

Summary of the Council and Executive Committee Meetings during the IUGG XXIII General Assembly in Sapporo, July, 2003

by
Ole B. Andersen, (IAG information editor)

During the IUGG XXIII General Assembly in Sapporo, Japan, June 30th- July 13th, the International Association of Geodesy had the following meetings.

- Executive committee: 1 July, 5 July, 7 July
- Council: 1 July, 7 July.

At the meeting of the EC (July, 1,5,7) the following were attending

Fernando Sansó (FS), C.C. Tscherning (CCT), Ole Andersen (OA), Gerhard Beutler (GB), Denisar Blitzkow (DB), Chris Rizos (CR), Pascal Willis (PW), Michael Sideris (MS), Clark Wilson (CW), Bernhard Heck (BH), Veronique Dehant (VD), Shuzo Takemoto (ST), Klaus-Peter Schwarz (KPS), Peter Teunissen (PT), Herman Drewes (HD)

At the meetings of the Council (July, 1,7), the following National representatives were present

Australia (Will Featherstone), Austria (Erhard Erker), Belgium (Bernard Ducarme), Brazil (Denisar Blitzkow), Canada (Marcelo Santos), China (Yamin Dang), Colombia (Laura Sanchez), Czech Republic (Petr Holota), Denmark (Niels Andersen), Finland (Markku Poutanen), France (Pascal Willis), Germany (Bernhard Heck), Greece (Dimitris Arabelos), Hungary (József Ádám), Indonesia (Hasanuddin Z. Abidin), Italy (Susanna Zerbini), Japan (Shuzo Takamoto), Malaysia (S. Bin Haji Aby), Netherlands (Ramon Hanssen), New Zealand (Groeme Blick), Norway (Björn Geirr Harsson), Poland (Jan Krynski), Portugal (João Agria Torres), Romania (Crisan Demetresen), Russia (Petr Medvedev), South Africa (Charles Merry), Sweden (Bo Jonsson), Switzerland (Alain Geiger), Thailand (Chaiwat Promthong), Turkey (Ali Kilicoglu), UK (Philippa Berry), USA (David Sandwell)

During these meetings, topics concerning the activities and administrative affairs of the International Association of Geodesy were treated. Decisions or conclusions were drawn as follows.

1. Finances.

The Financial Report of the IAG for the period 1st January 1999 to 31st of December 2002 was presented by the Secretary General C. C. Tscherning during the IAG opening session (a copy can be found in this issue).

In terms of IAG by-law 54 an ad-hoc Audit Committee must be appointed by the Council to "examine all expenditures and ensure that they were in accordance with the proposals previously approved". The Audit Committee appointed by the Council on 1th July 2003 consisted of:

Dr. Bjorn Geirr Harsson, Statens Kartverk, Norway
Dr. Jan Krynski, Institute of Geodesy and Cartography, Poland
Ass. Prof. William Featherstone, Curtin University of Technology, Australia

The Audit Committee performed the following functions

Examined a random selection of receipt and bank statements of both IAG accounts (one in US dollars and the other in Danish kroner) for the period January 1999 to December 2002. The final quadrennial report and interim annual reports had been checked by Hans Borge Nielsen, a firm of authorized public accountants.

Checked the balances appearing in the annual and quadrennial IAG reports

Examined expenditure to ensure conformity with the 1999-2003 budget as approved at the IUGG General Assembly in Birmingham in July 1999.

Made some enquiries that were clarified by C.C. Tscherning (IAG Secretary General) and Christina Pedersen (Department of Geophysics at the University of Copenhagen)

The Audit Committee makes the following observations and comments on the IAG accounts

A2.1 The previous IAG fund is now incorporated into the IAG account in accordance with the recommendation made by the IAG Council in 1999.

A2.2 The accounts were generally well presented and all expenditure was supported by receipts and bank statements.

A2.3 A few slight discrepancies were found between the receipts and audited figures. The audit committee had the understanding that this was due to Hans Borge Nielsen requiring some expenditure to be accounted for in different line items. These discrepancies were of the order of a few hundred US dollars, so the Audit Committee considered these to be insignificant in relation to the cost of a new audit by Hans Borge Nielsen.

