

Minutes of the IAG Council Meeting at the Scientific Assembly 2013

Place: Hotel Dorint Sanssouci, Hall F2, Potsdam, Germany

Time: Tuesday, 3 September 2013, 18:00 – 20:00

Attendees

National Correspondents:

Argentina: S. Cimbaro (deputy)

Australia: Ch. Rizos

Austria: N. Höggerl

Brazil: D. Blitzkow

Canada: J. Henton

Czech Republic: P. Holota

Denmark: O. B. Andersen (deputy)

Finland: M. Poutanen

France: M.-F. Lequentrec-Lalancette (deputy)

Germany: J. Müller

Greece: I. Tziavos

Hungary: J. Ádám

Japan: K. Heki

Mexico: D. Avalos (deputy)

New Zealand: M. Amos

Norway: O. Kristiansen (deputy)

Poland: J. Krynski

Portugal: J. Torres

Russia: W. Kaftan (deputy)

Slovak Republic: R. Cunderlik (deputy)

Sweden: J. Ågren

Switzerland: A. Wiget

Turkey: H. Özener (deputy)

USA: J. Freymueller

IAG EC:

President: C. Rizos, Australia

Vice President: H. Schuh, Germany

Secretary General: H. Drewes, Germany

Past President: M. Sideris, Canada

Assistant Secretary General: H. Hornik, Germany

Guests:

W. Carter, USA

L. Hothem, USA

E. Parseliunas, Lithuania

S. Mijiddorj, Mongolia

M. Mojzes, Slovak Republic

H. Yildiz, Turkey

Regrets of National Correspondents:

Belgium: C. Bruyninx

Agenda

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda
2. Organisational issues of the Scientific Assembly 2013
3. Scientific programme breakdown
4. Mid-term Report on IAG activities 2011-2013
5. Revision of IAG Statutes and Bylaws
6. Any other business
7. Adjourn

Minutes

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

The President of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), Ch. Rizos, opened the meeting of the IAG Council held on the occasion of the IAG Scientific Assembly 2013 in Potsdam, Germany. He welcomed all participants and thanked them for representing their respective countries. As there was no voting at this meeting, no official accreditation of delegates was required.

2. Organisational issues of the Scientific Assembly 2013

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee of the Scientific Assembly, H. Schuh gave some information on the general programme and organisational aspects. He informed the delegates in particular about the History Session on Wednesday afternoon which is the official celebration of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of IAG's forerunner, the Central European Arc Measurement (Mitteleuropäische Gradmessung), in Berlin. In 1892 its Central Bureau moved with the Geodetic Institute to Potsdam, Telegrafenberg, about 30-km from Berlin. Therefore, the presentations of the history lectures by W. Torge, C. Boucher and I. I. Mueller will be given in the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) at Telegrafenberg. The lectures will be followed by a guided tour through the historic and modern buildings and a barbecue reception.

3. Scientific programme breakdown

Ch. Rizos reported on the scientific programme of the Assembly. Around 500 contributions (300 oral, 200 posters) were submitted. Three parallel sessions had to be scheduled to accommodate all oral presentations. 530 participants from nearly 50 countries have registered which is the maximum number of participants in IAG Scientific Assemblies up to now. He invited all participants to participate in the voting of the best students' talk and best students' poster awards. The awards will be presented at the closing session on Friday. This appreciation is seen as a good way to encourage young scientists to present their work in IAG meetings.

J. Müller complained of the lack of special poster sessions. Considering the general shortage of time, the posters might not be adequately taken into consideration. He proposed that extra poster sessions be reserved at future. H. Drewes agreed in principle, however, the time schedule for the large number of oral presentations with three parallel sessions did not allow additional poster sessions. However, instead the coffee breaks in the morning were extended to 45 minutes and announced as poster sessions.

4. Mid-term report on IAG activities 2011-2013

H. Drewes informed the audience that the IAG Reports (Travaux de l'AIG) have been published regularly since 1929. The volumes were published originally at the IUGG General Assemblies only, but since 2001 there were also mid-term reports. These were introduced to review the actual activity of the IAG components. All components are requested to report. The reports are reviewed by the IAG EC and in event of inactivity or insufficient results a component may be dissolved. Concerning the present period, the EC decided at its recent meeting to dissolve some Working Groups. Moreover, the German BKG stated that it was not able to continue operating the IAG Bibliographic Service (IBS). The IAG COB was asked to continue the IBS, but it declared that it was not able to take over this task. As no other institution could be found, the EC decided after an intensive discussion to dissolve this Service.

The present volume of the Travaux represents the considerable work done in the last two years. H. Drewes thanked all authors for their efforts. The complete text will be published digitally on the IAG Office Website <<http://iag.dgfi.badw.de>>. The Activity Report of the IAG Secretary General

for the current period will be included. He further referred to the Geodesist's Handbook 2012, which has been published as Volume 86 No. 10 of the Journal of Geodesy (JoG). A permanently updated version is available at < http://www.iag-aig.org/index.php?tpl=text&id_c=39&id_t=566>.

H. Drewes presented an overview of the various IAG awards, in particular the Travel Award for young scientists to participate in IAG scientific meetings. Support was given to eight young scientists for participation in the present IAG Scientific Assembly. In addition he mentioned the annual Young Author Award for best publication in the JoG and the Bomford Prize and Levallois Medal presented to distinguished geodesists at the IUGG General Assemblies. Awards for the best presentation and best poster will be made at this Assembly.

Finally, H. Drewes invited all geodesists to become IAG individual members using the application forms available at the registration desk. He thanked all colleagues for their financial contributions as individual members or donating to the IAG Fund, and thus helping to finance in particular the awards for young scientists.

5. Revision of IAG Statutes and Bylaws

The Chairman of the Cassinis Committee, M. Sideris, gave an outline of the IAG Statutes and Bylaws. The recent version dates back to 2007 when it was adopted by the Council at the IUGG General Assembly in Perugia. According to the Statutes a review shall be done every eight years, i.e. it is due for the 2015 General Assembly. The present status of proposed updates had been sent to the IAG Correspondents in February 2013. M. Sideris explained the actual status in detail and invited the National Correspondents to send their proposals or comments to the Cassinis Committee.

In response of a question, H. Drewes explained the two terms "IAG Delegate" and "National Correspondent". The definition caused some misunderstandings in the past. The IAG Delegates are accredited by the National Committees for the IUGG as the official representatives of a country at the IUGG General Assemblies. The National Correspondents are acting as the contact persons in between the General Assemblies. M. Sideris proposed to unify these two positions, although approval has to be given by the IUGG.

6. Any other business

H. Drewes reported on an offer of IASPEI to organise the next Scientific Assembly (2017) as a joint IAG/IASPEI Assembly. Japan was proposed by IASPEI officials as the country of venue. The final IAG decision has to be made by vote of the IAG Council, which is generally done at the IUGG General Assemblies, the next being in Prague 2015. In order to start the joint IAG/IASPEI planning at an appropriately early stage, a general decision should be made earlier. H. Drewes proposed that the Council decides on a possible earlier voting (early 2014). He will contact the National Correspondents in this regard.

Concluding J. Àdám reported on the activities of the IAG Communication and Outreach Branch (COB) and presented in particular the updated Website and the IAG Newsletter. He asked that all colleagues regularly visit the website and contact the COB regarding any information that could be put on the Website or in the Newsletter.

7. Adjourn

Ch. Rizos thanked all the participants for their cooperation and closed the meeting at 8 p.m.

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