

## **Summary of the Fourth Meeting of the IAG Executive Committee 2007 – 2011**

**Place:** Olympic Room, Westin Hotel, 50 Third Street, San Francisco, California 94103, USA

**Time:** Sunday, 14 December, 2008, 15:30 – 16:45

**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), M. Bevis (President Commission 3), S. Verhagen (President Commission 4), M. Rothacher (Chair of GGOS), S. Kenyon, R. Neilan, H. Schuh (Representatives of the Services), K. Heki, R. Wonnacott (Members at Large)

**Guest:** H.-P. Plag (Vice-chair of GGOS)

**Regrets:** J. Ádám (President of the COB), N. Sneeuw (President ICC on Theory)

### **Summary of Agenda Items**

#### **1. Welcome and adoption of agenda**

The meeting followed a joint session of the GGOS Steering Committee with the IAG Executive Committee. *M. Sideris* welcomed the members of the IAG EC (14 out of 15 voting members) and one guest. He thanked the GGOS SC for facilitating the joint meeting with the IAG EC and *H.-P. Plag* for the organization of the GGOS meeting. The agenda was unanimously adopted.

#### **2. Brief review of the joint IAG EC - GGOS SC meeting**

The joint meeting of the GGOS SC with the IAG EC had taken place in the morning of the same day (14 December 2008) in the same room. Since all the EC members were present in the morning meeting, there were no comments and no requests to discuss the topic further. The minutes of the joint meeting will be prepared by the GGOS Executive Committee.

#### **3. Approval of the new GGOS Terms of Reference**

The GGOS Terms of Reference (ToR) were an agenda item of the joint meeting in the morning. There were various corrections and comments by several EC members. *M. Sideris* pointed out that changing the ToR requires the approval by two third of the GGOS Steering Committee members, and they become effective after the adoption of the IAG Executive Committee. They were unanimously accepted.

#### **4. Status and planning of the IAG Scientific Meeting, Buenos Aires 2009**

*H. Drewes* reported, as the Assembly secretary, on the status of the preparation of the IAG Scientific Meeting 2009. He mainly referred to the second circular, which is available at the meeting's homepage (<http://www.iag2009.com.ar/>) and will not be mailed out. The homepage was in general assessed as good. Comments of the geodetic community concentrate on the high price for the hotel reservation offered by the organizers. The chair of the Scientific Committee, *S. Kenyon*, pointed to the scientific programme and the deadline for abstracts (31 January 2009).

#### **5. IAG Mid-Term Reports (Travaux de l'AIG) due before the Scientific Meeting**

*H. Drewes* explained the procedure of the Mid-Term Reports, traditionally known as the "Travaux de l'AIG". They shall describe the progress of the work of IAG components and sub-

components, and will be discussed at the EC meeting during the Scientific Assembly as the basis for decisions to continue or to terminate Projects, Study and Working Groups. A template will be sent to the Presidents and Chairs of components and sub-components by the Secretary General. The deadline is 30 June 2009. There was a general consensus to have printed copies on request. They will be prepared by the IAG Office.

## **6. Young Author's Awards 2007 and 2008**

The Young Author's Award is granted to scientists of 35 years of age or younger according to the IAG rules ([http://iag.dgfi.badw.de/fileadmin/IAG-docs/IAG\\_Young\\_Author\\_Award.pdf](http://iag.dgfi.badw.de/fileadmin/IAG-docs/IAG_Young_Author_Award.pdf)) for excellent publications in the Journal of Geodesy (JoG). The award consists of a certificate and prize money of US \$1000. Presentations of the awards are made at each IAG General Assembly and each Scientific Assembly. Up to two awards can be presented on each occasion for the two-year period corresponding to the annual volumes. The Secretary General will forward the proposal of the JoG Editor in Chief to the EC for selection of the award by e-mail.

(*Remark:* A list of three candidates for the award was sent to the SG in January 2009). *M. Sideris* mentioned a proposal to make the award paper available for free download by Springer. The SG will investigate if this is possible.

