstracts of all the presentation and access the gallery of images at the same website. If you want to share your images, please send them to [info@iag2009.com.ar](mailto:info@iag2009.com.ar). We would also like to make available all the oral presentations (in pdf format). If you don't want your presentation to be uploaded to the website, please inform us no latter than October 16th. Moreover, we would also like to make available all the posters presentations. If you want your poster presentation to be uploaded to the website, please e-mail it (in pdf format) to [mpacino@iag2009.com.ar](mailto:mpacino@iag2009.com.ar) or to [mpacino@fceia.unr.edu.ar](mailto:mpacino@fceia.unr.edu.ar).

Best regards,  
CRISTINA PACINO

#### **Preliminary call for special issue 'CONT08' in Journal of Geodesy**

Dear Colleagues,

Between August 12 and August 26, 2008 the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry has observed the so-called CONT08 campaign of 15 days of uninterrupted VLBI observations for Earth orientation

studies. The other space-geodetic services as well as science partners in other geodynamical disciplines had been asked to consider dedicated observing sessions at the same time period.

About a year later, the data should all be analyzed and the idea was developed to bring together all publications related to the CONT08 period in a joint Special Issue of Journal of Geodesy. With this call we solicit the submission of titles (and authors) of possible contributions in order to have a rough indication whether a sufficient number of papers can be expected. The scope of the papers may cover all types of measurements carried out during the CONT08 period for Earth orientation studies and related disciplines as well as aspects of modeling of the acquired data and interpretation of the obtained results.

If you plan to submit a paper to a Special Issue on CONT08, please send your title (with authors) to one of us until December 15, 2009. If at least seven positive responses are received by that date, a full call will be issued aiming at a submission date for the full manuscripts of March 31, 2010.

Yours sincerely

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Guest Editors to Journal of Geodesy

## Meeting Announcements

### **AGU-Fall Meeting 2009 Session G02 - GRACE, GOCE and Beyond**

*December 14-18, 2009, San Francisco, USA*

The geodetic community is in a unique situation, with several dedicated gravity field missions in operation simultaneously. The status of the GOCE and GRACE missions will be provided. This session solicits papers that describe innovative new applications of data collected by these missions. Papers that describe science insights from new signals uncovered in the data, or new techniques of signal extraction are encouraged. Topics of interest also include simultaneous exploitation of GRACE and GOCE data; exploitation of 3d satellite gravity gradient data; combinations of satellite and in-situ data; methods of extending the mass-flux data records beyond the mission lifetimes; and potential directions to ensure the continuity of these measurements into the future.

This session is intended to be a lively forum for a discussion of application of mass flux measurements from these satellite missions; what they are telling us today; and how we might proceed in the future. The Scientific Program is now accessible online from the webpage <http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/program/index.php>.

MARK DRINKWATER AND SRINIVAS BETTADPUR  
Session Conveners

### **Second Announcement for the 6th IVS General Meeting**

*February 7-13, 2010, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*

The sixth General Meeting of the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS) will be held February 7-13, 2010, in Hobart, TAS, Australia. All IVS Associate Members and individuals who have interests in the application of VLBI in the fields of geodesy, Earth sciences, and astrometry are invited to attend the meeting.

The keynote of the sixth General Meeting is the new perspectives of the next generation VLBI system under the theme "VLBI2010: From Vision to Reality". The vision of the VLBI2010 system is gradually being realized. The unprecedented new capabilities of 1-mm positional accuracy and station velocities of 0.1 mm/yr, continuous observational time series or station positions and Earth orientation parameters, and fast turnaround time from observation to geodetic and astrometric result will foster new science and applications. Keynote speakers will be asked to address the keynote in their presentations.

The meeting host is the University of Tasmania, School of Mathematics and Physics. Details about the meeting including the registration, accommodations, and abstract submission are available at the meeting Web site:

<http://ivsc2.gsfc.nasa.gov/meetings/gm2010/>

**Registration:** Registration for the meeting is now open. Please visit the meeting Web site, click on "Registration", and download the registration and accommodation form (PDF or Word format). Fill in the form and send it to the local organizers. Early bird registration deadline is November 30, 2009; regular registration deadline is January 7, 2010.

**Accommodation:** The local organizing committee has blocked a number of rooms in the on-campus housing facilities and in a selected hotel. These two options should be requested together with the registration. Please use the registration and accommodation form for this action. The deadline for arranging accommodation through the local organizing committee is January 7, 2010.

