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The *IAG Newsletter* is under the editorial responsibility of the *Communication and Outreach Branch* (COB) of the IAG.

It is an open forum and contributors are welcome to send material (preferably in electronic form) to the IAG COB (newsletter@iag-aig.org). These contributions should complement information sent by IAG officials or by IAG symposia organizers (reports and announcements). The *IAG Newsletter* is published monthly. It is available in different formats from the IAG new internet site: <http://www.iag-aig.org>

Each *IAG Newsletter* includes several of the following topics:

- I. news from the Bureau Members
- II. general information
- III. reports of IAG symposia
- IV. reports by commissions, special commissions or study groups
- V. symposia announcements
- VI. book reviews
- VII. fast bibliography

Books for review are the responsibility of:

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General Announcements

New Australian IAG National representative

Dr Paul Tregoning has taken over from Professor Richard Coleman as the IAG National Representative for Australia. This change was recently approved by the Australian Academy of Sciences through Dr Phil McFadden.

Election of the ILRS Governing Board

We have now completed the election process for the next ILRS Governing Board. I am pleased to announce that Georg Kirchner and Ulli Schreiber have been elected by their peers in the ILRS as the two At-Large Representatives to the board. Thank you to all, especially the nominees, who participated in this election process.

There are sixteen members of the Board. Three are ex-officio:

- Director of the Central Bureau - Mike Pearlman
- Secretary of the Central Bureau - Carey Noll
- President of IAG Commission 1 - Hermann Drewes

Seven members of the Board are appointed or elected by organizations having a fixed membership on the board:

- EUROLAS Network Representatives - Werner Gurtner, Pippo Bianco
- NASA Network Representatives - Jan McGarry, David Carter
- WPLTN Representatives - Hiroo Kunimori, Ben Greene
- IERS Representative - Bob Schutz (to be confirmed)

The remaining six are elected by their international peers:

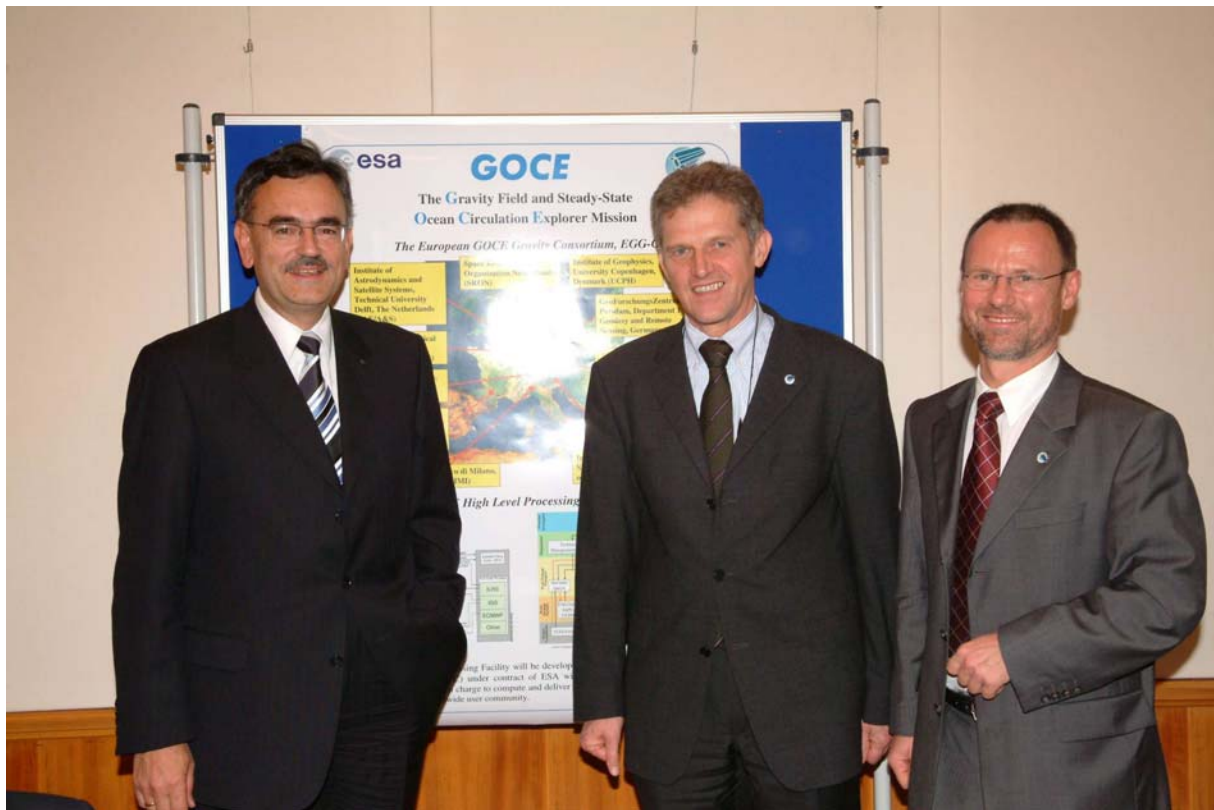
- Data Center Representative - Wolfgang Seemueller
- Analysis Representatives - Graham Appleby, Ron Noomen
- LLR Representative - Peter Shelus
- At-Large Representatives - Georg Kirchner, Ulrich Schreiber

The next meeting of the ILRS Governing Board will be held in conjunction with the 2004 fall AGU meeting in San Francisco in December.

