

International Association of Geodesy (IAG) Annual Report 2008

Home: <http://www.iag-aig.org>, Office: <http://iag.dgfi.badw.de>

1. Introduction

According to the IAG Bylaws, the structure of IAG is built by Components and Sub-components. The Components are the four Commissions, fifteen Services, the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), and the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB). Sub-components are the Inter-commission Committee on Theory (ICCT), and the Sub-commissions, Projects and Study Groups. The administration is supervised by the Council and operated by the Bureau, the Executive Committee and the Office. The outreach is done by the COB. All these entities are in steady contact and inform about their activities through the IAG Newsletter and the bi-annual reports (Travaux).

2. Administration

2.1 IAG Council

The list of representatives of the Adhering Bodies forming the IAG Council was updated. Doubtful nominations (double or questionable) were cleared up. The Council was informed about the activities of the Bureau and the Executive Committee.

2.2 IAG Executive Committee (EC)

The IAG EC met twice in 2008, April 14 in Vienna, Austria, and December 14 in San Francisco, California, USA. The meeting summaries are available online in the IAG Homepage (<http://www.iag-aig.org>) and IAG Office Homepage (<http://iag.dgfi.badw.de>) and published in the IAG Newsletters in the IAG Journal of Geodesy (Springer Verlag). A main topic of the meetings was the preparation of the IAG Scientific Assembly to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 31 to September 4, 2009. The Scientific Committee and Assembly Secretary were installed. They are continuously cooperating with the Local Organizing Committee.

2.3 IAG Bureau

The IAG Bureau, consisting of the President, the Vice-President and the Secretary General, met regularly before the EC meetings. Day-to-day decisions were made via internet. The President and Secretary General participated in the IUGG Executive Committee meeting, Karlsruhe, 4-6 August 2008. The Bureau members represented IAG at various international meetings (see below).

3. Activities

3.1 IAG Office

A main activity of the IAG Office, together with the IAG COB (see below), was the edition of the Geodesist's Handbook 2008 with descriptions of the IUGG and IAG structures, and the complete terms of reference, objectives and work plans of IAG Components (Commissions, Services, Global Geodetic Observing System) for the period 2007-2011. It was published as a special issue of the Journal of Geodesy, Springer Verlag, and online in the IAG Homepages. The personal IAG memberships were regularly updated, the membership fee was collected by bank transfer or credit card entry. IAG EC meetings were prepared, the detailed minutes and the meeting summaries were written.

3.2 Communication and Outreach Branch (COB)

The COB continued its main tasks of maintaining the IAG Homepage and publishing the monthly newsletter online and in the Journal of Geodesy. It prepared, printed and distributed a new IAG leaflet and membership application form, drafted an IAG brochure, and participated in the preparation of the Geodesist's Handbook 2008.

3.3 Commissions and Inter-Commission Committee

The four IAG Commissions and the Inter-Commission Committee on Theory compiled their programmes and work plans (published in the Geodesist's Handbook 2008 and in the IAG Homepage) and maintained their individual Homepages. Some of the Commissions held international meetings (see below).

3.4 Services

The fifteen IAG Services compiled their descriptions for the period 2007-2011 for publication in the Geodesist's Handbook and maintained their Homepages and data servers. The International Altimetry Service (IAS) was formally established. The International Gravity Field Service (IGFS) held a retreat in Bertinoro, Italy, 24-25 March 2008. The International Geoid Service (IGeS) conducted a Geoid School in Como, Italy, 15-19 September 2008. Several Services held international meetings (see below).

3.5 Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)

A GGOS retreat was held in Bertinoro, Italy, 25-27 March 2008. On this occasion, a GGOS Steering Committee meeting took place on March 28, 2008. Another Steering Committee meeting was held jointly with the IAG Executive Committee in San Francisco, California, USA, 14 December 2008.

3.6 Coordination with other organisations

The close connection of IAG with the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS, <http://www.fig.net/jbgis/>) was continued by e-mails, internet contacts and participation in meetings of the partner associations. The participation of IAG in the inter-governmental Group on Earth Observation (GEO) is continued.

3.7 Meetings

Important meetings of IAG components in 2008 were:

- International VLBI Service (IVS) 5th General Meeting and Analysis Workshop, St. Petersburg, Russia, 03-07 March 2008;
- Several Sessions co-organized by the Commissions at the EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, 13-18 April 2008;
- FIG/IAG Joint Symposium "Measuring the Changes", Lisbon, Portugal, 12-15 May 2008;
- Sub-commission 1.3b SIRGAS General Meeting 2008, Montevideo, Uruguay, 26-29 May 2008;
- International GNSS Service Analysis Workshop, Miami Beach, Florida, USA, 02-06 June 2008;
- 7th International e-VLBI Workshop in Shanghai, China, 16-17 June 2008;
- Commission 4 participation in the FIG Working Week, 14-19 June 2008, Stockholm;
- Sub-commission 1.3a EUREF Symposium, Brussels, Belgium, 18-20 June 2008;
- Symposium on Gravity, Geoid and Earth Observation, Chania, Greece, 23-27 June 2008;
- Sessions at the 37th COSPAR General Assembly, Montreal, Canada, 01-05 July 2008;
- 16th International Symposium on Earth Tides, Jena, Germany, 01-05 September 2008;

- Journees 2008 “Systemes de reference spatio-temporels”, Dresden, Germany, 22-24 September 2008;
- 9th European VLBI Network Symposium, Bologna, Italy, 23-26 September 2008;
- 16th International Workshop on Laser Ranging, Poznan, Poland, 13-17 October 2008;
- International DORIS Service (IDS) Workshop, Nice, France, 12-14 November 2009;
- Several Sessions co-organized by the Commissions at the AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, California, USA, 15-19 December 2008.

3.8 Publications

Twelve monthly issues of the Journal of Geodesy were published in Springer Verlag. The proceedings of the IAG sessions at the IUGG General Assembly, Perugia 2007, and of the IAG Symposia on Theoretical and Computational Geodesy (Wuhan 2006) and on Reference Frames (Munich 2006) were compiled to be published in the series of IAG Symposia at Springer Verlag.

3.9 Awards, anniversaries, obituaries

The Secretary General was awarded with the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. There was a celebration with official IAG representation on the occasion of the 70th birthday of the former IAG and IUGG President, Helmut Moritz, in Berlin, 15 November 2008. The Secretary General represented IUGG during the 50 Years Anniversary of the German IUGG adhering body “Bundesamt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe”, Hannover, 25 November 2008. An obituary was written and a wreath was sent to the funeral of the former IAG officer Carlo Morelli, Trieste, Italy.

4. Planned future activities

A principal activity of IAG in 2009 is the Scientific Assembly, Buenos Aires Argentina, August 31 to September 4, 2009 (<http://www.iag2009.com.ar/>). Besides, there will be several meetings and workshops of the IAG Services (IERS, ILRS, IVS) and participations in interdisciplinary assemblies and symposia (e.g., European Geosciences Union, International Astronomical Union, American Geophysical Union).

The Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), as the “flagship” of IAG is preparing a fundamental detailed document on its scientific rationale and specifications in terms of concepts, conventions, infrastructure, and services. GGOS will undergo a re-organization by installing a Coordinating Office and special Bureaus (Networks and Communication, Conventions and Standards, Space and Satellite Missions). The IAG Bureau, the Executive Committee, and all IAG components will see through the whole procedure.

Hermann Drewes, IAG Secretary General