

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
60TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 11-15, 2009
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
Novotel Sydney on Darling Harbour**

OFFICIAL MINUTES



Hosted by Geoscience Australia



Meeting Participants

Executive Committee Members

Alberto Riccardi (IUGS President), Peter Bobrowsky (IUGS Secretary General), William Cavazza (IUGS Treasurer), Ezzoura Errami (IUGS Councillor), Mikhail Fedonkin (IUGS Councillor), Marta Mantovani (IUGS Councillor), Colin Simpson (IUGS Councillor), Zhang Hongren (IUGS Past President), Ochir Gerel (IUGS Vice President), Jacques Charvet (IUGS Vice President)

Observers

Godfrey Nowlan (PC chair), Zhenyu Yang (Episodes Editor), Neil Williams (President, 34th IGC), Ian Lambert (Secretary General, 34th IGC), Eduardo de Mulder (Executive Director, IYPE), Tom Beer (President, IUGG), Brian Kennett (incoming Chair. NC for Earth Sci., Aus. Acad. of Science), Lindsay Gilligan (Director, Geological Survey of NSW), Marita Bradshaw (Nominating Committee IUGS), Paul Kay (Deputy Secretary, 34th IGC), Michael Leggo (Pres-Elect Australia Geoscience Council), Joane McKnight (Director, Kanawinka Geopark), Andang Bachtiar (Representative, The Indonesian Association of Geologists), David Oldroyd (Vice President for Australia, INHIGEO)

Secretariat

Anne Liinamaa-Dehls (IUGS Secretariat, Geological Survey of Norway), David Huntley (Recording, Geological Survey of Canada)

Regrets:

Robert Missotten and Margarete Patzak (UNESCO), Trevor Powell (Chair Australian Geoscience Council), Dr. Yasuji Saito (Chair, Japanese NC for Geology), Mr. Hugh Davies (Dir Gen, Geol. I Survey of PNG), Nordin Hasan (Director, ICSU ROAP), Dave Mason (Exec. Director, Geological Survey of Queensland), Des Darby (Geophysicist Gen. Manager, Strategy, GNS Science NZ), Alex Malahoff (Chief Exec., GNS Science New Zealand), Paulo Vasconcelos (Head Earth Sciences, Univ. of Queensland), Ray Cas (Head Australian Crustal Research Centre)



1) WELCOMING ADDRESS.....	5
2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA.....	5
Alberto Riccardi moved that the Agenda be approved: motion approved	5
3) 58 TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 2008, MARRAKECH, MOROCCO AND 59 TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 13 AUGUST 2008, OSLO, NORWAY	5
3.a. Approval of Marrakech Minutes	5
Peter Bobrowsky moved to approve the Marrakech/Oslo Minutes: approved	5
3.b. Actions arising from the Marrakech Meeting.....	5
3.c. Approval of the Oslo Minutes	7
3.d. Actions arising from the Oslo Meeting.....	7
4) ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS	8
4.a. President's Report (Alberto Riccardi).....	8
4.b. Past President's report (Zhang Hongren)	10
4.c. Vice Presidents' and Councillors' Reports	10
4.d. Secretary General's Report (Peter Bobrowsky).....	14
4.e. Treasurer's Report (William Cavazza)	14
4.f. Permanent Secretariat's Report (Anne Liinamaa-Dehls)	15
5) ANNUAL REPORTS AND FUTURE PLANS OF IUGS BODIES.....	16
5.a. Adhering Organizations	16
5.a.1. Applications for Membership	16
5.a.2. Reports of Adhering Organizations	16
5.a.3. Report of Task Group on Adhering Organizations	24
5.a.4. Report on Inactive Adhering Members	24
5.b. Committees.....	24
5.b.1. Nominating Committee	24
5.b.2. Publication Committee	25
5.b.3. Ad hoc Review Committees	29
5.b.4. New IUGS Committees	29
5.c. Commissions	29
5.c.1. Geoscience in Environmental Management (GEM)	29
5.c.2. International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)	30
5.c.3. International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)	30
5.c.4. Commission on Education, Training, and Technology Transfer (COGE)	30
5.c.5. Commission on the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI).....	31
5.c.6. Proposals for New IUGS Commissions.....	32
5.d. Task Groups.....	33
5.d.1. Isotopes and Geochronology (TGIG)	33
5.d.2. Global Geochemical Baselines (TGGB).....	34
5.d.3. Tectonics and Structural Geology (TECTASK)	35
5.d.4. New Task Groups	35
5.e. Affiliated Organizations.....	35
5.e.1. Application for Affiliation.....	36
5.e.2. Reports from Affiliated Organizations.....	36
6) REPORTS ON CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISES.....	52
6.a. Earth Sciences at UNESCO	52
6.b. IUGS-UNESCO International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)	53
6.b.1. IUGS-UNESCO deadlines for IGCP Reports.....	54
6.b.2. Guidelines for project leaders.....	54
6.b.3. IUGS internal report on IGCP activities.....	54
6.c. IUGS-UNESCO Programme on Geological Application on Remote Sensing (GARS) ...	54
6.d. IUGS-IUGG International Lithosphere Programme (ILP)	54

7)	INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC)	55
	7.a. 33 rd IGC in 2008 (Oslo)	55
	7.b. 34 th IGC in 2012 (Brisbane).....	55
	7.c. 35 th IGC in 2016 (Cape Town)	57
	7.d. International Geological Congress Committee (IGCC)	57
8)	INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE (ICSU)	57
	8.a. Relations with ICSU.....	57
	8.b. ICSU Committees and IUGS representation.....	57
	8.c. ICSU Grant Program	58
	8.d. Relations with ICSU Regional Offices of Africa, Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.....	58
	8.e. Relations with other ICSU Unions (GeoUnions)	58
9)	IUGS POLICY AND STRATEGY MATTERS	59
	9.a. IUGS Statutes and Byelaws.....	59
	9.b. Priorities of IUGS.....	59
	9.c. Financial support for access to Bureau positions	60
	9.d. Young Earth Scientist Congress	60
10)	INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH	60
	10.a. Organization.....	60
	10.b. Science & Outreach Programme	60
	10.c. National Committees	60
	10.d. Annual Report & Financial statement 2008 and Budget 2009	60
	10.e. Fundraising Strategy	60
	10.f. Events in 2009 and IUGS involvement	61
	10.g. Termination of IYPE	61
	10.h. After 2009	61
	10.i. IUGS internal report on IYPE activities.....	61
11)	REQUESTS FOR FUNDING AND BUDGETS FOR 2009	62
12)	UPDATE	62
	12.a. Annual Reports 2007 and 2008	62
	12.b. IUGS Brochure and Flyers	62
	12.c. IUGS Exhibitions for 2009	63
	12.d. IUGS Exposure and Advertising Products	63
	12.e. IUGS Website	63
	12.f. E-Bulletin	63
13)	FREE DISCUSSION	64
14)	VENUE AND DATE OF THE 61st and 62nd EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS	64
15)	OTHER BUSINESS	64

1) WELCOMING ADDRESS

For the 60th EC Meeting, a joint welcome was offered by representatives of International Union of Geological Sciences and Geoscience Australia. IUGS President Alberto Riccardi opened the 60th Executive Committee Meeting, acknowledging, in particular, the excellent work and legacy of IUGS Past President Zhang Hongren and thanking Geosciences Australia, Neil Williams, Ian Lambert and Paul Kay for providing the necessary help and support to organize the EC meeting. The meeting will follow Robert's Rules of Order (as per ICSU protocol).

Ian Lambert, Secretary of the 34th IGC, welcomed EC members and Observers on behalf of Geoscience Australia and introduced the Australian observers. Neil Williams, President of the 34th IGC joined the meeting after the opening address.

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Alberto Riccardi moved that the Agenda be approved: **motion approved**

3) 58TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, MARCH 2008, MARRAKECH, MOROCCO AND 59TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, 13 AUGUST 2008, OSLO, NORWAY

3.a. Approval of Marrakech Minutes

Peter Bobrowsky, IUGS Secretary General moved to approve the Marrakech/Oslo Minutes: approved

3.b. Actions arising from the Marrakech Meeting

ACTION 1: IUGS to contact the Royal Society thanking them for covering outstanding fees of those African countries with inactive membership; and also asking them for further clarification on the duration of support. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 2: Email GSI and CCOP before Oslo to let them know that they have been unanimously accepted as Affiliate members of IUGS, pending examination of their Statutes and Byelaws. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 3: Regarding relationship between IUGS and IGC Affiliates: form a joint IUGS-IGCC Science Committee to work with incoming and outgoing IGC Committees and prioritize themes for Affiliates. **PENDING**

ACTION 4: IUGS will stress cooperation and ties between Member States, UNESCO and IGCP National Committees. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 5: Secretary General will write a letter to each IGCP project suggesting they contribute to the IGC (separate letters also be sent from IGCC and UNESCO); Secretariat to forward contact addresses to IGCP and UNESCO parties. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 6: Secretary General will write a letter to IUGS representatives on ICSU Committees regarding problems of reporting to IUGS. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 7: A letter will be sent from UNESCO and IUGS proposing IYPE Secretariat to allocate US\$50,000 to IGCP (to buy a share on the IGCP); the letter to explain how this would benefit both IYPE and IGCP. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 8: Ad hoc review committees to receive a guidelines document outlining how to compile a report, what to include and what to do. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 9: Mikhail Fedonkin and Ryo Matsumoto to prepare a letter for Zhang Hongren to be sent to TGGGB asking for them to better define their role and explaining why their request for US\$30.000 was not accepted as well as rationalizing the actual amount awarded. **OBSOLETE**

ACTION 10: IUGS (Secretary General) will write to the Young Earth Scientists organization acknowledging their efforts. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 11: Publications Committee to: 1) update, revise and coordinate changes to the IUGS Website (e.g. posting a letter on IUGS policies); 2) prepare an Eol to host Episodes and/or Website, and 3) update the Publications List on the Website. **OBSOLETE**

ACTION 12: A letter thanking INHIGEO for their good work over the years will be written by Antonio Brambati. **OBSOLETE**

ACTION 13: The Permanent Secretariat to compile and circulate a list of contact information on Officers of Task Groups, Commissions, Adhering Organizations and Affiliates so that the IUGS Bureau and EC Members can contact these when visiting countries. **OBSOLETE**

ACTION 14: Secretary General will write TecTask and TGGGB asking whether they wish to change their status from Task Group to Commission. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 15: EC Rapporteurs to write and thank Affiliate Organizations and cc the Secretary General and Secretariat; letters will be personalized to confirm that their reports have in fact been read. **OBSOLETE**

ACTION 16: Secretary General will write a letter to the Permanent Secretariat to explain that EC did not request revision to the IUGS Brochure. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 17: Peter Bobrowsky, Sylvi Haldorsen, Gpodfrey Nowlan and David Huntley will form a Task Group to review display IUGS materials provided by the Permanent Secretariat for the IGC. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 18: Permanent Secretariat will send EC image links to the Norwegian printers. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 19: Secretary General to send dates of IUGS activities at IGC 33 to participating EC members. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 20: IUGS President will consult with current IGCC and table report on IGC 33 to the new IGCC (IGC 34). **OBSOLETE**

ACTION 21: Secretary General will contact IAMG and request that IUGS be formally added to their Constitution and that they abide by IUGS Statutes and Byelaws pertaining to Affiliate Organizations. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 22: Zhang Hongren to contact Zhao Xun and determine the status of Geological Heritage in China and the ongoing problems of communication between China and IUGS EC. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 23: All IUGS EC members must respond in a timely manner to the requests from David Huntley regarding the schedule for Annual Report for 2007. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 24: Permanent Secretariat to send copies of the file, photographs, website, other image links, etc., of the poster stand and display to the EC (and also the Norwegian printers). **COMPLETED**

ACTION 25: Zhang Hongren to consult IGCC about creating a joint IUGS-IGCC Task Group to compile science highlights from the 33rd IGC and provide a report of observations to the upcoming IUGS EC and IGCC (34th IGC). **COMPLETED**

3.c. Approval of the Oslo Minutes

Minutes of the Committee meeting held August 13, 2008, Lillestrøm, Norway were finalized and distributed in October 2008. Peter Bobrowsky moved the Oslo Minutes be approved: **unanimous**.

3.d. Actions arising from the Oslo Meeting

ACTION 1: EC will establish a new Task Group to revise the current IUGS Statutes. **PENDING**

ACTION 2: Peter Bobrowsky to notify the Balkan Geophysical Society (BGS), the Coordinating Committee for Geosciences Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), the Geological Society of France (GSF) and the Geological Society of India (GSI) that their applications for affiliated status to IUGS have been ratified by Council. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 3: On behalf of the Secretary General, the IUGS Secretariat should contact all newly elected Commission officers and offer them our congratulations. **OBSOLETE**

ACTION 4: The entire EC should begin to consider suggestions for other forms of recognition that could be bestowed to IUGS related individuals (Currently the Harrison Award is the only IUGS award). **PENDING**

ACTION 5: The IUGS Secretariat to send application forms to all organizations who expressed interest in applying to IUGS. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 6: IUGS Secretariat to send versions of the IUGS logo (ftp link etc.) to the new Executive Members. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 7: Jacques Charvet and Ochir Gerel to create ToR for the two Task Groups on Adhering Organizations and Affiliated Organizations, respectively. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 8: IUGS Secretariat to forward a few examples of ToR to Jacques Charvet and Ochir Gerel. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 9: Colin Simpson to draft the next E-bulletin as soon as possible, which include highlights of the 33IGC and outcome of the IUGS-IGC joint Council Meeting. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 10: IUGS Secretariat to send the current list of Inactive members and their contacts to MM. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 11: Letters of thank to the Editor of Episodes and the Chinese Government were sent by the IUGS President.. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 12: The transition of Episodes from China to another hosting country was instrumented by the IUGS President. **COMPLETED**

ACTION 13: EC will organize an ARC of Episodes. Secretary General to coordinate this with Zhang Hongren. **OBSOLETE**

ACTION 14: Secretary General will officially inform IYPE that ZH is no longer the representative on the IYPE Board. **COMPLETED**

4) ANNUAL ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS

4.a. President's Report (Alberto Riccardi)

After his election as the new IUGS President on August 10th, 2008, Alberto Riccardi was unable to attend the 59th EC Meeting on August 13th, 2008, because his flight from Oslo to Buenos Aires, which was booked for the same day, could not be changed. He considered it important to clarify that on April 18th, 2008 he notified the IUGS EC the dates of his arrival and departure from Oslo, and was informed that there was not interference with IUGS meetings. After his election he did not propose a change of the meeting date in the understanding that the EC meeting would be just a welcome (unofficial) meeting, in which only different tasks would assigned, as agreed in a Bureau meeting held on August 12th, 2008.

