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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

End of year message from the IAG president

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

the year 2006 lies between the IAG Scientific Assembly in 2005 in Cairns, Australia (the proceedings of which were very recently received -- thanks to the Australian "crew" led by Paul Tregoning and Chris Rizos) and the IAG/IUGG General Assembly in Perugia in Summer 2007. At first sight one would therefore expect 2006 to be an year of "peace and tranquility" for the IAG. The following – very personal and incomplete – remarks prove that this was not at all the case: We have seen an year full of extremely interesting and stimulating IAG events and developments.

The GGOS project, led since mid 2006 by Markus Rothacher (chair), Ruth Neilan and Hans-Peter Plag (vice-chairs), made good progress. The project is based on a rather large steering committee, the size and composition of which created some concerns at the IAG Executive Committee Meeting in Vienna. The IAG Executive Committee did, however, also see the advantage of a large committee (encompassing the IAG Committees, Services, all regions of the world, and IAG representatives in GEO and IGOS) for the GGOS implementation phase. This is why the Executive Committee eventually accepted the intermediary terms of reference for GGOS (valid till the IAG General Assembly in Perugia). 2006 was an extremely busy year for GGOS: Regular steering, executive, and writing committee meetings (not to mention the uncountable telephone conferences) were organized to coordinate the work in the project and to draft the GGOS-2020 Reference Document (>100 pages) and, based on the reference document, a much shorter GGOS-2020 strategy document. The two documents are expected to be ready for distribution at the IAG General Assembly in Perugia. They shall provide the basis for the further GGOS development and for the GGOS relation to the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and UNESCO's Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS-P).

The sixth Hotine-Marussi Symposium on theoretical and computational geodesy took place in Wuhan, China, in May 2006. The general title of the symposium was "Challenge and Role of Modern Geodesy". It was the first Hotine-Marussi symposium taking place outside Europe. The event was organized by the Intercommission Committee on Theory (together with the local committee). The symposium brought together theoreticians, practitioners, monitoring specialists, etc. From my perspective the set up of the sixth Hotine-Marussi symposium was very successful and promising. It might serve as a template for the future of this famous series of symposia.

The first International Symposium of the International Gravity Field Service (IGFS) in Istanbul end of August/beginning of September 2006 proved to be what it promised to be, namely the starting point for the creation of the IGFS. As opposed to the other events mentioned in my review I was not able to attend the symposium. I was, however, told, that the symposium was very interesting and constructive. The IAG expects, of course, that the IGFS will develop into the expected coordinating service for gravity field determination and monitoring. In view of the advances in space-based, aerogravimetric, and terrestrial methods for gravity field determination and monitoring, the task is a true challenge for the IAG in general, and for the IGFS in particular.

IAG Commission 1 (Reference Frames) did partly synchronize its "International IAG / FIG Symposium on Geodetic Reference Frames GRF2006" with the "XXIII International FIG Congress" in Munich in October. There was in particular a common day organized by and for IAG, FIG, and INTERGEO. Let me point out that both, FIG and IAG view a development strengthening the collaboration between FIG and IAG as extremely important. Let me take the opportunity to thank in particular Prof. Holger Magel for the remarkable efforts and initiatives taken in this respect during his FIG presidency (his period of FIG presidency expires at the end of 2006).



The symposium "GRF2006" was announced as the first symposium on reference frames after the release of the new ITRF2005! This actually was the case, as the ITRF2005 was released a few days prior to the symposium. Unlike the previous versions of the International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF), the ITRF2005 was constructed with input data in the form of time series of station positions and Earth Orientation Parameters (EOPs). The ITRF2005 input time-series solutions were provided by the IAG Services of satellite techniques, namely by the IGS, ILRS, IDS, and by the IVS. IERS-internally, two complete and independent realizations of the ITRF2005 were produced, namely by the Institut Géographique National (IGN) and by the German Geodetic Research Institution (DGFI). The mutual benefits and deficiencies of the two solutions were in the center of very lively (and at times entertaining) presentations, discussions, and debates at the symposium and afterwards

Let me mention that there were many more meetings, workshops, and planning events organized in 2006 by IAG entities. I had in particular the privilege of attending the IGS Analysis Center Workshop in Darmstadt, Germany, the ILRS Workshop in Canberra, Australia, and the IGS Retreat in San Francisco, USA. I was very much impressed by the hard and successful work performed within these and other IAG components.

