

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

Place: Techn. University, Inst. Geodäsie & Geophysik, Gusshausstr. 27-29, Vienna, Austria

Time: Saturday, April 26, 2014, 10:30 – 18:00

Attendees (voting): Ch. Rizos*, H. Schuh (IAG Vice-President), H. Drewes (IAG Secretary General), U. Marti (President Commission 2), R. Gross* (President Commission 3), J. Adam (President of the COB), H. Kutterer* (Chair of GGOS), R. Barzaghi, T. Herring*, R. Neilan* (Representatives of the Services) (* also GGOS CB members)

Attendees (non-voting): P. Novak (ICCT Vice-President, stand-in for N. Sneeuw), A. Singleton (Representative of Commission 4, stand-in for D. Brzezinska), H. Hornik (IAG Assistant Secretary)

Attendees (GGOS CB): G. Bianco (Head GGOS Coordinating Board, also Chair of GGOS WG), D. Angermann, M. Pearlman (Directors of GGOS Bureaus), M. Thomas, D. Thaller (Chairs of GGOS Working Groups)

Guests (GGOS Officers): S. Bachmann (GGOS, BKG), J. Ceva (NASA / JPL), A. Craddock (IGS, NASA / JPL), T. Johnson (NASA Hq.), C. Luceri (GGOS Coordinating Office, ASI), E. Pavlis (Univ. of Baltimore County)

Regrets: M. Sideris (Immediate IAG Past President), T. van Dam (President Commission 1), D. Grejner-Brzezinska (President Commission 4), C. Brunini, R. Wonnacott (Members at Large), N. Sneeuw (ICCT President)

Summary of Agenda Items (IAG EC – GGOS CB joint meeting)

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

The meeting took place on the occasion of the EGU General Assembly, Vienna, April 28 – May 03, 2014. It was split into two parts, the first part as a joint meeting with the GGOS CB, the second part as a regular IAG EC meeting. *Ch. Rizos* welcomed the members of the IAG Executive Committee (10 out of 15 voting members, 3 non-voting members), 5 members of the GGOS Coordinating Board, and 6 guests). He referred to the session on the IAG Services Assessment (ISA) which was held the day before. Nearly all the Services had sent delegates to the meeting and gave presentations on their structure, objectives and activities. It was stated that a successful work of GGOS can only be achieved by the continuous and efficient cooperation of all the IAG bodies. Thus, the main task of the Services is to contribute to the work of GGOS. An ISA coordinating team consisting of the IAG Bureau, the Representatives of the Services in the EC, and the GGOS Chair had prepared the meeting.

The agenda had been distributed previously by e-mail and was unanimously adopted. The minutes of the last IAG EC meeting (Potsdam, September 1, 2013) had also been distributed and made available in the password protected section of the IAG Office Homepage <<http://iag.dgfi.badw.de/>>.

2. Report and discussion of the GGOS status and future development

H. Kutterer gave an overview on the GGOS session which took place just before this meeting. He emphasised that within GGOS an intensive exchange of information is maintained by monthly telecons of the Coordinating Board, bi-annual meetings, annual meetings of the Consortium and others. *J. Ceva* then explained the newly formulated strategic plan for the GGOS; this plan will be discussed and should be adopted at the next meeting in San Francisco, December 2014. The text explicitly refers on the fact that GGOS is a component of

the IAG and acts as an integrator of all the other components (Services, Commissions, etc.). Referring to a remark of *H. Drewes*, *H. Kutterer* confirmed that the text will be modified such that active work and products of GGOS are explained in detail. Concerning the alignment of GGOS, *H. Kutterer* explained the present structure installed in 2012 and emphasised that this structure will not be changed in the near future. *R. Neilan* moved to adopt the draft of the presented GGOS strategic plan now; it was seconded by *Ch. Rizos*, and approved by the EC.

H. Schuh proposed to make the information flow - especially with the GGOS Coordinating Office - more comprehensible, e.g. by a permanent link with the IAG COB. *M. Pearlman* supported this plan and proposed the integration of a kind of “information incubator”. *G. Bianco* emphasised the need to conduct the outreach to the scientific community and the public more professionally. *H. Kutterer* assured that this would be discussed at the next telecon. Concerning the interaction of the IAG Commissions and GGOS, *U. Marti* mentioned that the Commissions’ integration within the GGOS is already ensured by their representation on the Coordinating Board. However, these formal structures have still to be exercised with actual work tasks. *R. Gross* agreed and mentioned that the Commissions are not yet integrated as much as would be desirable. *H. Kutterer* thanked everyone for the proposed ideas and agreed to improve the present status. *R. Neilan* explained then ICSU’s World Data System (WDS). There are four types of WDS membership: Network Members, Regular Members, Partner Members, and Associate Members. IGS, ILRS, IVS, and IDS are network members, IERS is a regular member, the IUGG is a partner member, GGOS has applied as a partner member, and it could also be affiliated via IAG as an associate member.