Several issues have taken much of the President's attention in the five months since the Executive Committee had been elected.

One of his main concerns was to improve interaction with IUGS National Committees, as well as with Affiliated Organizations and all other bodies and organizations working, inside and outside our Union, in order to address as efficiently as possible all earth science issues of relevance to society.

In relation with these goals he prepared a set of guidelines on the work to be done for the different members of the EC on Adhering Members (J. Charvet), Affiliate Organizations (G. Ochir), IUGS E-Bulletin (C. Simpson), IYPE (E. Errami), IGCP (M. Fedonkin) and Inactive Members (M. Mantovani), and he wrote a series of letters of introduction to all Adhering Members and Affiliated Organizations informing on the intention to promote multilateral cooperation between different members and bodies of the IUGS and to increase a productive exchange among all these groups.

Similarly he transmitted this program to the Chairs of the IUGS Commissions and Task Groups, pointing out that in order to carry it out it would be essential to maintain and reinforce the activities of the IUGS bodies.

Positive responses were received from a number of National Committees (Bangladesh, Brazil, Czech Republic, Cuba, France, Hungary, Italy, Iraq, Latvia, Malawi, Sudan, Turkey, Uzbekistan) and Affiliate Organizations (American Geophysical Union, Association Internationale pour l'étude des argilles, Association of Geoscientists for International Development, Carpathian Balkan Geological Association, Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, Geochemical Society, Geological Society of Africa, International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering). Some of these responses have opened the possible reinstatement of some inactive members (Iraq, Cuba).

At the same time conversations have been initiated to develop a better interaction with the EuroGeoSurveys and with the "Asociación de Servicios de Geología y Minería Iberoamericanos" (ASGMI). This last organization has been invited to participate and give its support to a meeting and Seminar being organized by the IUGS Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI), which will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on June 29 – July 3, 2009. The Seminar will include several conferences by international specialists on Geoinformation

and is also directed to promote a closer and more active cooperation on geoinformatics and related issues among the geoscientific institutions of the region, including the Geological Surveys.

Directed to the same general goals mentioned above was the President's participation in the 29th General Assembly of ICSU (Maputo, Mozambique, October 18-21). In the occasion he arranged the exhibition of a new poster of IUGS, participated of an IUGS Bureau meeting and attended a meeting of geo-related organizations. He made specific overtures to improve relationship with different officers of ICSU and to convey them the intention to maintain and reinforce, during the next years, IUGS participation in ICSUs activities, specifically on all those activities related to ICSUs established priorities on "Environment in Relation to Sustainable Development", "Scientific data and information", and "Capacity Building in Science". Following expositions, given during ICSU General Assembly, on ICSUs Regional Offices for Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, the President explored possible avenues in which way the IUGS could help in their activities, especially in relation to participation of scientists, organizations and institutions of those regions in the programs and activities of the ICSU family and its partners, and in connection to the fact that capacity building and networking are considered essential components in this participation. In that context the IUGS could help through some of its bodies, such as the IUGS Commission on Education, Training & Tech Transfer, the IUGS Commission on Geoscience in Environmental Management and the IUGS Commission on the Management & Application of Geoscience Information, and also in providing links to its 46 Affiliated Organizations, which cover a wide spectrum of fields in the geosciences.

On that basis conversations were initiated with the Directors of ICSUs Regional Offices. As a result and in order to explore in more detail possible interactions a set of guidelines were prepared and three members of IUGS Executive Committee, were designated to act as liaison between IUGS and ICSUs Regional Offices for Africa (E. Errami), Asia and the Pacific (G. Ochir), Latin America and the Caribbean (M. Mantovani).

As for ICSU, similar actions were taken in relation to UNESCO through and exchange of correspondence with different officers, with which several meetings are being arranged for next February. Thus far, the IUGS President has transmitted his interest in maintaining and reinforcing IUGS collaboration with UNESCO, not only through existing programmes such as the IGCP (International Geosciences Program), GARS (Programme on Remote Application on Remote Sensing) and GeoParks, and the International Year of the Planet Earth but also in the fields of Education and Natural Sciences, Water and Associated Ecosystems, Oceans, Capacity Building and Application of Science for Sustainable Development.

As a proper future development of all these endeavors require a detailed analysis of IUGS external and internal scenarios, which involves a large number of international organizations and the IUGS 46 Affiliated Members, as well as their structures, strategic plans, programs and projects, the IUGS President prepared a document containing the Terms of Reference for a Strategic Planning Committee, as recommended in the IUGS Strategic Action Plan (2000), which was submitted to the consideration of the EC in order to be discussed during this EC meeting.

As outreaching activities the IUGS President gave a conference on IUGS activities at the XVII Argentinean Geological Congress, July, Argentina, October 8th, 2008. He also participated in preparing the text and selecting the new image for the new IUGS Brochure, and invited the National Committees of India and USA to formally bid to host Episodes during the next years. The IUGS President also had a meeting in Buenos Aires on October 28th with the Executive Director of the IYPE Eduardo de Mulder, in which he received information on the present and future of the IYPE, mainly with regard to its relation to IUGS. An unofficial report of the meeting was prepared and distributed to the IUGS EC.

Finally and in relation to the IGCC the IUGS President had an exchange of views with the President of the 33rd IGC concerning possible alternatives for future IGCC activities.

Ian Lambert, Secretary of the 34th IGC added that he had been in contact with Arne Bjørlykke to discuss meetings and venues of the IGCC before Brisbane 2012.

4.b. Past President's report (Zhang Hongren)

Zhang Hongren remarked that one of the past president's responsibilities is to ensure the continuity of the organization. The future of Episodes was an urgent matter of concern. At the venue of the 33rd IGC, Zhang tried to contact a number of countries and fortunately IUGS has got strong support from the US and India. After preliminary discussions, he gave the job over to the new leaders of our Union. As the former Editor of Episodes and Past President of IUGS, Zhang will continue to make effort to ensure smooth transition of the journal.

The Asia-Europe People's Forum was held in Beijing, China, October, 2008. Over 500 representatives from more than 40 countries attended the forum, approved a final statement and submitted it to ASEM. As the vice president of the All-China Environment Federation, Zhang chaired the session on Climate Change. It was an interesting meeting. Different people expressed different opinions and exchanged ideas freely.

As a member of the Deutsche Bank Advisory Board on Climate Change, he attended the meeting held in London in November 2008 and was very impressed by the foresighted planning of such a private bank. It was also a good chance for him to make acquaintance with a number of influential people such as the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC), the former director of UNEP, etc. Zhang learned a lot from the colleagues. There is ever growing common concern about Climate Change in the whole world. He thinks IUGS should actively make contribution along this direction.

The founding ceremony of the Karst Centre was held in Guilin, China on 12th of December. Zhang Hongren was invited to join the event. Vice minister of Ministry of Land Resources (MLR, China) and officers from UNESCO attended the ceremony.

During this period of time, Zhang also gave lectures for experts from developing countries and different circles of people about the significance of geology in sustainable development.

4.c. Vice Presidents' and Councillors' Reports

Jacques Charvet, Vice President

In 2008, Charvet:

- Attended the 33rd IGC meeting at Oslo, 6-14th August 2008, and the joint IUGS-IGC Council, as a member of the French delegation.
- Was elected Vice President of IUGS by the Council on August 10th.
- Attended the 59th EC meeting on August 13th, at Lillestrøm, during which he was assigned to settle a Task Group on Adhering Members and write the Terms of reference.
- Made contact with several colleagues of different countries in order to build this Task Group, and written a preliminary draft of Terms of Reference.
- Met the President and the Secretary General of CGMW for a discussion on the different activities of this commission and its potential problems.
- Contacted the SGF (French Geological Society), new affiliated body, for obtaining a brief report, despite the unavailability of the President and Vice President.
- Participated actively in a local project affiliated to IYPE, and in the local IYPE committee.

- In London, he attended the CERCAM – 12 meeting. During this meeting he had informal discussion with Helmut Echlter about ILP Topo-Asia programme.
- Charvet was also invited to be member of scientific committee of the next YES meeting (Young Earth Scientists) in Beijing, October 25, 2009.

Ochir Gerel, Vice President

During her four months as Vice President, Ochir has studied IUGS statues, activities and roles in preparation for her future effective work.

1. Her task, specified by IUGS President Alberto Riccardi, was to explore and develop the best way to strengthen links between IUGS and Affiliated Organization:

- She has drafted a proposal for a Terms of Reference for the Task Group on Affiliated Organizations.
- Checked web-sites of Affiliate Organizations.
- Analyzed Affiliate Organizations to group together those with similar fields of interest.
- Compiled a list of potential active members from around the world (in progress).
- Sent e-mail messages to all available addresses of Affiliated Organizations.

2. Commented on reports from SEG, SGA, IAGOD, MS, Geochemical Society, and IAGC

3. Checked and discussed several documents sent by President and IUGS Secretariat

Other Activities included:

- Involvement in Mongolian Geological Society and IGCP Group work: initiated and lead activity for IYPE in Mongolia, including a student contest, exhibition, meeting and outreach.
- Attended three Meetings: BHP-CAGS, Beijing; and in Ulaanbaatar.
- Published information regarding IUGS in Mongolian journal *Geology* to introduce One *Geology, International Year of the Planet Earth*, IUGS activity.
- Delivered paper to Annual Meeting of Russian Geological Association, October 2008.

Mikhail Fedonkin, Councillor

Fedonkin's activities related to the IUGS objectives and tasks included the participation in the IUGS EC meeting in Marrakech, Morocco and in the following geological excursion in March, as well as participation in all IUGS EC meetings during the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo in August. Here, Fedonkin also served as a Vice-Chair of the Russian delegation and as a Co-Chair of the Symposium HPF-07 The Rise and Fall of the Ediacaran (Vendian) Biota (IGCP Project 493).

At the national level, Fedonkin was discharged from his obligations related to the IUGS being a Chair of the Russian Committee on IGCP (IUGS-UNESCO), as a Vice-Chair of the Russian National Committee of Geologists, as a member of the IYPE National Committee, and as a member of the Board of the Russian Federation Commission for UNESCO. They compiled and approved an official plan of the IYPE in Russia for 2008, endorsed new IGCP projects, began systematic modernization of the website of the Russian Committee on IGCP, evaluated and supported new proposal of the GeoParks in Russia, discussed the scientific and formal aspects of the ICS activity with the officials of the National Stratigraphic Committee etc.

In May, Fedonkin was elected as a full member (Academician) of Russian Academy of Sciences and as a Vice-Chair of Earth Science Department, RAS that gave him additional possibilities to promulgate in the academic environment the IUGS objectives and priorities. During the General meeting of the Earth Science Department of the RAS in December he made a presentation (in co-authorship with Acad. N.P.Laverov and Acad. A.O.Gliko) on the 33rd IGC with an accent to the IUGS role as a global organizer and coordinator in Earth sciences.

Fedonkin also mentioned there was possibility of organizing Executive Committee in Moscow in future.

Marta Mantovani, Councillor

In 2008, Mantovani's activities included:

- 1) Participation in the day to day affair of IUGS via e-mails.
- 2) Promoting IUGS to the Geology and Geophysics Brazilian Societies
- 3) Promoting IUGS to the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.
- 4) Promoting the IYPE among the communities outreached by the Science and Technology Park (S.P. University) in the City and State of Sao Paulo.
- 5) Attempted to establish contacts with the inactive members of IUGS in South America, in order to get them back involved.
- 6) Interaction with the Brazilian organizations for updating the yearly payment to IUGS, and annual report.
- 7) Participation in the EC meetings in Marrakesh (Morocco).
- 8) Participation in the 33rd IGC (Oslo, Norway), at the EC meeting, and other meetings as one of the four Brazilian representatives.
- 9) Establishing communication with regional committee ICSU-Latin America and Caribbean; as response a representative of IUGS was invited for the next meeting in Mexico, (February, 2009).
- 10) Reporting to IUGS for the meeting in Australia six annual reports of some Affiliated Organizations and Commissions.

Mantovani responded to correspondence received from the President, Vice Presidents, the General Secretary, as well as from other members of the EC. Also, Mantovani reported to IUGS for the meeting in Australia six annual reports of Affiliates and Commissions. As a member of the Brazilian Research Council, on the Geophysics and Geodesy Committee, Mantovani continues to promote IUGS, during the Committee Meetings, reunions and in many other activities and distributed printed and promotional materials.

