

Minutes of the IAG Council Sessions at the General Assembly 2011

H. Drewes and H. Hornik

Place: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Melbourne, Australia

Time: 2011, June 28, 09:00-12:00 / July 06, 09:00-12:00

Participants

IAG National Delegates: Argentina (Sergio Cimbaro*), Australia (Will Featherstone⁺), Austria (Norbert Höggerl), Belgium (Veronique Dehant*), Brazil (Ana Paula Camargo Larocca*), Canada (Marcelo Santos), Chile (Rodrigo Maturana*), Colombia (Laura Sánchez), Czech Republic (Petr Holota), Denmark (Niels Andersen*), Finland (Markku Poutanen), France (Richard Biancale), Germany (Jürgen Müller), Hungary (József Ádám*), India (V.M. Tiwari), Italy (Fernando Sanso), Japan (Suhei Okubo), Korea (Phil-Ho Park), Luxembourg (Tonie van Dam), New Zealand (Matt Amos), Poland (Jan Krynski), Portugal (João Manuel Agria Torres), Russia (Viktor Savinykh), South Africa (Aslam Parker), Sweden (Martin Lidberg*), Switzerland (Beat Bürki), Thailand (Amornthep Rochanasaroj*), Turkey (Soner Özdemir), United Kingdom (Nigel Penna), USA (Jeff Freymueller)

(⁺ 28 June only, * 6 July only)

IAG Executive Committee (guests): M. Sideris (IAG President), Ch. Rizos (Vice President), Hermann Drewes (Secretary General), Gerhard Beutler (Immediate Past President), Zuheir Altamimi (President Commission 1), Yoichi Fukuda (President Commission 2), Harald Schuh (Representative of the Services), Helmut Hornik (Assistant Secretary General).

I. Tuesday, 28 June 2011, 09:00-12:00, Room MR207

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

The IAG President, *M. Sideris*, opened the Meeting of the IAG Council. He invited the participants to attend the IUGG Opening Ceremony (June 28) as well as the IAG Opening Session (June 29). The agenda had been distributed before; it was accepted by the Council.

2. IUGG2011 organizational issues

The IAG Secretary General, *H. Drewes*, stated that nearly 50 IUGG member countries are represented in this Assembly. 34 IAG National Delegates were accredited; several countries were not able to send a representative. At present the IUGG has 69 member countries. There are full

members, associate members and observers. He then listed the major events of this 25th IUGG General Assembly concerning the IAG. Altogether there are 29 related Symposia, namely 7 IAG Symposia, 6 Joint Symposia and 1 Union Symposium led by the IAG, 8 IAG co-sponsored Union Symposia, and 7 IAG co-sponsored Joint Symposia. Moreover, 19 business meetings of IAG components will be held. *H. Drewes* mentioned in particular the Union Lecture on July 3 by *M. Rothacher* on "The challenge in Earth observation: From the fast response to catastrophic events to the reliable detection of very small trends".

There are three meetings of the present EC on June 27, July 3 and 5; the new EC will meet on July 7. *Ch. Rizos* invited for the IAG Reception which he had organised in the building of the Melbourne Immigration Museum (June 29) as well as for the IAG Dinner in the rooms of the University Club on the Campus of the University of Melbourne (03.07.2011).

H. Drewes then listed the actual IUGG2011 statistics. Approx. 3400 participants registered, 370 for the IAG. This number corresponds to the usual percentage. More than 500 invited lectures will be presented; nearly 2700 oral presentations and 1900 posters were accepted.

3. Agenda of the Opening and Closing Sessions

The agenda of the IAG Opening Session (June 29) and the Closing Session (July 06) were shown and explained in detail.

4. Information on IAG Awards

According to the proposal of the Nomination Committee composed by the IAG Honorary Presidents, the EC has confirmed to award the Levallois Medal to *Ruth Neilan*, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, USA. *Johannes Böhm*, Technical University Vienna, Austria, was elected by a Selection Committee for the Guy Bomford Prize. The 2010 IAG Young Author Award is granted to *Elizabeth Petrie*, School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. The awards will be handed over and the citations will be presented in the IAG Opening Session.