## **7. IAG representatives to IUGG Commissions**

There were two IAG representatives to external bodies to be nominated. *N. Sneeuw* sent a mail to the SG with the proposal to elect Dr. *Shin-Chan Han* as the representative to the IUGG Committee on Mathematical Geophysics. It was unanimously adopted. Other overdue nominations were for the "Ad hoc Committee on Risk and Disaster Management" of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JB GIS) and the IUGG Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (GEORISK). There was a general consensus that the two representations should be taken by one person. The decision had been delegated to GGOS. There were two candidates. The decision shall be made by e-mail vote. *Z. Altamimi* informed the EC that the IAG representative to the International DORIS Service (IDS), *M. Otten*, is a full member of the IDS Governing Board.

## **8. Adoption of IAG Symposia**

There were two applications for adoption of conferences as IAG Symposia: The IVS General Meeting 2010 proposed by *H. Schuh* was unanimously accepted without vote, because IVS is an IAG component. For the Hotine-Marussi Symposium proposed by *F. Sansò*, more information was requested although there should be no problem with its approval as it is being organized by the ICCT. *S. Kenyon* informed the EC about the planned 2<sup>nd</sup> IGFS meeting in 2010 in Alaska.

## **9. Any other business**

*M. Sideris* reported on a proposal by *L. Vitushkin* for a terrestrial gravimetry meeting in 2010 in St. Petersburg, possibly accompanied by a Geoid School.

*H. Schuh* informed the EC about the resolution of the Earth Tides Symposium, Jena 2008, to rename the Sub-commission 3.1 "Earth Rotation and Earth Tides" only "Earth Tides" without "Earth Rotation". It was stated that, according to the IAG Bylaws, the official name can only be changed by the IAG Executive Committee upon application.

*H. Drewes* informed the EC that the Geodesist's Handbook has appeared in a printed version as the Journal of Geodesy Vol. 82, No. 11, in November 2008, and online at the Springer-link <http://www.springerlink.com/content/g871027876718412/fulltext.pdf>. An updated version will be maintained at the IAG Office homepage (<http://iag.dgfi.badw.de/>).

*J. Adam* had submitted a written report on the activities of the COB, in particular the IAG Newsletters, the update of the IAG Website, the large IAG Brochure to be ready soon, and the work finalizing The Geodesist's Handbook 2008.

*M. Sideris* mentioned some complaints of IAG members who have not received confirmation of their payments in due time. He asked the IAG Office to speed up the answers. *H. Drewes* explained that there is a long time delay (up to months) in receiving clearance by Credit Card Agencies, which has to be done before a confirmation can be sent to the payer.

*H. Drewes* reminded the EC that there are travel awards available for young scientists presenting papers at IAG scientific meetings. For the Scientific Assembly 2009 there is an additional IUGG grant of US \$2000. The Scientific Committee will be approached for decisions on the grants.

*H. Schuh* brought forward the low impact factor of the Springer IAG Symposia series, i.e., the index of citations to science journals. It is even not listed in the SCI-Index. He proposed to discuss with Springer how to get it into the list.

*S. Kenyon* informed the EC about the status of the establishment of an IGFS Central Bureau. There will be a Call for Participation in January 2009. *M. Sideris* proposed to have a status report by the IGFS Chair on the agenda of the next EC meeting.

*C. Rizos* reminded the EC about the writing of the GGOS strategy document. The authors are *M. Sideris*, *M. Rothacher* and *C. Rizos*. It will be revised by the IAG past presidents, *G. Beutler* will organize the review (see minutes of the 3rd EC meeting, topic 4).

## **10. Next IAG EC meeting**

The next IAG EC meeting shall be held the day before the inauguration of the IAG Scientific Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Sunday, 30 August 2009.

## **11. Adjourn**

*M. Sideris* thanked the participants for coming and for their contributions and closed the session at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Hermann Drewes, Secretary General