

## Foreword

The International Association of Geodesy (IAG) publishes periodically after each IUGG/IAG General Assembly a new issue of the Geodesist's Handbook. The objective is to present the current IAG structures and specifications, and to introduce the terms of reference and officers of the Association's components to the broad geodetic community. The scientific program and the planned activities for the upcoming legislature period are described in detail.

The first part of the Handbook 2012 reviews the latest developments and presents the current status of IAG. The IAG Statutes, Bylaws and Rules are published in their latest versions.

The second part summarizes the official outcome of the 43<sup>rd</sup> IAG General Assembly held in conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne, Australia, in June/July 2011. An overview of the most important IAG results from 2007 to 2011 is given in the presidential address. The citations of the scientists decorated in Melbourne with the highest IAG awards (Levallois Medal, Guy Bomford Prize, and Young Authors Award) are published. Reports of the Secretary General, the IAG Council and Executive Committee meetings, and the resolutions conclude this section.

The third part of the Handbook contains the detailed structures and programs for the period 2011-2015. All IAG components (Commissions, Services, the Global Geodetic Observing System, and the Communication and Outreach Branch) are presented along with their sub-components (Inter-commission Committee, Sub-commissions, Projects, Study Groups and Working Groups). This part describes the planned scientific work of IAG during the coming years.

The fourth part completes the Handbook with some general information useful for the geodetic community. Geodetic standards and conventions relevant for geodesy are summarized, the IAG Internet representation is highlighted, and the IAG national representatives and main IAG publication series are listed.

We'd like to thank all the contributors to the Geodesist's Handbook 2012. These are in particular all the IAG officers listed in the structures, but also the uncounted secretaries and technicians in the institutions affiliated with IAG or one of its components or sub-components. The engaged and authentic cooperation in geodesy is one of the most effective means for the great success of our science. We hope that this collaboration will be continued or even extended in the current period 2011 – 2015.

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