



International Association of Geodesy (IAG) Annual Report 2013

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

INTRODUCTION

Geodesy deals with the measurement and representation of the Earth's geometry, gravity and rotation including their temporal variations. The history of IAG can be traced back to 1862, when the European Arc Measurement (Mitteleuropäische Gradmessung) project was initiated. The mission of the IAG is the advancement of geodesy by furthering geodetic theory through research and teaching, collecting, analysing, modelling and interpreting observational data, stimulating technological development, and providing a consistent representation of the Earth's time-dependent figure, rotation, and gravity field.

The IAG is structured into four Commissions, the Inter-Commission Committee on Theory (ICCT), fifteen International Scientific Services, the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), and the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB). The Commissions are divided into Sub-commissions, Projects, Study Groups and Working Groups. The ICCT investigates geodetic science problems in close cooperation with the Commissions. The Services generate scientific products by means of Operations, Data and Analysis Centres. GGOS has as one of its roles the coordination of the work of the different IAG components, relating in particular to the maintenance of the global reference frame for measuring and consistently interpreting key global change processes, and to promote its use to the scientific community, policy makers and the public. The COB provides communication, public information and outreach links, in particular via the monthly Newsletter and the IAG Website.

The administration of the IAG is supervised by the Council and delegated to the Executive Committee, the Bureau and the Office. The membership of the Council consists of delegates appointed by the adhering bodies; the Bureau comprises the IAG President, Vice-President and Secretary General; and the Executive Committee consists of the Bureau and other members elected by the Council; the Office assists the Secretary General. The detailed programme of the IAG is published in the quadrennial Geodesist's Handbook, and reports are published in the bi-annual Travaux de l'AIG.

ADMINISTRATION

IAG Council

The IAG Council typically meets during the IUGG General Assembly. In the interim period it is informed by the Secretary General on current activities. In 2013 the Council met on the occasion of the celebration of IAG's 150th anniversary in Potsdam, Germany, 1-6 September 2013. The main discussion was related to the periodic (every eight years) review of the Statutes and Bylaws.

IAG Executive Committee (EC)

The IAG EC held two meetings in 2013, namely in Vienna, Austria, April 7, and in Potsdam, Germany, September 1, during the celebration of IAG's 150th anniversary. Most important topics were the reports of all IAG components (Commissions, ICCT, Services, GGOS, COB) and the preparation of the IAG Scientific Assembly, in Potsdam, Germany, 1-6 September 2013. Meeting summaries are published in the IAG Website (www.iag-aig.org).

IAG Bureau

The IAG Bureau held monthly teleconferences to facilitate day-to-day decisions. The IAG President, the Vice-President and the Secretary represented IAG in various scientific meetings (see below) and gave oral presentations, particularly with regard to the 150th anniversary.

IAG Office

The main activities of the IAG Office were the preparations for IAG's 150th anniversary and the 2013 Scientific Assembly. Travel grants were awarded to young scientists for participation in several symposia. The individual IAG membership was regularly updated. IAG Council and EC meetings were organised, including detailed minutes for the participants and meeting summaries for publication in the IAG homepage and IAG Newsletters.

ACTIVITIES

Commissions, Inter-Commission Committee, and Services

The four IAG Commissions, the Inter-Commission Committee on Theory (ICCT), and the fifteen Services maintain their individual Webpages (all accessible via the IAG Homepages). Several Services and sub-components (Sub-Commissions, Working and Study Groups) held their administrative meetings (Coordinating, Directing or Governing Board), and symposia and workshops (see below).

Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)

GGOS established its new structure according to the 2012 Terms of Reference, which includes the Consortium of representatives of the Commissions and Services, the Coordinating Board as the decision-making body, the Executive Committee, and the Science Panel. The outreach is done via the GGOS Portal, Webpages (www.ggos.org), brochures and books. GGOS represents the IAG in the Group on Earth Observation (GEO). Meetings of the GGOS Consortium and the Coordinating Board, respectively, took place on April 6, 2013 in Vienna.

