

Summary of the Council and Executive Committee Meetings during the IUGG XXIV General Assembly in Perugia, July 2007.

by C.C.Tscherning, IAG Secretary General

During the IUGG XXVI General Assembly in Perugia, Italy, July 2 – 14, 2007, the International Association of Geodesy had the following meetings:

- Executive Committee: July 2, 4 and 6, 2007.
- Council: July 2 and 9, 2007.

At the meeting of the EC the following were attending:

G. Beutler, C. C. Tscherning, M. Sideris, H. Drewes, C. Jekeli, V. Dehant, C. Rizos, L. P. Fortes, C. Merry, R. Neilan, M. Rothacher, H. Schuh, J. Adam, F. Sansò, K-P Schwarz, Ole B. Andersen, and as a guest: Steve Kenyon (future EC member).

At the meeting of the Council the following National Representatives were present:

Australia (Will Featherstone), Argentine (Maria Cristina Pacino), Austria (Christoph Twaroch), Belgium (Veronique Dehant), Bosnia, Herzegovina (Medzika Mulic), Brazil (Denizar Blitzkow), Canada (Spiros Pagiatakis), Chile (Rodrigo Maturana), China (Yamin Dang), Columbia (William Matinez), Czech Rep. (Petr Holota), Denmark (Niels Andersen), Estonia (Artu Ellmann), Finland (Markku Poutanen), France (Claude Boucher, last day substituted by Pascal Willis), Germany (Jürgen Müller), Hungary (Jozsef Adam), Indonesia (Hasanuddin Z Abidin), Japan (Shuhei Okubo), Luxembourg (Niw Schares), New Zealand (Donald Grant), Nigeria (C U Ezeigbo), Norway (Bente Lilja Bye), Poland (Jan Krynski), Portugal (Joao Agria Torres), Romania (Lucian Besutiu), Russian Federation (Michail Prilepin), Slovak Rep. (Ladislav Brimich), South Africa (Aslam Parker), Sweden (Lars Sjöberg), Spain (Miguel Sevilla), Switzerland (Adrian Wiget), Turkey (Ali Kilicoglu), UK (Alan Dodson), USA (Jeff Ferymueller, substituted by C K Shum on July 2).

During the meeting topics concerning the activities and administration of the affairs of the International Association of Geodesy were treated. Decisions and conclusions were drawn as follows.

1. Finances.

The Financial Report of the IAG for the period 1 January 2003 to December 31, 2006 was presented by the Secretary General during the IAG opening session (a copy can be found in this issue).

In terms of IAG by-law 4 an ad-hoc Audit Committee must be appointed by the Council to “examine all expenditures and ensure that they were in accordance with the proposals previously approved”. The audit Committee appointed by the Council on July 2, 2007 consisted of the national representatives of Norway, Poland and Portugal.

The Audit Committee performed the following functions

1.1 Examined a random selection of receipt and bank statements of the IAG account for the period January 2003 to December 2006. The final quadrennial report and interim annual reports had been checked by Hans Børge Nielsen, a firm of authorized public accountants.

1.2 Checked the balances appearing in the annual and quadrennial IAG reports.

1.3 Examined expenditure to ensure conformity with the 2003-2007 budget as approved at the IUGG General Assembly in Sapporo in July 2003.

1.4 Made some enquiries that were clarified by C.C. Tscherning (IAG Secretary General) and Emil Enemærke (Niels Bohr Institute).

1.5 Examined the budget for the period 2007-2011.

The Audit Committee makes the following observations and comments on the IAG accounts

2.1 The accounts were generally well presented and all expenditure was supported by receipts and bank statements.

2.2 The two earlier accounts of IAG are now combined into one (in DKK) as recommended by the Audit Committee appointed by the IAG Council in Sapporo 2003.

2.3 The Secretary General has negotiated the bank services as recommended by the former Audit Committee. By choosing an electronic banking service the costs are now considerably reduced. In addition, this solution saves time and thus administrative costs.

2.4 During the review period, the IAG made an operating surplus of approximately USD 53.000. This amount is added to the IAG reserve, leaving reserves of approximately USD 83.000.

2.5 The Audit Committee found that the IAG had a surplus on the average over the 4 year period on approximately USD 13.000 per year. This amounts to less than 10% of the

budget which is generally acceptable. The Audit Committee concludes that the budget estimates are being based on the experience accumulated over the years.

2.6 The Audit Committee note that the surplus of 2006 consists of net capital USD 46.732,66 and Other Grants (deposit from IGS) USD 4.977,33 amounting to USD 51.707,99.

2.7 The total net capital is USD 83.161,60 and in the official account is USD 88.138,94. This is due to a deposit from IGS that asked the IAG to solve a practical problem on money transfer.

2.8 The Administrative expenditures were significantly less than budgeted and the expenditures on Symposia and Scientific Meetings were significantly larger than the budget. The expenditure allocated to this last item was devoted to support the attendance of young scientists to symposia and scientific meetings. The Audit Committee finds this priority in line with the general policy of IAG and IUGG.

2.9 There is a significant difference between the budget and the expenditure on Publications that is explained by the change of contract conditions between the IAG and Springer Verlag.

2.10 The Audit Committee noted that no discount was given to IAG members at the IAG Scientific Assembly in Cairns in 2005.

