

## Summary of the Fifth Meeting of the IAG EC 2011-2015

Place: GeoForschungsZentrum Telegrafenberg A17, Historic Library, Potsdam, Germany

Time: Sunday, 01 September 2013, 09:00 – 17:00

**Attendees (voting):** Ch. Rizos (IAG President), H. Schuh (IAG Vice-President), H. Drewes (IAG Secretary General), M. Sideris (Immediate IAG Past President), T. van Dam (President Commission 1), U. Marti (President Commission 2), R. Gross (President Commission 3), D. Grejner-Brzezinska (President Commission 4), J. Adam (President of the COB), H. Kutterer (Chair of GGOS), R. Barzaghi, R. Neilan (Representatives of the Services), C. Brunini, R. Wonnacott (Members at Large)

**Attendees (non-voting):** N. Sneeuw (ICCT President), I. Mueller (IAG Past President), C. Boucher (IAG Past Secretary General), H. Hornik (IAG Assistant Secretary)

**Guests:** G. Johnston (Vice-President Commission 1), A. Kealy (Vice-President Commission 4), P. Novak (ICCT Vice President), P. Willis (IAG Symposia Series Assistant Editor), St. Fisher (IGS CB Manager)

**Regrets:** T. Herring (Representative of the Service)

### Summary of Agenda Items:

#### 1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

*Ch. Rizos* welcomed the members of the IAG Executive Committee (14 out of 15 voting members, 4 non-voting members and 5 guests). The meeting took place on the occasion of the IAG Scientific Assembly, Potsdam, 02-06 September 2013, with the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IAG. *H. Schuh* welcomed the EC on behalf of the host, the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ), in the historic library in the “Helmert Building” at the Telegrafenberg, the domicile of the IAG Central Bureau from 1892 to 1921. The agenda had been distributed previously by e-mail and was unanimously adopted.

#### 2. Information on the IAG Scientific Assembly, Potsdam 2013

*H. Schuh* reported that a professional company, FU-confirm, Leipzig, had been engaged for the organisation of this Assembly. Moreover staff members of the GFZ and various student helpers were engaged. With 530 registered participants this Assembly has got the maximum number of all IAG Scientific Meetings up to now. Delegates from 50 countries attend this event. (Rem.: The final data are 533 participants from 47 countries). Concerning the finances *H. Schuh* said that the sponsorships from 15 sponsors could be collected. More than 500 contributions (300 oral, 200 posters) have been accepted for presentation. Three parallel sessions had to be scheduled to accommodate all oral presentations. Exceptions are the Opening, Closing and History Sessions without parallel events. *H. Schuh* outlined then the programmes of the opening, history and closing sessions.

#### 3. Proceedings of the IAG Scientific Assembly in the Springer-Series

*P. Willis* gave an overview on the planned proceedings to be issued traditionally as a volume in the Springer series. Altogether 150 ... 200 manuscripts are expected to be submitted until the deadline 15 October 2013. On the question of *C. Boucher*, whether the registration fee includes a volume of the proceedings, *H. Drewes* answered that this option has been abandoned for several reasons. Many participants do not want to get the proceedings and feel forced to pay for an unrequested product; furthermore it has to be paid two to three years

before the delivery. The price of the volumes depends on the number of pages which is difficult to predict. The delivery causes problems because many addresses have changed some years after the conference. Concluding this topic, *P. Willis* presented an overview of the Proceedings series under preparation or just becoming ready for publication. He emphasised that all relevant information is published in the IAG Website / Newsletter and all authors should be urged to study the news regularly.

#### **4. IAG mid-term reports (Travaux de l'AIG)**

Introducing this topic, *H. Drewes* emphasised the need to review the progress in the work of all IAG components. The first issue of the Travaux was published in 1923 and from then after each General Assembly. Since 2001 the mid-term reports are issued as a certain verification that the groups are active. In case that a group is not sufficiently active, the EC may urge the group for more efforts or decide to dissolve a group. The Travaux for the period 2011 – 2013 are published as usual in the Office Website (<<http://iag.dgfi.badw.de>>) with a link from the IAG Homepage <[http://www.iag-aig.org/index.php?tpl=text&id\\_c=18&id\\_t=526](http://www.iag-aig.org/index.php?tpl=text&id_c=18&id_t=526)>.

