

Minutes of the IAG Council Sessions at the General Assembly 2015

Helmut Hornik · Franz Kuglitsch (Minutes Takers) · **Hermann Drewes** (Secretary General)

Place: Prague Conference Centre, Prague, Czech Republic
Time: June 24, 08:30-10:00 and June 30, 18:00-20:00

Agenda

Wednesday, June 24, 2015, 08:30-10:00, Meeting Hall 5

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda
2. IUGG2015 organisational issues
3. Agenda of the Opening and Closing Sessions
4. Information on IAG Awards
5. Proposal of the IAG Budget 2015-2018
6. Appointment of the Audit Committee
7. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee
8. Review of the 2015 election process and results
9. Report on the Review of IAG Statutes and Bylaws
10. Status of GGOS and ICCT
11. Status of Journal of Geodesy and IAG Symposia Series
12. Status of IAG and National Reports 2011-2015
13. Venue Proposals for the Scientific Assembly 2017
14. Any other business (all)
15. Adjourn

Tuesday, June 30, 2015, 18:00-20:00, Conference Hall

16. Venue proposals for the Scientific Assembly 2017
17. Election of the Venue of the Scientific Assembly 2017
18. Audit Committee Report, discharge of the management
19. Approval of the IAG Budget 2015-2018
20. Approval of the revised Statutes and Bylaws
21. Report of the IAG Resolutions Committee
22. Approval of Resolutions
23. Report from IUGG Council and Executive Committee
24. IAG Representatives to external bodies
25. Preparation of the IAG and IUGG Closing Sessions
26. Any other business
27. Closure

Participants

IAG National Delegates: Argentina (Sergio Cimbaro, June 30), Australia (Chris Rizos), Austria (Johannes Böhm), Belgium (Juliette Legrand), Brazil (Denizar Blitzkow), Colombia (Laura Sanchez), Czech Republic (Petr Holota), Denmark (Niels Andersen, June 24), Estonia (Artu Ellman, June 24), Finland (Markku Poutanen), France (Francoise Duquenne), Germany (Jürgen Müller), Greece (Elias Tziavos, June 24, Christopher Kotsakis, June 30), Hungary (József Adám, June 24), India (Virendra Tiwari, June 24, Vijay Prasad Dimri, June 30), Israel (Gilad Even-Tzur, June 30), Japan (Kosuke Heki), Korea (Phil-Ho Park), Luxembourg (Tonie van Dam), New Zealand (Matt Amos), Norway (Oddgeir Kristiansen, June 24), Poland (Jan Krynski), Portugal (João Torres, June 24), Russia (Vladimir Kaftan), Slovak Republic (Ladislav Brimich, June 30), Sweden (Jonas Agren), Switzerland (Adrian Wiget), Turkey (Soner Özdemir), United Kingdom (Peter Clarke), USA (Jeffrey Freymueller)

IAG Executive Committee (guests): Harald Schuh (Vice President), Hermann Drewes (Secretary General), Michael Sideris (Immediate Past President), Helmut Hornik (Assistant Secretary), Urs Marti (President Commission 2), Riccardo Barzaghi (Representative of the Services).

Guests: Danan Dong (China), Larry Hothem (USA), Johannes Ihde (Germany), Franz Kuglitsch (Assistant Secretary General), Shah Muhammad (Pakistan), Diego Pinon (Argentina), M. F. Le Quentrec-Lalancette (France), Alexander Ustinov (Russia).

Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2015, 08:30-10:00, Meeting Hall 5

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

Ch. Rizos opened the first Session of the IAG Council 2015. He invited the participants to attend the IAG Opening Session with the following reception on June 25. The agenda had been distributed by e-mail before, and was unanimously adopted.

2. IUGG2015 organisational issues

H. Drewes presented an overview of the status and venue of the present 26th IUGG General Assembly summarising the IAG symposia and meetings. There are:

- 8 IAG Symposia (distributed over 52 sessions),
- 3 Joint Association Symposia led by the IAG,
- 10 Joint Association Symposia sponsored by the IAG,
- 1 Union Symposia organised by the IAG,
- 10 Union Symposia sponsored by the IAG,
- 4 IAG EC Meetings (June 23, 26, 29; new EC: July 2),
- 2 IAG Council Meetings (June 24 and 30).