2.11 The inclusion of the proceedings in the registration fee of the Sapporo IUGG General Assembly led to less registered participants directly under IAG. Several IAG members chose to register as IUGG or other associations in order to save money. The consequence of this is the decrease of the IUGG allocation to IAG since it is based on the number of attendees registered as IAG affiliates.

The Audit Committee makes the following recommendations

3.1 In order to ensure compliance with international standards of accounting and auditing, it is recommended to continue with a solution similar to the existing one, namely an official auditing company. The costs of the present services are considered a fair price in the market and must be kept at the present cost level whenever possible.

3.2 The budget for grants to young scientists must increase. Further the IAG should make this focus area more visible also in its accounting system and thus make the necessary administrative changes by adding a new post 14.3 Grants to Young Scientists.

3.3 The IAG should not include the price of the proceedings in the registration fees of meetings in order to keep the number of IAG members registered at the IUGG General Assemblies as high as possible.

3.4 The organizers of the IAG meetings should be encouraged to publish their proceedings by Springer Verlag (ref. 2.9) in order to maintain a series of publications with the IAG label and ensuring a high standard as well.

3.5 In order to save both money and administrative costs the IAG should seize to offer the possibility to use payment by checks.

On behalf of the IAG Council, the Audit Committee has the following acknowledgements and thanks

4.1 Carl Christian Tscherning, IAG Secretary General, for his efficient and cautious administration and management of the IAG Central Bureau.

4.2 The Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen for administrative and other support, notably the secretariat staff.

4.3 The International Geoid Service (Polytechnic of Milano, Italy) and the University of Hannover for providing the International Geoid School notes and the EGG97 CD-ROM, respectively.

The report was signed by Bente Lilja Bye, Jan Krynski and Joao Torres on 6th July 2007.

The report was accepted by the Council at its meeting July 9, 2007.

The Budget (attached to the report of the Secretary General, this issue) was approved by the Council at the same meeting.

2. Elections

The elections were prepared in advance due to the new structure of IAG. The election resulted in the following structure of IAG:

President: Michael Sideris,
Vice-President: Chris Rizos.
Secretary General: Hermann Drewes,
President Commission 1 (C1): Z.Altamimi,
President Commission 2 (C2): Y.Fukuda,
President Commission 3 (C3): M.Bevis,
President Commission 4(C4): S.Verhagen,
Members at large: K.Heki, R.Wonnacott,
Global geodetic Observing System Chairperson: M.Rothacher,
Service representatives: S.Kenyon, R,Neilan, H.Schuh,
President of the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB): J.Adam.

The executive committee elected the following Vice-Presidents C1: Harald Schuh, C2; Pieter Visser, C3: Richard Gross, C4: Dorothea Grejner-Brzezinska.

ICC on Theory.

President Nikos Sneeuw and
Vice-President Pavel Novak.

The EC appointed H.Drewes as the IAG representative to SIRGAS.

Journal of Geodesy.

The EC approved the new Editor-in-Chief, R.Klees, The Netherlands.

3. Awards:

The Bomford Prize

The Bomford Prize 2007 was awarded to Masamoto Furuya , Japan, for outstanding contribution to geodesy. The Certificate was presented to M. Furuya by President G.Beutler during the opening ceremony of the General Assembly.

The Levallois Medal.

The Levallois Medal was awarded to C.C.Tscherning, University of Copenhagen, Denmark in recognition of distinguished service to the Association and to the science of geodesy in general. The Levallois Medal and a certificate was presented to C.C.Tscherning by the immediately past president F.Sansó during the opening ceremony.

4. Resolutions.

The Council elected the following as members of the resolution committee: M.Sideris, C.Boucher and D.Blitzkow. The text of the resolutions can be found as a separate chapter of this issue of the Geodesists Handbook.

5. New IAG Fellows.

The IAG Executive Committee appointed the following fellows of the International Association of Geodesy for having done an outstanding work for IAG. The new fellows are:

C. Merry, L. Fortes, M. Rothacher, H. Schuh, (EC),
M.Pearlman, C.Noll, (ILRS): .
A. Moore, (IGS),
R.Biancale (BGI).
Altamimi, J. Torres, M. Craymer, R.Wonnacott, R. Dietrich, S. Y. Zhu, J. Ihde, K. Heki, (C1)
U. Marti, M. Verroneau, M. Scheinert, M. Pacino, L. Vitushkin, M. Kuhn, D. Crossly, J.Huang, (C2),.
M. Poutanen (C3),
D .Grejner-Brzezinska, X. Deng, Y. Gao, J. Wang, (C4) .
P. Xu, J. Kusche, J. Yu (ICCT)
Z.Rozsa, G. Toth (COB),
L.Hothem, (ISO TC),
H.-P Plag (GGOS).
P. Novak, H. Sun (J. of Geodesy)

6. IAG Scientific Assembly 2009.

The IAG Scientific Assembly will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentine in September 2009.

7. IUGG General Assembly 2011.

The IUGG General Assembly will be held in Melbourne, Australia in 2011.

8. New statutes and by-laws.

Proposals for new IAG Statutes and By-laws was prepared by a review committee having K.P.Schwarz as its president.

The Statutes and By-laws were approved with amendments adopted by the Council at its two meetings. The full text of the approved statutes and by-laws are found in this issue of the Geodesists Handbook.

9. International Center for Earth Tides (ICET).

The EC approved that ICET will be hosted by the University of French Polynesia with J.P.Barriot as its Chairman.