Concerning the IYPE, Mantovani has maintained constant contact with the Brazilian coordinator (Carlos Oiti Berbert) and promoted the program among the communities outreached by the Science and Technology Park (S.P. University) in the City and State of Sao Paulo.

Concerning Brazil, Mantovani contacted the CPRM (Brazilian Geological Survey) to ensure the payment of the annual fees and reports from Brazil for the IUGS, as associate member. Concerning other countries in South America, with the help of IUGS Secretariat, she searched for alternative names/entities, in order to get back involved the inactive SA countries or have new associate members.

Finally, after established the communication with ICSU-LA; a representative of IUGS was invited for the next meeting in Mexico, (February, 2009).

Ezzoura Errami, Councillor

After the council meeting held in Oslo during the 33rd IGC, Errami attended the 59th IUGS EC meeting. During the last 5 months, she participated to the electronic discussion concerning all the IUGS matters. She has participated to the IUGS promotion through the distribution of IUGS flyers, annual reports, shirts, ties and compasses. Promotion was made in Morocco especially in her Department and also in Tunisia during the 22nd colloquium of the Geological Society of Africa. She has been invited as IUGS councillor by the GSAf executive committee to take care of the election of the new bureau for the term 2008-20012. This election was held during the 22nd colloquium of the Geological Society of Africa held in Tunisia. She commented the reports of four IUGS Affiliated

Organizations (GSaf, AAWG, ISRM & GV). Errami also prepared and submitted a report on the IUGS National Committees and the IYPE National Committees relationship.

She was also involved in discussions with ICSU ROA director on how IUGS can collaborate efficiently with ICSU Regional Office for Africa.

Colin Simpson, Councillor

Simpson circulated two e-bulletins since becoming the e-bulletin editor/compiler: No. 34. August 30, 2008; No. 35. November 5, 2008; No. 36 - in progress

Simpson acknowledged Alberto Riccardi, Peter Bobrowsky, and the IUGS Secretariat for their assistance and guidance with the preparation of these Bulletins. He found it difficult to get appropriate material for the bulletins and this may have caused some delays in compilation. Most material is passed to him via email, and some gleaned from web sites. With future issues a special call for items from the Executive Committee will be sent out prior to the compilation time. Draft e-bulletins will be circulated to Executive Committee members for comment prior to formal distribution.

He was directly involved in the arrangements for the Executive Committee meeting (planning for the meeting and the excursion, hotel bookings, excursion trip bookings, etc). All bookings and arrangements were done in consultation with Ian Lambert (Secretary General 34th IGC), and Paul Kay (Deputy Secretary General 34th IGC) both from Geoscience Australia. This has been to ensure open communications on all items, and also to allow appropriate arrangements for payment of expenses, etc. (Geoscience Australia will cover most of the expenses arising in Australia for individual Executive Committee members under arrangements of the 2012 IGC).

Within the Australian planning arrangements for the meeting, he was appointed to arrange the post conference excursion (planning, coach and accommodation, events etc) and this was also done in close communication with Geoscience Australia. Planning arrangements also involved seeking possible sponsorship funding for the trip from mining companies. Arrangements for a forum for presentation of 2-3 special papers to members of the mining community in Orange was arranged through some of Simpson's contacts in mining companies based there.

Preparation for the Executive Committee meeting also involved compilation of reports on items circulated by the Secretariat.

4.d. Secretary General's Report (Peter Bobrowsky)

Peter Bobrowsky completed his first term as Secretary General of the Union on the occasion of the 33rd IGC in Oslo where he was elected for a second term of office. During 2008 he participated in all the Bureau meetings (with both other Bureau members). His primary responsibilities centered on the coordination of activities by the various task groups, committees, commissions, affiliated organizations and initiatives. This was particularly important since a change of leadership was required from all Commissions to coincide with the 33rd IGC. He also maintained regular communication with the Permanent Secretariat (in Norway and Edmonton) and both past and new Bureau members for day-to-day business.

Significant attention was given to the recently completed and next International Geological Congresses, the IGC Committee and the International Year of Planet Earth. He attended the Global Launch Event in Paris in February 2008.

A major scientific focus was the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) - one of our cooperative ventures with UNESCO - involving total restructuring and rebuilding of the Scientific Board and launching the first year of activity under this new structure. This activity requires full time attention of the Union.

Several weeks were devoted to the coordination of activities in Oslo. In this regard, the Secretary General managed content, style and format of all IUGS related (and not IGC) presentations, voting, etc. This part of the congress proved very successful when compared to other business meetings.

He participated in the General Assembly of the International Council for Science in Maputo. Focus for 2009 will be securing a relationship with UNESCO in activities outside of IGCP, working with Australia towards the 34th IGC and addressing outstanding requests arising from Council meeting in Oslo including the statutes and bylaws, etc.

Bobrowsky will help the IUGS President, Alberto Riccardi, and Treasurer, William Cavazza in their roles.

4.e. Treasurer's Report (William Cavazza)

William Cavazza thanked out-going Treasurer, Antonio Brambati for his organized work from 2003-2008 and bringing him up to speed. Cavazza found it difficult to prepare a budget for the meeting so early in the year and pleaded for a later start next year.

Cavazza then ran through the financial situation as of December 31st, 2008: the balance is \$107,384.45. Total assets amount to: \$ 1,047,654.47. Total fees received for 2008 amount to: \$ 507,959.45. Total expenses for 2008: \$ 400,575. Received from Oslo IGC: \$ 56,622.12. Received from Geological Society of London (Royalties): \$ 5,785.75. He commented on UNESCO, IGCP, Geological Society of London publications, and bank interest from two accounts. There is some concern about the impact of the economic downturn in 2009 on IUGS investments and bank interests.

Cavazza noted there were now 120 Adhering Organizations, of which 94 are active members: there is a trend toward increasing participation. It is possible that the economic downturn could result in decreased membership in the coming years.

Peter Bobrowsky elaborated on relationship with UNESCO (e.g., IGCP). Discussion followed regarding IUGS "credit" for UNESCO and EC members voted to agree to maintain an annual cap of US \$20,000 as credit for UNESCO: **unanimously accepted**.

Responding to Godfrey Nowlan, Cavazza said he will look to share information with GSL and make sure IUGS is receiving a proper share of book royalties and revenues.

4.f. Permanent Secretariat's Report (Anne Liinamaa-Dehls)

The first quarter of 2008 was focused on organizational activities related to the Global Launch of the International Year of the Planet Earth, an event related to an IUGS key outreach activity for the 2004-2008 term. This involved sending out 2000 invitation and registering of over 500 guests to the Paris Event, as well as assisting in the search for candidates for the IYPE Student Contest.

By March 2008, routine communications leading up to the IUGS-IGC Council meeting, 6th and 10th August became the focus. Setting the timetable for pre-Council communications was crucial, to ensure that that IUGS Statutes deadlines were met. Meeting rooms were packed on both days of the meeting. Including support staff, IUGS EC and IGC officers, the Council in Lillestrøm saw 230 participants: **143** official delegates were registered from **64** IUGS Adhering Organizations, and **2**

representatives from Kosovo and Tajikistan. In addition there were **18** reps from Affiliated Organizations, **5** from Commissions and Task Groups, **5** from GeoUnions and 6 from others IUGS Partners (ICSU, IUCN, UNESCO, IYPE, EGN) and **27** general observers.

IUGS Executive Committee Members started on their tasks as set out at the 59th EC Meeting in Oslo.

The Secretariat responded to all items, but more often than usual, EC members reported of lack of receipt, which meant re-sending of messages. Elena Dantec (NGU, Trondheim) reduced her position to half time as 1 December 2008 to focus on IYPE. Anne Liinamaa-Dehls returned to 100% and continues IUGS tasks through her office in Edmonton.

Preparations for the Executive Committee Meeting began mid October, with the sending out of invitations and request for annual report. Despite the early deadline, the response was very good, with only a few reports outstanding. Thanks to the Executive Committee members for their quick response to the reports, all of which have been compiled in this document. Already in late August, it was clear that new EC members took the Secretary General’s request to start work immediately very seriously. After being elected by Council into their new positions they all “landed with their feet running.”

Alberto Riccardi alerted the EC and Observers that at the end of 2009, the NGU will no longer host the Secretariat and there was the need to look elsewhere within the next five to six months for a new home. William Cavazza added that before Norway, the Secretariat operated out of France and originally out of Canada (Geological Survey of Canada).

Riccardi would sound out Argentina and, with Cavazza, asked Zhang Hongren whether the Secretariat could be housed in China. Gerel Ochir said she will check with Mongolia. Mikhail Fedonkin noted that a change in staff would likely accompany the change in location and suggested looking at active National Bodies that are strongly involved with IUGS to become involved. Peter Bobrowsky was hoping to attract someone part-time, with IUGS supplementing a half-time salary. Riccardi saw the US National Committee as a possible candidate. Zhang Hongren suggested China could perhaps contribute: it would not be economically difficult since labour charges are low; the immediate issue would be the quality of English. Jacques Charvet thought maybe France could host, but could not really speak on their behalf. With regard to shipping the Secretariat items from Oslo to the new site, Anne Liinamaa-Dehls said that it would not be a problem as the costs will be covered by the present Secretariat.

The Secretariat acknowledged the Geosciences Australia for hosting the 60th EC in Sydney, and its staff for their courteous assistance in preparations for this event.

5) ANNUAL REPORTS AND FUTURE PLANS OF IUGS BODIES

5.a. Adhering Organizations

5.a.1. Applications for Membership

Peter Bobrowsky reported that ICMM is applying to represent the geological community of Kosovo, and that an application was approved by the IUGS Executive Committee. Ballots were sent out to Council members on the 4th of January with 15th February as the deadline.

5.a.2. Reports of Adhering Organizations

Peter Bobrowsky logged almost 3 dozen reports from Adhering Organizations.

Country or Region	Adhering Organization	Contact
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Australia	Australian NC for Earth Sciences, AAS	Andrew Glendow, Chair
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan NC of Geologists for IGCP and IUGS	Mr. Ismail-Zadeh Arif Jafar
Belgium		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Geological Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Prof. Mirza Basagic, Secretary General
Brazil	– CPRM sent report claiming “Comitê Brasileiro de Ciências Geológicas no longer exists”	Dr. Manoel Barretto da Rochas Neto
Chile	National Committee for Chile	Professor Francisco Herve, President
Croatia	Geological Society of Croatia	B.sc. Josip Bubnić, Secretary General
Cyprus	Geological Survey Department, Cyprus	Dr. Polys Michealidis, Director
Czech Republic		
Denmark		
Estonia	Estonian National Committee for Geology for IUGS and IGCP	Dr. D. Kaljo, Chair
Finland	Finnish National Committee for Geology	Sinikka Roos, Secretary
France	Comité National Français de Géologie	Dr. Alain Blicq, outgoing Secretary
Germany	Deutsches Nationalkomitee IUGS	Prof. Alan Woodland, Chair
Hungary	Hungarian National Committee for IUGS	Dr. Attila Demény, DSc, Secretary
India	Indian National Committee for IUGS	Dr. A. Singhvi, Chair
Indonesia	The Indonesian Association of Geologists	Andang Bachtiar, Member and Past President
Ireland	Irish National Committee for IUGS and IGCP (under GSI)	Dr. P. McArdle, Chair and Mary Carter, Secretary
Italy	Comitato Italiano per la IUGS	Prof. Gian Battista Vai, Chair
Japan	Japanese National Committee for Geology (under Japanese Council of Science)	Dr. Yasuji Saito, Chairman
Kenya	The Commissioner of Mines and Geology	Mr. S M Kimono, Commissioner
Latvia		
Lithuania	Lithuanian National Committee of Geologists	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Petras Sinkunas, Chair
Mongolia	Geological Society of Mongolia	Dr. Sanjasuren Oyun, Chair
Namibia	Geological Survey of Namibia	Prof. Gabi Schneider
New Zealand	NC for Geological Sciences for New Zealand	Mr. Scott Nodder, Secretary
Norway	Norwegian National Committee for IUGS	Dr. Anders Elverhøi, Chairman
Papua New Guinea	National Committee for Papua New Guinea for IUGS	Dr. Hugh Davies
Russia	Russian National Committee of Geologists	Saima M. Makhmutova, Executive Secretary
Serbia	National Committee of Serbia	Prof. Dr. Rundic Ljupko, President
Slovak Republic	National Geological Committee of Slovakia	Prof. RNDr Dusan Plasienka, President
South Africa	South African Committee for IUGS and IGCP	Susan Frost-Killian, Chair
Switzerland	Comité National Suisse de Géologie	Prof. ord. Karl Foellmi, President
Tajikistan	Governmental Department of Geology	Mr. Azim Ibrohim, Director
Yemen	Yemen Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board (YGSMRB)	Dr. Ismail N. Al-Ganad, Chairman of the Board

Australia

The IUGS Adhering Organization for Australia is the National Committee for Earth Sciences, which operates under the Australian Academy of Science. The Committee membership includes representing universities, research centres and the national geoscience agency, Geoscience Australia. The committee is chaired on behalf of the Academy of Science by Professor Andrew Gleadow of the University of Melbourne. The Committee has links to various other geoscience organizations in Australia including the Geological Society of Australia, the Australian Geoscience Council and the Organising committees of several major national and international conferences.