There will be 9 Union Lectures (8 Associations and the Union); *H. Schuh* will present “Contributions of Geodesy to Monitoring Natural Hazards and Global Change”.

Additional public IAG events are the Opening Session (June 25), Dinner (June 28) and Closing Session (July 01).

H. Drewes then listed the IUGG 2015 statistics. Ca. 3100 participants have registered so far. 700 applications for travel support and/or registration fee waiving were submitted, 51 of them to the IAG. IAG receives nearly 9.000 US\$ from the IUGG and 13 waived registration fees (~ 7.000 US\$) from the LOC. Additional funds come from the IAG budget, thus about 37.000 US\$ could be given for travel awards and waived registration fee. The total number of oral and posters presentations amounts to 5700; ca. 580, i.e. 10%, are associated to the IAG. Most of the submitted IAG abstracts refer to Commission 2 “Gravity Field” (136 to the static and 86 to the variable gravity); each of the other 3 Commission symposia received ca. 80, and each of the 3 GGOS symposia ca. 40 abstracts.

3. Agenda of the Opening and Closing Sessions

H. Drewes presented the schedules of the IAG Opening Session followed by the IAG reception, and the IAG Closing Session followed by the IUGG Closing Session. He then explained the time schedule concerning the IAG related sessions. Maximum two parallel IAG sessions will take place and no sessions are scheduled when major IUGG events such as the Union lectures will be held.

4. Information on IAG Awards

H. Drewes informed the EC on the awards to be presented at the IAG Opening Session according to the IAG rules:

The Levallois Medal (installed 1979) is awarded in recognition of distinguished service to the Association, and/or to the science of geodesy in general. An ad hoc committee of Honorary Presidents nominates a candidate which has to be confirmed by the IAG EC. At the General Assembly 2015 it will be granted to *Reiner Rummel*, Munich/Germany, in particular for his merits as principal investigator of the satellite mission "Gravity Field and Steady-State Ocean Circulation Explorer" (GOCE).

The Guy Bomford Prize (installed 1975) is awarded to a young scientist for outstanding contributions to geodesy. The National Committees of IUGG member countries send nominations to the IAG Bureau. A committee consisting of the Presidents of the IAG Commissions and two other members appointed by the Bureau selects the awardee. The 2015 Bomford Prize is awarded to *Yoshiyuki Tanaka*, Tokyo/Japan in particular for his recent contributions in the field of geodynamics, regional tectonics, and glacial isostatic adjustment. He has opened new interdisciplinary research areas spanning modern geodesy and seismology.

IAG Young Authors Award: This prize is dedicated to young scientists for excellent publications in the Journal of Geodesy (JoG). Nominations are made by the Editor-in-Chief, moreover all proposals of at least three IAG Fellows or Associates are considered. The IAG EC decides on the awardees. The prize is for each JoG annual volume and handed over in a 2-years-turn on the occasion of the IAG General and Scientific Assemblies. The prize comprises a certificate and US\$ 1000. For the respective periods considerable numbers of candidates were nominated; the EC selected for 2013 *Krzysztof Sośnica*, Bern/Switzerland for his article "Impact of loading displacements on SLR-derived parameters and on the consistency between GNSS and SLR results") and for 2014 *Alvaro Santamaría Gómez*, Guadalajara/Spain and La Rochelle/France for his article "Long-term vertical land motion from double-differenced tide gauge and satellite altimetry data").

5. Proposal of the IAG Budget 2015 – 2018

H. Drewes gave an overview of the financial report 2011 – 2014. The accordance of receipts and expenditures with the approved budget has to be verified by an Audit Committee established by the Council. He emphasised that by far most of the receipts are coming from the IUGG allocation, but the fees of the IAG individual membership are considerable (at present ca. 200 full members).

In the following *H. Drewes* explained the planned budget for the next period 2015-2018. The major expenditures refer to travel grants for young scientists, followed by publications, organisation of assemblies and administrative travel costs. In this context he emphasised the considerable support by the German Geodetic Research Institute (DGFI) and the Bavarian Academy of Sciences. Furthermore, no bank account and transfer costs occur for the IAG Office, because the State of Bavaria is covering these as well as the continuous control of all expenditures. This has particularly to be acknowledged.