5. Appointment of the Audit Committee

The EC proposed as members of the Audit Committee: *R. Biancale*, *P. Holota*, *M. Poutanen*. The Council adopted

these nominations. The Committee will examine in detail all documents in the next days and report on the findings at the next session of the Council on July 06.

6. Proposal of the IAG Budget 2011 – 2015

H. Drewes explained briefly the financial situation for the past four years term 2007 – 2010 and in detail the proposed budget plan for 2011 – 2014. At present, the IAG is in relatively good funds. Considerable costs for banking and other administrative expenditures could be reduced due to the link-up to the budget of DGFI in the Bavarian administration. It is planned to increase the expenditures for travel grants and other financial supports in the next future.

7. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

The EC proposed the following members of the Resolution Committee: *Z. Altamimi*, *J. Ádám* and *Ch Rizos*. The Council accepted to these nominations. *H. Drewes* asked all colleagues to submit their suggestions for IAG and IUGG Resolutions to the Committee. The next session of this group was scheduled for July 03. All proposals will then be discussed and formulated.

8. Review of the 2011 election process and results

The IAG Nomination Committee 2011 consists of *G. Beutler* (Chair), *W. Featherstone*, *C. K. Shum* and *R. Wonmacott*. *G. Beutler* explained the process of the nomination and election of IAG Officers 2011-2015, based on the IAG Bylaws and Statutes. The nomination process was started in June 2010 when letters to the IAG National Correspondents, Officers, Fellows, Members and Services were sent out. Until December 2010, more than 50 responses were received. In December/January 2010/11, the selection was made by the Committee, and then the candidates were informed and asked to accept their nominations. The resulting nomination list and resumes were sent in January 2011 to the National Correspondents inviting for additional nominations till February 28. No additional nominations were received.

For the subsequent election process, the IAG Secretary General prepared the list of all Correspondents and Delegates entitled to vote. On April 15, 2011 the mail ballots were sent to the Correspondents/Delegates. Up to the deadline May 17, 2011, 44 valid ballots were received from 57 countries. On May 27, all candidates were informed of their result (success: yes/no). *G. Beutler* presented then the result of votes in detail.

Finally, *G. Beutler* mentioned a remaining issue. Shortly after having accepted the election as President of Commission 3, *R. Gross* informed the Committee that he was nominated as GGOS Chair and that he accepted the nomination. The IAG Bylaws, however, do not allow that the

positions of a Commission President and the GGOS Chair are filled by one person at the same time. For the case that *R. Gross* should be elected, the nomination and election process for the position of the President of Commission 3 would have to be re-initialized. In the discussion it was proposed to change the Bylaws such that the elections for all IAG Officers (including the GGOS Chair) will be done at the same time. Then problems like this one cannot occur anymore. However, it would prevent that a person who was not elected for another position could apply for the GGOS Chair, even if he would be a good candidate.

9. Status of GGOS, GIAC, and ICCT

M. Sideris reported that at present three candidates are competing for the position of the GGOS Chair, namely *R. Gross*, *H. Kutterer*, and *S. Zerbini*. The IAG EC will appoint the new GGOS Chair at its meeting on July 3.

M. Sideris explained then the GGOS Inter-Agency Committee (GIAC) as an activity to support GGOS. A relevant declaration has been signed by 15 agencies. The action has been initiated by the past President of the BKG (Germany), *D. Grünreich*. *J. LaBrecque* (NASA, USA) is the present chairperson. *M. Sideris* appealed all delegates to ask their agencies to join GIAC and to take over obligations in order to support GGOS.

M. Sideris reported that according to the Bylaws, Inter-Commission Committees shall be reviewed every eight years, i.e. the ICCT in 2011 after its establishment in 2003. The review was done by a Committee under *M. Sideris'* chairmanship. It was found that it is very active and should be continued. *N. Sneeuw* has declared to be ready to continue as ICCT Chairman.