The AuScope program under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) is now well established and supporting major geoscience research infrastructure needs across a range of programs. The fundamental research objective of AuScope is to investigate the structure and evolution of the Australian Continent and a total funding allocation of A\$46 million has been awarded by NCRIS over a five-year period from 2007. Progress has been made during 2008 in planning a series of National Geoscience Transects through a Working Group chaired by Professor Brian Kennett. A meeting of the Working Group took place with interested parties during the Australian Earth Sciences Convention during July in Perth.

The biennial Australian Earth Sciences Convention (AESC) was held in Perth from 20-24 July 2008 with approximately 900 delegates. This year the Convention was organised jointly by the Geological Society of Australia and the Australian Institute of Geoscientists and followed the broad themes of the International Year of Planet Earth. Planning has already commenced for the next Convention to be held in Canberra in 2010. Planning is also well under way for the 25th General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, to be held in Melbourne in 2011 and the 34th International Geological Congress, to be held on Brisbane in 2012. The Brisbane IGC is to be known as 'AUSTRALIA 2012' and its theme will be 'Unearthing our past and future'.

A number of activities in Australia have been used to focus attention on the International Year of Planet Earth during 2008. Some of the major activities have included the Australian Earth Sciences Convention in Perth, a series of special features in the Australian Journal of Earth Sciences, and the Australian contribution to the OneGeology digital geological map project by Geoscience Australia. Also associated with IYPE was the launch of the Kanawinka Geopark, covering the Neogene Volcanic Province of Victoria and South Australia, the first such park in Australia and the release of a commemorative coin set celebrating the IYPE by the Royal Australian Mint. The Australian Bureau of Statistics Yearbook released early in 2008 also made use of an IYPE theme. Australia also selected a national candidate in the IYPE Student Competition to attend the Global Launch of the IYPE in Paris in February 2008 with support from Geoscience Australia and the Geological Society of Australia. A number of other conferences and events in various parts of Australia have also been used to promote the IYPE during the year.

Azerbaijan

Three meetings of Azerbaijan National Committee of Geologists (ANCG) were held in 2008: 1) dedicated to the 33rd IGC; 2) preparation to the conference on mud volcanism of Azerbaijan; and 3) to work with young geologists. ANCG representatives took part in the meeting of state organizations leaders in field of sciences and techniques for NIS countries, including the International Association of Academies of sciences in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) in October 2008.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The main goal of the Society is provision of the recent geosciences means, information and applications for mineral resources and groundwater exploration projects, including all scientific disciplines within geology. It's aims are to: 1) improve knowledge and understanding of geological history, structure and dynamics of Earth and its processes; 2) promote protection of natural environment, sustainable development and geological heritage; 3) advance all forms and levels of education through practical applications; and 3) promote and advance professional excellence and technical standards in Earth Sciences. Outputs and outcomes include the Organization of the 3rd Conference of B&H Geologists (October, 2008) with participation of more than 100 geologists from B&H Entities, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Georgia

Croatia

The Croatian Geological Society was increasingly active in reaching its objectives during 2008. The Society currently has 371 active member and 41 associated members (geology students), and is

mainly supported by INA Oil Company, Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (Republic of Croatia) and membership fees.

During 2008 Society was active and participated in: 1) the Constitution of Engineering Chamber in Republic of Croatia; 2) the Constitution of National Committee for organization International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE); 3) Preparing amendments for new Mining law before entering Parliament procedure for ratification; 4) Preparing amendments on Energy Strategy of Republic of Croatia; 5) Joining CGS to the European Federation of Geologists (MEGS); 6) Lectures, Workshops & Geological Excursions program; 7) a Publications program; and 8) an Outreach program.

Cyprus

During 2008 all activities of the Cyprus National Committee were focused on programs relevant to the IYPE. The main scientific themes of the IYPE were presented to the public through television, radio interviews, newspaper articles and lectures by earth scientists. An International Student Contest announcement was made available to all high schools and universities and three students were invited to the IYPE launch event in Paris. The Committee, in cooperation with the Government Post Services Department, agreed to issue a post stamp with an environmental theme in early 2009.

In February 2008, a successful conference on medical geology was also organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

Estonia

The same committee represents IUGS and IYPE. The Adhering Organization is concerned that it is not recognized by UNESCO. In 2008, it held two meetings and was active at IGC 33. Estonia supported the proposed merger of the IGCC and IUGS statutes and the committee members are sorry it did not take place at Oslo. Estonia has been active in IYPE through MEGS and recently raised its level of membership.

Finland

Major accomplishments of the group in 2008 include: 1) the 5th National "Day of Geology" in Finland - Geology Day events were held in several localities in Finland and a few thousand people attended to these happenings. 2) The Stratigraphic Committee of Finland, a Subcommittee administered by the Finnish National Committee for Geology, has had two meetings in 2008 with the main activities concentrated in two working groups. 3) The Finnish National Committee for Geology continued its activities to initiate a web-based geology portal. The Portal Subcommittee included representatives from four universities and the Geological Survey of Finland. The portal provides an easy, Finnish language access to geological information for students, teachers and the general audience. The portal is administrated by the Committee and operated by the Finnish Museum for Natural History. The portal (www.geologia.fi) was published in September 2007. New contents introduced in 2008 include a geological dictionary and an extensive rock and mineral guide. The subcommittee had 8 meetings in 2008. Major activities related to IUGS involved representatives in Nordic Organization Committees working for 33rd IGC Oslo 2008 (6th-14th August); representative in IYPE National Committees; and attending the IUGS-IGC Council Meeting in Oslo.

France

Olivier Lacombe (UPMC, Paris) represents the French National Committee. As of 2009 there will be new committee members in a very active organization. Activities related to IUGS in 2008 included: 1) the IYPE Great Launch Event (Paris, 12th-13th February 2008; IUGS, UNESCO and UN); 2) Participation of the French geoscientific community to the IUGS Scientific Programmes (e.g., IGCP Projects 491, 497, 499, 503); and 3) Organization of the French National Committee of IYPE; 4) Three French members are in the Science Implementation Teams of the scientific themes of IYPE; and 5) Support

of the International Lithosphere Programme (ILP, an IUGS & IUGG common programme) in conjunction with CNFGG.

Germany

The German National Committee met in February 2008. As in the previous year the major topics of this meeting were events related to IYPE and preparations for the IGC meeting in Oslo. Coordination of IYPE activities in Germany is under the direction of the Geo-Union/ Alfred Wegener Stiftung (see website www.geo-union.de/html/iype.html). Aside from a "launch event" in Berlin on 12-13 June 2008 and a touring exhibition, "The Restless Earth", sponsored by a government agency, most IYPE events are essentially "grass-roots" initiatives organised on a local basis. Also in November 2008, the Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BGR), the national geoscience agency will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding and thereby prominently display the IYPE logo. At the IUGS council meetings in Oslo, Germany was represented by 3 delegates. Of course many other researchers from Germany actively participated in the IGC meeting. Through the initiative of the IUGS national committee, the German ambassador to Norway hosted a (very successful) reception at his residence for a number of international dignitaries, including the president of the IGC.

In terms of employment of geoscientists, it appears that demand is currently outstripping supply, which is mostly attributable to the two factors: 1) high raw material prices and 2) the low number of students pursuing studies in the geosciences. However, it is notable that enrolments in the geosciences have significantly increased in the last two years. This increase may in part be attributable to the restructuring of curricula into a Bachelor/Master format.

Discussions are currently underway regarding ways to increase the effectiveness of the IUGS in the German geosciences scene. A number of national committees currently exist for a variety of geoscience-related organisations and all suffer from problems of poor attendance of committee meetings and the lack of exchange of ideas and information with other bodies. A number of options are currently being discussed to try and improve on the situation, thereby raising the effectiveness of not only the IUGS national Committee, but of other organisations such as the IGCP.

Hungary

The IUGS National Committee was mainly active in the organization of the International Year of Planet Earth. In response to the IUGS NC, a separate IYPE National Committee was established under the auspices of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. It has produced an Hungarian version of the IYPE logo and a website. The Hungarian IYPE launch event was held on 18-20 April, 2008, at the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest, with animations, including booth shows, posters and lectures. A number of related events were organized by the Hungarian Geological Society and allied societies at universities and research institutes. The Hungarian version of the IYPE brochures was produced with a title of GEO-FIFIKA ("GEO-FINESSE"), the issues were distributed widely, including all of secondary schools in Hungary.

Based on the suggestion from the IUGS National Committee, three lectures were held in the "University of Knowledge", a series of lectures broadcasted by a satellite TV channel. The important event of "Celebration of Science" which is held in November every year was dedicated to Earth Science with numerous lectures and about 6000 people as on-site and on-line audience. In November, several events were organized by the members of the National Committee not only in Budapest, the capital, but also in smaller towns. Several members of the National Committee are active in the organization of the next International Mineralogical Association conference that will be held in Budapest in 2010.

India

India was active in 2008 with a number of celebrations for its Golden Jubilee Year, and they produced a two Volume document distributed at IGC 33 in Oslo.

Indonesia

A report was presented by Andang Bachtiar during the EC meeting.

Ireland

Ireland had extensive participation in the 33rd IGC at Oslo. Geoscientists from a wide variety of organisations, including in the private sector, convened symposia, made presentations and displayed posters. Topics were varied and reflected many of the key issues in Ireland's National Geoscience Programme. In addition members of the Irish National Committee for IUGS attended a wide range of business meetings.

There was full involvement by Ireland in two international activities which have been supported by IUGS. The first of these, the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), had a programme of events coordinated by a National Committee which was convened by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) and whose members represented all the key players in geoscience outreach in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Events included schools-based competitions, radio and TV programme, the issuing of a set of postage stamps, exhibitions and public lectures. The second initiative was One Geology, designed to make web-based geological mapping easily accessible on a global basis, and GSI participated as the Irish partner. Comprehensive mapping on the scale of 1:500,000 is being provided.

Recent progress in geoscience in Ireland has been stimulated by the publication in 2007 by the Royal Irish Academy and GSI of the National Geoscience Programme (2007-2013), which sets out priorities for services, research and education. The Government responded to this by providing additional funding of €45 million for geoscience over the period of the programme. Among the new initiatives are the Griffith Geoscience Research Awards, designed to build research capacity at third level institutes in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

A recent study of the geoscience sector in Ireland concluded that in 2006 it contributed €4.24 billion to the national economy, representing 3% of Ireland's GNP. In the same year the sector employed over 30,000 people, or 1.4% of total Irish employment. The key economic activities in the sector are energy, mining and quarrying extraction, and geoscience services in the public and private sectors.

GSI is the IUGS Adhering Organisation for Ireland. It has convened a National Committee for both IUGS and the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). This committee promotes participation in the activities of both organisations by Ireland's geoscientists and maintains contact with the organisations at international level.

Italy

The Italian National Committee acknowledged the outgoing officers of the IUGS, President Zhang Hongren and the Treasurer Antonio Brambati. The INC has strongly supported the changes in the strategies of IUGS. IUGS should deeply modify its structure, as stated in the Strategic Plan, in order to undertake innovative actions for increasing the weight of Geological Sciences in the fields of culture, public affairs, economy, use of non-renewable resources, water supply and water-quality policy, mitigation of geologic hazards and environmental planning. Geology must take advantage from having always provided an answer to basic material and cultural needs of the mankind without contributing to pollution: provided it can find an answer to the new needs. At the same time, geology should maintain a high profile in basic science, the only way to prepare geoscientists able to define and solve practical problems.

The Italian National Committee is ready to cooperate in this and other challenges, and hopes the new incoming President, Alberto Riccardi, will be able to finalize his announcement to bring to a closer involvement of the National Committees into the IUGS activity.

There is a feeling that the geological community is facing now new opportunities of expanding demand in traditional oil and gas as well as mineral supply, but also in nuclear and clean alternative energy development in the next two decades or so, as a consequence of high persisting, although fluctuating oil prices. It will be crucial, however, not to lose this new opportunity. The UN proclamation of the International Year of the Planet Earth (2007–2009) may help considerably as a triggering event to cope with such opportunities.

Japan

The Japanese National Committee for IUGS, as a Subcommittee of the Committee on Earth and Planetary Sciences in the Science Council of Japan, aims to promote and coordinate international cooperation in geology and to encourage the integration and synthesis of all geological knowledge. The committee for IUGS supports the activities of the sub-commissions related to the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO), International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), Commission on the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI), International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS), International Association of Geochemistry (IAGC), International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), and International Lithosphere Programme (ILP). Most of the activity results have been published at annual meetings and/or conferences of the earth science community, such as the Japanese Geoscience Union (JpGU), the Geological Society of Japan (GSJ) and the Japan Association of Mineralogical Sciences (JAMS).

Kenya

National Committee members from Kenya attended the IGC and were active in IYPE, promoting one science project to cover each IYPE theme. Currently there are no ongoing IUGS sponsored projects in Kenya.

Namibia

The Adhering Organisation is the Geological Survey of Namibia. As in previous years, this organisation continued with its programmes in the classical geological survey fields in 2008. A noteworthy growth of activities occurred in the Division of Engineering and Environmental Geology, where a number of programmes aim at the environmental monitoring of active mines and the rehabilitation of abandoned mines. The Division is also spearheading a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Namibian Uranium Province, conceived because of the dramatic increase in uranium exploration and production in the environmentally very sensitive Namib Desert. This is the first Strategic Environmental Assessment for a mineral province worldwide.

