

Summary of the First Meeting of the IAG EC 2015-2019

Place: Prague Congress Centre, Floor 2, Room 241

Time: Thursday, July 2, 2015, 08:30-12:00

Attendees (voting): H. Schuh (IAG President), Z. Altamimi (Vice President), H. Drewes (Secretary General), Ch. Rizos (Immediate Past President), M. Santos (President of Commission 4), P. Novák (President of ICC on Theory), R. Barzaghi, A. Nothnagel, (Representatives of the Services), L. Combrinck (Member at Large)

Guest: J. Böhm (later representing Commission 1 as the elected Vice President)

Regrets: G. Blewitt (President of Commission 1), R. Pail (President of Commission 2), M. Hashimoto (President of Commission 3), H. Kutterer (Chair of GGOS), J. Ádám (President of the COB), R. Neilan (Representatives of the Services), M. C. Pacino (Member at Large)

Summary of Agenda Items

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

H. Schuh, as the new President of the IAG, welcomed the members of the IAG Executive Committee (9 out of 16 voting members, 1 guest) for the first session within the new term 2015-2019. The meeting took place on the occasion of the XXVI IUGG General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic. The agenda had been distributed previously by e-mail and was unanimously adopted.

2. Introduction to the IAG Executive Committee

H. Schuh presented the new EC members according to the elections carried out by e-mail voting before the IUGG General Assembly and gave a short summary of the coincident IAG General Assembly. He explained the procedure of the EC meetings and pointed out that they are strictly following Roberts Rules (see e.g. at http://iag.dgfi.tum.de/fileadmin/IAG-docs/Robert_s_Rules.pdf). Each decision has to be initiated by a motion seconded by at least one EC member. He further encouraged the EC members to read carefully the IAG Statutes and in particular the IAG Bylaws, where all regulations are written in detail. They were updated by the IAG Council at the preceding IUGG/IAG General Assembly (see Statutes at http://iag.dgfi.tum.de/fileadmin/IAG-docs/IAG_Statutes_2015_final.pdf and Bylaws at http://iag.dgfi.tum.de/fileadmin/IAG-docs/IAG_Bylaws_2015_final.pdf). As a major task of the present EC he mentioned a throughout strategic planning. At the first meetings the new IAG structure has to be set up. This includes in particular the structures of the Commissions, the Inter-Commission Committee on Theory (ICCT), and the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS) which have to be adopted by the EC. The first step in the present session is the appointment of the Vice Presidents of these components. *H. Schuh* then explained the general structure of the IAG Executive Committee consisting of the Bureau (President, Vice President and Secretary General), the immediate Past President, the Presidents of the Commissions, the Inter-Commission Committee on Theory (ICCT) and the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB), the Chair of the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), three representatives of the Services, and two Members at Large. He presented *Franz Kuglitsch*, who could not attend the meeting, as the new Assistant Secretary General.

H. Drewes explained the creation or continuation of Commission sub-components (Study Groups (SG), Working Groups (WG) and Projects). Sub-commissions are for a long period

and should only be changed for extraordinary reasons. Projects may be continued for two four-year periods, while SGs and WGs are strictly limited to one period only. The work plans have to be prepared accordingly, i.e., they have to be structured in a way that the work can be done within this terms. SGs are basically orientated to more theoretical studies and should be established together with the ICCT; 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. The persons directing such a sub-component are entitled as "chairpersons" whereas the title "president" is restricted to the IAG Commissions. *H. Drewes* also referred to the IAG Homepage <<http://www.iag-aig.org/>> and to the website of the IAG Office <<http://iag.dgfi.tum.de/>>. All colleagues are urgently asked to check these pages continuously in order to look for relevant information and for possible improvements. He emphasised that the IAG Homepage is one of the main tools of advertisement to the public and therefore has to be maintained in the best possible way. The COB and the IAG Office cannot arrange all this work alone but depend on the permanent input of information by all IAG members and bodies. The IAG Office Homepage is for the internal contact within the IAG structure, in particular the EC, e.g. for all documents. There is a password-protected area; the password was given to the EC members. The preparation of the Geodesist's Handbook is an example (cf. agenda topic 13) for non-public document exchange. The next edition shall be issued in the JoG early in 2016; the continuous compilation will be done via the IAG Office Homepage. This is similar with the IAG Reports (Travaux) published every two years.

3. Structure of the Commissions

As not all of the newly elected Commission Presidents (*G. Blewitt*, *R. Pail*, *M. Hashimoto* and *M. Santos*) could attend the meeting, they had been asked before to nominate the Vice Presidents. The proposals were discussed, and the following Vice Presidents were appointed by the EC after motions seconded by at least one EC member:

- Commission 1: *Johannes Böhm* (Austria)
- Commission 2: *Shuanggen Jin* (China)
- Commission 3: *Cheng-Li Huang* (China)
- Commission 4: *Allison Kealy* (Australia)

After his appointment *J. Böhm* participated in the EC meeting by proxy of the Commission 1 President *G. Blewitt*.

The re-appointment of *A. Kealy* was justified by the necessity of geographical balance (Australia would not be represented in the Commissions' leaderships), different fields in the Commission's research, and links to other societies (in particular FIG).

