

Summary of the First Meeting of the IAG EC 2011-2015

Place: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Australia, Room MR102

Time: Thursday, 07 July 2011, 08:30 – 12:40

Attendees (voting): Ch. Rizos (IAG President), H. Schuh (IAG Vice-President), H. Drewes (IAG Secretary General), M. Sideris (Immediate IAG Past President), T. van Dam (President Commission 1), U. Marti (President Commission 2), R. Gross (President Commission 3), G. Retscher (stand-in for D. Brzezinska, President Commission 4), H. Kutterer (Chair of GGOS), R. Barzagli, T. Herring (Representatives of the Services)

Attendees (non-voting): N. Sneeuw (President ICCT), H. Hornik (IAG Assistant Secretary)

Regrets: D. Brzezinska (President Commission 4), J. Ádám (President of the COB), R. Neilan (Representative of the Services), C. Brunini, R. Wonnacott (Members at Large)

Summary of Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda (CR)

Ch. Rizos, as the new President of the IAG, welcomed the members of the IAG Executive Committee (11 out of 15 voting members, 2 non-voting members) for the first session within the new term 2011-2015. The meeting took place on the occasion of the XXV IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne. The agenda had been distributed previously by e-mail and was unanimously adopted.

2. Introduction to the IAG Executive Committee

Ch. Rizos presented the new EC members according to the recent elections. *H. Schuh*, as the new Vice-President, gave a summary of the passed XXV IUGG General Assembly. He mentioned some remarkably good items and those which could probably be organized better in future. He proposed to review all the IAG Services and mentioned the Global Geodynamics Project (GGP) as a candidate new Service (see also agenda topic 4). *H. Drewes* pointed out that the EC meetings are strictly following Roberts Rules; i.e. each decision has to be initiated by a motion seconded by at least one EC member. He further explained some EC relevant paragraphs of the IAG Bylaws in detail (§1, §3, §6, §9, §11, §12). All EC members were urgently asked to study the Bylaws carefully. All text passages appearing unclear or inadequate shall be collected and forwarded to the Cassinis Committee (see agenda item 10).

With respect to the creation or continuation of Commission sub-components (Study Groups (SG), Working Groups (WG) and Projects), *H. Drewes* explained that Projects may be continued for two four-year periods, while SGs and WGs are limited to one period only. The work plans have to be structured such that the work can be done within this term. SGs are basically orientated to more theoretical studies; WGs concentrate on more practical aspects. SGs and WGs may be established and terminated by the EC at any time during the 4-year period. During the IAG Scientific Assemblies held between the IUGG General Assemblies all groups shall be evaluated whether they are working well and, in case they do not, be resolved. Joint sub-components of several Commissions or together with Services require the recommendation of all the presidents. They are called Joint Projects (JP), Joint Study Groups (JSG) and Joint Working Groups (JWG), respectively, and *not Inter-Commission* entities. The persons directing such a sub-component are entitled as "chairpersons" whereas the title "president" is restricted for the IAG Commissions.

In the following *H. Drewes* referred to the IAG Homepage <<http://www.iag-aig.org/>> (see topic 8) and to the website of the IAG Office <<http://iag.dgfi.badw.de/>>. He emphasised that the IAG Homepage is one of the main tools of advertisement of IAG to the public. The IAG Office Homepage is only for the internal contact within the IAG.

3. Structure of Commissions

The newly elected Commission Presidents *T. van Dam*, *U. Marti*, *R. Gross* and Commission 4 Vice-President *G. Retscher* presented the draft structures and nominations for the various functions within their Commissions. They will be published in the IAG Office Homepage as soon as they are available. The Commission Vice-Presidents were proposed as follows:

- Commission 1: *G. Johnston*, Australia
- Commission 2: *S. Bettadpur* (USA)
- Commission 3: *A. Brzezinski* (Poland)
- Commission 4: *A. Kealy* (Australia)

U. Marti needs the confirmation of the Commission 2 candidate. *Ch. Rizos* moved to appoint the other three Vice-Presidents. *H. Schuh* seconded and the Vice-Presidents of Commissions 1, 3, and 4 were unanimously appointed.

Concerning the structure of Commission 1 it was remarked that all Sub-commission chairs are from Europe. *T. van Dam* will revise it and extend it to other continents.

W. r. t. Commission 2 it was proposed to homogenize the naming of the Sub-commissions for gravity and geoid. The regional SCs should be structured under one umbrella SC with a coordinating chair for all the regional Sub-commissions. The Sub-commission on "Gravity Tectonics and Geodynamics" interferes with Commission 3. *M. Sideris* proposed to include the global geoid computation in a Sub-commission dealing also with a global height system.

In Commission 3 there were concerns about the naming of Sub-commissions "Tectonic Deformation" and "Plate Tectonics and Earthquake Geodesy" which seem to be similar. They are focussing on (plate) tectonics not including other types of deformation (e.g. sedimentary basins, climatic effects). *H. Drewes* proposed to use the general name of crustal deformation.

For some Sub-commissions and Study Groups of Commission 4 there were proposals to change names. The chairs of the Sub-commissions have still to be appointed by the Commission President and Vice-President. *G. Retscher* will do it together with *D. Brzezinska*.

H. Drewes urged all Presidents/Chairpersons to inform the IAG Office and COB regularly on any kind of meetings and conferences to be announced in the web and thus to give the information on relevant activities to the public.