A2.4 During the review period, the IAG made an operating loss of approximately USD 28,000. This amount therefore had to be taken from the IAG reserve, leaving reserves of USD 30,000.

A2.5 The Audit Committee found that the IAG had over spent by approximately USD 70,000 in relation to the budget approved in Birmingham. However, this must be balanced against an increase of approximately USD 42,000 in additional income that was not predicted in Birmingham. This additional funding was mainly through unforeseen grants and the sale of publications, notably the International Geoid School notes and the EGG97 CD-ROM.

The Audit Committee makes the following recommendations

A3.1 The two separate accounts (one in Danish kroner and the other in USD) should be combined, which will reduce some of the bank fees and charges associated with transferring between accounts and currencies.

A3.2 The IAG should consider using a firm of public accountants that is not as expensive as the one currently used, so as to reduce the administrative costs associated with auditing the IAG accounts.

A3.3 The IAG should consider negotiating with the existing bank, or find another bank, where the fees and charges can be reduced or waived (e.g., some banks do not charge fees for association accounts)

A3.4 Given the reduction of the IAG reserve during the reporting period, it is now timely that a modest membership fee is introduced.

A3.5 The IAG should continue to seek external funding from grants and enterprises similar to the sale of the International Geoid School notes and the EGG97 CD-ROM.

A3.6 The IAG should seek to build its reserve so as to offset the operating loss made during the 1999-2003 quadrennium.

On behalf of the IAG Council, the Audit Committee has the following acknowledgements and thanks

A4.1 The Department of Geophysics at the University of Copenhagen for administrative and other support, notably the secretariat staff.

A4.2 The International Geoid Service (Polytechnic of Milano, Italy) and the University of Hannover for providing the International Geoid School notes and the EGG97 CD-ROM, respectively.

2. Elections

The elections were prepared in advance due to the new structure of IAG. *The report of the Nomination committee is included as appendix A.* The elections resulted in the following structure of the IAG.

The new Executive Committee is:

President: Gerhard Beutler

Vice-President: Michael Sideris

Secretary General: Carl Christian Tscherning

President of Commission 1: Herman Drewes

President of Commission 2: Christopher Jekeli

President of Commission 3: Veronique Dehant

President of Commission 4: Chris Rizos

Members at large: Luiz P. Fortes and Charles Merry

Service representatives: Ruth Neilan, Markus Rothacher and Harald Schuh

President of the Communication and Outreach Branch
J.Adam

The following structure of IAG was established.

International Services:

The following services were either continued or established.

International VLBI service (IVS)

Chair: Wolfgang Schlüter (Germany)

Director CB: Nancy Vandenberg (USA)

International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS)

Chair: Werner Gurtner (Switzerland)
Director CB: Mike Pearlman (USA)
Secretary: Carey Noll (USA)

International Earth Rotation and Reference System Service (IERS)

Chair Jan Vondrák (Czech Rep.)
Director CB: Bernd Richter (Germany)

International Doris Service (IDS)

Chair: Gilles Tavernier (France)

International Gravimetric Bureau (BGI)

Director: J-P. Barriot (France)

International Geoid Service (IGeS)

President: F. Sanso (Italy)
Director: R. Barzaghi (Italy)

International Centre for Earth Tides (ICET)(Belgium)

Chair: Bernard Ducarme (Belgium)

Bureau International de Poids and Measure (BIPM, time section):

Chair: Felicitas Arias (France)

International GPS Service (IGS):

Chair John Dow (Germany)
Director CB: Ruth Neilan (USA)

Permanent Service for Mean Sea level (PSMSL)

Chair: Philip Woodworth (U.K.)