Summary of Agenda Items (EC meeting)

3. Report of the Services and of the IAG Services Assessment

T. Herring gave a summary report on behalf of the “Geometric IAG Services”: BIPM – Department Time and Frequency, IERS, IVS, and PSMSL. He mentioned in particular the planned World Radio Conference 2015, in preparation of which BIPM and ITU organised a workshop on the future of the international time scale in September 2013, where in particular the omission of the leap second was discussed. The IERS underwent a retreat in 2013, the IVS held its 8th General Meeting in Shanghai, March 2014, and the PSMSL continues its activities with regard to workshops/conferences and with data acquisition and analysis.

R. Barzaghi reported on the “Gravity Field Services“: IGFS, BGI, IGeS, ICGEM, ICET, and IDEMS. The activities are coordinated by the IGFS, supported by an Advisory Board, a Central Bureau, as well as a Technical Centre. He mentioned the 3rd IGFS General Assembly, Shanghai, 30.06.-06.07.2014 (<http://202.127.29.4/meetings/igfs2014/>) and the 11th IGeS International School on Geoid and Height Datum, Loja, Ecuador, 07.-11-2013 (<http://202.127.29.4/meetings/igfs2014/>). For legal reasons in Italy, the IGeS changed its name to the “International Service for the Geoid” (ISG). Special attention was given to the present situation and future of the IDEMS. The former director of this Service, P. Berry, has retired some time ago. The web page is presently managed by R. Smith (EAPRS Laboratory Faculty of Technology, Gateway House, De Montfort University), the actual work, however, has practically ceased. There are two expressions of interest for a possible renewal of IDEMS: (1) Curtin University, Australia (Dr. *C. Hirt* (director) and Dr. *M. Kuhn* (deputy director)). A formal proposal has been submitted to Commission 2 and IGFS; (2) ESRI, USA (contact person Dr. Kevin M. Kelly). Contacts started in Potsdam at the latest IAG Assembly. The ESRI “Content Team” would like to initiate a detailed discussion on a possible ESRI participation in IDEMS. *R. Barzaghi* explained the two proposals and expressed his opinion

to merge both proposals, thus achieving an optimal solution with the scientific topics being managed at Curtin University, and data storage / management at ESRI.

R. Neilan presented reports on the remaining Services: IAS, IDS, IGS, and ILRS. The IAS shows little activity at the moment because the chairman has retired. DGFI has indicated its wish to re-activate the service and nominate a new chairperson. Concerning the IDS, *R. Neilan* referred to the detailed presentation at the ISA meeting the day before. The IGS will hold its 20 year anniversary workshop in Pasadena, USA, in June 2014. A new chair will be elected during the upcoming elections. The ILRS will celebrate its 19th International Workshop with an event “Celebrating 50 Years of SLR: Remembering the Past and Planning for the Future”. This celebration will take place together with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory during 27.-31.10.2014 in Annapolis, Maryland, USA.

Concluding these reports *Ch. Rizos* gave a detailed report on the IAG Services’ Assessment (ISA) meeting the day before. He pointed out that the activity of all IAG Services is a basic requirement for a successful work of GGOS. He presented the ISA Terms of Reference and the list of teams of three reviewers for each Service which has been set up during the ISA meeting: A lead person and another member from the ISA coordinating team and an additional member from the IAG Commissions. It is not the intention to punish or criticise the Services, but actually to work to improve their performance. *H. Schuh* warned against setting the expectations too high as the work is done in nearly all cases on a voluntary basis. The Services have also been urged to update their websites regularly. Some of them are rather out-of-date giving an unfavourable impression.

It was concluded to formulate a list of important standard criteria by May, this list then will be submitted to the respective teams of reviewers as basis for their evaluation and further decisions. In September / October a telecon or meeting should take place to discuss further actions. *J. Adam* added to urge all Services to present regularly detailed reports for the IAG Travaux, newsletters and the IAG Website. These texts should not only repeat already existing facts or the structure and ToR, but they should reflect real scientific progress.

