

## Summary of the Third Meeting of the IAG Executive Committee 2007 – 2011

**Place:** Technische Universität Wien, Inst. für Geodäsie und Geophysik, Gusshausstr. 27-29, Vienna, Austria

**Time:** Saturday, 19 April 2008, 9:00 - 17:00

**Attendees (voting):** M. Sideris (IAG President), C. Rizos (IAG Vice-President), H. Drewes (IAG Secretary General), G. Beutler (Immediate Past President), Z. Altamimi (President Commission 1), Y. Fukuda (President Commission 2), R. Gross (Vice-President Commission 3), G. Retscher (Delegate Commission 4), M. Rothacher (Chair of GGOS), J. Ádám (President of the COB), S. Kenyon, H. Schuh (Representatives of the Services), K. Heki (Member at Large)

**Attendees (non-voting):** F. Sansò (IAG Past President), N. Sneeuw (President of ICC on Theory), H. Hornik (IAG Assistant Secretary), W. Bosch (Guest, Coordinator of IAS)

**Regrets:** M. Bevis (President Commission 3), S. Verhagen (President Commission 4), R. Neilan (Representative of Services), R. Wonnacott (Member at Large)

### Summary of Agenda Items

#### 1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

*M. Sideris* welcomed the members of the IAG Executive Committee (13 out of 15 voting members, 3 non-voting members) and one guest. The agenda had been distributed previously by e-mail and was adopted.

#### 2. Reports of the Commissions

*Z. Altamimi* presented the report of **Commission 1**. A website has been installed starting from the previous website, which was provided by the previous President *H. Drewes*. All persons involved in Commission 1 may update the webpage using Typo3 content management. A Steering Committee meeting with seven participants was held on April 16, 2008, during the EGU Assembly in Vienna. Commission 1 will continue as COSPAR Sub-commission B2.1 CSTG. A joint symposium of Sub-commission B2.1 and the Panel on Satellite Dynamics (PSD) will be held during the next COSPAR meeting in Montreal, July 12-20, 2008.

The report of **Commission 2** was given by *Y. Fukuda*. According to the recommendation of the last EC meeting, a Sub-commission 2.5 “Satellite Altimetry” (Chair: *Cheinway Hwang*) was established, Commission Project 2.2 North American Geoid was re-installed (Chair: *Dan Roman*), CP2.5 and CP2.7 on Gravity and Geoid in South America were combined into one CP, and Australia and New Zealand are included in CP 2.6 South Asian and Australian Geoid. Commission 2 cooperated intensively in the establishment of the IAS Steering Committee (see item 9).

**Commission 3** was represented by the Vice-President *R. Gross*, who gave the report. A new SC 3.4 Cryospheric Change and Earth Deformation (Chair: *Jim Davis*) was established with the objective to study the deformation of the cryosphere and effects of the cryosphere on solid Earth deformations. According to the recommendation of the previous IAG EC meeting, the Inter-Commission Project WEGENER was re-installed (Chair: *S. Zerbini*); and there is an Inter-commission Study Group on InSAR. A representation of IERS, ICET and/or GGFC will be looked after.

The report of **Commission 4** was given by *G. Retscher*, Chair of Sub-commission 4.2. The Commission is structured into five Sub-commissions with many internal Working Groups, two Commission Study Groups, two Inter-commission Study Groups, and one Inter-commission Working Group. The ongoing activities concentrate on the communication with the Sub-commissions on their objectives and outreach measures, and the activities and cooperation of the Working Groups. He mentioned many international symposia, conferences, sessions and workshops with activities of the Sub-commissions and Study Groups.

#### 3. Report of the Inter-Commission Committee on Theory

*Nico Sneeuw* presented the report of the ICCT. There are eight Inter-commission Study Groups, all of them jointly with at least one of the Commissions. The webpage was transferred from the former Vice-president A. Dermanis to the new Vice-President P. Novak. The Steering Committee plans to meet during the GGEO Symposium in Chania, June 2008, and the ICCT intends to organize Summer Schools as it was done in the past period. *Z. Altamimi* appreciated the close cooperation of the ICCT with the Commissions.