**Abstracts:** The abstract submission deadline is November 22, 2009. Contributions are welcome from anyone attending the meeting. To submit an abstract, visit the meeting Web site and click on "Submit an Abstract". Then use the abstract submission form. For further information contact any member of the Local Organizing Committee, the Program Committee, or the Coordinating Center.

Regards,  
DIRK BEHREND  
IVS Coordinating Center Director

### **EUREF Symposium 2010**

*June 2-5, 2010, Gävle, Sweden*

The next EUREF Symposium will be held in Gävle, Sweden, June 2-5, 2010. The 2010 symposium is organised by Lantmäteriet - the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority - and co-sponsored by KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Onsala Space Observatory at Chalmers University of Technology. The website of the 2010 symposium [www.lantmateriet.se/euref2010](http://www.lantmateriet.se/euref2010) from time to time will be completed.

HELMUT HORNIK

### **IAG Sponsored Meetings**

#### **International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS) 2010 General Meeting**

*February 7-14, 2010, Hobart, Australia*

The purpose of the meeting is to assemble representatives from all IVS components to share information, hear reports, and plan future activities. The meeting also provides a forum for interaction with other members of the VLBI and Earth science communities. The keynote of the sixth GM is the new perspectives of the next generation VLBI system under the theme "VLBI2010: From Vision to Reality". The content of the meeting will be of interest to the broad spectrum of IVS members as well as to the wider VLBI and Earth science community. URL: <http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/meetings/gm2010>

### **IAG Related Meetings**

#### **SPRINGL'09**

*November 3, 2009, Seattle, USA*

SPRINGL'09 - 2nd ACM International Workshop on Security and Privacy in GIS and LBS is co-located with 17th ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems (ACM GIS 2009). SPRINGL 2009 is the second workshop in the SPRINGL workshop series that aims at bringing together researchers working on the foundations of the field and on novel applications bridging spatio-temporal data management and security and privacy. Further details are available from the webpage <http://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/daic/springl09>.

#### **ACM GIS 2009**

*November 4-6, 2009, Seattle, USA*

The ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems 2009 (ACM GIS 2009) is the seventeenth event of a series of symposia and workshops that began in 1993 with the aim of bringing together researchers, developers, users, and practitioners carrying out research and development in novel systems based on geo-spatial data and knowledge, and fostering interdisciplinary

discussions and research in all aspects of geographic information systems. Visit <http://acmgis09.cs.umn.edu> for details.

### **International Cartography Conference**

*November 15-21, 2009, Santiago, Chile*

URL: <http://www.icc2009.cl/>

### **Earth Observation and Water Cycle Science**

*November 18-20, 2009, Frascati, Italy*

URL: <http://www.congrex.nl/09c16/>

### **AGU Fall Meeting 2009**

*December 14-18, 2009, San Francisco, USA*

The Fall Meeting provides an opportunity for researchers, teachers, students, and consultants to review the latest issues affecting the Earth, the planets, and their environments in space. This meeting will cover topics in all areas of geophysical sciences including geodesy. Please visit <http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/index.php> for further details.

### **GEOProcessing 2010**

*February 10-15, 2010, St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles*

The Second International Conference on Advanced Geographic Information Systems, Applications, and Services will take place in St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles from February 10-15, 2010. The topics suggested by the conference can be discussed in term of concepts, state of the art, research, standards, implementations, running experiments, applications, and industrial case studies. Authors are invited to submit complete unpublished papers, which are not under review in any other conference or journal in the following, but not limited to, topic areas. General page of the Conference is <http://www.aria.org/conferences2010/GEOProcessing10.html>.

### **Munich Satellite Navigation Summit 2010**

*March 9-11, 2010, Munich, Germany*

The Munich Satellite Navigation Summit 2010 – the eighth one – to be held March 9-11 2010 in the famous “Residenz München”, Germany – has been established as the European and International conference with global impact featuring invited high-ranking worldwide speakers from industry, science and governments dealing with the directions of satellite navigation now and in the future. For online registration and details please visit <http://www.munich-satellite-navigation-summit.org>.

