

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

Place: Hotel Westin San Francisco, 50 Third Street, San Francisco, California 94103

Time: Monday, 05 December 2011, 09:00 – 18:00

Attendees (voting): Ch. Rizos (IAG President), H. Schuh (IAG Vice-President), H. Drewes (IAG Secretary General), T. van Dam (President Commission 1), U. Marti (President Commission 2), R. Gross (President Commission 3), D. Grejner-Brzezinska (President Commission 4), H. Kutterer (Chair of GGOS), R. Barzaghi, T. Herring, R. Neilan (Representatives of the Services), Sz. Rózsa (stand-in for J. Ádám, President of COB)

Attendees (non-voting): I.I. Mueller (Past President), H. Hornik (IAG Assistant Secretary)

Guests: P. Willis (Assistant Editor IAG Symposia Series), Ch. Förste (LOC IAG Scientific Assembly 2013)

Regrets: M. Sideris (Immediate IAG Past President), N. Sneeuw (ICCT President), J. Ádám (President of the COB), C. Brunini, R. Wonnacott (Members at Large)

Summary of Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

Ch. Rizos welcomed the members of the Executive Committee (12 out of 15 voting members, 2 non-voting members and 2 guests) and in particular noted the presence of IAG Past President I. I. Mueller. He mentioned the preparation of the Geodesist's Handbook as an important topic of the meeting. The agenda had been distributed previously by e-mail and was unanimously adopted.

2. Structure of Commissions

H. Drewes gave a short introduction to the general structure of Commissions. He cited the IAG Bylaws differentiating between long term and short term sub-components. Study and Working Groups are short term components, which may to be established only for one four-year period or less. The objectives must be defined accordingly. *D. Brzezinska* noted that this classification and the corresponding rules are quite useful and clear. However, it may be confusing for colleagues who are less involved in this matter. It might be helpful to reflect in the next revision of the Bylaws whether some simplifications could be made.

T. van Dam presented the new structure of Commission 1. The Sub-commissions are kept as in the previous period. SC 1.1 “Coordination of Space Techniques” was not yet completed. *H. Drewes* explained that IAG Commission 1 is identical with COSPAR Sub-commission B2 under the old name “Coordination of Space Techniques for Geodesy and Geodynamics”. Therefore SC 1.1 is particularly important. Joint Study Groups and Working Groups were proposed together with Commission 3 and ICCT or IERS, respectively. Working Groups were also proposed in SCs 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4.

U. Marti presented the structure and work plans of Commission 2. There are six Sub-commissions (one of them new), one Joint Project, nine Joint Study Groups (eight reporting to ICCT, one to Commission 3) and nine Joint Working Groups. *H. Schuh* moved to approve the new Sub-commission 2.6 "Gravity and Mass Displacements". It was unanimously accepted. *U. Marti* mentioned several meetings planned with Commission 2 participation in 2012 (AOGS in Singapore, Gravity, Geoid and Height Systems in Venice), 2013 (Terrestrial Gravimetry in St. Petersburg) and 2014 (3rd IGFS GA).

R. Gross described the structure of Commission 3 as well as its relations to other bodies in geosciences. He proposed five Sub-commissions and one Joint Study Group. All names of Sub-commissions were (some only slightly) changed in order to better reflect their actual objectives. Earth tides and rotation were separated; deformation was split into three SCs dealing with tectonic, crustal and cryospheric deformations, respectively. *H. Drewes* proposed to broaden the Steering Committee to members from other continents than Europe and North America. The new Sub-commissions were unanimously approved.

D. Grejner-Brzezinska presented the new structure of Commission 4 with six Sub-commissions and two Study Groups joint with ICCT. Two Sub-commissions are new; one was slightly changed in name. *U. Marti* proposed to specify the names of the Study Groups so that they are not too general. The new Sub-commissions were unanimously adopted.

Ch. Rizos thanked all presenters. All changes and updates should be transmitted to the IAG Office urgently to enable the completion of the new Geodesist's Handbook a.s.a.p. *H. Drewes* urged the EC members to submit their final contributions by the end of 2011, in order to send the manuscript to Springer for printing as a special volume of JoG. *Ch. Rizos* stated that WG's as well as SC's may be discontinued at any time in the case of significant inactivity.