Participation in IGCP involved the following programmes: 478, 482, 489, 493, 509 and 512. A three volume book on the geology of Namibia has been published as part of our IYPE campaign. The director of the Geological Survey of Namibia finished her term of office as a councillor of IUGS in August, 2008. She continues to represent Namibia/Africa on various committees, e.g. IYPE, ICOGS, OneGeology and AGSO. A large display on OneGeology has been put in place at the entrance of the Ministry of Mines and Energy. Unfortunately, the GeoParks project was once again delayed, but the park is definitely scheduled to be proclaimed during 2009, as additional funds have been received from abroad.

The Executive Committee of the Geological Society of Namibia serves as the National Committee of IUGS as well, since it is the representative body of the Namibian geoscience community. The committee has produced posters with the themes of IYPE, as well as a colouring in book for younger

children, likewise sporting the themes. Posters as well as the colouring in book have a distinct Namibian flavour, and will be distributed to primary and secondary schools throughout Namibia at the beginning of the new school year. As is common practise, the Executive Committee has also organised a number of talks, excursions and courses, and emphasised the IYPE.

New Zealand

At present, membership of the GSNZ stands at around 780 members, representing professional, amateur and student geologists in New Zealand and overseas. The GSNZ was the lead publisher, with GNS Science; of a new book commemorating the 50th anniversary of the society (actually in 2005) entitled "A Continent on the Move – New Zealand Geoscience in the 21st Century" (Chief Editor Ian. J. Graham). Contributions from over 120 geoscientists were compiled in a large format book, spanning New Zealand and global geological, geophysical, geochemical and historical topics. The President, on behalf of the GSNZ, signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with similar international organizations: Geological Society of Australia and Geological Society of America. Three Newsletters and several email Newsflashes were promulgated to members during 2007-08.

Papua New Guinea

The PNG Geological Survey has been incorporated into a new government organisation, the PNG Mineral Resources Authority. The Geological Survey now has an opportunity to re-build and to re-establish itself as an effective scientific arm of government. At the same time the Observatories branch of the former Geological Survey has been incorporated into a Department of Mineral Policy and Geohazard Management. Despite this unfortunate separation, the Observatories and the new Geological Survey have undertaken to work closely and to share facilities. The other major players in geosciences in PNG are the industry (mining and mineral exploration, petroleum and petroleum exploration) and the University of PNG, Division of Earth Sciences. In the coming months, a PNG IUGS Committee will be established that will incorporate representatives of each of these groups. Following on, PNG will become more active and interactive with the IUGS.

Russia

During 2008, a considerable part of the Committee's activity was devoted to preparation for taking an active part in the 33rd IGC in Oslo, Norway. Consultations were given to individuals and organizations in Russia. The Russian NCG organized the Official delegation according to its category of membership in the IUGS.

An encouraging result of improved communications by post, E-mail, and internet with International geoscientific organizations (including IUGS and its Affiliates) we have regularly received a lot of information on the forthcoming events (2008-2010) symposia, meetings, etc. The Committee has compiled an information Bulletin and circulated it among about 100 academic, industrial, geoscientific institutions and universities throughout Russia.

In spite of the difficult financial situation, the Russian NCG has managed to arrange the 2008 EPISODES subscription (50 copies) for individuals and organizations (all free of charge). With thanks the RNC notes that each of the issues of EPISODES arrived from China without delay.

The inability of the Russian Academy of Sciences to pay in time the annual membership dues to IUGS and its Affiliates considerably influences the Committee's activity. This year due to great efforts the Russian Academy of Sciences has transferred its fees for 2008 to the International Union of Geological Sciences, the Commission for the Geological Map of the World, and the International Union for Quaternary Research.

Slovakia

The SNC comprises about 90 members with activities related to IUGS Affiliated Organizations, IGCP and IYPE (outreach).

South Africa

The South African IUGS National Committee in 2008 held a couple of informal meetings in preparation for the South African bid to host the IGC in 2016. At these meetings, the nomination of new committee members was discussed, as well as the nomination of an interim chairperson. The Council for Geoscience in Pretoria, South Africa briefed all relevant stakeholders on the success of the bid to host the IGC in Cape Town in 2016. These include the Government and various government departments and the Geological Society of South Africa amongst others. A workshop is to be held in the first quarter of 2009 with all parties to develop a strategy and the way forward, including a sound business plan to ensure a successful congress. The National Committee for the International Year of Planet Earth, including members from the IUGS committee, has been involved in a number of activities. Mrs. S. Frost-Killian attended the ICSU General Assembly in October in Maputo, Mozambique as part of the National ICSU delegation of South Africa. This proved an enlightening and rewarding experience and provided a greater understanding of the ICSU umbrella.

Switzerland

In 2008, the Swiss national IUGS committee supported the organization of a symposium in honour of Peter A. Ziegler, at the annual Geoscience Meeting in Lugano. Peter A. Ziegler was deeply involved in the promotion of the International Lithosphere Program. Pascal Kindler, member of the Swiss IUGS committee, president of the Swiss National IYPE committee, was involved in the preparation of the IYPE manifestations in Switzerland and notably in the setup of a "Base Camp". The Base Camp is conceived as a mobile exhibition centred on Earth Sciences, which will be shown in Geneva, Zurich, Berne, Lugano, Chur and Neuchâtel, and which will be associated with a row of local manifestations in these regions during the time of its presence (<http://iype.scnat.ch/e/ereignisse/basecamp09>). Jean Pierre Berger - a member of the IUGS committee - is leader of the section "Earth & Life" in the base camp, and Luigi Burlini - a further member of the IUGS committee - is co-leader of the theme "Deep Earth". The Swiss IUGS committee has reserved a sum of approximately 22, 000 Fr as financial support in 2009. The allocation of this support depends on final approval by the Swiss Academy of Sciences and by the members of the Swiss national IUGS committee.

Tajikistan

In 2008, the representatives of bureau has participated in 33rd International Geological Congress.

Major activities related to IUGS include the participation of national geological services in international field organization. Suggestions for improvement of IUGS activities include: 1) to strengthen geosciences by amalgamating geological services related to the goals of IUGS (difficult to accomplish); 2) National geological services to maintain minutes from intersession meetings with IUGS; and 3) allocation of grants, taking into account, except for other conditions, that accepted National geological services can be not ready for procedures or cannot manage within the time-frame of received grants.

Yemen

The Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board submitted a 52 page report, but not specifically written for the IUGS. There were no specific IUGS related activities in 2008.

5.a.3. Report of Task Group on Adhering Organizations

Jacques Charvet informed the EC and Observers that this Task Group will be in charge of evaluating, with the National Committees, the different problems and needs of each country and region. The main aims are to: 1) establish interaction between the representatives of the IUGS EC and National

Committees on a regular basis, leading to concrete results; 2) to define, if possible, different missions for each country and region in the light of their unique and different problems or needs; and 3) to foster collaboration among National Committees and with Affiliate and International Organizations. Peter Bobrowsky congratulated the group for a good job and for identifying potential issues.

Bobrowsky observed that most National Committees do not like filling in forms. The Task Group has to address the poor response of National Committees and get information from those not responding. Bobrowsky recommended voice contact with the Chairs of National Committees. Colin Simpson suggested reports could be submitted directly online, but this would require better interfacing and more costly work on the Website. There should also be benefits to submitting reports.

The EC **approved** the ToR and composition of the Task Group:

Chair: Jacques Charvet, IUGS VP

Vice-chair: Ochir Gerel, IUGS VP

Other members:

Wesley Hill, USA

Ian Lambert, Australia

Marta Mantovani, Brazil

Felix Toteu, Cameroun

5.a.4. Report on Inactive Adhering Members

Marta Mantovani reported that a list of inactive organizations had been compiled and letters drafted. Each country has its own peculiarities that lead to their inactive status. Alberto Riccardi was expecting a reply from Cuban representatives, as a consequence of writing and exchanging letters. Cuba wants to become involved, but cannot pay.

5.b. Committees

5.b.1. Nominating Committee

Rapporteur Zhang Hongren introduced this agenda item. Following the Statutes and Byelaws of IUGS, a new Nominating Committee was appointed at the last IUGS Council Meeting in Oslo. The Committee is to recommend a slate of candidates for officers of the Union for the next term of IUGS Executive Committee.

The members of the Committee are Zhang Hongren, (Chairman, China), Ryo Matsumoto (Japan), Centeno-Garcia Elena (Mexico), Peadar Mc Ardle (Ireland), Jonas Satkunas (Lithuania), Felix Toteu (Cameroon) and Marita Bradshaw (Australia).

The Nominating Committee will start its work mainly after the half way of the current term.

5.b.2. Publication Committee

Alberto Riccardi invited Godfrey Nowlan, Chair, to report on the activities of the Publications Committee in 2008. Nowlan reviewed the composition of the PC for the new EC and observers. These are:

- Susana Damborenea (Museo de La Plata in La Plata, Argentina)
- Godfrey Nowlan (Chair, Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary, Alberta, Canada)
- Tim Partridge (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa)

- Fred Spilhaus (Executive Director AGU, Washington, D.C.)

Ex officio members:

- Zhenyu Yang (Editor, Episodes, Nanjing, China)
- Vacant: IUGS Web Master

The PC held its annual meeting in Malaga, Spain, where it discussed a number of issues, including Episodes, GSL and IUGS programs. Some 17 books have been published under the IUGS/GSL MOU, with two further titles due in 2009. There are also three accepted titles that will hopefully be published in 2009 and four for 2010. It is possible that further proposals for 2010 publication could be received. Two proposals from IGCP programmes were accepted since the last report; no proposals have been rejected. Two books have been accepted from IGC33 in Oslo. Two further proposals have been received and are under revision (one is likely to be resubmitted, the other probably not). There are four other sessions whose conveners have expressed a strong interest, but need to have further contact with potential authors and four more than have expressed an interest, but who are less certain. The PC has an invitation to meet with the European Association of Science Editors in Pisa, Italy, on 16-19 September 2009.

Geological Society of London

The PC continues its ongoing review of the performance of GSL and the MOU. Following on a visit to GSL operation in Bath, U.K. in summer 2007, Angharad Hills, Commissioning Editor for IUGS, agreed to attend the PC meeting on 20-21 November 2008. The agreement is working well and bringing in significant revenue for IUGS through finders fees for IGC sessions and royalties on IUGS publications. Some improvements with respect to coordinated promotion for IUGS publications were sought at the meeting in Spain.

Nowlan noted that the GSL wanted to develop its online services and change the royalty structure (currently at 5%). The GSL are pushing for a one time, upfront payment of £ 1250 on acceptance of a title. This is the same arrangement that the GSL has with the IGC. Nowlan sees this as a significant change that will likely lead to more revenue for the IUGS.

Colin Simpson asked about downloading titles and wondered where users would have to pay for access to the Lyell Collection. Peter Bobrowsky was surprised by the actions of GSL and pondered why they would want to pay up front: were they anticipating more book sales? Bobrowsky thought the transition will lead to increased book sales and suggested working toward some form of royalty from online downloading.

Godfrey Nowlan recommended trying out the new arrangement for two years before re-evaluation. This was **approved** by the EC.

ACTION ITEM 1

PC Chair Godfrey Nowlan is to confirm the change to the MOU status with GSL which will include a front end payment of £ 1250 fee for publications, but limit the agreement to two years.

Episodes

Nowlan touched on the ongoing review of the quality and timeliness of Episodes and assistance with its content. The Editor of Episodes prepares reports regularly for the PC and they show that the journal is doing well, coming out on time and has an excellent citation index. The Chair reviews the content of each issue when it is in galley proof stage. There is still a need for new associate editors.

Zhenyu Yang reported that in 2008, three issues have been published, totaling 372 pages. The first issue in March was an exceptionally large volume (200 pages) that was a special issue for the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo. It contained 27 articles on the congress and aspects of the

geology of the Nordic countries. The second issue in June was a special issue devoted to the Quaternary Period/System with 15 articles. The third (September) was a traditional issue with a mix of articles, news reports, conference reports, book reviews and an Editorial by the new IUGS President, Alberto Riccardi. The *Episodes* website www.episodes.org has been updated regularly. All issues of *Episodes* published from 1978 to the present are available as PDF files at the web site. The SCI Impact Factor of *Episodes* has grown from 1.22 in 2005 to 2.35 in 2006. The total cites are 596 and the articles are 35.

Zhenyu and Nowlan reminded the EC that the MOU with China has ended and asked for resolution upon which editorship would be handed: India or the USA. Peter Bobrowsky warned that the transition might be too abrupt and that missing months of production could lower the Impact Factor rating of *Episodes* so that the prestige of the journal may suffer. Zhenyu and Nowlan assured the EC that everything has been done to make the transition work.

Zhang Hongren, as a former editor of *Episodes*, elaborated on the transition of production to China. The Chinese were able to pick up publications shortly after the transition. He saw few problems for either India or the US as both are English speaking, so the transition should be smooth. Software (Quark Express) templates will be passed on, but Zhang was uncertain whether this software would be used.

Alberto Riccardi on behalf of IUGS presented plaques to Zhenyu Yang and the staff of *Episodes* in recognition of their contributions.

ACTION ITEM 2

President Alberto Riccardi will send letters of appreciation to Government of China and *Episodes* editorial staff recognizing their many years of support and hard work.

ACTION ITEM 3

EC members to send nominations to PC regarding candidate Associate Editors of *Episodes* before March 10, 2009; PC Chair Godfrey Nowlan and PC members then to confirm Associate Editors replacements before April 1, 2009.