In view of the fact that the work in IAG is based on voluntary contributions (not to say on "hard labor") of many organizations and individuals, and in view of the remarkable results achieved in 2006 (and previously), we have every reason to be optimistic concerning the future of our Association. Let me conclude my review of the IAG events in 2006 by thanking you all for the time and energy devoted to IAG and by wishing you A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GERHARD BEUTLER
President of IAG

Call for Proposals to Establish and Host the International Altimetry Service Integration Office (IAS-IO)

Dear Colleagues,

herewith we would like to submit the following

Call for Proposals to Establish and Host the International Altimetry Service Integration Office (IAS-IO)

The IAS-IO shall

- provide a platform (and single point of contact) for general information on satellite altimetry and its applications;
- communicate with, and interface to, altimeter mission data providers, centres which process, archive, and analyse altimeter data, and other related services and organizations;
- promote satellite altimetry as a core element of Global Earth Observing Systems (GEOS); and
- help compile and analyse data, and respond to altimeter user requirements.

The rational and detailed description of the Call can be found at

<http://www.dgfi.badw.de/fileadmin/DOC/2007/call4IAS-office.pdf>

The deadline for proposals is **March 1st, 2007**.

Please forward this Call to any colleague or institution which might be interested.

WOLFGANG BOSCH, C.K. SHUM,
PHIL WOODWORTH, AND GARY MITCHUM

ISSI Call 2007 for International Teams in Space Science

Dear Sir/Madam,

Announcement.

The International Space Science Institute (ISSI) in Bern, Switzerland, invites proposals from International Teams to conduct on its premises study activities in Space Science (Earth System sciences, Solar and Solar Terrestrial science, Planetary science, Astrobiology, Astrophysics and Fundamental physics), based on the analysis and evaluation of existing data from several spacecraft and eventual integration with ground observations and theoretical models.

Teams would typically consist of about 8-12 members (some could have a few more and some less, to a minimum of 3) and assemble for two/three one-week meetings over 12-18 months. One Team Leader will take the responsibility for the activity of the Team in all its phases and will ensure the interface with ISSI.

Letter of Intent: February 19, 2007

Deadline for proposals: March 27, 2007

Applications: Detailed information on the format and contents of the proposal, selection procedures, schedule and support from ISSI is to be found on the ISSI site <http://www.issibern.ch/visitors.html>.

Information

For further questions and information please contact me at the addresses below.

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VITTORIO MANNO
Bern, January 2007

International Journal of Navigation and Observation - An Open Access Journal

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to let you know of the launch of the International Journal of Navigation and Observation which aims to explore emerging concepts and applications in navigation, positioning, Earth observation, and related fields. The journal is directed at both practicing engineers as well as academic researchers. It will highlight new ideas and challenges in both application development and basic research, thus seeking to bridge the gap between innovation and practical implementation.

The journal publishes two kinds of issues: regular issues and special issues. The regular issues publish collections of papers without special solicitation. The special issues are specifically targeted at topics of heightened interest; they consist of manuscripts contributed by authors responding to a particular Call-for-Papers. Regular papers can be submitted at any time, while special issue papers can only be submitted according to a planned schedule and submission guidelines as stated in the relevant Call-for-Papers.

International Journal of Navigation and Observation is a peer-reviewed full "Open Access" journal, i.e., the journal enables world-wide, barrier-free, online access to the full text of published research articles. All interested readers can read, download, and/or print any articles without requiring a subscription to the journal. In addition, we allow our open access authors to retain their own copyright as long as they sign a Creative Commons Attribution License, which allows readers to freely access, print and redistribute an article as long as it is properly cited.

The journal has distinguished editorial board members with extensive academic qualifications, ensuring that the journal will maintain high scientific standards and have a broad international coverage.

Another important issue is the review and publication speed of the journal since the publisher's electronic Manuscript Tracking System (MTS) at <http://www.hindawi.com/mts/> helps reduce the review time significantly. We are then aiming for an average publication time of a few weeks following acceptance.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to submit your research paper to the journal and maximize the readership and impact of your research. For more information about the journal, please visit the following URL: <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ijno/>.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the journal.

Many thanks and best regards.

Sincerely yours,

MARCO LUISE
Editor-in-Chief
International Journal of Navigation and Observation

New chairperson of the Norwegian IAG Committee

Bente Lilja Bye has taken over Bjørn Geirr Harsson as chairperson of the Norwegian IAG Committee from 1st January 2007. Her title and address are:

Research director Bente Lilja Bye
Norwegian Mapping Authority - Geodesy
N-3507 Hønefoss
NORWAY

IAG BUREAU

Geometric Geodesy notes are available for downloading

Jekeli, Christopher: Geometric Reference Systems in Geodesy.