6. Appointment of the Audit Committee

As mentioned above, the financial report 2011-2014 has to be proved by an audit committee to be established by the Council. The colleagues *D. Blitzkow*, Brazil, *K. Heki*, Japan, and *M. Poutanen*, Finland were proposed. The Council adopted the proposal unanimously.

7. Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

The colleagues *R. Barzaghi*, Italy, *R. Gross*, USA and *P. Willis*, France were proposed to form the Resolutions Committee. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Two resolutions were proposed so far concerning

1. the installation of an International Height Reference System (IHRIS) for unifying the existing physical height systems as investigated in the GGOS Theme 1;
2. the establishment of a Global Absolute Gravity Reference System to replace the International Gravity Standardisation Net (IGSN71) which dates back to 1971, and many of its sites do not exist anymore.

8. Review of the 2015 election process and results

According to the IAG Statutes and Bylaws, the members of the EC are elected by the Council every 4 years by email-voting before the General Assembly (except the GGOS Chair and the ICCT President which are appointed by the EC). The IAG President appoints the Nominating Committee. These were *M. G. Sideris*, Canada (Chair), *S. de Freitas*, Brazil, *Y. Fukuda*, Japan, and *B. Heck*, Germany. The candidates are nominated by the delegates of the Adhering Bodies, the IAG officers, IAG Fellows, and individual members. *M. G. Sideris* presented the election process and the results of the elections from 42 incoming votes in total:

- President: *H. Schuh*, Germany
- Vice-President: *Z. Altamimi*, France
- Secretary General: *H. Drewes*, Germany
- President of the COB: *J. Ádám*, Hungary

- President of Commission 1: *G. Blewitt*, USA
 - President of Commission 2: *R. Pail*, Germany
 - President of Commission 3: *M. Hashimoto*, Japan
 - President of Commission 4: *M. Santos*, Canada
 - Member at Large – Position 1: *L. Combrinck*, S. Africa
 - Member at Large – Position 2: *M. C. Pacino*, Argentina
 - Service Representative 1: *R. Neilan*, USA
 - Service Representative 2: *R. Barzaghi*, Italy
 - Service Representative 3: *A. Nothnagel*, Germany
- All elected colleagues confirmed to accept their election.

9. Report on the Review of IAG Statutes and Bylaws

The present IAG Statutes and Bylaws were adopted at the General Assembly 2007. According to the IAG Bylaws, a Review Committee has been installed in 2011 with the members *M. Sideris*, Canada (Chair), *Y. Fukuda*, Japan, *R. Neilan*, USA, and *H. Schuh*, Germany. After a call for proposals incoming suggestions were revised and new versions of the Statutes and Bylaws were circulated. A preliminary update was presented to the Council at the IAG Scientific Assembly 2013; *M. Sideris* presented now the latest version. The Council has to prove the texts and decide on the acceptance or rejection. This voting will take place at the second Council meeting on June 30, 2016.

10. Status of GGOS and ICCT

H. Kutterer, Germany has been re-appointed by the IAG EC as the Chair of Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS). He reported that the ToR are going to be updated and adapted to the present needs. The new version will be presented to the EC to be proved and confirmed.

After two periods *N. Sneeuw* has retired from his position as the ICCT Chair. The EC has appointed *P. Novak*, Czech Republic as his successor. The revised IAG Bylaws prescribe that the ICCT becomes an IAG component like the Commissions and Services. Thus the ICCT Chair will be elected by the IAG Council in future.

11. Status of the Journal of Geodesy (JoG) and the IAG Symposia Series

H. Drewes presented a report of the JoG Editor in Chief *R. Klees* on the recent development of Journal. The overview informs on the impact factor, the number of submissions and rejections etc. According to the IAG Bylaws, the present JoG Editor in Chief, *R. Klees*, The Netherlands, recommended a list of candidates for the new Board. This list was published on the IAG Website, and additional nominations were received. The current Editorial Board will appoint the new Board during this General Assembly.