#### **4. Report of the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)**

The report on the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS) was given by *M. Rothacher*. A highlight was the GGOS Retreat together with the 13<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting in Bertinoro, Italy, March 2008. There were discussions of the GGOS2020 documents, the White Papers on new GGOS components, the GGOS Vision, Mission and Terms of Reference, and the preparation of a GGOS Stakeholder Conference. The GGOS2020 Reference Document, Version 0.18 was made available to the IAG EC members before the meeting. An input from the IAG EC is expected, and an external review has to follow. In parallel, the writing of the GGOS Strategy Document has to start. The new components of GGOS are a Coordinating Office and Portal, and three Bureaus on Networks and Communications, Standards and Conventions, and Satellite and Space Missions, which were described in corresponding White Papers. A Call for Participation will be prepared. The preliminary new statement of the Vision of GGOS is "Empowering with geodesy the advancement of society". The Mission was also re-defined, and the objectives shall be put together from the previous descriptions of the vision, mission and objectives. It was decided not to hold just one stakeholder conference, but to plan several small conferences in conjunction with larger interdisciplinary meetings, e.g., CEOS, GEO, or the IAG Scientific Assembly 2009. The GGOS Commission representatives are *Z. Altamimi, M. Craymer; M. Vermeer, U. Marti; M. Bevis, R. Gross; S. Verhagen* and *D. Brzezinska*. It followed a long discussion on the GGOS Documents, the writing of the GGOS Strategic Document, and the GGOS Stakeholder Conference.

#### **5. Reports of the Services**

*H. Schuh* presented the IVS and ILRS activities. A very successful IVS General Meeting was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, 3-6 March 2008. A highlight was the next VLBI generation VLBI2010. There is a continuous transition to eVLBI. In August 2008 there will be the next 15-days continuous observation session (CONT2008). The ILRS will hold the 16th International Laser Ranging Workshop in Poznan, Poland, October 13-17, 2008. The first circular has been issued. The problems with respect to the SLR scale in ITRF2005 are not yet completely solved.

*M. Rothacher* reported on the IERS. A Directing Board meeting was held on April 13, 2008. There will be a call for participation in all the components of the Global Geophysical Fluids Centres (GGFC). The Combination Research Centres (CRC) will be terminated end of 2008, and a call for participation in new entities – named Research Centres – will be issued and shall study general aspects of data processing including combination at the observation level.

*G. Beutler* stood in for *R. Neilan* giving the report on IGS. The IGS Analysis Coordinator changed to *J. Ray*. A change of the terrestrial coordinates has been made by adopting the new reference frame IGS05 based on ITRF2005 with absolute ground receiver phase centres. There will be a Workshop in Florida, 2-6 June 2008. The annual reports are delayed. *M. Sideris* requested that IGS uses the new IAG logo, and *J. Adam* repeated that the IGS report for the Travaux is still missing.

*S. Kenyon* presented the report for the gravity field services. There are five centres coordinated by the IGFS. In March 2008 there was a retreat of all these components in Bertinoro, Italy, in connection with the GGOS retreat. Nine participants covered the BGI, ICET, ICGEM, IGeS, and IGFS. It is planned to install a Central Bureau. The call shall be released in July 2008. A new gravity network will replace the IGSN71 as the reference. The edition of a world gravity map is a project of BGI. There are discussions among ICET and the Global Geodynamics Project (GGP) about a merging. The IDEMS created a webpage and is slowly developing. *F. Sanso* added that there will be a IGeS Geoid School in Como, Italy, in September 2008.

