

Summary of the IAG Executive Committee Sessions at the General Assembly 2011

H. Drewes and H. Hornik

Place: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Melbourne, Australia

Time: 2011, June 27, 9:00-17:00 / July 3, 8:30-11:00 /
July 4, 15:15-16:15 / July 5, 13:30-14:40

Attendees

Voting: M. Sideris (IAG President), Ch. Rizos (IAG Vice-President), H. Drewes (IAG Secretary General), G. Beutler (IAG Immediate Past President), Z. Altamimi (President Commission 1), Y. Fukuda (President Commission 2), R. Gross (Vice-President Commission 3), M. Santos (Vice-President Commission 4), M. Rothacher (Chair of GGOS), J. Ádám (President of COB), R. Neilan, H. Schuh (Services Representatives), K. Heki (Member at Large)

Regrets: M. Bevis (President Commission 3), S. Verhagen (President Commission 4), St. Kenyon (Representative of the Services), R. Wonnacott (Member at Large)

Non-voting: N. Sneeuw (President ICC on Theory), H. Hornik (IAG Assistant Secretary), F. Sansò (IAG Past President)

Guests: P. Novák (Vice-President ICC on Theory), R. Klees (Editor in Chief Journal of Geodesy), H. Kutterer (Future Chair of GGOS, only July 5)

Summary of Agenda Items

I. Monday, June 27, 2011, 09:00 – 17:00

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

M. Sideris welcomed the members of the IAG Executive Committee (11 out of 15 voting members, 3 non-voting members) and two guests. The agenda had been distributed previously by e-mail and was unanimously adopted. The minutes of the previous EC Meeting had been put to the Office Homepage before.

2. IUGG2011 organisational issues

M. Sideris gave a summary of the IUGG EC Meeting held the day before. *H. Drewes* showed an overview of the about 30 General Assembly meetings under IAG responsibility or with IAG involvement, respectively. Besides the scientific symposia, 19 Business Meetings were announced; the schedule had been distributed before. 45 Travel Awards have been granted to scientists younger

than 35 years and from developing countries, among them 28 free registrations given by the LOC and 7 given by the IUGG.

3. Agenda of the Council Meeting

There were two IAG Council Meetings scheduled in Melbourne. The agenda had been put on the Office Web-page and was briefly explained by *M. Sideris* and *H. Drewes*. Important decisions are in particular on the IAG Budget and the venue of the IAG Scientific Assembly 2013.

4. Agenda of Opening and Closing Sessions

The agendas for both sessions had been distributed and were briefly explained by *H. Drewes*.

5. IAG Budget 2007-2010

H. Drewes explained the budget for the years of the current period. The financial year 2007 had been completed by C. C. Tscherning as the previous Secretary General. All relevant financial documents are available to be audited by the Audit Committee established by the IAG Council.

6. Proposal for members of the Audit Committee to be presented to the Council

The EC proposed R. Biancale, P. Holota and M. Poutanen as members of the Committee. This proposal will be submitted to the Council for approval.

7. Nomination of members of the IAG Resolution Committee

M. Sideris informed that the Resolution Committee has to be nominated by the Council on proposal of the EC. The EC nominated *J. Ádám*, *Z. Altamimi* and *Ch. Rizos* (chairperson).

8. Levallois Medal

According to the IAG rules, a nomination for the Levallois Medal shall be made by an ad hoc Committee consisting of the Honorary Presidents and must be confirmed by the IAG Executive Committee. *G. Beutler* reported on the recent selection process. The Committee had intensively discussed eligible persons; the only proposal for the award

had then been made for *Ruth Neilan*. The proposal was discussed and finally endorsed by the EC.

9. Guy Bomford Prize, Young Authors Award, new IAG Fellows

The Guy Bomford Prize is awarded to a young scientist or to a team of young scientists for outstanding contributions on the field of geodesy. As *M. Sideris* reported, the EC had collected proposals for this award and finally selected the winner according to the IAG rules. The winner is *Johannes Böhm*, Technical University Vienna. The price will be handed over in the IAG Opening Session.

The IAG Young Authors Award can be granted on occasion of each IAG General Assembly or an IAG Scientific Assembly to draw attention to important contributions by young scientists in the Journal of Geodesy and to foster excellence in scientific writing. According to the IAG rules the voting members of the IAG EC selected *Elizabeth J. Petrie*, Newcastle University, United Kingdom. The price will be handed over in the IAG Opening Session.

According to § 22 of the IAG Bylaws, the EC may invite past officers of the Association to become Fellows. Where the invitation is accepted, the EC shall confirm the appointment. The IAG Office had compiled a list of altogether 57 persons who principally fulfil the requirements. The EC members had been asked for further proposals; some additional persons had been suggested. The final list of the proposed names will be presented on occasion of the IAG Closing Session and published in the Geodesist's Handbook.