10. Status of Journal of Geodesy and IAG Symposia Series

Referring to the detailed report of *R. Klees*, Editor in Chief of the Journal of Geodesy (JoG), to the EC on June 27, *H. Drewes* mentioned the most important issues such as the Editorial Board, the considerably improved ISI Impact Factor and the reduced journal turnaround time.

The publication of the IAG Symposia Proceedings in the Springer Series will be continued. All contributions to IAG led symposia of the present IUGG General Assembly may be submitted for publication. All papers will be peer-reviewed.

11. Status of Statutes and Bylaws, Review Committee

Relating § 16 of the IAG Statutes, *M. Sideris* informed that the Statutes and Bylaws shall be reviewed every eight years. The present versions have been adopted at the 2007 IUGG General Assembly in Perugia, thus the next date is

the 2015 IUGG General Assembly. All colleagues are called to read the texts of the present versions carefully and submit any proposals for updates. The collection of the proposals should be completed till the next IAG Scientific Assembly in 2013 and discussed there. The Cassinis Committee will then compile an updated version and present it to the Council in 2015 for adoption.

12. Status of IAG Reports (Travaux de l'AIG) and National Reports 2007-2011

H. Drewes recalled that according to the IAG Bylaws, all IAG components have to report on their activities at each General Assembly. The components comprise the Commissions, ICCT, COB, GGOS and Services. The reports are collected by the IAG Office and published in the Travaux de l'AIG. The publication is done now in the IAG Homepage, hard copies are available on demand. Annual Reports of the IAG are compiled by the IAG Secretary General and submitted to the IUGG. Moreover a detailed IAG Quadrennial Report is presented.

IAG National Reports 2007-2011 have been submitted to this Assembly by several countries (see <http://iag.dgfi.badw.de/index.php?id=302>). *H. Drewes* mentioned that these reports represent a valuable documentation of the activities within the international geodesy. Therefore he appealed for contribution to this work also further on.

13. Proposals for the Venue of the IAG Scientific Assembly 2013

H. Drewes informed that Turkey (for Istanbul), Portugal (for Porto), Germany (for Potsdam) and Czech Republic (for Prague) have submitted applications to organize the IAG Scientific Assembly 2013. In the next Council Meeting on July 06, the reports of the candidates will be presented and discussed, and then the National Delegates will vote on the venue.

14. Any other business

A. Parker as National Delegate from South Africa called the IAG for more support to develop geodesy in Africa. This support should relate to all fields of geodesy, especially to a suitable outreach. *M. Sideris* and *Ch. Rizos* responded that the IAG would be very eager to help in this manner, however, the demands for practical projects have to be formulated by the countries. Especially in South Africa various activities have been undertaken and could serve as good examples for other countries. *H. Drewes* mentioned that the ICSU would be ready to provide financial support for clearly defined projects. Applications are to be directed to the IAG and will then be forwarded to the ICSU. *J. A. Torres* mentioned that the AFREF activities imply much support to develop geodesy in Africa. Various European countries and also EUREF support this important

project. Especially the installation of suitable reference networks forms the basis for developing countries. *J. A. Torres* also emphasized that such help is necessary, but the national agencies have to initiate and perform the projects basically themselves.

M. Sideris invited again all colleagues to formulate any proposals for IAG/IUGG Resolutions and to submit the drafts to the Resolution Committee to be discussed.

15. Adjourn

II. Wednesday, July 6, 2011, 09:00-12:00, Room MR108

16. Venue proposals for the Scientific Assembly 2013 (Presentations of applicants)

The following applications were presented: Prague, Czech Republic (*P. Holota*), Potsdam, Germany (*J. Müller*), Porto, Portugal (*J. A. Torres*), Istanbul, Turkey (*O. Lenk*).