Alberto Riccardi resumed discussion on the bids of India and the US. The USA bid was for an exclusively electronic publication of *Episodes* with a cost of USD 330,000 per year and of this amount the IUGS was expected to provide USD 100,000. The Indian bid proposed to continue along the same lines used by the Chinese editors, total cost per year would be US\$ 60,000 for paper and electronic, and the cost for IUGS will remain the same as before. Both bids were sent to the PC and to the members of the past EC for their advice. Nowlan responded that the PC supports the Indian bid (); in the future there may be a bid from the GSL. Riccardi was initially happy with the US proposal, but the bid is too high.

William Cavazza and Ochir Gerel were strong advocates for solely electronic publications and the US bid but based on the numbers presented, IUGS cannot afford more than \$100,000 for publishing. Cavazza expressed doubts about the Indian bid because it did not indicate clearly who would be publishing the journal and wanted a more detailed explanation from India. However, their reputations were on the line, so some standards will likely be assumed.

Peter Bobrowsky still believed the transition to online, digital delivery should be done now. There is no follow-up on the fate of hard copies that are currently sent (e.g., to Africa). He saw AGI/USGS as a professional organization. Like Cavazza, he was concerned about the Indian bid at the moment: there was no indication of editors, staff or a guarantee that they could support the operation. The successful bidders would have to populate the Editorial Board.

Mikhail Fedonkin mentioned that a gap of a few issues could be less harmful than a major delay or decrease in quality. . He wondered what the consequences would be of using a professional publishing house (e.g., GSL). He recommended negotiation and searching for possible sponsors. Marta Mantovani thought that the gap in publications during the transition would be harmful, especially since this could be for almost a year. Jacques Charvet also noted that Ryo Matsumoto and Sylvi Haldorsen, of the past EC responded with criticisms of the US proposal costs and concerns about the Indian proposal. Eldridge Moores from the previous EC supported the US bid.

Charvet, Fedonkin and Marta Mantovani felt that if IUGS were to go with India, the MoU should be for four years. Zhang Hongren, Editor of Episodes for eight years, anticipated problems if the printed versions were stopped, and so was in favour of the Indian bid. Given the demand for print and digital version, Colin Simpson was inclined to favour India over the US. Ezzoura Errami was in favour of giving India the chance to show what they can do.

Godfrey Nowlan was impressed with the comments from the EC. The Indian proposal is the most acceptable, and IUGS can evaluate over the next four years. The PC, in the meantime, will work out the details of the transition. William Cavazza suggested perhaps considering a trip to India to deal up-front with Harsh Gupta and evaluate on-site. Peter Bobrowsky suggested that one fully briefed person could do the evaluation and a trip was not needed.

With the US bid out of the question, the only alternative was for the EC to vote for the Indian proposal.

VOTE

All, but one, in favour of India taking on Editorship of Episodes

ACTION ITEM 35

President Alberto Riccardi will inform US IUGS NC and India NC the IUGS EC decision regarding the future Editorial Office of Episodes.

ACTION ITEM 36

PC Chair Godfrey Nowlan and Episodes Editor Zhenyu Yang will contact Indian Episodes team, asking for clarification on the transition process.

Ongoing review of the IUGS web site and related matters

The PC is concerned by the lack of a permanent replacement for John Aaron as web master. In 2007 the Secretary General through the kind support of the Geological Survey of Canada (time and money) restructured and redesigned the old IUGS website. Before then it had been almost 9 months since Aaron had last updated the site. The redesign cost approximately \$5000 CDN and since that time the site was updated monthly by the SG. Peter Bobrowsky expressed concern that a more “user friendly” operating structure was needed and although he was more than willing to continue to manage data input, he felt that serious discussion was need by the EC regarding whether money should be spent to commercially update and redesign the site to a more attractive and modern format. He was in favor of an updated format and operating structure.

The content under the Publications button on the IUGS web site was completely updated in December 2008. Publicity for IUGS books has been added to the E-Bulletins and the Table of Contents for issues of Episodes has also been added to the E-Bulletin.

Ongoing review of IUGS Publication Policy and related matters

Nowlan reported that the PC continues to review the IUGS Publication policy. There have been several requests for use of the ICS Geological Time Scale and these are granted automatically. Few other requests have been received.

The PC is following up on a report summarizing the knowledge of IUGS Publication Policy and Practice within IUGS organizations, affiliates and IGCP projects. The report revealed that IUGS-related organizations are much more receptive to being polled for information than are IGCP projects. This reflected a big divide in attitude and the fact that IGCP is seen as a separate and independent body. As a result we have been taking action to improve the knowledge of IUGS publications and its policy and procedures across the board.

The PC also looked to specific actions that would promote IUGS Publications. Susana Damborenea completed a very interesting assessment of the situation in South America and Tim Partridge made an assessment of the situation in Africa. Both presented the results of their efforts at the Association of Earth Science Editors meeting in Calgary.

Alberto Riccardi, Peter Bobrowsky and Godfrey Nowlan discussed publications for the 2011 50th Anniversary of IUGS. Alberto Riccardi proposed the publication of a book on the History of the IUGS and to contact INHIGEO to see if they would be interested in helping. David Oldroyd cautioned that this would be an enormous and difficult task, involving much coordination, searching documents in Trondheim that could take two years or more. It would be a good task for a recent graduate (e.g., Ph.D). Riccardi saw the need for people involved in past ECs to contribute. Bobrowsky thought the overview could be prepared much quicker; and saw INHIGEO as the obvious candidate to oversee the development of a global network of contributors. Gerel Ochir suggested guidelines be written for compiling the document. Bobrowsky complemented Nowlan and the PC team for successfully addressing so many issues during the past year.

ACTION ITEM 4

Secretary General Peter Bobrowsky to inform IUGS distribution list of the intent of the Union to produce a 50th anniversary volume about the Union in time for 2011.

ACTION ITEM 5

President Alberto Riccardi and David Oldroyd will develop a draft TOR for the IUGS Anniversary volume and send to the EC for their comments and approval.

5.b.3. Ad hoc Review Committees

Alberto Riccardi noted that in 2007 ARCs completed reports on the TGGGB and ICS. There were no active ARCs in 2008. Riccardi and Peter Bobrowsky suggest review of:

- Commission on Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI)
(P. Bobrowsky, C. Simpson, plus a maximum of three externals)
- Commission on Education Training and Technology Transfer (COGE)
(M. Fedonkin, Ochir Gerel, plus a maximum of three externals)

The EC **unanimously agree** to these ARCs.

ACTION ITEM 6

Secretary General Peter Bobrowsky (Chair) and Councillor Colin Simpson will complete an ARC on CGI before next EC meeting.

ACTION ITEM 7

Councillor Mikhail Fedonkin (Chair) and Vice President Gerel Ochir to complete an ARC on COGE before next EC meeting

ACTION ITEM 8

President Alberto Riccardi will send draft of TOR and reporting guidelines for all IUGS ARCs to the full EC for their comments and revision.

5.b.4. New IUGS Committees

Alberto Riccardi talked about two new committees and TORs for: a) Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) and b) Finance Committee (FC).

For the SPC, important aims include collaboration with other disciplines and bringing together all bodies to improve the actions of the Union. The SPC would analyse the activities of IUGS bodies, look at what is happening globally outside of the IUGS and feed information to the EC. The committee would also work toward sharing the IUGS vision with other organizations.

Jacques Charvet and Peter Bobrowsky thought this Committee was a good idea, but saw the need to discuss in detail who would chair and how many people would serve.

ACTION ITEM 9

EC members to send their comments on the draft Strategic Advisory (Planning) Committee, originally proposed by President Alberto Riccardi, to the full EC by the 20 March, 2009.

Riccardi then moved to discuss the need for a Finance Committee as stated in the IUGS Statutes and Byelaws. A draft ToR has been prepared and the EC will receive for review and discussion after the 60th Meeting.

5.c. Commissions

5.c.1. Geoscience in Environmental Management (GEM)

Peter Bobrowsky reported that this Commission had a change in leadership in Oslo, with Prof. Kevin Telmer (Canada) becoming the Chair and Dr. Roma Kanopiene (Lithuania) the new Secretary General. Colin Simpson served as Information Officer and is now resigning. Their next annual meeting will be in Montevideo, Uruguay (Aug/Sept 2009) as part of the Third Hemispheric Conference on Medical Geology. Three Working Groups met their objectives and now closed. Ideas/concepts for 10 potential new Working Groups, several are of key relevance to the Union. The Commission was the most active and the most physically present at the IGC in Oslo, and has been very active in IYPE activities. Union recognizes the prominent role that GEM plays in IUGS. Extremely important group that is under-supported and under-recognized. One criticism was that GEM could contribute more to Episodes.

GEM requested US \$10,000 for 2009.

ACTION ITEM 10

Secretary General Peter Bobrowsky will send a letter to GEM congratulating the Commission on their activities and encouraging their increased visibility in Episodes.

5.c.2. International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

Alberto Riccardi noted that INHIGEO was established by the IUGS and affiliated with the International Union on the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS). It has 218 members from 46 countries, 22 of them elected in 2008. David Oldroyd identified the task of INHIGEO is to promote studies in the history of geological sciences through symposia and publications.

Publication productivity in 2008 included *The History of Geomorphology and Quaternary Geology*, as Special Publication of the Geological Society of London (GSL). Another volume is being edited for GSL publication. INHIGEO members have also contributed to *Episodes* and the annual INHIGEO Newsletter has become a bound volume with well over 100 pages, the last published in 2008.

In 2008, an INHIGEO conference was held in conjunction with the IGC in Norway. Presentations were grouped in two symposia and a 5-day field excursion was organized. Planned activities for the next four years include four Symposia (Canada, 2009; Spain, 2010; Japan, 2011; Australia, 2012) and sponsorship of two other meetings.

For 2008 INHIGEO income was \$ 1490 from IUHPS and \$ 4500 (not yet received on Nov. 10, 2008) from IUGS. For 2009 there is a request that the same annual grant be maintained.

Peter Bobrowsky commented that for a small commission, INHIGEO has been one of the best: extremely active and regularly publishing in *Episodes*; it was a pleasure having them on board.

5.c.3. International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)

Rapporteur Mikhail Fedonkin noted that no report was received before the start of the EC Meeting. However, the ICS is an active commission that is quite busy discussing the lower boundary of the Quaternary.

5.c.4. Commission on Education, Training, and Technology Transfer (COGE)

Marta Mantovani reported that this commission had a number of phone conferences and a face-to-face meeting at IGC in Norway. Actions arising on the following issues include:

- a. New Commission members - the Commission's representation in the south-east and Asian regions were expanded.
- b. International Year of Planet Earth activities - The Commission has supported the International Earth Science Olympiad and the Earth Science Education Unit (ESEU) of the United Kingdom.
- c. Development of an Earth science literacy document - to assist developing countries in adopting their own literacy document, or a teaching syllabus.
- d. Website development - continued to be pleased with the development and management of the COGE website by Greg McNamara (Australia).
- e. Budget - The Commission requests \$US 5,000 from IUGS to continue operate its programs during the 2009.

Bobrowsky commented that this group addresses a very important issue in global geosciences and does so very well. Mantovani noted a request for US \$5000 and funds will be used to:

- \$2,000 Maintenance and continued development of website
- \$1,000 Support of the Earth Learning Idea program.
- \$1,000 Support of the Earth science literacy initiative (including printing)
- \$1,000 Conference phone calls, postage and materials

5.c.5. Commission on the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI)

Colin Simpson reported that CGI has continued to make substantial progress during 2008 and it now has 226 members in 62 countries around the world. At the IGC in Oslo the CGI held elections for a new Council for the period 2008 – 2012.

CGI and members of its Council have been very closely involved in the development of OneGeology (<http://www.onegeology.org/home.html>) – the global initiative to make digital geological map data for the Earth more accessible. This has been primarily done through the CGI's Interoperability Working Group. During 2008, the CGI Interoperability Working Group has developed and released the mark-up language, GeoSciML v2.0. The OneGeology portal was formally launched at the 33rd

IGC. Geological surveys and organizations from 94 countries are now participating in OneGeology (13 joining since the IGC). The European Commission, under its eContentplus programme, has agreed to fund a 2-year, €3.25 million, 19-nation project known as OneGeology Europe and this project will move OneGeology forward faster. The US National Science Foundation is providing almost \$700,000 for a Geoscience Information Network in the 50 US states. These and other initiatives will be linked to ensure complementarity of development and maximum synergy and benefit globally. The European INSPIRE and US Geoscience Information Network are both looking at GeoSciML as a standard for geology data exchange. Software vendors such as ESRI, GeoModeller and SnowFlake are developing applications to allow direct import of GeoSciML formatted data.

In collaboration with the International Association of Mathematical Geology (IAMG) and the Geoscience Information Consortium (GIC - representing geological surveys) CGI played the key role in the organization of the largest and most comprehensive ever Geoscience Information Symposium at the IGC in Oslo featuring 3 plenary sessions and 14 technical sessions that focused on the acquisition, management, use, and dissemination of geoscience data. All sessions were well attended reflecting the increasing importance of data management and informatics in the geosciences.

The German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) together with the IUGS-CGI and the Geological Survey of Namibia (GSN) have now organized a workshop on Geoscience Information in Africa (GIRAF) to take place 16- 20 March 2009 in Windhoek, Namibia. CGI was successful in fund-raising and has significant financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development who officially awarded €125,000 in November 2007, through the German Geological Survey (BGR), for CGI to conduct the outreach workshop in Africa. Besides this, some US\$20,000 has been raised from within the CGI. A web site www.GIRAF2009.org has been set up and connected to the CGI web site.