3. Structure of Inter-Commission Committee on Theory

By proxy of *N. Sneeuw*, *Ch. Rizos* explained the structure of the ICCT with ten Joint Study Groups. *H. Schuh* recommended specifying the names of several Study Groups within the ICCT more precisely, and to refer to cooperation with external entities if relevant, e.g. IUGG and JBGIS. Some descriptions need to be completed.

4. Programs 2011-2015 of the Services

Tom Herring presented on some of the IAG Services: BIPM-Time Department, IERS, IVS, IBS, and PSMSL. He proposed to consider whether the IBS should be continued in view of the various search engines on the Internet. *H. Kutterer*, as new President of BKG which is running this Service added that the possibility of there being staff to continue this work was low and a continuation cannot be guaranteed. The EC postponed making a decision on the continuation of the IBS.

R. Barzaghi reported on the programs of the IAG Gravity Field Services IGFS, BGI, ICET, ICGEM, IDEMS, and IGeS. Among these services, the IGFS with its Technical Centre and Central Bureau is in practice functioning as an overall umbrella. On behalf of the Central Bureau, *R. Barzaghi* seek more homogeneous descriptions of all the Services as well as encouraging closer cooperation with relevant groups within GGOS. *H. Drewes* emphasised the urgent need for official IAG gravity reference systems (absolute gravity and gravity field).

The report for the Services related to positioning was presented by *R. Neilan*: IAS, IDS, IGS, ILRS. She mentioned that the descriptions are quite heterogeneous, and that some Services give a general description rather than a presentation of their actual work plans.

At the conclusion of the Service reports, *H. Schuh* presented his ideas for a review "IAG Services - Current Status and Perspectives". The 15 Services within the IAG show considerable inhomogeneities w.r.t. performance, quality of products, size, ToR, Directing/Governing Board, and visibility. A Retreat will be organised by the IAG Bureau.

5. Structure of GGOS

As the new Chairman of GGOS, *H. Kutterer* gave a presentation. He emphasised that GGOS currently is in transition from the old to the new structure, and that this task should be finished in the coming year. An important tool is to seek for efficient partnerships and to make GGOS more visible in the public. Concerning the structure of GGOS it was mentioned that the Coordinating Board replaces the former Steering Committee.

6. Report of Outreach Branch

This report was presented by *Sz. Rózsa* on behalf of *J. Ádám*. The installation of a data base in the IAG website for IAG Members is planned. *Sz. Rózsa* called on all colleagues to contribute to the "topic of the month" in the website. He then presented a series of proposals for the logo to the 150th anniversary of the IAG. *Ch. Rizos* emphasised the importance of this kind of event as an advertisement for the IAG and urged all colleagues to use the logo whenever possible. The official celebration will take place on the occasion of the 2013 IAG Scientific Assembly in Potsdam.

7. Representation of developing countries

As both EC Members at Large, who are responsible for promoting the interests of developing countries, were not able to participate in this meeting, *H. Drewes* made some comments on this topic. The basic idea is to embed also those countries into the IAG which cannot afford to participate in many IAG activities due to economical reasons. Therefore, the two Members at Large should take care of contacts and to engage these countries as far as possible in international activities. He added that several countries would be eager to join the IUGG as official members but have severe problems in paying the regular fee (lowest level 5000 USD per year).

8. Discussion on Geodetic Planetology

H. Drewes referred to the unsuccessful efforts eight years ago to establish an Inter-Commission Committee on Geodetic Planetology, and raised the question whether to re-activate this challenge in view of the proposal of a Joint Project on this topic in Commission 2. The EC decided to firstly establish the Inter-Commission Project 2.1 and to postpone the decision on an Inter-Commission Committee until the next IUGG General Assembly.

9. Relations with Other International, Scientific and Professional Bodies

Ch. Rizos mentioned the documentation of these relations in the Geodesist's Handbook as an important part of IAG's outreach activity. It was recommended to enlarge the contacts to other bodies being active in research or development in the fields of geosciences or geospatial information, such as FIG, ISPRS, ICA etc. by promoting common workshops and other activities. An opportunity for greater engagement is via 150th Anniversary of the IAG. *R. Neilan* mentioned the intensive connections with UN (e.g. UNOOSA, UNSPIDER) and ICSU (e.g. COSPAR, CODATA) in addition to FIG and geospatial information oriented bodies. Geospatial data management and reference frames were mentioned as important common topics.