10. Results of IAG Officers elections

G. Beutler gave a detailed report on the process and results of the election of the IAG Officers who will form the EC for the period 2011-2015. A written report had been prepared, too. The election procedure is regulated especially by § 39 IAG Bylaws. The Nominating Committee had been formed by *G. Beutler* (chair), *W. Featherstone*, *C. K. Shum* and *R. Wonnacott*.

The Committee had started its work in 2010 by setting up a list of proposals for the eligible positions; generally two persons had been proposed for each position. This list had been submitted to the IAG Correspondents for nominating further candidates. Finally the list of candidates has been sent to the altogether 57 IAG Delegates or Correspondents, respectively, entitled to vote. 44 votes had been received within the given deadline, which can be considered as a very good result. *G. Beutler* read then the numerical results of the election.

In the following *M. Sideris* referred to the appointment of the GGOS Chair to be done by the EC in consultation with

the GGOS Steering Committee. He informed that three candidates were nominated by the Steering Committee. After a long discussion it was agreed not to appoint the GGOS Chair in this session but to have a voting in order to obtain a tendency on the present status and to discuss the Topic again in the next session and then to appoint the GGOS Chair.

11. Status of IAG Report 2007-2011 (Travaux de l'AIG Vol. 37)

H. Drewes informed that after several reminders all reports are now available, the texts will be put into the IAG website a.s.a.p. Hard copies can be received on demand from the IAG Office.

12. Reports and recommendations of the Commissions

Z. Altamimi reported on the highlights in Commission 1, especially the REFAG Symposium 2010). Four SC Meetings had been held in the past period, as well as an International School on Reference Frames in 2010). Concerning regional activities he highlighted APREF, APREF, the IAG-PAIGH-SIRGAS Schools on Reference Systems (2009, 2010) and the WG on Regional Dense Velocity Field.

Y. Fukuda gave an overview on the recent activities of Commission 2. Various Meetings had been organised or the Commission been involved, respectively. He reported in particular on the activities of the Sub-commissions, Projects, Study and Working Groups, and concluded with an overview on possible future modifications.

R. Gross explained the activities of Commission 3 with its Sub-Commissions, Projects and Study Groups. *G. Jentzsch* as a very active President of Sub-Commission 3.1 will retire in the next future, so the Commission has to take care to ensure an adequate continuation.

The President of Commission 4, *S. Verhagen* had unfortunately to cancel her participation due to sudden health problems, and *D. Brzezinska* had not yet arrived, thus a summary of the Commission report was presented by *Ch. Rizos*.

13. Report and recommendations of the ICCT

N. Sneeuw explained the activities of the ICCT. Four meetings organised by the ICCT or with involvement of the ICCT were mentioned (VII Hotine-Marussi Symposium, 2009, Rome, Italy; Workshop on Deformation and Gravity Change, 2009, Lanzarote; 1st IAG School on Reference Systems, 2010, Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece; 1st International Workshop on the Quality of Geodetic Observation and Monitoring Systems (QuGOMS'11), 2011, Munich).

14. Report of the ICCT Review Committee

The ICCT was created in 2003; according to the Bylaws it has to be evaluated after these two periods. *N. Sneeuw* explained the future structure with the planned Study Groups for the next period. As the chair of the Review Committee, *M. Sideris*, could not assist the EC session at this stage due to other commitments, his report was postponed to the Session on 03 July 2011. There he moved to continue the ICCT for the next four years with *N. Sneeuw* as the President and *P. Nývák* as Vice-President. *F. Sansò* seconded and it was approved unanimously.

15. Report and recommendations of the Services' representatives

A summarizing review of the activities of the IVS and ILRS was presented by *H. Schuh*. At the Session on 03 July 2011, he added that the ToR of the IVS had been updated for a few minor topics and explained the changes. These small changes were adopted by the EC.

R. Neilan presented the updated IGS ToR. She explained the modified details such as policy, structure, etc. and also emphasised the importance of the intensive external connections of the IGS and its numerous Analysis Centers. She explained that a new website is in progress. *M. Sideris* moved to adopt the new IGS ToR; *G. Beutler* seconded and it was unanimously accepted.

As *S. Kenyon* could not assist the EC Meeting in Melbourne, there was no report on the gravity related Services.

16. Report and recommendations of GGOS

M. Rothacher gave a detailed overview on the GGOS activities within the last period: Retreat in Zürich; updated Vision, Mission, Goals and Tasks; Terms of Reference; new Chair selection; Inter-Agency Committee (GIAC); Themes; Action Plans 2011-2015; GEO Activities Outreach Activities; Meetings, Sessions, Workshops. The ToR were modified; the draft will be distributed to the EC members for approval in the Meeting on 03 July 2011. Moreover the new GGOS EC has to be approved within the next two weeks.

