

Summary of the Fifth Meeting of the IAG Executive Committee 2007-2011

Place: Hotel Intercontinental, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Time: Sunday, August 30, 2009, 09:00 – 13:00

Attendees (voting): M. Sideris (IAG President), C. Rizos (IAG Vice-President), H. Drewes (IAG Secretary General), G. Beutler (Immediate Past President), Z. Altamimi (President Commission 1), Y. Fukuda (President Commission 2), S. Verhagen (President Commission 4), M. Rothacher (Chair of GGOS), J. Ádám (President of the COB), S. Kenyon, R. Neilan, H. Schuh (Representatives of the Services), K. Heki, (Member at Large)

Attendees (non-voting): F. Sansò (IAG Past President), P. Novák (Vice-President ICC on Theory), H. Hornik (IAG Assistant Secretary)

Guests: T. Beer (President IUGG), C. Pacino (LOC IAG 2009 Scientific Assembly), M. Lilje (FIG representative), R. Sarib (FIG Commission 5), G. Johnston (Geoscience Australia)

Regrets: M. Bevis (President Commission 3), R. Wonnacott (Member at Large), N. Sneeuw (President ICCT), R. Klees (Editor in Chief J. of Geodesy)

Summary of Agenda Items

1. Welcome and adoption of agenda

M. Sideris welcomed the members of the IAG Executive Committee (13 out of 15 voting members, 3 non-voting members) and several guests. All participants introduced themselves. The agenda was unanimously adopted.

2. Information on the Scientific Assembly IAG2009

C. Pacino informed on behalf of the LOC about the status and logistics (rooms, splinter meetings, social events etc.) of the IAG 2009 Scientific Assembly. 480 participants from about 60 countries were pre-registered, 40 of those cancelled up to date¹. An icebreaker party on Monday evening and a gala dinner on Wednesday evening are the major social events. *H. Drewes* reported on the travel grants provided by IAG, IUGG, and PAIGH. Altogether, 17 participants were supported, i.e., ten by the IAG travel award for young scientists, four by IUGG for developing countries, and three participants from the Americas by PAIGH. In this context *H. Drewes* thanked *T. Beer* for the support of IUGG, and PAIGH for the support in particular of the SIRGAS meetings. He extended his thanks to the LOC for waiving the registration fee for the IAG awardees. He further informed that the icebreaker party is sponsored by IAG and serves thus as the traditional IAG reception.

3. IAG mid-term reports (Travaux de l'AIG)

H. Drewes presented the draft of the “Travaux de l'AIG – Volume 36 – IAG Reports 2007 – 2009, established for the IAG Scientific Assembly, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August/September 2009 (eds. H. Drewes and H. Hornik)”. He explained that the main objective of these reports is the evaluation of the work done during the past two years with the option to dissolve inactive groups. The texts have been put on the IAG Office website. Almost all groups have delivered reports for this volume; the missing will be delivered in the next future. The updated volume will be put on the IAG webpage, hard copies will be made available on demand by the IAG Office.

The Commission Presidents gave then a review on the work of all relevant groups.

Z. Altamimi informed on the work of the Commission 1. A “School on Reference Frames” and a “Commission 1 Symposium” are planned to be held in 2010. Within Sub-commission 1.3 - Regional Reference Frames a new sub-commission for Asia and the Pacific (APREF) is planned. Geoscience Australia has offered to organize the work.

Y. Fukuda gave an overview of Commission 2 and reported that all sub-components of this commission have made good progress. Several relevant meetings are planned for 2010.

There was no representative of Commission 3 present, the report will be published in the webpage.

S. Verhagen pointed out that Commission 4 works in close contact with FIG, ION, ISPRS and other organisations. On behalf of the FIG, *M. Lilje* confirmed the excellent cooperation. The Working Groups 4.1.3 “Multi-Sensor Systems for Environmental Monitoring Applications” and 4.3.2 “GNSS-Based Sounding of the Atmosphere” were dissolved because no visible results have been yielded up to now.

Acting for *N. Sneeuw*, Vice-President *P. Novák* gave an overview on the work of the ICCT. The ICCT was engaged in the organization of the VIIth Hotine-Marussi-Symposium 2009 in Rome with about 100 participants. *F. Sansò* emphasized the great activities of the ICCT by which especially young scientists can find an adequate platform for discussions and new ideas as well as cooperation with other colleagues.

¹Finally 363 participants have been registered.