This 200+ pages text covers all aspects of terrestrial and celestial coordinate reference systems and frames in geodesy, from historical geodetic datums to modern international reference systems and the transformations between them. The notes can be downloaded from the Knowledge Bank at OSU from the URI: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/24301>

Rapp, Richard H: Geometric Geodesy Parts I and II.

These 189+225 pages notes are also downloadable from the following two URI's: <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/24333> and <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/24409>.

Meeting Announcements

Abstract Deadline for IUGG General Assembly extended

By general consent, the Perugia General Assembly Local Organizing Committee has agreed to extend the deadline for submission of abstracts and travel grant applications to **28 February** if submitted electronically. The deadline to send abstracts by post is February 10. Persons expecting to participate in the IUGG General Assembly should submit these documents as early as possible so that they can be processed efficiently.

Please note that registrations are now being accepted, the form is available on line. The deadline for early registration and accommodation bookings is **30 April**. That deadline is firm and cannot be changed.

The Website for the Perugia General Assembly: www.iugg2007perugia.it.

Special Events At The General Assembly

In addition to the Scientific Programme, a growing number of special events are being planned. This is a small selection of events known at this time – please check the Assembly web site for updates.

Monday 2 July, 6:30 p.m.

Welcoming Ceremony The Welcoming Ceremony will be held in the historical center of Perugia in the "Sala dei Notari" of the Town Hall. It will be broadcast in the nearby main square on a wide screen. After the celebration, refreshments will be served. At 10:00 p.m. entertainment displaying allegoric topics on the General Assembly will follow.

Friday 13 July, 4 – 5 p.m.

Closing Ceremony. Meet the new IUGG officers for 2007-2011 and receive the invitation for the 2011 (XXV) IUGG General Assembly.

Be also advised that the IUGG business meetings are scheduled as follows:

IUGG Bureau Meetings

Sunday 1 July 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Thursday 5 July 12:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday 10 July 12:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

IUGG Executive Committee meetings

Sunday 1 July 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday 5 July 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday 10 July 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

IUGG Council meetings

Wednesday 4 July 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Friday 6 July 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday 11 July 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

SOURCE: THE IUGG ELECTRONIC JOURNAL
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“Scientific and Fundamental Aspects of the Galileo Programme”

2-4 October 2007, Toulouse, France.

An international colloquium on fundamental aspects and scientific applications of Galileo and GNSS will be held in Toulouse in October 2007. ANAE (Académie Nationale de l’Air et de l’Espace), Bureau des Longitudes, Académie de Marine and ESA (European Space Agency), are the main instigators of this colloquium meant to contribute to the 50th anniversary celebrations of the launch of Sputnik.

The colloquium will address three major issues:

- The fundamental aspects of navigation by satellites and Galileo: geodetic and temporal reference frames, relativistic frame, on board and ground clocks, orbits, radiative environment in orbit, intersatellite links, fundamental aspects of propagation, tropospheric

- and ionospheric corrections, calibration and validation, relations with international organisations (BIPM, IGS).
- Scientific applications in meteorology, geodesy, geophysics, space physics, oceanography, land surface and ecosystem studies, using either normal or reflected signals, differential measurements, phase measurements, occultations, in real or delayed modes, using receivers placed on the ground, in airplanes or in scientific satellites.
 - Scientific developments in physics and dealing with future systems, particularly in testing fundamental laws, in astronomy, in quantum communication, and in developing clocks or experiments based on GNSS.

This colloquium intends to bring together leading members of the European scientific community and their international partners. One of its aims is to propose to Galileo partners means of enhancing the scientific use of Galileo and to contribute to GNSS development based on scientific approaches.

Contact Points:

Organisation Committee: Martine.Segur@anae.fr

Scientific Committee: Clovis.de.Matos@esa.int

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.CONGREX.NL/07A06/](http://www.congrex.nl/07A06/)

Symposium on Terrestrial Gravimetry: Static and Mobile Measurements

St. Petersburg, Russia, 20 - 22 August 2007.

The meeting is being organized by Leonid Vitushkin, Chair of the Study Group 2.1 (Comparison of Absolute Gravimeters) of Commission 2. The symposium is officially sponsored by the IAG, co-sponsored by the Institute of Earth Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow; and the BIPM.