17. Proposals for the GGOS Chair of period 2011-2015

This Topic was dealt with in Topic 10 (see there).

18. Report of COB

Standing in for *J. Adam*, *Sz. Rozsa* reported on the activities of the IAG COB. The IAG Website was continuously improved. It is planned to install a "Topic of the month", therefore all colleagues are urgently asked to contribute by

sending appropriate material to the COB. Moreover all adequate information for the IAG Newsletter should be continuously submitted.

19. Report of the JoG Editor-in-Chief (RK)

R. Klees reported on the work of the JoG Editorial Board during the last period. The turn around time between paper submission and final publication in the printed version could be improved considerably. The number of submissions has increased, 6 special issues have been published. As most successful results the increase of the ISI Impact Factor from 1.2 to 2.4 was mentioned.

20. Approval of the new Board of Editors of JoG

The Editorial Board presently comprises 22 members and several members are overloaded. Therefore some additional members have to be engaged. *R. Klees* presented a list of the 16 members to continue in the next period and 14 additional members including 5 new proposals.

21. Report on developing countries

As no EC Member at Large was present to give the report, it was deferred to the next sessions.

22. Report on JBGIS (FIG, ISPRS, ...)

There was no urgent information. Due to time constraints the Topic was cancelled.

23. Report on ABLOS

There was no urgent information. Due to time constraints the Topic was cancelled.

24. Any other business

There were no other Topics brought up for discussion.

25. Adjourn

M. Sideris thanked the EC members for their contributions and closed the session at 5 pm.

II. Sunday, July 3, 2011, 08:30-11:00

26. Actual status report

M. Sideris and *H. Drewes* summarised the IAG Council session of June 28, 2011. Main topics were the appointments of the Audit Committee and the Resolution Committee which were following the recommendations of the EC, and the information on the status of the IAG Awards, the election process of IAG Officers, GGOS, ICCT, JoG,

IAG Reports, and applications for the venue of the IAG Scientific Assembly 2013.

27. Approval of GGOS Terms of Reference

With reference to Topic 16 of June 27, 2011, *R. Neilan* explained the numerous changes and updates of the GGOS ToR. In the discussion some details were added. *R. Neilan* will compile a new version and submit the text to the EC. *M. Sideris* moved for the approval of the new GGOS ToR with the suggested changes, *Ch. Rizos* seconded, and the EC accepted unanimously.

28. Appointment of the GGOS Chair for the period 2011-2015

Following up the discussion of Topic 17 on June 27, 2011, the EC voted by ballot papers. *Hansjörg Kutterer* was elected as the new GGOS Chair for the period 2011-2015. *M. Sideris* expressed his cordial thanks to *G. Beutler* as Chairperson of the IAG Nomination Committee for his most efficient work.

29. Appointment of IAG Representatives to IUGG Commissions, Services, other bodies

H. Drewes presented the list of IAG Representative as published in the Geodesists Handbook 2008 and updated in the Internet version. The list was revised and is published on the Webpage.

30. Proceedings of IAG Symposia

H. Drewes informed that the Proceedings of the IAG Symposia at the IUGG General Assemblies are generally published in the Springer Series. However, it has been decided which Symposia of the IUGG 2011 GA shall be considered, i.e. IAG Symposia only or also Joint Symposia and Union Symposia. The EC decided to include the papers presented in the IAG Symposia and those in the Joint Symposia led by the IAG. The price for the Proceedings depends on the number of pages. If all contributions should be published, two volumes will be necessary and thus the price is accordingly higher. Therefore it was proposed to limit the number of pages per contribution to 6; this would correspond to about 140 papers to be published.

31. Venue of the IAG Scientific Assembly 2013

Due to time constraints the Topic was deferred to the next session.

32. Adjourn

M. Sideris thanked the EC members for their contributions and closed the session at 11 am.

III. Monday, July 4, 2011, 15:15-16:15

33. IAG/IUGG Resolutions

The session was convened at short notice in order to discuss and draft resolutions for approval by the IAG and IUGG Councils, respectively, and to meet the deadline the very next day. There were two resolutions proposed:

- Gravity field satellite missions (proposed by *N. Sneeuw*): To urge international and national institutions to make all efforts in implementing new gravity field satellite missions;
- Second Realization of the International Celestial Reference Frame (proposed by *H. Schuh*): To recommend that the ICRF2 be used as a standard for future applications in geodesy.

It was decided to formulate the resolutions for both the IAG and the IUGG Council.