M. Rothacher reported on the activities of GGOS. New Terms of Reference (TOR) have been released last year with several new elements. A Bureau for Standards and Conventions has been installed in Munich in cooperation of the Technical University with DGFI (Director *U. Hugentobler*). The Bureau for Networks and Communications is hosted at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (Director *M. Pearlman*). In order to improve the outreach and awareness level, a GGOS portal has been created; the Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) in Frankfurt a.M. has taken over the task. The planned Coordinating Office and the Bureau for Satellite Missions could not yet be realized; the Working Group on Satellite Missions is therefore continued. As a special effort, *M. Rothacher* mentioned the newly issued book "Global Geodetic Observing System" edited by *H.-P. Plag* and *M. Pearlman* in the Springer book series. *M. Sideris* congratulated and thanked the authors for the excellent work. *G. Beutler* added the need for more public relations and commitments for GGOS by other institutions.

S. Kenyon gave a summarizing report on the activities of the International Gravity Field Service (IGFS) including the five Services Bureau Gravimétrique International (BGI), International Center for Earth Tides (ICET), International Center for Global Earth Models (ICGEM), International Digital Elevation Models Service (IDEMS), and International Geoid Service (IGeS). *M. Sideris* thanked *S. Kenyon* also for chairing the Scientific Committee of the IAG 2009 Scientific Assembly.

H. Schuh reported on the International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS). He mentioned in particular the ten years anniversary celebration. Topics of the IVS Directing Board Meeting were the verification of the next generation of radio-telescopes and the further development of the techniques. From 2010 on, altogether 10 worldwide distributed new radio-telescopes are planned. At present, eight IVS Analysis Centres are operating. *Z. Altamimi* and *G. Beutler* emphasized that the VLBI data represent a fundamental contribution to the ITRF and the increase for 10 radio-telescopes symbolizes a highly welcomed improvement for this work.

H. Schuh informed also on the work of the International Laser Ranging Service (ILRS). At present eight Analysis Centres are sharing the enormous data processing. In the discussion, *G. Beutler* pointed out that the ILRS data represent the only optical data for the ITRF and thus represent an indispensable contribution. Unfortunately the ILRS chairperson had to retire due to severe sickness. The next ILRS meeting will be held in September in Greece.

R. Neilan gave the report for the International GNSS Service (IGS). An IGS brochure and a new Implementation Plan are in preparation. In December 2008 the IGS hosted the third meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG) in Pasadena. Two resolutions of this conference couch the installation of Task Forces for the establishment of a global vertical reference frame as well as the time system. Finally *R. Neilan* informed that the website of the IGS will be re-designed basically in the next future. The elections for the IGS Governing Board will take place this year; the present board chairman *John Dow* will step down. The new structure will be confirmed on the IGS Workshop in Newcastle, July 2010. *M. Sideris* appreciated the revision of the website.

4. Report of Journal of Geodesy

On behalf of *R. Klees*, *H. Drewes* gave a report on the Journal of Geodesy (JoG). At present, the Editorial Board of the JoG comprises an Editor-in-Chief, an Editorial Assistant, an IAG information editor, a Book Review Editor, and the Past Editor-in-Chief. Moreover, 20 other persons are members of the board. In all, about 150 contributions are submitted per year for publication in the JoG. Meanwhile the online-submission is working sufficiently and the time period between submission of a paper and the publication could be reduced considerably. The "ISI Impact Factor" for the JoG has increased in 2008 to 1.689; the journal is now among the highest ones in the field of geo-sciences. The IAG Symposia Series has been included for the first time in the Web of Science (ISI Web of Knowledge). Together with Springer it is striven for a high ranking.

5. Status of IGFS and Call for Central Bureau

S. Kenyon reported on a call for proposals for hosting the Central Bureau (CB) of the International Gravity Field Service (IGFS). The call was advertised in spring 2009; only one proposal was submitted. Considering this poor response, a decision was not yet made. The application should be updated with respect to some requested details and be submitted once more till end of Oct. 2009. The paper will then be circulated among the competent community. The IAG EC will make its definite decision on the meeting at the 2009 AGU Assembly in December, 2009. In the case of a positive decision, the CB can start to work according to the initial plans with January 2010.

6. Status of IERS and Call for GGFC

As *H. Schuh* reported, the Global Geophysical Fluid Centre (GGFC), which is hosted by the IERS, is going to be re-organized. Instead of the hitherto eight Special Bureaus, the GGFC will be structured by an Operational and Science Support. The goal of the GGFC is to provide operational data sets to the public, e.g. time series for various purposes. *B. Richter*, director of the IERS Central Bureau sent the call for participation for various components within the re-structured GGFC. Eight applications have been received. The proposals will be evaluated; the final decision on the future work will be made at the 49th meeting of the IERS Directing Board in Warsaw, Oct. 2009.