10. Status of Travaux 2011 and Geodesist's Handbook 2012

H. Drewes showed the Internet file of the Travaux 2011. This report is the first one including all components of the IAG. The file can be downloaded from the IAG Website; paper or CD copies are available on request from the IAG Office. The next edition is planned for the 2013 IAG Scientific Assembly. The contributions of the individual IAG components can be considered as an evidence of their activity; and hence in the case of insufficient results the sub-components should be dissolved.

A draft of the Geodesist's Handbook 2012 was distributed to EC Members. Two Services which did not yet deliver reports will again be reminded to send their requested texts in order to speed up the completion of the Handbook.

11. Status of Melbourne Proceedings

P. Willis reported on the activities w. r. t. the Melbourne proceedings. It was stated that in general the time between a symposium and the publication of the proceedings is too long and should be shortened. In addition the scientific quality of many articles could be improved. *P. Willis* emphasised that it would be helpful to nominate a responsible editor in chief for the IAG Symposia Series. The editor(s) for single volumes can be nominated individually.

U. Marti informed that the data for the Proceedings of the IAG Scientific Assembly 2009 in Buenos Aires have been sent to Springer in last September. The electronic version is available on the web, the printed book will appear early in 2012.

12. Report of the Cassinis Committee

The principal tasks of the Committee are to review and eventually suggest updates to the IAG Statutes and Bylaws. *H. Schuh* said that four members shall be nominated in all; a relevant call has been formulated already at the recent IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne. *H. Drewes* shall contact all National Representatives. This task needs considerable experience as the changes will be reviewed by the IUGG and have to be approved by the IAG Council. A draft of proposed updates should be completed before the 2013 IAG Scientific Assembly.

13. IAG Scientific Assembly, Potsdam, 2013-09-01 to 2013-09-06

The representative of the Local Organizing Committee, *Ch. Förste*, presented the status of preparation of this event. The date is September 1 to 6, 2013, and the venue is Hotel Dorint Sanssouci Berlin/Potsdam. According to IAG Bylaw 27(b) the EC appointed Secretary General *H. Drewes* as the Assembly Secretary. The four Commission Presidents, the ICCT President, the GGOS Chairperson and the three Service representatives were nominated to form the Scientific Committee.

14. Asia Oceania Geosciences Society Meeting 2012

The deadline for submission of proposals for symposia at the AOGS 2012 meeting was the date of this EC meeting. *H. Schuh* reported that IAG has proposed 10 geodetic sessions, covering all relevant topics. In particular all IAG Commissions will be included. The event will take place in Singapore from August 13-17, 2012, and about 2000 participants are expected.

15. Report from IUGG and ICSU

H. Drewes presented the IUGG Website and invited the EC to browse this page frequently for information. IAG is represented quite well on this Website. Monthly information and Annual Reports have to be submitted to the IUGG. To keep the presentations updated, relevant data and information should continuously be made available to the IAG Secretary General in order to be collected and transmitted to the IUGG. The financial allocation of IUGG to IAG is re-calculated after each General Assembly, the amount depends proportionally on the number of registered participants of each of the eight IUGG Associations. IUGG offers normally every year an additional amount for specific activities (e.g., meetings, projects).

16. Any other business

H. Drewes reminded the EC that according to a decision at the first EC meeting 2011-2015 all meetings organised by an IAG component or by two sub-components are generally accepted as IAG meetings. Proceedings may be published in the IAG Symposia Series at Springer.

H. Schuh referred to an updated release of the IVS Terms of Reference..

H. Drewes explained the current status of the IAG membership, i.e. for adhering bodies from member countries as well as for individuals. The EC proposed to re-name the individual membership to "individual sponsorship". *I. Mueller* emphasised that the "fee" is mainly used to enable young colleagues with limited financial facilities to participate in scientific conferences with the support of IAG Travel Awards. The Cassinis Committee will be asked to re-formulate the IAG Bylaws and other relevant rules.

Ch. Rizos proposed to establish a Committee for helping plan 150th IAG anniversary events. It could be formed by the IAG Past Presidents. All EC members are asked to think in appropriate celebratory activities or events.

Ch. Rizos proposed to publish the list of IAG sponsored symposia in the Travaux.

17. Next IAG EC meeting

The EC decided to hold its next meeting on the occasion of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society Meeting 2012 in Singapore, August 13-17, 2012.

18. Adjourn

Ch. Rizos thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the session at 18:00.

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