International Gravity Field Service (IGFS)

Chair: Rene Forsberg (Denmark)

International Bibliographic Service for Geodesy (IGBS)

Chair: Annkathrin Korth (Germany)

Commissions:**Commission 1 (Reference Frames)**

President: Herman Drewes (Germany)
Vice-President: C.K. Shum (USA)

The commission completed its Substructure after the IUGG meeting

Commission 2 (Gravity Field)

President: Christopher Jekeli (USA)
Vice-President: Ilias Tziavos (Greece)

The commission completed its substructure after the IUGG meeting

Commission 3 (Earth Rotation and Geodynamics)

President: Veronique Dehant (Belgium)
Vice-President: Mike Bevis (USA)

The commission completed its substructure after the IUGG meeting

Commission 4 (Positioning & Applications)

President: Chris Rizos (Australia)
Vice-President: Pascal Willis (France)

The commission completed its substructure after the IUGG meeting

IAG project

IGGOS (Integrated Global Geodetic Observing System)
President: Chris Reigber (elected by the EC)

Inter-Commission Committees**ICC of Geodetic Theory.**

President P. Xu. (Japan)
The Council approved the establishment of this ICC on Geodetic Theory.

ICC on Planetary Geodesy

The Council approved the establishment of this Inter-Commission committee on Planetary Geodesy in the 2003-2007 timeframe, provided the finalized proposal is approved by the EC.

ICC on Geodetic Standards

The Council approved the establishment of this Inter-Commission committee on Geodetic Standards in the 2003-2007 timeframe, provided the finalized proposal is approved by the EC.

Communication and Outreach Branch.

The EC elected The Budapest University of Technology, Hungary for hosting the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB) of the IAG. The EC nominated József Ádám as president for the COB. The

Council elected unanimously J. Ádám as president of the COB.

Journal of Geodesy.

The EC nominated Will Featherstone (Australia) as new Editor in Chief of the Journal of Geodesy. Will Featherstone replaces Peter Teunissen (The Netherlands).

3. Awards.

The Bomford prize

The Bomford prize 2003 was awarded to Ramon Hanssen, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands, for outstanding contribution to geodesy.

The Bomford prize and the certificate was presented to R. Hanssen by President F. Sanso during the opening ceremony of the General Assembly.

The Levallois Medal

The Levallois Medal was awarded to George Veis, National Technical University of Athens, Greece in recognition of distinguished service to the Association and to the science of geodesy in general.

George Veis was unable to attend the General Assembly and therefore the Levallois medal and the certificate were presented to Dimitris Arabelos on behalf of G. Veis by the honorary president of IAG Klaus Peter Schwarz during the opening ceremony.

4. Resolutions.

The council nominated the following members of the Resolution Committee:

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Beutler (Chairman) (Switzerland)
Laura Sanchez (Colombia)
Dr. David Sandwell (USA)
Prof.-Dr. József Ádám (Hungary)

IUGG Resolutions

Eleven resolutions related to Geodesy and Geophysics were presented and accepted by the council of IUGG. The text of the resolutions can be found as a separate chapter of this issue of the Geodesists handbook.

IAG Resolution on thanks.

The IAG has experienced two weeks of extraordinary hospitality. We cordially thank our Japanese hosts for providing the basis for this great IAG general assembly.

5. IAG new fellows

The IAG executive committee appointed the following fellows of the International Association of Geodesy for an outstanding job for IAG. The new Fellows are:

Y. Yuanxi (EC)
S. Han (1.179)
H. van der Marel (1.180)
R. Weber (1.181)
M. Stewart (1.182)
R. Scharroo (2.162)
R. Hanssen (2.183)
R. Kursinski (2.192)
P. Visser (2.193)
P. Berry (3.184)
N. Sneeuw (3.185)
C. Hwang (3.186)
W. Keller (4.187)
G. Strykowski (4.188)
C. Hwang (3.186)
A. Marchenko (SC 5)
R. Lehmann (SC3)
S. Kenyon (Arctic Gravity Project)
R. Gross (WG)
J.-P. Barriot (BGI)
D. Gambis (BdL)
J. Vondrak (IERS)
N. Vandenberg (IVS)
W. Schlueter (IVS)
E.F. Arias (TS)
B.G. Harsson (ABLOS)
C. Tiberius (JoG)
C. Brunini (JoG)
T. Schoene (2.194)
W. Gurtner (ILRS)
G. Gendt (IGS)
Carine Bruyninx (IGS/EUREF)
Susan Skone (1.180)
Leonid Vitushkin (Intercomparison of Absolute Gravimeters)
H. Kutterer (4.190)

6. IAG scientific Assembly 2001.

The IAG scientific Assembly will be held in Cairns, Australia in early August, 2005.