The topics of the conference will include the design and investigations of the measuring instruments for the absolute and relative measurement of the gravity field, their applications for terrestrial, shipboard and airborne platforms, and in the metrology of gravimetry. Traditional free-fall, superconducting, and spring-type gravimeters, gradiometers, and new technologies, such as based on atom interferometry, will be especially welcome, as will results and methodologies of static and mobile campaigns, as well as current and future networks. Geophysical interpretation of results and connection with space-borne systems are of limited interest, since the emphasis is on terrestrial (including airborne) instrumentation and methods to extract gravity field measurements for a variety of applications.

More details about the symposium will soon be available on the website of the meeting. Contact person of the Local Organising Committee is Mrs. Margarita Grishina (mgrishina@eprib.ru).

CHRISTOPHER JEKELI AND
LEONID VITUSHKIN

37th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research and Associated Events – COSPAR 2008

50th Anniversary Assembly

13 - 20 July 2008, Montreal, Canada.

Contact:

COSPAR Secretariat, c/o CNES, 2 place Maurice Quentin, 75039 Paris Cedex 01, France. Tel: +33 1 44 76 75 10, Fax: +33 1 44 76 74 37. E-mail: cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr
<http://www.cospar2008.org/> or <http://www.cospar-assembly.org>

Scientific Program Chair:

Prof. Jean-Pierre St.-Maurice, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada

Abstract Deadline:
Mid-February 2008

Topics:

Approximately 85 meetings covering the fields of COSPAR Scientific Commissions (SC) and Panels:

- SC A: The Earth's Surface, Meteorology and Climate
- SC B: The Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System
- SC C: The Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets Including Reference Atmospheres
- SC D: Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Planetary Magnetospheres
- SC E: Research in Astrophysics from Space
- SC F: Life Sciences as Related to Space
- SC G: Materials Sciences in Space
- SC H: Fundamental Physics in Space
- Panel on Satellite Dynamics (PSD)
- Panel on Scientific Ballooning (PSB)
- Panel on Potentially Environmentally Detrimental Activities in Space (PEDAS)
- Panel on Radiation Belt Environment Modelling (PRBEM)
- Panel on Space Weather (PSW)
- Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP)
- Panel on Capacity Building (PCB)
- Panel on Education
- Special events: 50th anniversary lectures, interdisciplinary lectures, space agency round table, session on EGY - Towards an Earth and Space Science Commons

Papers Published in *Advances in Space Research*, a fully refereed journal.

A. JANOFSKY
Associate Director
COSPAR

16th International Workshop on Laser Ranging – Initial Announcement

Poznan Poland, September 22-26, 2008.

The Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences has confirmed that the next International Workshop on Laser Ranging will be held in Poznan Poland (15 km from the Borowiec SLR station) on September 22-26, 2008. We ask you to reserve this date in your calendars and plan to attend what will surely be another exciting laser workshop.

CAREY NOLL
Crustal Dynamics Data Information System (CDDIS)

IAG Sponsored Meetings

24th General Assembly of the IUGG

2 - 13 July 2007, Perugia, Italy

The XXIV IUGG General Assembly will be held in Perugia from July 2nd to July 13th 2007. The conference events (sessions, workshops, lectures, symposia) will take place on the campus of the University of Perugia. The poster session and special events will take place in the historical center of the city. The deadline for early bird registration is April 15, 2007, for electronic submission of abstracts: January 31, 2007. The website of the Assembly is <http://www.iugg2007perugia.it/>.

Symposium on Terrestrial Gravimetry: Static and Mobile Measurements

20 - 22 August 2007, St. Petersburg, Russia.

The topics of the conference will include the design and investigations of the measuring instruments for the absolute and relative measurement of the gravity field, their applications for terrestrial,

shipboard and airborne platforms, and in the metrology of gravimetry. Traditional free-fall, superconducting, and spring-type gravimeters, gradiometers, and new technologies, such as based on atom interferometry, will be especially welcome, as will results and methodologies of static and mobile campaigns, as well as current and future networks. More details about the symposium will soon be available on the website of the meeting.

“Scientific and Fundamental Aspects of the Galileo Programme”

2-4 October 2007, Toulouse, France

An international colloquium on fundamental aspects and scientific applications of Galileo and GNSS will be held in Toulouse in October 2007. ANAE (Académie Nationale de l’Air et de l’Espace), Bureau des Longitudes, Académie de Marine and ESA (European Space Agency), are the main instigators of this colloquium meant to contribute to the 50th anniversary celebrations of the launch of Sputnik. For more information please visit <http://www.congrex.nl/07A06/>.