#### **6. Report of the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB)**

The report of the COB was given by *J. Adam*. He started with a summary of a meeting of the COB and the IAG Office on April 18, 2008. It was agreed to reduce the publication of the IAG Newsletter in the Journal of Geodesy to two or maximum three pages. The electronic version sent to all IAG members and put on the Office website will contain the extended version. The IAG homepage shall be revised and continuously updated. The IAG Flyer and Brochure were discussed. The new version of the leaflet was printed with 4000 copies and sent to the EC for comments. Corrections are being prepared for the webpage and the next printed issue. The Brochure is ready in a draft version and was distributed to the EC before the meeting. They shall be sent to big conferences and especially to neighbouring disciplines. It was proposed to compile a list of decision makers, sister associations, high schools, etc. where to send it. *M. Sideris* asked about the status of taking on the responsibility for the GGOS Outreach as successor of the GGOS Working Group on User Linkage and Outreach. *J. Adam* explained that the COB is prepared to take over this task. *Lorant Földvary* will be the responsible person dedicated to the GGOS outreach.

## **7. Report on developing countries**

*K. Heki* gave a brief report on developing countries. He mentioned activities in Asia, in particular in India and Japan. There will be some meetings in the Asia-Pacific region, namely the Annual General Meeting of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society in Busan, Korea, June 16-20; the Western Pacific AGU Meeting, Cairns, Australia, 29 July – 1 August 2008; the Asia-Pacific Space Geodynamics (APSG) Workshop, Novosibirsk, Russia, 22-26 September 2008.

## **8. Report of the Journal of Geodesy Editor in Chief**

*N. Sneeuw* gave the report standing in for the JoG Editor in Chief, *R. Klees*. There was a meeting of the JoG Editorial Board in April 2008. The members expressed their concerns about the long latency of publication. It would be very helpful if the IAG Newsletter could be reduced. The waiting period is now very long; there are 40 papers on the waiting list. There was a statement of *R. Klees*, that the impact factor is declined because of the non-scientific content of the newsletter. However, this could not be confirmed by Springer. *R. Gross* commented that there have been several special issues on different topics. *N. Sneeuw* explained that a new paper editorial system was introduced speeding up the waiting time. There was a general agreement that more papers should be published in future, the future Geodesist's Handbooks shall no longer be published in the JoG.

## **9. Status of the International Altimetry Service (IAS)**

*W. Bosch* was invited as a guest to report on the status of the Altimetry Service. An IAS Steering Committee was established with emphasis on the integration of all concerned groups (*Y. Fukuda, C. Hwang, O. Anderson, R. Gross, P. Woodworth, A. Braun, W. Bosch*). The first business meeting will be held during the GGEO2008 Symposium in Chania, Greece, June 2008. There is still a need to find an organization/institution to host the "Central Bureau" of the IAS. The general policy of the IAS is to identify deficiencies and needs of the IAG community for altimetry data and products and to build an open service for all bodies and individuals. A proposal was submitted in response to a COST Open Call of the European Community with the title "Coordinating operations and science to establish an International Altimeter Service as a core element of the Global Geodetic Observing System (COSIAS)".

## **10. Status of the IAG Bibliography Service (IBS)**

*H. Drewes* gave the report on behalf of the IBS Chair *A. Michlenz*; the written version was distributed before the meeting. He had several contacts with BKG in Frankfurt and Leipzig, in particular with *J. Ihde*. The IBS is used well internally and has a functioning homepage with an interactive literature search program (GEOPHOKA), where 57600 sources are collected and sorted after various criteria. BKG is prepared to continue the service and to update the software and the database. *J. Adam* was elected as the IAG representative to the IBS.

## **11. Scientific Meeting, Buenos Aires 2009**

*H. Drewes* presented the reports of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the IAG Scientific Meeting 2009 in Buenos Aires. Three reports were made available to the EC members including the proposal for a Logo and Website, Setup of the LOC, and Meeting Venues. The proposed Logo was accepted under the condition that the IAG Logo is integrated. The name of the Meeting shall be "Geodesy for Planet Earth" with reference to the International Year of Planet Earth. *H. Drewes* was elected as the Assembly Secretary. The following EC members were appointed for the Scientific Committee: *Z. Altamimi, Y. Fukuda, R. Gross, S. Verhagen, H. Schuh, R. Neilan, S. Kenyon, S. Bonvalot, M. Rothacher, N. Sneeuw, C. Pacino, S. Kenyon* is the chair. The first circular for the meeting shall be sent in June 2008 with the general announcement and the themes of the meeting. The second circular shall follow by September 15 and include the description of the sessions and preliminary accommodation and registration information. Monday morning should be the registration and Friday afternoon the closing of the meeting, i.e., there are eight half-day sessions. GGOS should have a prominent place with clear visibility, with a session preferably in the mid of the week.