4. Representation of Services

H. Schuh reported on a meeting of the International Centre for Earth Tides (ICET) Directing Board and plans to integrate the ICET later (in Sept. 2013) into the Global Geodynamics Project (GGP). The GGP then should be installed as a regular IAG Service with the denomination "IGGP (International Global Geodynamics Project)". *H. Drewes* moved to accept this proposal and *H. Schuh* seconded. The EC accepted the proposal. In context with the activities of the ICET it was mentioned that the "Earth Tide Commission Medal (Paul Melchior Medal)" will be awarded to *B. Ducarme*. *H. Drewes* informed that this must not be approved by the IAG EC because the Medal is not an official IAG award.

The three Representatives of the Services, *R. Barzaghi*, *T. Herring* and *R. Neilan* were asked to look after all the 15 IAG Services and to distribute the responsibility for the individual Services among themselves. They should give reports about the status and development of the Services at each EC meeting.

5. Representation of Developing Countries

The two Members at Large, *C. Brunini* and *R. Wonnacott* were asked to look after all the developing countries and distribute the responsibility for the individual continents among themselves. They should give reports at each EC meeting.

6. Status of the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)

H. Kutterer introduced himself as the new Chairman of GGOS. A detailed programme for the further activities will be developed. The new Terms of Reference will be discussed in GGOS and then circulated among the EC. The GGOS Action Plan 2011-2015 is under preparation.

7. Inter-Commission Committee on Theory (ICCT)

N. Sneeuw has been reappointed as the ICCT President by the previous Executive Committee during its session in Melbourne on 3rd of July 2011. He proposed *P. Novák* to continue as the Vice-President. *H. Drewes* moved to accept this offer, *U. Marti* seconded. The EC accepted unanimously, i.e. *P. Novak* is appointed as the ICCT Vice-President.

N. Sneeuw presented then the provisional structure of the ICCT, in particular about ten Study Groups, and announced to complete the list of the chairpersons in the next weeks and to submit it to the IAG Office. The representatives of the Commissions are the four Commission Presidents, and *H. Kutterer* is invited to be the representative of GGOS. He also mentioned the planned meetings such as the Hotine-Marussi Symposium in 2013 and a Summer School on "Mass Transports in the System Earth" in 2014. A second Symposium on "Quality of Geodetic Observation and Monitoring System (QuGOMS)" is also planned. *H. Drewes* asked to announce the date for the VIII Hotine Marussi Symposium 2013 in time as the IAG Scientific Assembly will take place in this period and any overlap should be avoided.

8. Status of the Communication and Outreach Branch

J. Adam had left the relevant information to *H. Drewes*. He explained the IAG Website, which represents the most important contact between the IAG and the public. Therefore it is urgently necessary to keep the website permanently up to date and improve the layout whenever useful. In order to arrange the website more attractive for the public a "topic of the month" is installed. *H. Drewes* emphasised that the COB cannot do this work alone but depends on the permanent input and help of the whole IAG community. The same requests concern the IAG Newsletter. *R. Gross* supported the appeal and proposed to include also the minutes and all kind of other reports on conferences and any other activities of the various IAG bodies into the information for the public.

9. Representatives to Service and to external bodies

H. Drewes presented the list of IAG Representatives to the Services and external bodies, and the IAG-related IUGG liaisons to international and intergovernmental organizations (see <http://iag.dgfi.badw.de/fileadmin/handbook/3-8-iag-representatives-to-scientific-bodies.pdf>).

10. Review Committee of Statutes, Bylaws and Rules

According to the IAG Bylaws, the term for changes of the IAG Statutes and Bylaws is eight years. A review is done by the so-called Cassinis Committee. As the last update of these texts has been carried out in 2007, the next term will be in 2015. It was proposed to submit all suggestions before the 2013 IAG Scientific Assembly in order to allow a detailed discussion and possible adaption in the best way. *H. Drewes* moved to nominate *M. Sideris* in his property as Immediate IAG Past President as the Chair of the Cassinis Committee. The proposal was seconded by *Ch. Rizos* and unanimously accepted. *M. Sideris* invited volunteers for this group to participate. All EC members are asked to study the relevant texts and to communicate suggestions for changes to *M. Sideris*.

11. Sponsorship of Symposia and Workshops

Referring on the IAG Bylaws *H. Drewes* explained that the previous EC decided that all meetings organized by an IAG component or by two IAG sub-components are automatically accepted as official IAG events. He moved to have this decision again. *Ch. Rizos* seconded and it was unanimously accepted. The organizers of such meetings are requested to announce the relevant event to the IAG Secretary General and to the COB and provide reports to be published in the IAG Website and Newsletter. Moreover the IAG logo should generally be used in all official presentations. Other meetings can be sponsored by IAG only in a scientific way. Due to the strict rules and the limited budget, financial support is not possible.

12. The Geodesist's Handbook 2012

The Geodesist's Handbook shall be published in early 2012 (see the previous Handbook in *J. of Geodesy* 82, pp 655-846, 2008 or online at <http://iag.dgfi.badw.de/index.php?id=298>) as. All texts are to be delivered to the IAG Office not later than September 15, 2011.

13. Next IAG EC meeting

The EC decided to hold next EC Meeting during the next AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco on Monday, Dec. 05, 2011. Another meeting will take place in 2012.

14. Any other business

M. Sideris informed on the new IUGG Commission on Climate and Environmental Change which was initiated in particular by the International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS) and other IUGG Associations. An IAG representative has to be nominated. It was discussed whether to delegate this topic to GGOS. On the other hand it was mentioned that this topic concerns the whole IAG and thus the whole IAG community should participate. *M. Sideris* will prepare a proposal.

15. Adjourn

Ch. Rizos thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the session at 12:40.

Respectfully submitted
H. Drewes, Secretary General
H. Hornik, Assistant Secretary