IAG Related Meetings

GEOS 2007

1-3 March 2007, Prague, Czech Republic

The 2nd International Trade Fair of Geodesy, Cartography, Navigation and Related Informatics will take place in Prague during March 1st to 3rd 2007. Other information dealing with the accompanied conference that will take place during March 1st and 2nd 2007 will be found at the following URL <http://www.igeos.cz/pages/conference.html>.

Munich Satellite Navigation Summit 2007

6 - 8 March 2007, Munich, Germany

The Munich Satellite Navigation Summit 2007 – the fifth one – to be held 6-8 March, 2007 in the famous “Residenz München”, Germany, has been established as the European and international conference with global impact featuring invited high-ranking worldwide speakers from industry, science and governments dealing with the directions of satellite navigation now and in the future. Further information is available on the website <http://www.munich-satellite-navigation-summit.org>.

First Asia workshop on superconducting gravimetry

12-16 March 2007, Hsinchu, Taiwan

The promotion of superconducting gravimetry research includes, among others, exchange of gravity data, software, research personnel and inter-comparison of absolute gravimeters. The workshop is open not only to scientists in Asia, but also to scientists in the world. The abstract submission deadline is December 31, 2006. Please visit http://space.cv.nctu.edu.tw/SG/Asia_workshop.html for details.

EGU General Assembly 2007

15-20 April 2007, Vienna, Austria

The EGU General Assembly 2007 will bring together geoscientists from all over Europe and the rest of the world into one meeting covering all disciplines of the Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences. The EGU invites all geoscientists to participate in the assembly, submit contributions to the topical sessions and share their research with colleagues and friends. Please also visit the conference website for further details: <http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2007/>.

ASMDA 2007

29 May – 1 June, 2007, Chania, Crete, Greece

The 12th International Conference on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis (ASMDA 2007.), which will take place in Chania, Crete, Greece (May 29 – June 1, 2007).

The ASMDA Conferences are organized every two years starting 25 years ago with the first ASMDA Symposium organized in Brussels, Belgium (1981). The papers presented are included in special

volumes. The best papers appear in special issues of the leading journals of the ASMDA field. Further information at the Conference Web site: <http://www.asmda.com>.

WMSCI 2007

8-11 July 2007, Orlando, Florida, USA

The 11th World Multi-Conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (WMSCI 2007)) will take place in Orlando, Florida, USA, from July 8-11, 2007. WMSCI 2007 is an international forum for scientists and engineers, researchers and consultants, theoreticians and practitioners in the fields of Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics. The topic of the conference is related to the area of Geographical Information Systems. Visit the conference homepage at <http://www.iiis-cyber.org/wmsci2007> for further details.

CITSA 2007

12-15 July 2007, Orlando, Florida, USA

The 4th International Conference on Cybernetics and Information Technologies, Systems and Applications: CITSA 2007 jointly with the 5th International Conference on Computing, Communications and Control Technologies: CCCT 2007 will take place in Orlando, Florida, USA, from July 12-15, 2007. CITSA '07 is an International Multi-Conference being organized with the purpose of providing researchers, practitioners, developers, consultants, and end-users of computerized, communications and/or control systems and technologies, as well as their industrial and social applications in the private and the public sectors, an opportunity to join in a common place sharing experience and knowledge. The conference homepage is at <http://www.info-cyber.org/citsa2007>.

4th AOGS Assembly

30 July - 4 August 2007, Bangkok, Thailand

Having hosted its Scientific Assemblies annually since 2004, Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) Assembly has become an ideal forum for addressing to and interacting with geoscientists from all over Asia and Oceania as well as those from U.S. and Europe. There will also be a special GPS/VLBI/SLR Networks and Geosciences Applications session in AOGS Assembly 2007. The deadline of submitting abstract is 15 February, 2007. For details, please visit <http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2007/>.

37th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research and Associated Events – COSPAR 2008

50th Anniversary Assembly

13 - 20 July 2008, Montreal, Canada.

The 50th Anniversary Assembly COSPAR 2008 will be held in Montreal, Canada. For more information about this particular event please visit the Assembly website at <http://www.cospar2008.org/>.

16th International Workshop on Laser Ranging

22-26 September 2008, Poznan, Poland

The next International Workshop on Laser Ranging will be held in Poznan Poland (15 km from the Borowiec SLR station) on September 22-26, 2008.

IAG Sister Societies' General Assemblies

XIIIth ISM Congress

September 24-28, 2007, Budapest, Hungary

The XIIIth Congress of International Society for Mine Surveying (ISM) will be held at Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Budapest, Hungary. The preliminary program is available from the ISM website: <http://www.ism.rwth-aachen.de>.