7. Status of IAS establishment

Y. Fukuda gave an overview on the IAS business meeting on occasion of the IAG Symposium on Gravity, Geoid and Earth Observation in Chania/Crete. The Steering Committee consists of *Y. Fukuda* (President IAG Commission 2), *C. Hwang* (chairing Sub-commission on Altimetry), *O. Anderson* (representative of IGFS), *R. Gross* (GGFC and Vice-President of Commission 3), *P. Woodworth* (PSMSL and GLOSS), *A. Braun* (ice applications), *W. Bosch* (Chairman of former IAS Planning Group). Representatives have been nominated for the GGOS-EC: *W. Bosch* and *C. Hwang* (as substitute), and *O. B. Andersen* for the IERS WG on Data and Information Systems (DIS). The IAS website <<http://ias.dgfi.badw.de>> is installed. As product classes are to be considered mean sea surface models, marine gravity data, dynamic ocean topography and ocean tide models. An IAS Pilot-project on Ocean Tides (IAS-PP-OT) will be issued. *M. Sideris* proposed to send out another call for an IAS Central Bureau.

8. Report of FIG Representatives

On behalf of International Federation of Surveyors (Fédération Internationale des Géomètres, FIG) *M. Lilje* presented ideas on “our role and how FIG and IAG can co-operate”. FIG and IAG are both organisations to present developments within geodesy, surveying and mapping to the surveyor. Traditionally IAG is more science, FIG more practice oriented. With the development of the recent techniques this differentiation, however, redundant. FIG includes a huge network around the world, which also can be used by the IAG. At present FIG comprises 99 member organisations in 81 countries and even will increase in future. Special relations between FIG and IAG are given within FIG Commission 5 - Positioning and Measurement (chair: *R. Staiger*, Germany). In 2001 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FIG and IAG has been signed. Special interest for current and future cooperation is given to large projects such as AFREF or APREF. *M. Lilje* thanked the IAG for its participation and engagement in various FIG congresses and meetings. *C. Rizos* added that the cooperation between IAG and FIG has been considerably deepened and developed now to a basis for common work. *Z. Altamimi* mentioned several links with Commission 1. *M. Sideris* recommended inviting one another especially for training courses and other educational activities. The COB should announce IAG activities to the FIG.

9. IUGG General Assembly Melbourne 2011

T. Beer, President of the IUGG, expressed his thanks for the invitation to this IAG Assembly and EC-Meeting. He explained that the Union is fully organized on a volunteer basis. The IUGG itself does not achieve very much research, but it unites the eight Associations under one umbrella, thus initiating the contacts and relations among the geo-scientific disciplines. He emphasized the need to make the IUGG known as the competent representative for geo-sciences. The IUGG has to take care not to lose its competence to other organizations. *H. Drewes* reported on the meeting of the IUGG and Associations Secretaries General in Munich, May 2, 2009, concerning the IUGG General Assembly, Melbourne 2011. Instead of the traditional twelve days, the scientific sessions will be limited to ten days only; the first and last day (Monday of the first and Friday of the second week, respectively) will be reserved for business meetings. For IAG sessions five days are planned in the middle of the Assembly. Days before and after should be used for joint sessions with other Associations. There will be nine plenary sessions, each one organized by IUGG and each Association. They should be of interest to all associations. In order to prepare these topics in time, the EC members are asked to propose speakers for the Plenary Session organized by IAG. There will be organized Union Symposia of common interest, Inter-Association Symposia by at least two Associations, and Association Symposia. *M. Sideris* mentioned a suggestion of the IAG Bureau to have the IAG Symposia topic-related rather than structure-related. EC members shall submit proposals to the IAG Secretary General, *H. Drewes*.

10. Report of Outreach Branch

J. Adam distributed the IAG Brochure which had just been completed to this Assembly. It has been compiled by the COB together with the IAG Office and aims to inform the public about geodesy. The brochure will be distributed in the next future for further distribution, and also be put into the IAG website. *M. Sideris* thanked the COB for the work to compile this important brochure and to print it in. The IAG website is continuously completed and updated.