##### **Commission 1 “Reference Frames“**

*T. van Dam* presented a series of slides showing the activities of Commission 1. She announced the organisation of a Workshop "Reference Frames for Applications in Geosciences (REFAG2014)" in October 2014 in Luxembourg. The EC recommended renaming the Workshop a Symposium. In the discussion it was stated that the report of Sub-Commission 1.2 “Global Reference Frames” should be updated. *H. Drewes* mentioned that the Chairman of SC 1.3f “Antarctica”, *R. Dietrich* has retired recently and has asked to replace him by *M. Scheinert* who is working in this field since a long time. *U. Marti* moved to entrust *M. Scheinert* with the chair of SC 2.4f for the next two years. *H. Drewes* seconded this proposal, the EC accepted unanimously.

##### **Commission 2 “Gravity Field“**

The report of Commission 2 was presented by *U. Marti*, the details of the slides are listed in the Travaux as well. He pointed out that *I. Panet*, Chair of JWG 2.5 “Physics and dynamics of the Earth's interior from gravimetry” said that she had no time to work on this topic, and she could not deliver a mid-term report. Therefore *U. Marti* proposed to close this JWG.

##### **Commission 3 “Earth Rotation and Geodynamics”**

With his slides *R. Gross* explained the main topics and activities of Commission 3 (cf. also in the Travaux. Concerning the numerous symposia and other meetings organised by the various sub-components, *J. Adam* urgently asked all colleagues to send the relevant information to the COB for the Webpage and the Newsletter. For the "International Symposium on Geodesy for Earthquake and Natural Hazards (GENAH 2014)”, Matsushima, Miyagi, Japan, 22-25 July 2014 organised by Commission 3, *H. Schuh* proposed to contact *P. Willis* for publishing the proceedings in the IAG Symposia Series.

##### **Commission 4 “Positioning and Applications”**

By a series of slides *D. Brzezinska* explained the main objectives, structure and recent activities of Commission 4. She reported that WG 4.1.2 “Interference and jamming” and WG 4.1.4 “Imaging techniques” were not active and should be dissolved. The EC agreed to this proposal. Reports of other WGs were also regarded as poor and should be updated. *U. Marti* emphasised that some groups are linked to many other groups and thus appear to be quite busy, however, in reality there are minor activities. Although it is rather time consuming, such cases should be investigated carefully to determine the real level of activity.

### **Inter-Commission Committee on Theory (ICCT)**

*N. Sneeuw* based his report on the publication in the Travaux where the activities of the ICCT are listed in detail. *H. Drewes* noted that the report of SG 0.9 is missing. *N. Sneeuw* looked then back to the discussion at last EC Meeting, Vienna, April 2013, to reflect whether to convert the ICCT into a permanent component of the IAG and to change the President to a voting EC member. *H. Drewes* mentioned that the EC may formulate corresponding recommendations, final decisions, however, have to be made by the IAG Council at the IUGG General Assembly. *H. Schuh* agreed, however, such a process has to be prepared carefully in the meantime. The EC discussed this intensively and concluded that the ICCT should be recommended to become a permanent component of the IAG. It was emphasised that this does not affect the Bylaws for all the Inter-Commission Committees.

### **Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)**

*H. Kutterer* announced that the detailed report on the activities of GGOS 2011-2013 can be found in the Travaux and that he will give a general report on the status of GGOS in the next agenda topic. In the last period GGOS has continued completing the definition of its structure and planning of specific GGOS projects in anticipation of the GEOSS action plan. He further noted that the GGOS WGs in general are active, their work, however, is not always in full accordance with the goals of GGOS. The discussion on this topic was postponed to Topic 5.

### **Gravity-related Services**

*R. Barzaghi* gave a summary report on the activities of BGI, IGFS, IGeS, ICGEM, ICET, and IDEMS. As already mentioned at the last EC meeting in April, IDEMS did not react in response to any call or email. The EC discussed whether it might be appropriate to dissolve this Service or to retain it and to look for a new chairperson. *M. Sideris* proposed to try at least to save the results which have been achieved in the past. The EC decided to formulate a general call for participation and for the chairperson in order to continue the IDEMS.