### **GOCE User Workshop**

*March 17-19, 2010, Munich, Germany*

### **EGU General Assembly 2010**

*May 2-7, 2010, Wien, Austria*

URL: <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2010/>

### **EUREF Symposium 2010**

*June 2-5, 2010, Gävle, Sweden*

The next EUREF Symposium will be held in Gävle, Sweden, June 2-5, 2010. The 2010 symposium is organised by Lantmäteriet - the Swedish mapping, cadastral and land registration authority - and co-sponsored by KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Onsala Space Observatory at Chalmers University of Technology. The website of the 2010 symposium [www.lantmateriet.se/euref2010](http://www.lantmateriet.se/euref2010) from time to time will be completed.

### **SPACOMM 2010**

*June 13-19, 2010 - Athens, Greece*

The Second International Conference on Advances in Satellite and Space Communications (SPACOMM 2010) will be held in Athens, Greece, June 13-19, 2010. All tracks are open to both research and industry contributions. For details please visit the webpage of the conference <http://www.aria.org/conferences2010/SPACOMM10.html>.

## **IAG Sister Societies' General Assemblies**

### **XXIV FIG International Congress**

*April 11-16, 2010, Sydney, Australia*

The FIG 2010 Congress, hosted by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and Institution of Surveyors, Australia (ISA), is expected to bring together over 2,000 participants from almost 100 countries. The Congress will have a full professional program consisting of more than 80 technical and poster sessions, several workshops, pre-congress seminars, and special forums, including four plenary sessions focusing on the hot issues of the global agenda and of our profession: namely the big challenges of climate change, disaster risk management and good land governance; spatially enabled society; and different aspects of the technological futures. The webpage of the FIG 2010 Congress is [www.fig2010.com](http://www.fig2010.com).

## Obituary

### ***Werner Gurtner (1949 – 2009)***



source: ilrs.gsfc.nasa.gov

Dear colleagues and friends of the Astronomical Institute of the University of Bern (AIUB)

With deep sadness I have to inform you that Prof. Dr. Werner Gurtner died from cancer last Saturday, October 24, in the Lory Hospital of the University of Bern, shortly after his sixtieth birthday.

Werner Gurtner completed his studies in Surveying Engineering in 1973 at the Institute of Geodesy and Photogrammetry of the ETH in Zurich, Switzerland. From 1974 to 1979 he was a research assistant and Ph.D. candidate of Prof. Max Schuerer, who was a lecturer at the ETH in addition to his position as director of the AIUB. Werner's Ph.D. thesis, partly written in

Bern, resulted in the "Geoid of Switzerland" using astrometric observations – a well-known reference.

Werner Gurtner was officially employed by the AIUB since January 1980. As early as 1978, at the ETH, he started working on the new Zimmerwald Observatory dedicated to Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR). In 1987 he became the director of the Zimmerwald fundamental observatory. During the 1980s Werner also worked on the team that successfully developed what would eventually be known as the Bernese GPS Software package. Between 1992 and 1996 he led the AIUB team, which planned and realized the new SLR and astrometry telescope in Zimmerwald. In collaboration with the Canton of Bern, the University of Bern, the Swiss National Science Foundation, and the Swiss Federal Office of Topography, the 1-meter combined SLR and astrometry telescope was deployed at Zimmerwald and became one of the essential pillars of the International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS). With the same energy Werner organized the upgrade of the Observatory during 2005-2008. The site as established by Werner is recognized now as one of the foremost stations in the global space geodesy community from the scientific, technical, and administrative points of view.

In the 1990s, Werner Gurtner was one of the key persons in the development of the International GNSS Service (IGS). His contributions related to IGS data transfer and information dissemination were of great importance and at least in part responsible for the worldwide acceptance of the IGS. The Receiver INdependent EXchange (RINEX) format, which he initiated and coined to a great extent, became a standard as the platform for exchanging GNSS data in both science and engineering applications. Werner continued to work on RINEX enhancements until very recently. The global acceptance of RINEX in both the science and receiver technology communities is a tribute to Werner's foresight.

Werner helped the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) to develop essential structural elements related to space geodesy. He was a member of the very active EUREF Technical Working Group since 1992; he chaired this group from 1999 to 2003. He was not only a key person on the development of the IGS, but also, even to a much greater extent, for the development of the ILRS. Werner Gurtner was Chair of the ILRS Governing Board from 2002 to 2009. Before that time he chaired EUROLAS, an association of European SLR observatories.

The Faculty of Sciences of the University of Bern acknowledged the achievements of this eminent engineer and scientist by awarding him the title of professor in 1999. Werner Gurtner will be remembered as competent collaborator, good friend and dear colleague.

GERHARD BEUTLER  
Astronomical Institute  
University of Bern  
Switzerland