CGI was represented at an Earth & Space Science Informatics Summit in Rome 13-14th March 2008, convened as an Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY) activity. Participants represented the interests of more than 45 leading agencies and initiatives with an interest in geoinformatics. The main challenge to be addressed is the lack of infrastructure and governance to: (i) cater for the professional needs of scientists and engineers engaged in informatics, and (ii) provide an international framework for policy and action. The International Council for Science (ICSU) was recognised as the peak body best positioned to exert the necessary leadership.

The CGI provides the IUGS with an IUGS voting delegate (John Broome - Canada) at the bi-annual "Committee on Data for Science and Technology" (CODATA) meeting. (<http://www.codata.org>). CODATA is an interdisciplinary scientific committee established by the ICSU to improve the quality, reliability, management and accessibility of data of importance to the fields of science and technology.

CGI continues to strengthen its connections with the Open GeoSpatial Consortium (OGC - www.opengeospatial.org) a non-profit, international, voluntary consensus standards organization that is leading the development of standards for geospatial and location based services. OGC comprises 365 companies, government agencies, and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available interface specifications. CGI regards the OGC is the most relevant geoservice standardization body today, and it is actually driving the field.

Simpson commented that CGI is an active and progressive commission. It has made very substantial progress during 2008 and there is no reason why this will not continue.

Regarding the Workshop on Geoscience Information in Africa (GIRAF) - their report notes "successful delivery will represent a very important achievement for CGI and IUGS in Africa. CGI hopes that senior IUGS and ICSU representatives from in and outside Africa will be able to attend."

Simpson recommended supporting their request for US\$ 10,000. CGI receives funding from the IUGS but no direct regular financial support from other bodies. The detailed planned CGI budget and spending details for 2009 will be dominated by expenditure on the Outreach Workshop but will also include spending on the maintenance of the CGI web site and GeoSciML. In addition to \$5000 to run the basic CGI operation, in 2009 CGI wishes to bid to IUGS for an additional sum of \$5000 to support its work on GeoSciML. This will include costs associated with documenting the model and standard and preparing information for its dissemination and acceptance.

Peter Bobrowsky added that this commission has the largest global impact and is very good for IUGS. He was surprised CGI was experiencing problems raising funds.

5.c.6. Proposals for New IUGS Commissions

TECTASK

As background, the old EC approached the Task Group to see if they wanted to become a commission. New Statutes and Byelaws were written and discussed. Peter Bobrowsky was asked by the previous EC to approach TecTask (Task Group on Tectonics) and see if they want to be upgraded to Commission. They agreed in the spring of 2008. The revised objectives of TECTASK are to:

Promote the study and application of tectonics and structural geology in research and development as a tool for understanding the Earth and planets and to promote exploration of natural resources to the benefit of mankind.

Increase the availability of high quality training in tectonics and structural geology, especially in more developed countries.

Promote the use of field based structural data by increasing awareness of its potential and by stimulating the development of modern field based tools to extract and treat structural data.

Sustain platforms for communication and knowledge transfer for the benefit of the public and scientific community particularly involving developing regions.

The executive board for TECTASK comprises a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary General.

The Commission further includes a maximum of 12 Commission Officers (regional officers).

The commission accepts as affiliates a maximum of 10 junior officers. The members' body includes geoscientists, other interested individuals or organizations.

The Commission's board represents the major global regions and respects equality among gender, ethnic groups and minorities.

The geographic structure of the Commission board is as follows:

- Africa two commission officers
- South America two commission officers
- North America two commission officers
- Asia two commission officers
- Oceania two commission officers

- Europe two commission officers

The choice of Junior Officers depends on merits and appointments are made upon suggestions from Commission Officers. Junior Officers should preferably be Undergraduate or Graduate students and post-doctorial students.

Motion: To approve changing the status of TECTASK from Task Group to Commission; **unanimously accepted**

ACTION ITEM 11

All EC members to send their comments regarding revisions to TECTASK Commission Statutes and Bylaws to Vice President Jacques Charvet and President Alberto Riccardi by 15 March 2009; collective comments will be sent to TECTASK by 1 April 2009.

ACTION ITEM 12

If IUGS suggestions are accepted by TECTASK, then President Alberto Riccardi to request that the Commission provide list of officers so IUGS can obtain Council ratification.

Mikhail Fedonkin asked about the allocation of funding, noting that TECTASK received US\$ 6000 in 2008; for 2009 the amount of US\$ 7000 was suggested. William Cavazza remarked that TECTASK was subject-based and worried if there was a danger in having discipline-based commissions. He stressed it was not the role of a commission. IUGS should avoid having a number of commissions because it does not have the resources for bodies covering all disciplines.

Peter Bobrowsky and Jacques Charvet believed that TECTASK addresses critical gaps.

Marita Bradshaw pointed out that traditionally, tectonic studies were field-based and wondered whether there was much of a push to use seismic data.

Marine Geology

Jacques Charvet saw Marine Geology as a large gap. Peter Bobrowsky noted that Antonio Brambati tabled a gap analysis at the Oslo Meeting which identified marine geology and other topics.

5.d. Task Groups

5.d.1. Isotopes and Geochronology, (TGIG)

Rapporteur Mikhail Fedonkin noted that the IUGS/IUPAC Joint Task Group "Isotopes in Geosciences" consists of seven specialists from Austria, Belgium, China, Italy, Switzerland and USA. Their activity is devoted to the problem of the standards and the symbols used for the measurement of the half-lives of long-lived radionuclides that are used for the radiometric dating. The annual report 2008 is focused on the problem caused by usage of the "year" as a standard unit of time for these measurements. Being not defined by the International System of Units, the SI, the year is not constant and is not commensurate with a day or a second. Analysis of this problem and recommendations are expressed in the paper submitted to the Pure and Applied Chemistry journal. Accordingly, the future activity of the Group includes re-evaluation the major papers on half-lives that are used for the radiometric dating in order to assess the uncertainties caused by the usage of the "year" as a time unit.

Godfrey Nowlan asked whether TGIG had a website; Fedonkin replied that they do not. Alberto Riccardi saw part of the problem being that TGIG is a small group. Peter Bobrowsky noted that there was a link on the IUGS website to their information pamphlet. Ian Lambert wondered why there was no Australian representative.

ACTION ITEM 13

President Alberto Riccardi will contact TGIG and ask for clarification on what they are doing and who they are contacting; as well, ask if they could launch their own website. If not, IUGS should provide a one page summary page link on their website.

5.d.2. Global Geochemical Baselines (TGGGB)

Marta Mantovani noted that the TGGGB presented a very long report including two appendixes. The overall objectives of TGGGB are to prepare a global geochemical database to be presented in map format. During 2008, Dr. Xueqiu Wang (China) was appointed as the new co-leader in the steering committee. The other committee members had not changed.

The Task Group scientific mission made significant progress on near surface sampling and geochemical analysis were completed in most of the areas, including North America and Canada (over 74,000 analysis), Asia including China and Mongolia (performed the orientation map for starting the sampling on 2009), India (in the Himalayan region), Australia (with 74% collected and 25% under analytical procedures), Brazil (prepared for sampling on 2009), Europe (completed and published).

The report includes the accomplished sampling distribution maps of North America and Australia. Many other accomplishments are quoted as educational material for IYPE, the website for hosting the European Atlas, and the special issue of the journal Geochemistry and the DVD dedicated to the memory of Arthur G. Darnley.

Their chief problem is the lack of funding, as the TG received in 2008 from the IUGS US\$ 1500 and the DVD cost was US\$ 2000 to be added to US\$ 150 for the Website hosting. Expenditures in 2008 for sampling were in excess of US\$ 45,000 only in regard to North America and much higher if the other countries would be taken into account for expenditures.

A request of US\$ 30,000 for 2009 was submitted: US\$ 5000 /year for routine operation and US\$ 25,000 for holding workshops in African and Asian countries (suggested last year by an IUGS ARC lead by Ryo Matsumoto).

Gerel Ochir was concerned that Mongolia was not represented; Ian Lambert assured her that China, Russia and Mongolia were all cooperating. Peter Bobrowsky noted that they have been an important part of the IUGS science program for many years.

5.d.3. Tectonics and Structural Geology (TECTASK)

Jacques Charvet noted that in 2008, the fourth year of activity, this Task Group established new contacts and explored new directions for boosting tectonics. Continuing the action in Africa, a new initiative was the setup of the JEBEL program in Egypt and Middle East.

One of the main activities was the maintenance of the website. There are now more than 600 registered members from 55 countries. An effort will be made for approaching new potential new members, particularly from developing countries, which represent 20%. The website hosts Outcropedia and Geoheritage initiative: database of beautiful outcrops, preservation of geological sites significant for tectonics and structural geology. The registration gives a discount on two journals. The activities are published in the Journal of Structural Geology.

The group supported three conferences during 2008: 33 IGC in Oslo, 2008 GSA Joint Assembly, Houston, USA, and YORSGET Conference, Oviedo, Spain. It sponsored 2 sessions at IGC and gave travel support to a convener. TecTask helped in organizing the 1st International Meeting of Young

Researchers in Structural Geology and Tectonics at the University of Oviedo and provided funds (1000 €) for supporting students from developing countries.

Regarding education, one book was published and others are in preparation. A major point is the venue of field courses: Burkina Faso, Jebel program in the Middle East, Algeria, Cameroun, and the digital mapping initiative.

The group is very active, in full agreement with IUGS policy. It is applying for becoming a commission (see item 5. C. 6. "Proposal for new IUGS Commission"). Peter Bobrowsky hoped support of this group could be hastened.

TECTASK requested support of 5000 € for 2009.

5.d.4. New Task Groups

Rapporteur Peter Bobrowsky informed the EC that following the IGC, Christopher Keane of AGI proposed a task group on "Global Geoscience Workforce" and ToR have been submitted and revised. Bobrowsky recommended that IUGS seek and nominate people through the E-Bulletin and through the Secretariat.

Michael Leggo, Jacques Charvet and Gerel Ochir thought that this would be a very useful task group, but found the ToR to be obscure, grammatically illogical and in need of an overhaul. Marita Bradshaw saw the increased need for more focus on geosciences. Alberto Riccardi saw the need for the Task Group, but expressed concern about the way the proposal was written and insisted that they needed to rewrite it.

Bobrowsky thought their mission was good, and that the document is open to some revision: but in concept it should be approved. Alberto Riccardi proposed that the EC accept the setting up of the Task Group and that their ToR document should be revised.

ACTION ITEM 14

Short term task group (with Marita Bradshaw, Michael Leggo, William Cavazza and Peter Bobrowsky) to edit TOR document for the Global Geoscience Workforce Task Group and distribute to the IUGS EC before forwarding to AGI.

5.e. Affiliated Organizations

5.e.1. Application for Affiliation

Four new applications in 2008 were approved by Council: Geological Society of India, Coastal Committee for Offshore and Geoscience in East and South East Asia, Balkan Geophysical Society and the Geological Society of France. There are no outstanding applications.

5.e.2. Reports from Affiliated Organizations

1. Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG)

Ochir Gerel reported that the Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG) had an active membership roster of 500 during 2008. The Association has a ten-member Board of Councillors, and Regional Councillors outside North America representing Brazil, Chile, China, Europe, southern Africa, United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland.

The Association sponsors the publication of the journal *Geochemistry: Exploration, Environment, Analysis* in partnership with the Geological Society of London, and publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Explore*, which is distributed throughout the world and contains timely articles on a variety of applied geochemistry topics. The Association also produces special publications and conducts short courses

on topics of concern in the fields of applied geochemistry. In March 2008, the Association sponsored a workshop titled "Exploration geochemistry: a review of current best practices" at the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada annual convention in Toronto. AAG is also a participating society for the publication of the magazine Elements. The AAG in 2008 sponsors three topics of Distinguished Lecturer Series.

The AAG supports a web site <http://www.appliedgeochemists.org/> with available information. The AAG is continuing preparations to host its biennial IAGS in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada in 2009.

ACTION ITEM 15

Michael Leggo will contact AAG and see if they would be willing to provide a link to the IUGS website on their website.

2. American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG)

Colin Simpson noted that the AAPG has not submitted a report to IUGS. Alberto Riccardi recommended some sort of action since they have to submit a report.

ACTION ITEM 16

President Alberto Riccardi will contact AAPG and determine why they are not providing the Union with an annual report.

3. Association of African Women Geoscientists (AAWG)

Ezzoura Errami in writing reported that the Association of African Women Geoscientists AAWG, created in 1995, aims especially to promote the understanding of earth sciences among women in the African continent by providing a forum for discussion and dissemination of information and co-operation between women geoscientists and associations engaged in African geosciences.

During 2008, the main activities of the association were the organization of the 58th Annual Meeting of the IUGS Executive which was held in Marrakech (Morocco) and the organization of the fourth conference of the AAWG under the title "Women and the International Year of Planet Earth" which was held in Cairo (Egypt). This conference was organized jointly by the AAWG and the UNESCO Cairo office. During this conference, a new executive committee was elected: Prof. Ezzoura Errami from Morocco as President, Dr. Tea Juliette from Ivory Coast as Secretary General, Dr. Beatrice Ketchemen Tandia from Cameroon as Treasurer. A Vice President, regional representatives and an editor was elected during the same meeting. A resolution was adopted in order to increase the capacity building for African women geoscientists, to promote geosciences through development of educational and public programs, to establish collaborative research among the African women geoscientists, to create and promote awareness of geosciences among policy makers and general public in Africa on geoheritage sites for conservation and development and to share and disseminate information among the AAWG members.