Then *H. Drewes* presented a report of *P. Willis*, Assistant Editor of the IAG Symposia Series, on the status (<http://www.springer.com/series/1345?detailsPage=titles>). Volumes 136 - 141 have been published in the recent period, 5 others are in progress. The time span between submission and publication could be reduced considerably. This is particularly due to the immediate online publication of each article as soon as approved. The hard copy publication takes considerably more time.

The Council discussed to release a digital version of the series as open access. *H. Drewes* informed that this option would be possible if the IAG pays the open-access fee.

12. Status of IAG Reports (Travaux de l'AIG) and National Reports 2011-2015

H. Drewes informed the Council that all received texts for the IAG Reports 2011 – 2015 (Travaux Vol. 39) and the National Reports are available on the IAG Website.

13. Proposals for the Venue of the IAG Scientific Assembly 2017

H. Drewes informed the Council that only one application has been received for the IAG Scientific Assembly 2017. The Geodetic Society of Japan invites to hold this Assembly from July 30 – August 4, 2017 in the International Conference Centre, Kobe, Japan. The President of the Geodetic Society of Japan and Chair of the National Committee for the IAG, *K. Heki*, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, will present the proposal. It is planned to hold the IAG Scientific Assembly 2017 together with the IASPEI Scientific Assembly.

14. Any other business

There was no other topic to be discussed.

15. Adjourn

Ch. Rizos invited all delegates to study the updated IAG Statutes and Bylaws for its adoption on June 30.

Tuesday, June 30, 2015, 18:00-20:00, Conference Hall

The IAG President, *Ch. Rizos*, opened the second meeting of the IAG Council 2015 and welcomed the participants.

16. Venue proposal for the Scientific Assembly 2017

K. Heki, the Japanese IAG Correspondent, presented the bid from Kobe, Japan, for organizing the IAG Scientific

Assembly 2017 and mentioned that there is interest to organise a joint Assembly together with IASPEI. Kobe was the only bid IAG has received to host the IAG Scientific Assembly 2017. The IAG Council noted the venue proposal for the Scientific Assembly 2017 and *K. Heki* was asked to inform the responsible Japanese institutions to start the preparations in time.

17. Election of the Venue of the IAG Scientific Assembly 2017

All IAG Council Members voted in favour of organizing a joint IAG-IASPEI Assembly in Kobe, Japan in 2017. Thus the invitation from Kobe, Japan, to organise a joint IAG-IASPEI Assembly in 2017 was accepted unanimously (Motion: *Jeffrey Freymueller*, 2nd: *Petr Holota*).

18. Report of the Audit Committee and discharge of the management

On behalf of the Audit Committee, *K. Krynski* presented his report and informed that a complete collection of all relevant budget documents has been handed over by the IAG Office and has been examined carefully, and he moved for the discharge. He mentioned that the new IAG EC should try to attract more individual members and to strengthen the benefits of the IAG membership. The IAG Financial Report 2011-2014 was unanimously adopted and the Secretary General was discharged.

19. Approval of the IAG Budget 2015-2018

Ch. Rizos mentioned that the IAG Bureau and EC have discussed the proposal for the IAG Budget 2015-2018, and noted that the names of expenditures and incomes are given by IUGG and therefore cannot be changed. Also, he noted that the new IUGG Statutes and By-Laws will allow Associations to have individual members from all countries in the world.

H. Drewes summarised the IAG Budget 2015-2018 and mentioned that the Bureau thinks that the costs for administration and travel should be lowered further in future. He noted that the allocations from IUGG are based on the participation of IAG delegates to the last three IUGG General Assemblies (Sapporo 2003, Perugia 2007, Melbourne 2011), where the participation of IAG delegates was not as high as in Prague 2015. Currently, IAG has only 201 individual members and some few student members. He clarified that the Student Membership Fee is free of charge and the students need to present their students ID every year. Also, he mentioned that the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB; *J. Adam*) is asking for further

input to further strengthen the IAG website and the visibility of IAG. The IAG Council approved the IAG Budget 2015-2018 unanimously (Motion: *Jürgen Müller*, 2nd: *Jeffrey Freymueller*).