17. Election of the Venue of the Scientific Assembly 2013

It was agreed to perform the voting in two runs in the case that the results of the candidates with the best results are very close to each other in the first voting. Then a second run restricted to the two candidates with most votes shall be performed.

In the first voting the results were:

- Czech Republic, Prague: 6 votes
- Germany, Potsdam: 10
- Portugal, Porto: 5
- Turkey, Istanbul: 8

According to the agreement, a second run was performed:

- Germany, Potsdam: 20 votes
- Turkey, Istanbul: 9

Thus a clear result was obtained to hold the IAG Scientific Assembly 2013 in Potsdam. The German IAG Correspondent, *J. Müller*, was asked to inform the responsible German institutions in order to start the preparations in time.

18. Report of the Audit Committee

On behalf of the Audit Committee, *M. Poutanen* informed that a complete collection of all relevant budget documents has been handed over by the IAG Office and has been examined carefully. No reasons for any complaint were found. Therefore the Audit Committee moved to approve

the IAG Budget 2007-2010. The IAG Council followed this motion unanimously.

19. Approval of the IAG Budget 2011-2015

The budget plan 2011-2014 was already presented by the IAG Secretary General, *H. Drewes*, in the first session of the Council on June 28 (cf. topic 6). The Audit Committee has examined the budget plan. *M. Poutanen* moved to accept the presented draft as official budget 2011-2014. In agreement with the already mentioned proposal, the Audit Committee suggested in particular to reduce the current surplus of nearly 43.000 € by a deficit of 30.000 € used for increased expenditures for travel grants. The IAG Council followed this motion unanimously.

20. IAG Representatives to external bodies

H. Drewes presented an overview on the IAG Representatives to other scientific bodies (see <http://iag.dgfi.badw.de/fileadmin/IAG-docs/iag-representatives-to-scientific-bodies.pdf>).

21. Report of the IAG Resolutions Committee

The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, *Ch. Rizos*, presented the drafts of two IAG Resolutions. The first resolution concerns the "Gravity Field Satellite Missions" while the second one relates to the "Second Realization of the International Celestial Reference"

22. Approval of Resolutions

The plenary discussed the texts of both resolutions; some slight changes in the wording were applied. *M. Sideris* moved to approve the resolutions, the IAG Council followed this motion for Resolution 1 with one abstain and for Resolution 2 unanimously. The texts will also be submitted to the IUGG for approval. Resolution 1 will be proposed in a slightly changed wording to include also the magnetic field satellite missions.

23. Report from IUGG Council and Executive Committees

M. Sideris gave a short report on the meeting of the IUGG Council and Executive Committee. Altogether five countries (Argentina: Buenos Aires, Czech Republic: Prague, Denmark: Copenhagen, India: Hyderabad, USA: Honolulu/Hawaii) had applied for the venue of the 2015 IUGG General Assembly, detailed applications had been presented. The IUGG Council decided for Prague, Czech Republic.

24. Preparation of the IAG Closing Session

H. Drewes presented the programme for the IAG Closing Session on July 06. The programme topics include the reports of the IAG led Symposia by the respective convenors, the presentation of IAG Resolutions and Fellows by the IAG President, the inaugural speech of the new IAG President, *C. Rizos*, and the closing speech of the outgoing President, *M. Sideris*. All colleagues were invited to attend the Closing Session.

25. Any Other Business

The Council discussed intensively the question of the duration of IUGG General Assemblies. As in other IUGG Associations, there is a strong desire for a shorter length of time. On the other side it is already now rather difficult to arrange all oral presentations within the available time period as well as to realise the necessary interdisciplinary contacts, e.g. by attending IUGG Symposia, Joint Symposia etc. The argument for shorter meetings of EGU and AGU was answered by the fact that in the IUGG a broader field of topics is treated.

J. Adam asked all colleagues to contribute continuously to the IAG Newsletter and Website by sending any suitable information to the IAG COB. Moreover proposals to improve the layout of the Website are highly welcome.

26. Closure

M. Sideris closed the session with thanks to the participants for their attendance and contributions at 11:30.