CAREY NOLL
SECRETARY, ILRS CENTRAL BUREAU

Press Release on GOCE

GOCE (Gravity field and steady-state Ocean Circulation Explorer) is the first explorer mission of ESA's "Living Planet Programme". Its objective is to provide a detailed global map of the Earth's gravity variations for use in solid Earth physics, oceanography, geodesy and sea level research. The mission will provide a much more detailed look into the Earth's interior and it will help to measure ocean circulation globally. It has important implications for Earth system and climate research. The core instrument of this satellite is a newly developed gravity gradiometer. In order to attain the required high sensitivity it is combined with precise GPS tracking and active angular and drag control of the spacecraft. Gravity gradiometer, GPS and satellite control instruments together form one integrated gravitational sensor system. The satellite will fly at an altitude of only 250 km; it will be launched in 2006. Scientific data analysis and gravity modelling will be carried out under ESA contract by a consortium of 10 European university and research institutes that join the European top expertise in this field. Scientists from Bern, Bonn, Copenhagen, Delft, Graz, Milan, Munich, Potsdam, Toulouse and Utrecht cooperate in this project. The work will be coordinated by the Institut für Astronomische und Physikalische Geodäsie, Technische Universität München (main contractor) and the National Institute of Space Research, Utrecht. The contract, with a volume of **7.8 MEuro**, has been signed by all contract partners in the presence of the president of the Technische Universität, Professor Wolfgang Herrmann, the director of ESA's Earth Observation Programmes, Dr. Volker Liebig and high ESA officials on October 26, 2004 at Technische Universität München.



After signing the contract (from left to right): Wolfgang A. Herrmann, Reinhard Rummel, Volker Liebig

Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY) initiative

An Electronic Geophysical¹ Year (eGY) initiative is being pursued for 2007-2008 to coincide with the 50-year anniversary of the highly successful International Geophysical Year (IGY). By exploiting the power of modern communications and information management capabilities, eGY will accomplish in 21st-Century terms what the IGY achieved through the establishment of a world-wide network of geophysical observatories and World Data Centres – namely open access by the world community to vastly better and more comprehensive information about the Earth and geospace.

eGY is an internationally-recognised resolve by the geoscience community to achieve a step increase in making past, present, and future geoscientific data readily, rapidly, conveniently, and openly available. eGY fosters a strong spirit of international resolve and cooperation in the theme areas of electronic data access, data location, permission and release of data, conversion of data into modern digital form, data preservation, and capacity building and outreach. A role in the establishment and coordination of a network of virtual observatories will be a central feature of eGY.

eGY is an initiative of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, driven by the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy.

For further information, visit: www.egy.org

Meeting Announcements

IAG Sponsored Meetings

The 2004 International Symposium on GPS/GNSS (GNSS 2004)

6-8 December 2004, Sydney, Australia

Internet: www.gnss2004.org.

¹ The term *Geophysical* is used to harmonise with the “G” in IGY, but the term *Geoscientific* is really more appropriate as eGY spans all of the Earth Sciences and more.

IAG-IASPEI Joint Capacity Building Workshop

17-23 January 2005, Miramare-Trieste, Italy

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), will organize a Workshop on Deformation Measurements and Understanding Natural Hazards in Developing Countries. The Workshop will be co-sponsored by IAG, IASPEI and IUGG. Please visit <http://agenda.ictp.trieste.it/smr.php?1642> for more information.

International IGeS Geoid School

31 January- 5 February 2005, Budapest, Hungary

The next International IGeS School on "The Determination and Use of the Geoid" will be at Budapest, Hungary. The preliminary program and related information is available at <http://www.iag-aig.org>.

International Symposium on Geodetic Deformation Monitoring - From Geophysical to Engineering Roles

17-19 March, 2005, Jaén (Spain)

The International Symposium on Geodetic Deformation Monitoring: From Geophysical to Geodetic Roles will be held at the University of Jaén (Spain) from 17th to 19th March 2005. The Symposium will be hosted by the Geodesy Research Group of the University of Jaén. For more information please visit the workshop web site at <http://www.ujaen.es/huesped/gdeforma/>.

International Workshop on "Deformation and Gravity Change: Indicators of Isostasy, Tectonics, Volcanism and Climate Change"

1-4 March 2005, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain

The International Workshop on "Deformation and Gravity Change: Indicators of Isostasy, Tectonics, Volcanism and Climate Change" will be held at Casa de los Volcanes (a scientific and cultural meeting place) on Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain. Organizers are José Fernández (jose_fernandez@mat.ucm.es) and Detlef Wolf (dasca@gfz-potsdam.de).

IAG Related Meetings

International Symposium "Modern Technologies, Education and Professional Geodesy and Related Fields"

4-5 November 2004, Sofia, Bulgaria

The International Symposium "Modern Technologies, Education and Professional Geodesy and Related Fields" will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria. Please visit <http://acstre-ma.vmei.acad.bg/Sofia2004> for details.

19th CODATA International Conference

7-10 November 2004, Berlin, Germany

CODATA - Committee on Data for Science and Technology of the International Council of Science – ICSU Title: "The Information Society: New Horizons for Science". Visit <http://www.CODATA.org/04conf> for more information.

INGEO 2004 3rd International Conference on Engineering Surveying

11-13 November 2004, Bratislava, Slovakia

FIG Regional Conference for Central and Eastern Europe organized by Department of Surveying of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and the Commission 6 of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), to be held in Bratislava, Slovakia, November 11–13, 2004. Visit <http://www.fig.net/bratislava> for more information

IAG Sister Societies' General Assemblies

ICC2005 Conference

9-16 July 2005, A Coruña, Spain

The XXII International Cartographic Conference (ICC) is the most important event in the International Cartographic Association (ICA) calendar. Please visit <http://www.icc2005.org> for details.