The President of Commission 3, *M. Hashimoto*, had sent by e-mail, and the President of Commission 4, *M. Santos*, presented by viewgraphs the drafts of their Commissions' structure which were briefly discussed.

4. Inter-Commission Committee on Theory (ICCT)

According to the IAG Bylaws valid until the General Assembly 2015, *Pavel Novák* had been appointed as the ICCT President by the previous Executive Committee during its session in Prague on June 23, 2015 (in future the ICCT President will be elected like the Commission

Presidents by the IAG Council). He proposed *Th. Hobiger* as the Vice President. As no acceptance of the candidature was available, the appointment was postponed.

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

H. Kutterer had been re-appointed as the Chairman of GGOS during the sessions of the previous Executive Committee on June 26, 2015. As he could not attend the present EC meeting, *H. Drewes* presented his brief report showing the new GGOS structure. The GGOS Consortium, i.e. the steering and election committee, is composed of each two representatives from the IAG components (Services, Commissions, ICCT). It elects its members in the GGOS Coordinating Board, which is the GGOS executive committee and management board and includes also the GGOS officers. It directs the GGOS Coordinating Office, the GGOS Bureau of Networks and Observations and the GGOS Bureau of Products and Standards and receives their reports. The GGOS research is concentrated in the three Focus Areas “Unified Height Systems”, “Geohazards Monitoring”, and “Sea Level Change, Variability and Forecasting”.

6. Status of the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB)

The COB President *J. Adam* could not attend the present meeting. *H. Drewes* presented his viewgraphs explaining the IAG Website with a statistics of visitors (ca. 2000 per month in average) and the IAG Newsletter. He urgently asked the EC members to provide any useful information in order to keep the Website and Newsletter permanently up to date.

7. Representation of Services

The IAG Services are represented in the EC by three elected persons. They are splitting the reports among themselves. *R. Barzaghi* will concentrate on the gravity related services, and *R. Neilan* and *A. Nothnagel* will cover the services oriented to geometry and combined products.

8. Representation of Developing Countries

The two Members at Large, *L. Combrinck* and *M. C. Pacino* were asked to look after all the developing countries and distribute the reporting on the basis of the individual continents among themselves. They should give reports at each EC meeting.

9. Representatives to IAG Service and to external bodies

H. Drewes presented the list of IAG representatives to the Services and external bodies (IUGG Commissions, IAG-related IUGG liaisons to international organisations, and other societies). The following representatives to the IAG Services were nominated by motions seconded by at least one EC member and then appointed: BGI: *U. Marti*, BIPM: *R. Biancale*, IDS: *M. Otten*, IERS: *A. Nothnagel*, IGETS: *S. Pagiatakis*, IGS: *C. Rizos* and *Z. Altamini*, IGFS: *U. Marti*, ILRS: *G. Blewitt*, IVS: *L. Combrinck*, PSMSL: *P. Knudsen*.

Missing representatives to the ICGEM, IDEMS and ISG will be nominated later (see http://iag.dgfi.tum.de/fileadmin/IAG-docs/IAG_Representatives_2015.pdf).

10. Approval of the new Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Geodesy and of the IAG Symposia Series

According to the IAG Bylaws the previous Editorial Board of the Journal of Geodesy had nominated in several meetings during the past IUGG General Assembly the new Board which

elected *J. Kusche* as the new Editor-in-Chief. This election was approved by the previous IAG Executive Committee.

J. Freymueller was proposed as Editor-in-Chief of the IAG Symposia Series and *L. Sánchez* as the Assistant Editor-in-Chief. There was a seconded move to accept these nominations, and the proposed Editors were unanimously appointed.

11. Establishment of an IAG (Electronic) Proceedings Series

There was a complaint of IAG associates that it is very difficult to publish symposia presentations in the peer-reviewed IAG Symposia Series, in particular for scientists from developing countries. It was proposed and supported by IAG EC members to establish a lower quality series of IAG proceedings, eventually only as electronic publications in the Internet. In the discussion there were concerns of conflicts with the existing Symposia Series, and the topic was postponed to later EC meetings.

12. Sponsorship of Symposia and Workshops

H. Drewes explained that the previous EC decided that all meetings organised by an IAG component or by two IAG sub-components are automatically accepted as official IAG events. The adoption as requested by the IAG Bylaws is then implicitly given. He moved to have this decision again. *H. Schuh* 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.

13. The Geodesist's Handbook 2016

The Geodesist's Handbook shall be published in early 2016 (see the previous Handbook in *J. of Geodesy*, **86**: 787-974, 2012 or online at <http://iag.dgfi.tum.de/index.php?id=315>) as. All draft texts should be sent to the IAG Office before the next EC meeting and discussed there.

14. IAG Services Assessment (ISA) status report

The previous Executive Committee had started an IAG Services Assessment (ISA) directed by an ISA Team composed by *Ch. Rizos*, *H. Schuh*, *H. Drewes*. It was proposed to leave the existing ISA Team in office and ask them for continuous reports to the new EC. It was unanimously accepted.

15. Any other business

The EC decided to hold its next meeting during the next AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015. Another meeting will take place in 2016.

16. Adjourn

H. Schuh thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the session at 12:25.

Respectfully submitted
H. Drewes, IAG Secretary General