### **Other Services**

By proxy of *T. Herring*, *R. Barzaghi* gave a report on the BIPM, IERS, IVS, IBS and PSMSL. *H. Drewes* emphasised that some of these Services are run not only by the IAG but with other Associations / Unions. Therefore the IAG has less influence on enforcing critical changes. There was a general agreement that the IAG should concentrate on keeping the activities successful (as far as the geodetic aspects are concerned) by enforcing the co-operation with the other concerned entities.

### **Geometry related Services**

*R. Neilan* reported briefly on the IAS, IDS, IGS and ILRS. She then encouraged all the IAG Services to apply for membership in ICSU's World Data System (WDS) which is replacing the former Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services (FAGS) where most of the IAG Services were included. Now the applications have to be submitted by the corresponding Unions. One suggestion is to have a common application to ICSU via IUGG.

## **5. Report from GGOS**

*H. Kutterer* gave an extensive report on the present status of GGOS starting with a summary of all meetings, telecons and retreats, and the strategic and operational planning (goals, objectives, actions). He referred to the GGOS2020 Strategic Plan, where GGOS is projected as a "system of systems". He highlighted the three phases 0 (Mission Analysis), A (Feasibility) and B (Preliminary Definition). The timeline is to finish phase A in 2014 and

phase B in 2016. Then the implementation phases C and D shall be concluded by 2020. A Working Group on Performance Simulations and Architectural Trade-Offs (PLATO) shall be set up through a Call for Participation of the GGOS Science Panel by February 6<sup>th</sup>. An enormous amount of manpower will be needed to fulfil the tasks of GGOS, therefore this work cannot be done by a few institutions. The work load has to be distributed adequately to all relevant groups and GGOS shall mainly be concerned with organisational tasks. For this purpose the Themes, Bureaus and Working Groups should be revised.

## **6. Report from the 3rd UN GGIM meeting in Cambridge, 24-26 July 2013**

*H. Kutterer* presented a report on the UN GGIM meeting in Cambridge, 24-26 July 2013. The Global Geospatial Information Management Initiative of the United Nations (UN GGIM) started in 2011 and aims at playing a leading role in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges. One session topic of the meeting ([http://ggim.un.org/ggim\\_committee.html](http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html)) was the Global Geodetic Reference Frame. JBGIS with its societies FIG, IAG, ICA, ISPRS and others, are participants in this important international initiative. Considering the importance of this topic *H. Schuh* proposed to put this item on the agenda of the next EC Meeting, but to reserve a sufficient time span (e.g. up to 2 hours) for discussion.

## **7. Report of the COB**

*J. Adam* reported on the COB activities. Together with the IAG Office the COB has been engaged in the planning for this Scientific Assembly. Various promotional items and information material have been prepared. A short meeting of the COB and the Office was held shortly before the Assembly in Melk, Austria. The IAG Website has been updated and the monthly IAG Newsletter is now distributed to approximately 900 addresses. *J. Adam* expressed again his urgent request to all colleagues to visit the website frequently and to comment and contribute to all aspects in order to keep it up to date. The same appeal concerns the Newsletter where the editors strongly depend on input from the whole community.

## **8. Report from Developing Countries**

*R. Wonnacott* referred in his report to the Travaux as well as to the Commissions' reports. He mentioned that manifold co-operational activities exist in relation with the geodetic progress in developing countries, however, enormous efforts are still needed to convince the geodetic community to push on the work, e.g. for the development of AFREF.

## **9. ITU/BIPM Workshop on the future of the international time scale**

*C. Boucher* is the IUGG liaison to the BIPM Consultative Committee for Time and Frequency (CCTF) and was invited to present the IUGG position paper on the redefinition of UTC at the Workshop of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) together with BIPM in Geneva, September 20, 2013. The proposal is UTC as the recommended time scale (i.e. skip the leap second w.r.t. UT1), to redefine UTC correspondingly, to disseminate it by GNSS, but to continue the UT1 estimations by the IERS. *H. Drewes* moved to give *C. Boucher* the authorisation to argue officially on behalf of IAG. *H. Schuh* seconded and the EC agreed to this proposal. The IUGG Secretary *A. Ismail-Zadeh* will be contacted by *C. Boucher* and will submit the proposal to the IUGG Bureau. A IUGG resolution is expected for the next General Assembly in 2015.