## **12. Status of the Geodesist's Handbook 2007/2008**

*H. Drewes* reported on the status of the Geodesist's Handbook. *H. Hornik* circulated three copies of the preliminary printed version. The structure is in principle as in the last handbook; the sequence of chapters has changed from previous issues. All EC members should carefully read not only their own chapters but also the other – in particular

the general - parts. It is available on the IAG EC webpage. There will be no lists of geodetic publication series, national data centres, national educational establishments, and directory.

### **13. Representatives to Services and external bodies**

This topic was transferred from the second IAG EC meeting in December 2008 because of missing representatives. *H. Drewes* explained the action items and asked for the nominations as requested in December. *Z. Altamimi* reported on contacts to BIPM (*F. Arias*) and said that IUGG is represented in the Section Time, Frequency and Gravimetry by *C. Boucher*. It was agreed that he should be considered as the IAG representative. The representative in IDS is *M. Otten*. For ABLOS, there were two representatives nominated in addition to the continuing *C. Rizos* and *L. Sjöberg*. Unfortunately both of them (*D. Grant* and *P. Woodworth*) did not accept the nomination. *G. Blick* and *S. Bisnath* were proposed as new representatives. As representative to the IBS the EC elected *J. Adam* (see topic 10). ISO wants to install an International Registry of Geodetic Codes and Parameters. *L. Hothem* and alternatively *M. Craymer* were proposed as IAG representatives. *W. Bosch* was elected as the representative in the IAS. In ICSU, there are representatives in the Ad hoc Strategic Committee on Information and Data (SCID), which was installed to review the structure of the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services (FAGS) and the World Data Centres (WDC). For FAGS this is *Ruth Neilan*. She was also considered as the representative of IAG.

### **14. Rules for IAG Scientific Meetings and IAG Travel Award**

The rules for scientific meetings, which define what an IAG meeting is, are very old (released 1988) and were now updated by the IAG Bureau. There was no essential change made, just a strengthening and modernization. The rules are available on the IAG EC website. A reduced registration fee for individual IAG members will be included. The IAG travel awards are limited to 800 USD (400 USD for symposia in the home country of an applicant) for scientists presenting a paper at a meeting. The maximum is ten awards per year. There were no requests to change that.

### **15. Adoption of IAG Meetings**

The SIRGAS General Meeting, Montevideo, Uruguay, 26-29 May 2008; EUREF Symposium, Brussels, Belgium, 18-21 June 2008; 37<sup>th</sup> COSPAR General Assembly, Montreal, Canada, 13-20 July 2008; 14<sup>th</sup> WEGENER General Assembly, Darmstadt, Germany, 15-18 September 2008 were adopted as IAG sponsored meetings. The Symposium on Gravity, Geoid and Earth Observation, Chania, Greece, 23-27 June 2008, had already been adopted in December 2007.

### **16. Next IAG EC Meeting**

There was a general agreement to have the next EC meeting at the AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco as a joint meeting together with the GGOS Steering Committee. The date was agreed December 14, 2008.

### **17. Any other Business**

*M. Sideris* informed about a colloquium to the honour of *Helmut Moritz* to be organized by the Leibniz Sozietat in Berlin, Germany, 14 November 2008. *H. Drewes* will participate. *M. Sideris* mentioned that two IAG Secretaries General were honoured with decorations: *C. Tscherning* received the Vening Meinesz Medal of EGU, and *H. Drewes* was granted the Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. Both were warmly congratulated. *M. Sideris* presented the status of the Proceedings of the IAG General Assembly, Perugia 2007. A total of nearly 100 papers were accepted, many papers were rejected. A few papers are still missing in the final version, but the complete set should be sent by the end of the month to Springer.

### **18. Adjourn**

*M. Sideris* thanked the participants for coming and for their contributions and closed the session at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Hermann Drewes, Secretary General