11. IAG Young Authors Award: Result of voting

Altogether 32 publications had been suggested and discussed for the IAG Young Authors Award. The applicant must be 35 years of age or younger, and the paper must have been published in the two annual volumes of the Journal of Geodesy (JoG) preceding the IAG General or Scientific Assembly. *R. Klees* as Editor-in-Chief of the JoG has submitted three proposals to the IAG EC. Finally the EC decided for the article “A comparison of different mass elements for use in gravity gradiometry” by *F. Wild-Pfeiffer* (JoG, Vol. 82, No 10 / Oct. 2008). As the awardee is not participating in this IAG Assembly, the notification of the award will be sent by mail.

12. Representative to IAU Commission 19

H. Schuh has been elected for President of IAU Commission 19; thus he cannot fulfil anymore his hitherto function as IAG representative in this Commission. The EC congratulated *H. Schuh* for his election. As new IAG

representative *Z. Malkin* from the Pulkovo Observatory has been proposed. *H. Schuh* embraced this nomination as *Z. Malkin* would dispose over much competence for this task. The EC unanimously accepted the proposal.

13. Adoption of ABLOS revised Terms of Reference

C. Rizos explained the objectives of ABLOS (Advisory Board on the Law of the Sea) as an interdisciplinary body of IAG and IHO. In September this year ABLOS will have a meeting at which the new Terms of Reference are to be adopted. They had been presented to the EC before the meeting. The IAG EC accepted the draft of the ToR.

14. Nomination Committee for officers 2011-2015

M. Sideris explained that elections of the IAG Officers for the next legislature period 2011-2015, i.e., after the next IUGG General Assembly, have to be prepared. According to IAG Bylaw 39 the IAG President has to appoint a Nomination Committee consisting of a Chair and three other members after taking advice from the EC. Traditionally, the Chair is taken by the immediate IAG Past President, i.e. *G. Beutler*. However, the EC members are invited to contribute for the nominations. A concerning circular will be sent out in the next future.

15. IAG Travel Award

The rules for the IAG Travel Award state that applicants are asked to send their application at least three months before the meeting to the IAG Office. *H. Drewes* explained that an application deadline of three months before the meeting is too short to meet the early bird. Therefore he proposed to shift the deadline backwards to six months. *H. Schuh* stated that six months are rather early as then often only rather few information on the meeting and its topics is available. *S. Verhagen* recommended to hold the deadline flexible according to the specific meetings. Finally *M. Sideris* moved to set the deadline to 5 months, *H. Schuh* seconded. The IAG EC unanimously accepted the proposal.

16. IAG individual membership

The rules for the fee for the IAG individual membership of students as well as retired colleagues are not clearly enough defined in the IAG Bylaws. Meanwhile the students' membership is restricted to one year and has to be renewed annually by submitting a certificate from the respective university. *H. Drewes* proposed to grant the hitherto existing free membership for retired colleagues only for those colleagues who are IAG Fellows, i.e. have had a function within IAG for a longer time. For all others the fee for a 4-years membership will be set to 100 USD, for those coming from a country listed as a developing country according to the rules of the UN, the fee will be reduced to 50 USD for four years. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

17. Sponsorship of symposia

As *H. Drewes* presented applications for IAG sponsorship of the following 3 meetings:

- North American Geoid Meeting, 21 – 23 October 2009 (*D. Roman*, Chair CP2.2);
- 6th IVS General Meeting, 8 – 13 February 2010, Hobart, Tasmania (*H. Schuh*);
- Theory of Reference Frames, 31 May – 6 June 2010 (*A. Dermanis*, IC-SG1).

The EC accepted to support these conferences.

18. Joint GGOS StC / IAG EC Meeting

M. Sideris pointed to the joint GGOS StC / IAG EC Meeting in the afternoon of this day. Everybody interested in this topic is encouraged to participate.

19. Any other business

R. Neilan announced the installation of the new World Data System (WDS) as a merging of the former Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Services (FAGS) and the World Data Centres (WDC) with definite instructions and rules so that all groups can find themselves very clearly (see <http://www.icsu.org/index.php>).

H. Schuh informed on the date of the next EGU Assembly in Vienna: May 2-7, 2010.

The next EC Meetings will take place on occasion of the EGU Assembly, Vienna, May 2010.

20. Adjourn

M. Sideris stated that this EC Meeting was very successful and thanked s all participants for their contributions and closed the session at 13:15 (1:15 pm).

21. Joint GGOS Steering Committee and IAG EC Meeting

The joint GGOS Steering Committee and IAG EC Meeting started at 14:00 (2:00 pm), see separate minutes.

Respectfully submitted
Hermann Drewes, Secretary General
Helmut Hornik, Assistant Secretary