## **10. Report from IUGG**

*H. Drewes* gave an overview on the preparations for the 26<sup>th</sup> IUGG General Assembly in Prague 22.06.-02.07.2015. The IAG Symposia, Joint Symposia with other Associations, and IUGG Symposia have to be defined, and the IAG convenors have to be nominated. Moreover *H. Drewes* reported on an offer of IASPEI to organise the next Scientific Assembly (2017) jointly. The decision of IAG has to be made by the Council, but the position of the EC has to be expressed. In the discussion there were pros and contras with a tendency to support the idea. Further *H. Drewes* reported on the financial support of the IUGG for IAG Symposia, Workshops and Schools. The IUGG gives an annual support for such events, and in addition every two years for projects which are carried out jointly by at least two IUGG Associations. At present there was a support for an IAG/IACS Symposium in Greenland and two IAG project supports for the geoid in Africa and for deformation and ionosphere studies in the Caribbean. *M. Sideris* reported on the initiative to install an Indo-Pacific Tsunami Warning System as a common IUGG project. This project could adequately be integrated into GGOS. He stated that some systems have already been installed, but not yet on the necessary level of accuracy. Therefore new steps should be discussed and prepared for joint actions in this field.

## **11. Report of the group for the services evaluation exercise**

*H. Schuh* reported that the new IUGG Secretariat has been installed at the GFZ, *F. Kuglitsch* is acting as IUGG Executive Secretary. This will improve the contacts between IUGG and IAG. He mentioned that the GFZ is contributing to eight IAG Services. As this work is quite time (and personnel) consuming, evidence has to be collected that this work is of the highest quality and that it significantly advances the geoscientific research. In this context *H. Schuh* noted that the IAG Website does not list the services' work sufficiently. The IAG Services are encouraged to improve their Homepages. The IUGS Website was mentioned as an example.

## **12. IAG Young Authors Award: Results of voting**

The 2011 IAG Young Authors Award was granted by unanimous voting during the last EC meeting to *T. Artz*, University of Bonn, and for 2012 by e-mail voting with 9 of 14 votes to *M. Seitz*, DGFU Munich.

## **13. Nomination Committee for officers 2015-2019**

According to the IAG Bylaws the election of the IAG officers is done by the IAG Council before or at each General Assembly. A Nomination Committee has to be formed, consisting of a chairperson and three members. This chairperson has to send out a circular letter to all entities who can propose candidates (national representatives, officers, individual members). The Committee then has to compile a list of candidates for the final voting procedure. *H. Drewes* moved to elect *M. Sideris* as the chairperson of the Nomination Committee for the 2015 elections, *H. Schuh* seconded. The EC accepted and nominated *M. Sideris* as the chairperson. The other members will be nominated by the chairperson at the next EC meeting.

## **14. Sponsorship of symposia**

*H. Drewes* reminded the EC of the previous decision that in general all symposia which are organised by at least one IAG component or two sub-components are approved as IAG symposia. He urged all colleagues to submit all relevant proposals in time to the IAG Office and COB as well in order to put it on the webpages in time.

## **15. Any other business**

**Next EC Meeting:** Considering the urgent work to prepare the 2015 General Assembly, it was proposed to hold two meetings in 2014, one on the occasion of the EGU General Assembly in Vienna (26 or 27 April 2014) and one during the AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco (15-19 December 2014).

## **16. Visit of the venue (Dorint Sanssouci Hotel)**

After the meeting in the GFZ, the EC visited the venue of the IAG Scientific Assembly in the Dorint Sanssouci Hotel, Potsdam.

## **17. Adjourn**

Concluding the fifth meeting of the IAG EC 2011-2015, *Ch. Rizos* expressed his cordial thanks to the participants for their contributions and to the GFZ for hosting the meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Hermann Drewes, IAG Secretary General  
Helmut Hornik, Assistant Secretary