IV. Tuesday, July 5, 2011, 13:30-14:40

34. Actual status report

M. Sideris summarised the results of the previous IAG EC sessions and the latest IUGG EC and Council meetings. The IUGG Committee for selecting the venue of the 2015 General Assembly had proposed two candidates. The final decision shall be made by the IUGG Council in its next session on July 06, 2011.

35. IAG Budget 2011-2015

H. Drewes presented his proposal for the IAG Budget 2011-2015 in detail. He suggested awarding more travel grants in order to support young scientists to participate in symposia and explained that the allocation from the IUGG depends on the number of the participants registered for IAG at the latest IUGG General Assembly. After the 2011 GA, about 11% of the total allocation to the Associations will be given to the IAG. *H. Drewes* appealed that all EC Members should urge countries which are not yet IUGG Members to join the IUGG. *G. Beutler* moved to accept the proposed IAG Budget 2011-2015 to be presented in the Session of the IAG Council on July 06, 2011. *M. Sideris* seconded, and the EC agreed unanimously.

36. Report of the Audit Committee

The documents for the budget 2007-2011 had been handed to the Audit Committee which had proved the documents intensively and compiled a relevant report, stating, that no objections could be found and the budget management was fully correct. This report will be presented to the IAG Council on 06.07.2011 for official acceptance. The EC expressed its cordial thanks to *H. Drewes* as the IAG

Secretary General as well as to the Treasurer for their excellent work.

37. Report of the IAG Resolution Committee

Ch. Rizos reported that the Resolution Committee had submitted two resolutions to Uri Shamir to be presented to the IUGG Council as IUGG Resolutions. The resolutions were formulated slightly changed as IAG Resolutions, too, especially for the case that the IUGG would not adopt them. The texts were discussed and concluded by the EC. The final texts will be released by the IAG Council in the coming Session.

38. Corrections of Bylaws and Rules

The IAG Statutes and Bylaws have to be reviewed every eight years, i.e. in 2015 again after the 2007 IUGG General Assembly in Perugia. This is done by the so-called Cassinis Committee (see Topic 39). *M. Sideris* requested all colleagues to prepare any suggestions for updates/changes till the 2013 IAG Scientific Assembly to be discussed there and to give the Committee time to prepare a final version to be adopted by the Council in 2015.

H. Drewes then explained that besides the Bylaws there are other Rules, e.g. those for Travel Grants which can be changed and adopted by the EC at any time. The maximum grants to be awarded are at present 400 USD for travels in the own country and 800 USD for travels abroad. According to the increased costs for travelling, he proposed to mark up to 500 USD for national travels and to 1000 USD for international travels, respectively. The sentence in the rules which is limiting the number of grants per year to 10 should be deleted without substitution. *H. Schuh* moved to accept the updated IAG Rules for Travel Grants, *Ch. Rizos* seconded, and the EC agreed unanimously.

39. Review Committee of Statutes, Bylaws and Rules

The establishment of the so-called "Cassinis Committee" 2011-2015 was delayed for the First Meeting of the IAG EC 2011-2015 on July 07, 2011.

40. Sponsorship of symposia and workshops

H. Drewes mentioned that according to a previous EC decision, all Symposia organised by one IAG Component or IAG Sub-components get automatically the status of IAG Symposia. Then he presented an overview of upcoming symposia within 2011. The EC concluded which of them should be sponsored by the IAG. *M. Sideris* emphasised to urge the organisers to use the IAG Label for such symposia on all relevant occasions, especially on the homepages and covers of the proceedings.

41. Preparation of the IAG Closing Session

H. Drewes presented the agenda of the IAG Closing Session on July 6, 2011. All convenors were asked to give a much summarised report or special highlights of their sessions.

The list of proposed IAG Fellows prepared by the IAG Office had been distributed among the EC Members. The EC discussed this list; several candidates were discarded as they did not show the expected activities. The updated list will be presented in the Closing Session. The certificates will be sent by e-mail.

42. Any other business

According to the IAG Statutes the presidency of *M. Sideris* ends with the IAG Closing Session on July 06. *H. Drewes* moved to appoint *Michael Sideris* as IAG Honorary President. *Ch. Rizos* seconded, and the EC agreed unanimously. *M. Sideris* expressed his deep thanks for this honour.

43. End

G. Beutler stated that with this EC Meeting the legislative period 2007-2011 has come to its end. The EC expresses its cordial thanks to the IAG Bureau, in particular to the President and the IAG Office. Moreover, the EC thanked especially those colleagues who will be no longer in the Committee. *M. Sideris* replied by thanking the EC for the most efficient cooperation as well as friendly atmosphere. Moreover, he included his best wishes for *Ch. Rizos* as the future President. The session was closed at 14:40.