4. Report of the ICCT

By proxy of *N. Sneeuw*, *P. Novak* reported on the latest achievements of the Inter-Commission Committee on Theory (ICCT). The ICCT comprises 9 SSG’s, each of them is affiliated to 1 or 2 Commissions, some of them also to GGOS. The presentation gave an overview of their activities. As further documentation of this work, the mid-term report to the IAG Scientific Assembly 2013 was mentioned. From 17–21.06.2013, the VIIIth Hotine Marussi Symposium was held in Rome, Italy, where about 100 participants contributed with 70 oral presentations and 15 posters, 40 of them were selected for publication in the proceedings in the IAG Symposia series. The symposium has taken place in the past every 4 years, but according to a discussion in the EC the next one will be held in 2016 in order to avoid a temporal collision with the IAG General Assemblies.

5. Report of the COB

J. Adam gave a short report on the work of the Communication and Outreach Branch. The monthly IAG Newsletter is regularly sent to ca. 900 addresses, and parts of the contents are published in the JoG. He asked all colleagues to contribute relevant information to this important information tool, which also reflects the activity of the IAG to the scientific community in other fields of geoscience. The IAG Website is maintained and updated by the

COB. *H. Drewes* claimed that the website is lacking relevant information, therefore all IAG bodies as well as individuals engaged in the IAG are urgently asked to contribute in order to keep the website updated with actual information in the same way as the IUGG Webpage. All EC members are invited to contribute to the IUGG Website as well. *H. Schuh* added that the IAG Website should also report on all relevant conferences, also external ones as far as they have any relation to geodesy.

6. Report of the Members at Large on developing countries

As a Member at Large *C. Brunini* had sent a written report on developing countries which was presented by *H. Drewes*. It describes in particular the activities of South and Central America. The report especially mentions the “School on Reference Systems, Crustal Deformation and Ionosphere Monitoring” and the “SIRGAS General Meeting 2013”, both held in Panama City in October 2013. Both conferences were well attended. Moreover the transfer of the Transportable Integrated Geodetic Observatory (TIGO) from its present location in Concepción, Chile, to Villa Elisa close to La Plata, Argentina, was mentioned. The instrument is a fundamental station of the global geodetic networks (GNSS, SLR, VLBI, absolute and relative gravimetry, etc.). The transfer is planned for autumn 2014.

7. Report of the Journal of Geodesy Editor in Chief

H. Drewes presented an overview prepared by *R. Klees* on the Journal of Geodesy. Fortunately the journal ranking have again increased and have now reached the highest level ever. As *R. Klees* writes, it will be hard to maintain this level unless new initiatives on topical special issues or new initiatives for topical special issues are launched. The number of article submissions has also reached the highest number ever. However, the number of rejections is also rather high.

8. Report of the Commissions

There was no report of **Commission 1**.

U. Marti presented the recent developments within **Commission 2**, in particular mentioning some conferences. The next Commission 2 meeting will take place in Shanghai, China, July 2014. Moreover the mid-term report of the IUGG project “Detailed Geoid Model for Africa” was mentioned. In this context a complaint of *H. Abd-Elmotaal* was cited that the BGI does not make available the relevant gravity data to the project, despite it being available in the BGI data base. Therefore large areas are without good data and the African Geoid cannot be computed with the required precision. *U. Marti* will discuss this item once more with *S. Bonvalot* and *H. Abd-Elmotaal*. The African Geoid is a project of the IAG and the BGI is a component of the IAG, therefore it will give a bad impression to IUGG that the data flow is blocked.

R. Gross reported that the Sub-Commissions of **Commission 3** have recently been quite active. In particular he mentioned the forthcoming “International Symposium on Geodesy for Earthquakes and Natural Hazards” in Matsushima, Miyagi, Japan, in July 2014. Concerning the conference proceedings *H. Drewes* emphasised that according to the IAG Bylaws the proceedings of every IAG Symposium should be published in the Springer series. On the other hand not every Symposium must be documented as a printed volume if there are not sufficient worthy contributions. Thus it was proposed to modify the Bylaws in an appropriate way, e.g. to document the papers and results in the web or in any other way.

By proxy of *D. Grejner-Brzezinska*, *A. Singleton* gave a detailed overview of the activities of **Commission 4**, in particular those executed by the six Sub-Commissions and other sub-components. Commission 4 is closely cooperating with the IAG Services and other IAG entities, as well as via linkages with relevant entities within scientific and professional sister organizations such as Commission 1 “Sensors and Platforms for Remote Sensing” of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), Commission 5 “Positioning and Measurement” of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), as well as the U.S. Institute of Navigation (ION). Moreover *A. Singleton* reported on several symposia organised by the Commission.