20. Approval of the revised Statutes and Bylaws

H. Drewes presented the revised Statutes and Bylaws on behalf of *M. Sideris* with slightly revised wording suggested by *J. Freymueller*. The IAG Council approved the revised Statutes and Bylaws unanimously (Motion: *Jürgen Müller*, 2nd: *Jeffrey Freymueller*). *H. Drewes* noted that the revised Statutes and Bylaws will be sent to the IUGG for approval, and will then be published on the IAG website and in the Geodesist's Handbook 2016.

21. Report of the IAG Resolutions Committee

Ch. Rizos mentioned that the Chair of the IAG Resolutions Committee is not present.

H. Drewes presented the two revised IAG Resolutions after wording change. Resolution 1 concerns the "Definition and Realisation of an International Height Reference System" while Resolution 2 relates to the "Establishment of a Global Absolute Gravity Reference System". *Ch. Rizos* noted that so far there exists no International Height Reference System. The IAG Council noted the report of the IAG Resolutions Committee.

22. Approval of Resolutions

The plenary discussed the texts of both resolutions; some slight changes in the wording were applied. The texts will also be submitted to the IUGG for approval. The IAG Council approved Resolution 1 unanimously (Motion: *Chris Rizos*, 2nd: *Adrian Wiget*). The IAG Council approved Resolution 2 with two against (Motion: *Chris Rizos*, 2nd: *Jan Krynski*)

23. Report from the IUGG Council and Executive Committee

Ch. Rizos gave a short report on the meeting of the IUGG Council and Executive Committee. The IUGG Secretariat received two bids from Montreal, Canada, and New Delhi, India to hold the 2019 IUGG General Assembly. The IUGG Council decided for Montreal, Canada. *M. Sideris* was elected as IUGG President (2015-2019), *Ch. Rizos* as IUGG Bureau Member (2015-2019), and *J. Krynski* as member of the IUGG Finance Committee (2015-2019). A new Union Commission on Planetary Science has been established. 15% of all abstracts of the IUGG 2015

General Assembly are related to IAG which is a very positive development. *J. Freymueller* added (i) that the IUGG Council is now eligible to vote electronically, and therefore is no longer a body that decides only once in four years, and (ii) that now scientists from any country are eligible to be elected to any association officer position, except for President. *H. Schuh* noted that also IAG should continue with electronic voting. The IAG Council noted the report from IUGG Council and Executive Committee.

24. IAG Representatives to external bodies

H. Drewes mentioned that several IAG people will serve as IUGG liaison officers to international organisations in the period 2015-2019. The IAG Council noted the IAG representatives to external bodies.

25. Preparation of the IAG and IUGG Closing Sessions

H. Drewes presented the program for the IAG Closing Session on 1 July. The program topics include the reports of the IAG led Symposia by the respective conveners, the presentation of the IAG Resolutions by the Chair of the IAG Resolution Committee and the Fellows by the IAG Secretary General, the inaugural speech of the new IAG President, *H. Schuh*, and the closing speech of the outgoing president, *Ch. Rizos*. All colleagues are invited to attend the Closing Session. The IAG Council noted the preparations of the IAG Closing Session.

26. Any other business

H. Drewes mentioned that (i) a new service was installed by the IAG EC, the International Geodynamics and Earth Tides Service, which unifies the International Center for Earth Tides (ICET) and the Global Geodynamics Project. (ii) The Journal of Geodesy has got a new Editorial Board and Jürgen Kusche, Germany, as the new Editor in Chief. (iii) The new Statutes & By-Laws establish an Editor in Chief and Assistant Editor for the IAG Symposia Series. They will be elected by the new EC. *J. Freymueller* and *L. Sánchez* were proposed by the old EC for these positions. *J. Krynski* suggested discussing in future also the resolutions proposed by the IAG to the IUGG in the IAG Council and not only in the EC. The IAG Council noted this other business information.

27. Closure

Ch. Rizos closed the session with thanks to the participants for their attendance and contributions at 20:00.



Fig. 1 Participants of the IAG Opening Session at the XXVI IUGG General Assembly, Prague, Czech Republic, 25 June 2015