Scientific Assemblies, Symposia and Meetings in 2013

- 21st European VLBI for Geodesy and Astrometry Working Meeting, Helsinki, Finland, March 6-8, 2013.
- 17th Int. Symposium on Earth Tides "Understand the Earth", Warsaw, Poland, April 15-19, 2013.
- International Symposium on "Mobile Mapping Technology", Tainan, Taiwan, April 30 - May 2, 2013.
- Seventh IVS Technical Operations Workshop, Westford, Massachusetts, USA, May 6-9, 2013.
- IERS Workshop on Local Ties and Co-locations, Paris, France, May 21-22, 2013.
- IAG Sub-Commission 1.3a "EUREF" Symposium 2013, Budapest, Hungary, May 29-31, 2013.
- International Symposium on "Reconciling Observations and Models of Elastic and Viscoelastic Deformation due to Ice Mass Change", Ilulissat, Greenland, May 30 – June 2, 2013.
- GNSS Precise Point Positioning Workshop: Reaching Full Potential, Ottawa, Canada, June 12-14, 2013.
- VIII Hotine-Marussi Symposium, Rome, Italy, June 17-21, 2013.
- Int. Conference on "Earth Observations and Societal Impacts", Tainan, Taiwan, June 23-25, 2013.
- International Symposium on Planetary Sciences (IAPS2013), Shanghai, China, July 1-4, 2013.
- IAG Scientific Assembly, Potsdam, Germany, September 1-6, 2013.
- 2nd Joint Int. Symposium on Deformation Monitoring, Nottingham, UK, September 9-11, 2013.
- IAG Third Symposium on "Terrestrial Gravimetry: Static and Mobile Measurements (TGSM-2013)", St Petersburg, Russian Federation, September 17-20, 2013.
- Scientific Developments from Highly Accurate Space-Time Reference Systems, Observatoire de Paris, Paris, France, September 16-18, 2013.
- ITU/BIPM Workshop on "The Future of the International Time Scale", Geneva, Switzerland, September 19-20, 2013.

- 2nd International VLBI Technology Workshop, Seogwipo, South Korea, October 10-12, 2013.
- IAG Subcommission 1.3b “SIRGAS” Symposium, Panama City, Panama, October 24-26, 2013.
- 18th International Workshop on Laser Ranging, Fujiyoshida, Japan, November 9-15, 2013.

Schools organised by the IAG

- EGU-IVS Training School for the Next Generation Geodetic and Astrometric VLBI, Helsinki, Finland, March 2-5, 2013.
- 11th Int. School of Geoid Service: Heights and Height Datum, Loja, Ecuador, October 7-10, 2013.
- School on Reference Systems, Crustal Deformation and Ionosphere Monitoring, Panama City, Panama, October 21-23, 2013.

Communication and Outreach Branch (COB)

The publication of the monthly Newsletters (online and in the Journal of Geodesy), and the maintenance of the IAG Homepage were the main activities of the COB. The IAG Newsletter is sent to the IAG members, to the Presidents and Secretaries General of the IUGG Associations, and to the members of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS).

Cooperation with other Organisations

Close cooperation of the IAG is maintained with several organisations outside IUGG. There were meetings with the Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS, together with IHO), Group on Earth Observation (GEO, with IAG as a participating organisation), International Standards Organisation (ISO, with IAG represented in TC211 Geographic Information / Geomatics), Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS), United Nations Offices for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA, with participation in Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, UN-SPIDER, and International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems, ICG).

Publications

The monthly issues of the Journal of Geodesy, the proceedings of the IAG Symposium on Reference Frames for Applications in Geosciences (IAG Symposia Series, Vol. 138), and the IAG Mid-Term Reports (Travaux de l’AIG, Vol. 38) were the main publications in 2013.

Awards, Anniversaries, Obituaries

24 travel awards were granted in 2013 to young scientists for participation in several symposia. The IAG Young Author Awards were granted for excellent publications in the Journal of Geodesy to Thomas Arzt (Germany) and Manuela Seitz (Germany).

Submitted by
Hermann Drewes, IAG Secretary General



Opening Session of the IAG Scientific Assembly on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of IAG



Impression from the IAG Scientific Assembly, Potsdam, Germany, 1-6 September 2013