7. IUGG General Assembly 2003.

The IUGG General Assembly will be held in Perugia, Italy in 2007

Appendix 1

Report of the IAG Nominating Committee

This report describes the implementation of the new IAG nomination procedure and related activities for the period April 2002 to January 2003.

Composition of the Committee: The Nominating Committee was appointed by the IAG President in April 2002 and consisted of

Chairperson: Klaus-Peter Schwarz (Canada)

Members: Denizar Blitzkow (Brasil)

Martine Feissel (France)

Chris Rizos (Australia).

Time schedule: As its first task the Nominating Committee established a timetable that took into account the constraints implied by # 2.8 of the new By-laws and the request of the IAG Executive Committee to have the new officers elected before the Executive meeting in April 2003. The proposed schedule was accepted with some minor modifications at the IAG Executive meeting in Nice (April 2002). It is given below:

- June 1, 2002, First letter to all mentioned in 2.8a of the Statutes
- September 1, 2002, Follow-up letter to the same group
- November 1, 2002, Final reminder
- November 10, 2002, Nominations cease
- December 6-10, 2002, Nominating Committee meeting at AGU, December 15, 2002. Nomination list sent out with letter explaining procedure for additional nominations.
- January 15, 2003, Additional nominations cease
- February 1, 2003, Final nomination list is sent to Council members
- March 1, 2003, Reminder of ballot deadline
- March 15, 2003, Last day to receive ballots
- March 31, 2003, Announcement of new Executive Officers

Call for Nominations: The Call for Nominations contained a brief letter explaining the impact of the new By-laws on the election process and gave a step-by-step explanation of this process. It also contained the list of positions to be filled by election:

President, Four Commission presidents, Vice-President, Three representatives of the Services, Secretary General, President of C&O Branch, Two Members-at-Large

The letter was sent to the IAG Bureau in mid May 2002, to be included in a general mail-out that was planned for early June. Unfortunately, there was some delay in mailing it, and when it was sent in July, the Call for Nominations was not included. Due to vacation time, it was impossible to reach the IAG Bureau and it was August before the Call for

Nominations appeared on the IAG website and September before it was e-mailed to the IAG constituency. The Nominating Committee used the e-mail list compiled by Martine Feissel to send a reminder to the IAG constituency in early October. A separate letter went out to all services and was followed up by a number of reminders.

Nominations received: Nominations were received from 17 National Committees (national delegates) and about a dozen individuals. Although this is not an overwhelming result, it is probably close to the average of previous elections. More important was the fact that typically three or four nominations were received for each position on the list.

Evaluation: The nominations were compiled in a table, showing the position, the candidate(s) nominated for it, the acceptance of the candidate(s), the nominator(s), and the material received (letter, resume, CV). This table, together with the material received was sent by e-mail to the members of the Nominating Committee in mid November. They were asked to independently evaluate and rank the candidates for each position, using the criteria outlined in the Call for Nominations (geographical distribution, research interest, and frequency of the nomination).

Initial list of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee: Each member of the Committee independently submitted a proposal and ranking to the chairperson who then compiled a joint list of candidates. This list was sent back to the members who responded to the proposal. After a few iterations, general agreement had been achieved on an initial list of candidates.

No candidates for the position of 'President of the Communication and Outreach Branch' are listed. The Committee received two nominations (J. Adam, Hungary and M. Poutanen, Finland). They were passed on to the IAG Bureau because the new By-Laws require that the IAG Executive Committee negotiate the Terms of Reference and other conditions with the responding organization(s). These negotiations are still in progress. A decision will be made at the General Assembly in Sapporo.

The list was sent to the IAG Secretary General on December 17 for distribution to the National Committees and the Association officers, and for posting on the IAG website. In addition, all persons nominated were informed about the outcome of the nomination process, independent of whether their names appeared on the initial list or not.