Summarising the Commissions’ reports, *H. Drewes* referred once more the IAG Statutes and Bylaws which state that all IAG entities have to report biennially at the IUGG General Assemblies and the IAG Scientific Assemblies by sending written reports to be published in the Travaux. These activity reports may not be replaced by general reports on conferences, etc. He referred to the latest IAG Scientific Assembly 2013 in Potsdam, when 3 Working Groups were discontinued due to inactivity. Therefore the Commission Presidents are asked to regularly review the activities of the sub-components (Sub-Commissions, Projects, Study and Working Groups).

9. Report from IUGG

H. Drewes reported on the preparations for the coming 26th IUGG General Assembly which will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, June 22 - July 3, 2015. The scientific programme will be discussed the next day in a meeting of the Scientific Organising Committee. In two weeks the programme shall be published on the internet together with a Call for Papers. Altogether more than hundred symposia are planned. He then presented the list of all IAG-related Symposia. *H. Schuh* was invited as the IAG speaker in the Union Lectures with one presentation from each Association. In the 11 Union Symposia there will be only oral presentations of invited speakers. For the 16 Inter-Association Symposia with IAG participation, everybody is invited to contribute. In the previous EC meeting it was decided that there shall be 8 IAG Association Symposia, each one organised by Commissions 1, 2 and 4, two by Commission 3 due to the presently large number of papers and posters on gravity, and a further three by the GGOS Themes. *H. Drewes* presented the proposed list of conveners and one co-convenor per Symposium, and he requested the conveners to prepare the descriptions of the Symposia for publication on the internet, and to include additional co-conveners to cover all continents. The experience has shown that people feel more attracted to submit a paper if they are approached by a colleague from their own region.

H. Drewes then communicated that IUGG offers a grant programme every two years with a financial support of max. US\$20000. Each project has to be proposed by at least two IUGG Associations, and one of them has to apply as the lead partner. Only one project per Association may be submitted. The IAG is engaged in two projects, one on the geoid in Africa together with IASPEI, and another one under the leadership of IASPEI, together with IAMAS, on crustal deformation and the ionosphere in the Caribbean.

10. IAG Symposia Series Publications

Ch. Rizos presented a list prepared by *P. Willis*, showing details of the 5 volumes of the IAG Symposia Series published / in print, and several others being planned. The volume for the IUGG General Assembly will again be edited by the IAG President with *P. Willis* as the

Assistant Editor and all conveners as co-editors. As already mentioned in the report of Commission 3, the EC discussed to limit the number of volumes to an adequate number per year in relation to the importance of the respective conferences held. The number of issued volumes should be limited to 2 - 3 per year. The selected Symposium should have been attended by a considerable number of participants from a large number of countries and the theme should be broad enough to be of interest for the whole scientific community. *H. Drewes* pointed out that according to the IAG Bylaws a new Editorial Board as well as an Editor in Chief has to be nominated before the next IUGG General Assembly. Therefore all colleagues are urgently requested to submit relevant proposals to the IAG Bureau.

11. Sponsorship of Symposia

H. Drewes presented the list of upcoming IAG symposia not yet approved by the EC:

- Geodesy for Earthquake and Natural Hazards, Matshushima, Japan, 2014-07-22/25;
- Journées 2014 Système de Référence Spatio-temporels, St. Petersburg, Russia, 2014-09-22/24;
- 18th WEGENER General Assembly, Leeds, UK, 2014-09-01/04;
- 11th Symposium on Location-Based-Services, Vienna, Austria, 2014-11-26/28;
- Reflectometry using GNSS and Other Signals, Potsdam, Germany, 2015-05-11/13.

12. Any other business

H. Drewes presented a letter signed by numerous colleagues from the GFZ requesting a more open access to gravity data (cf. also Commission 2 report). In the discussion it was pointed out that the BGI, although being a Service of the IAG, has a considerable number of contracts restricting data access. *H. Kutterer* objected that a lot of these classifications might really be out of date and better should be withdrawn. The EC decided to send the presented letter together with an official letter by the IAG to the BGI with the request to act in a positive manner. The topic will be put on the agenda of the next meeting and will be discussed in detail.

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly 68th Session has proclaimed 2015 as the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL 2015). *H. Drewes* presented an announcement and asked to discuss whether the IAG should support this project (see <http://www.eps.org/light2015> or spie.org/x105138.xml).

The Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea (ABLOS) as a body of the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) has sent a letter concerning a change of its ToR and requesting the IAG's for agreement. *H. Drewes* explained the details and moved to adopt this application. *Ch. Rizos* seconded and the EC approved this unanimously.

The EC decided to hold its next meeting on occasion of the coming 2014 AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco. *R. Neilan* was asked to propose asap an appropriate date.

13. Adjourn

With thanks for all presenters and speakers as well as the organisers, the IAG President, *Ch. Rizos* closed the meeting at 18:10 (6:10 pm).

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