Additional Nominations: According to the By-laws additional nominations can be made during the month following the publication of the initial list. The deadline for such nominations was moved to January 20, 2003. Two additional nominations were received: C. Boucher for Vice-President and Z. Altamimi for President of Commission 1. Both nominations were made by the National Committee of

France and were supported by the national delegates of Belgium, Bulgaria, Egypt, and Portugal. Both candidates accepted the nomination and submitted a resume. Thus, their names were added to the final list (*).

Final list of candidates: The final list of candidates is therefore:

President: G. Beutler (Switzerland)

Vice-President: C. Boucher* (France), R. Forsberg (Denmark), M.G. Sideris (Canada)

Secretary General: C.C. Tscherning (Denmark)

Commission 1: Z. Altamimi* (France), H. Drewes (Germany), K. Heki (Japan)

Commission 2: C. Jekeli (USA) and S. Okubo (Japan)

Commission 3: M. Bevis (USA) and V. Dehant (Belgium)

Commission 4: C. Rizos (Australia) and P. Willis (France/USA)

Members at Large (2): W. Featherstone (Australia), L.P. Fortes (Brazil), C. Merry (South Africa), P. Xu (China/Japan), Y. Yang (China)

Service reps (3): S. Kenyon (USA) - nominated by IGeS, BGI, ICET, R. Neilan (USA) – nominated by IGS, M. Pearlman (USA) – nominated by ILRS, M. Rothacher (Germany) – nominated by IERS, H. Schuh (Austria) – nominated by IVS

This list, together with some information on the election procedure, was sent to the IAG Secretary General on January 24, 2003 for distribution to the Council members. At the same time, it was e-mailed to all IAG officers. This concluded the activities of the Nominating Committee. The IAG Bureau handled the election procedure.

Recommendations: Attached are a few recommendations designed to improve the current procedure.

Acknowledgements: Appreciation is expressed to the members of the Nominating Committee for their active cooperation, their valuable advice and their constructive criticism.

Calgary, April 7, 2003, Klaus-Peter Schwarz.

Recommendations

1. Changes to paragraph 2.8 of the By-laws

Motivation:

- The 'at least' changes are simply for more flexibility.
- The terms 'initial list' and 'final list' have been introduced to clarify the process.
- With the current formulation, candidates who did not make the initial list could be re-nominated under 2.8b. I

don't think this was the intent. The changes would make clear that new nomination, not re-nominations are required.

- The election process had several loose ends. This would be a way to tie them down.

Proposed changes (in italics):

2.8 ELECTIONS shall take place by mail vote before each General Assembly and should be completed *at least* one month before the assembly.

a) The President of the Association, after taking advice from the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of a Chair and three other members. The Nominating Committee, after taking advice from the adhering bodies of the member countries, officers, fellows, and members of the Association, shall normally propose at least two candidates for each position to be filled by election in the Council. Candidates shall be asked to signify their acceptance of nomination and to prepare a resume, maximum 150 words, outlining their position, research interests and activities relating to the Association. The member countries and the individual membership shall be informed of these nominations *at least* three months before the General Assembly (*Initial list*).

b) During the following *six weeks* ~~month~~ ~~further~~ *new* nominations (*not re-nominations*) can be submitted by the National Delegates. Such ~~additional~~ nominations shall be in writing, shall be supported by at least ~~two~~ *four* members of the Council, *in addition to the nominator*, and shall be submitted with resumes as described above to the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Delegates shall be informed of these ~~further~~ *new* nominations and resumes and of their supporters (*Final list*).

Elections shall be *made by Council using* mail ballots *during a six-week period following the publication of the final list. A simple majority* ~~vote~~ *is required for all positions. In this case* The national *members (national delegates)* form the Council.

no further changes

2. Secretary General and President of the C&O Branch:

These two positions are different from the other elected positions because they require confirmed institutional support and negotiations with the Executive. The nomination process for these two positions requires more time and a clearer step-by-step procedure.

3. Criteria for candidate selection: Currently no criteria for candidate selection (initial list) are given in the By-laws. They should be defined. Geographical distribution, research interest, and frequency of nomination are possible choices.