Two major publications came from the third conference: a Special volume in French in Notes et Mémoires du Service Géologique du Maroc, published in 2007 under the title "Femme, Géosciences et Développement" and a submitted special issue of Journal of African Earth Sciences, entitled "Aspects of geological knowledge for sustainable development in Africa: Women in African Geosciences", came out as a second step to help women publish their scientific works and also to help them to be more involved in international geoscientific activities. The fifth conference will be held in Ivory Cost in 2010 and the sixth in Cameroon in 2012.

Peter Bobrowsky was happy to see Errami with a significant role in the AAWG: it is a very dynamic group that has provided good visibility for IUGS. He also noted there was no request for funding.

Alberto Riccardi wondered about their relationship to the Geological Society of Africa. Bobrowsky replied that they do in fact interact and suggested Errami will give details when she arrives.

4. Association of European Geological Societies (AEGS)

Jacques Charvet noted that the prime purpose of AEGS is to strengthen the links between geological societies in Europe. It has 30 members from 29 countries. The executive committee meets annually; in 2008, it was in late June at Cluj-Napoca (Romania). A partial renewal of EC took place, especially nomination of a new secretary: Marco Giardino.

AEGS holds meetings every two years. The next one, entitled “Geology for society: education and cultural heritage”, will be held in Cluj-Napoca on July 9-13, 2009. Its preparation is in progress: flyers, website, and field trip program. It will be an affiliated activity of IYPE.

Decision for the 2011 meeting is still open; a joint proposal by Austria and Czech Republic is under discussion.

Peter Bobrowsky noted that the Union has traditionally had a good relationship with AEGS.

5. Arab Geologist Association (AGA)

Alberto Riccardi told the EC that the AGA had not submitted a report for 2008. Peter Bobrowsky was concerned that the “Mid East” was under-represented in IUGS: some sort of strategy is needed, for example going through the Geological Surveys.

ACTION ITEM 17

Vice President Ochir Gerel and the Task Group on Affiliated Organizations must find out why AGA is not functioning.

6. American Geological Institute (AGI)

Rapporteur Colin Simpson said that the AGI is a non-profit organization that aims to voice the shared interests of the geoscience community (geologists, geophysicists, and other earth and environmental scientists) (<http://www.agiweb.org/>). With a staff of about 55 full-time and part-time employees AGI provides information services, and plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education. It aims to increase public understanding of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources and interaction with the environment. It supports its programs and initiatives through sales of its publications and services, royalties, contracts, grants, contributions, and affiliated society dues. The AGI is made up of 45 geoscientific and professional associations representing more than 120,000 geologists, geophysicists, and other earth scientists.

AGI's geoscience database *GeoRef* continued to expand and now contains over 3 million references to geoscience journal articles, books, maps, conference papers, reports, and theses, making it the world's largest and most comprehensive such database on geoscience. Via GeoRef AGI participates in the GeoScienceWorld (GSW) (www.geoscienceworld.org/) a consortium of societies that publish an aggregate of geoscience journals, which are made available to institutional libraries and provides around 30 journals for a single subscription. This project continues to be a major success. The final issue of *Geotimes* was published in August and their new replacement magazine *Earth* was issued in September.

AGI is heavily involved in the support of teaching of earth science at the primary and secondary school level, and of popularization of earth science through television and films. In 2008 AGI launched an effort to track supply and demand workforce statistics, inform student and parents relative to opportunities in the geosciences using emerging technology, and engage geoscience departments in terms of welcoming and retaining outstanding geoscience students. Activities include

revamping the academic associates program. They have identified 68 lead academic departments that will partner with AGI in terms of student recruitment and retention. AGI annually sponsors Earth Science Week and is a Founding Partner of the International Year of Planet Earth. Its' activities include ones in Environmental Affairs, Governmental Affairs, where it serves as an advocate for geology in US governmental circles.

AGI had a booth in the IGC which resulted in increased sales of AGI products. AGI also sponsored a global workforce session that lead to the development of some key relationships with partner organizations. One outcome reported may be a leadership role for AGI with the IUGS.

Simpson commented that the AGI is a very active organisation. Their 2008 Report mentioned that "AGI also sponsored a global workforce session that lead to the development of some key relationships with partner organizations. One outcome reported may be a leadership role for AGI with the IUGS."

Their website lists all the 45 organisations with active web links however there is no mention of the IUGS and that AGI is an affiliated organisation. Alberto Riccardi thought that this has to be corrected. Peter Bobrowsky remarked that IUGS has had a good relationship with AGI, especially under the new leadership of Pat Leahy. There was a need to improve and build on the relationship. Godfrey Nowlan pointed out that IUGS may have a role in geoscience outreach to children.

7. Association of Geoscientists for International Development (AGID)

Marta Mantovani reported that AGID activities are undertaken by volunteers or their donations. The GROWNET project (www.igcp-grownet.org) is funded through IGCP, with US\$ 3500 approved for 2008. Papers from collaborators were visited by over 300 to date.

International Meetings for the GROWNET (Ground Water Network) project included: 1) at the International Groundwater Congress in India (March); 2) at the 33IGC in Norway (August). 3) in Djibouti during the International Symposium on Hydrogeology of Volcanic Rocks (December).

The AGID proposed to IYPE an outreach project entitled "Geoscience Information for Schools in Developing Countries" or "The Earth and Me" (TEAM). Leaflets on practical geosciences are distributed free to schools in Nigeria (Africa) and Bangladesh (S Asia). The project started with \$400 from AGID Nigeria and almost \$2000 was raised locally. The target was 200,000 pupils and 40 schools. Results for 2008 were 13 schools and 2500 pupils in the south-western region and 6 primary schools in Rivers State the south-south zone.

AGID sponsored or co-sponsored nine symposia at IGC (groundwater, geoeeducation in developing countries, geoethics, geoheritage and geotourism). A regular session on Geoethics and meeting of the AGID Working Group on Geoethics was held at the Mining Pibram Symposium in the Czech Republic; the next one will take place in October 2009. An international conference "Geoscience for Global Development" is being organised by AGID, The Bangladesh Geological Survey, Geological Society of Bangladesh and IGEO in October 2009.

AGID's Geoscience Newsletter is published quarterly in India with financial assistance from UNESCO and is mailed to over seven hundred addresses in 35 countries around the world. For the TEAM project and student scholarship, AGID requests a grant of \$1500 from IUGS for 2009.

Alberto Riccardi wondered about the interaction of this organization with the IUGS Commission for Geological Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE) and with other affiliate members such as CIFEG and IGEO. Peter Bobrowsky and Gerel Ochir both noted that AGID has been around for

a long time; it used to provide text books to developing countries. Bobrowsky noted that they are a very important group globally.

ACTION ITEM 18

Permanent Secretariat to contact AGID and update our list of Episodes distribution list in developing countries; also to update and provide list to AGI

8. American Geophysical Union (AGU)

Colin Simpson noted that AGU helps to promote the development of Earth science worldwide and seeks to assure that the increasing understanding of the Earth is taken into account in formulating public policy. It is a scientific society with a membership of more than 54,000 ranging from geologists to astrophysicists and including researchers, teachers, and students. Almost all AGU activities are international in scope and more than 10,000 of AGU's members are outside North America. AGU is self-supporting although some grants, primarily from U.S. government agencies, to support special limited-term projects are also obtained. AGU is formally related with ICSU activities through the START Secretariat, an ICSU/IGBP activity that operates under AGU's umbrella in Washington, DC. AGU also interacts with IUGG. AGU publishes over 15 virtual journals. Space Weather, is available free on the AGU web at <http://www.agu.org>.

Simpson pointed out that the AGU 2008 report notes that "AGU and IUGS have a great potential for both cooperating and complementing each other in achieving common objectives. One area we are emphasizing at this time is working to promote the development of the earth sciences worldwide. We seek to assure that the increasing understanding of how Earth works is taken into account in formulating public policy and is used to the benefit of the world's citizens."

Ochir Gerel commented that AGU is a very successful organization.

9. Association Internationale Pour l'Etude des Argiles (AIPEA)

William Cavazza remarked that AIPEA did not submit a report in time for the current IUGS EC meeting. Alberto Riccardi commented that is necessary to find out why the report has not been received.

10. Balkan Geophysical Society (BGS)

Mikhail Fedonkin reported that this is a non-profit organization that unites the Geophysical Societies of the Balkan countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Serbia and Turkey). BGS is an associated society to EAGE, SEG, SPE and IUGS. Among the major results of the BGS activity in 2008 are the patent of Hellenic geophysicists for "Multi-parametric probe for the qualitative and quantitative surface- and groundwater monitoring", financed and approved by EC, as well as the website of the BGS Congress 2009 and related promotion materials. The 5th BGS Congress will take place on May 10-16, 2009 in Belgrade. Budget of the 5th BGS Congress: total expenditures 19,4350 Euro and total income 116,500 Euro. Expected financial support from IUGS: 30, 000 Euro: this is a first-time request.

11. Carpathian Balkan Geological Association (CBGA)

Mikhail Fedonkin next reported that the CBGA unites 14 collective members which are: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, F.Y.R. of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia and Ukraine. Activity of CBGA is connected to IGCP and to the Central European Initiative (CEI). The major events of the CBGA in 2008 was the CBGA Council meeting in Thessaloniki (May 2008) and organizing a Committee of the CBGA Conference in Thessaloniki in 2010. The CBGA Council is planning to establish the official journal of the Association and the website. The CBGA has no budget and faces financial difficulties, so the fund rising is becoming an important issue. No requests addressed to IUGS are expressed.

Jacques Charvet noted that CBGA was facing some problems, especially with their journals.

12. Coastal Committee for Offshore and Geoscience in East and South East Asia (CCOP)

Rapporteur Zhang Hongren remarked that there was no report received as of start of the EC meeting. This intergovernmental organization asked the IUGS to submit a report to them. Zhang suggested that their role has to be properly defined.

Peter Bobrowsky pointed out that this was a new affiliate and formal contact with the new EC is needed. Colin Simpson noted that COGE has been interacting with CCOP.

ACTION ITEM 19

President Alberto Riccardi will contact CCOP and clarify its relationship with the IUGS.

13. Commission for the Geological Map of the World (CGMW)

Jacques Charvet informed the EC that the Commission completed several maps that were presented at the 33rd IGC: five produced by the CGMW and two in coordination with the Commission; 2 others are near completion. The Geological map of the World (3rd edition), which was printed in March, is also a contribution to IYPE. The colour chart elaborated by the CGMW has been adopted by the ICS.

A new sub-commission was endorsed by the CGMW General Assembly at the 33rd IGC. The booklet "Faces of the African continent. Elements of the African geology", completed in French, will be translated into English by TecTask. The booklet "Changing face of the world" has been translated into Arabic.

The financial situation is sound; the selling level is good and the research of new sponsors active. The income from sales is about 50,000 € in 2008. UNESCO gave US\$ 10,000. But problems come from the membership fees. Some major countries have not paid since 2001. The amount of membership fees has been reviewed following IUGS policy. The creation of six categories, instead of four, is proposed, the first one corresponding to a fee of 300 €.

The CGMW was very active during the last 5 years and at least 25 mapping programs are planned for the next 5 years. The CGMW has a good collaboration with other projects or commissions, in particular with ICS, TecTask and OneGeology. Regarding the latter, CGMW provides updated digital data at global scale of different coordinated and synthetic maps. A flow chart that defines the relationships between CGMW and OneGeology should be respected. IUGS has to be vigilant on this point.

The request for the IUGS allocation is maintained at US\$ 4000 for 2009.

Mikhail Fedonkin cautioned the relationship with OneGeology and geological surveys requires careful attention. Alberto Riccardi mentioned they are working at different scales, adding that many people are involved in both. Peter Bobrowsky reflected that Cadet's involvement in CGMW ensures it works extremely well with IUGS.

14. International Center for Training and Exchanges in the Geosciences (CIFEG)

Marta Mantovani reported on the interface with other International Activities: CIFEG participated in the IYPE official opening and the Foundation supported 25 African students from 10 countries of the continent to attend the global launch event in Paris. CIFEG also supported the 4th conference of the Association of African Women Geoscientists (AAWG4) held in Cairo.

The 1st CIFEG Prize was given in 2008 to Seifu Kebede, University of Addis Ababa, for its contribution in the field of water resources. The prize consisted on 2000 €. The second edition is foreseen in 2010

in South Africa. In 2006 and 2007, the AEGOS Project was promoted to the European commission with the aim to develop an Internet-based information and observation system on geo-resources in the Africa, and for the sustainable development of these countries. The anticipated benefits are expected in terms of better resources use and management, mitigation of the impacts of natural and technological hazards; better land-use planning and sustainable economic growth. A network of 23 institutions from northern and southern countries is implementing the project. The launching conference is scheduled in Cape Town (RSA) on February 9, 2009.

Accomplishments in 2008 were then reviewed by Mantovani. PANGIS - Pan African Network for a Geological Information System: since some PANGIS partners are participating in AEGOS Programme, expectations are high for merging the whole PANGIS network. SANGIS - southeast Asian network for a Geological Information System: this programme is now completely driven by CCOP in Bangkok. No funding was available. The update of the Asian Multilingual Thesaurus of Geosciences (AMTG) integrating the last concepts remains an activity. Mawari Project - The MAWARI project (Sustainable Management of groundwater Resources in the Rift System), will end in 2009. The Annual meetings took place in Djibouti (December). All Mawari members participated to the international symposium on Hydrogeology in volcanic rocks organised by the Republic of Djibouti with the Support of CIFEG as co-organiser (December). Training activities include a three months training was organized for Angola but is now provided the Republic of Guinea. Products include a new PANGEA December 2008.

Funding problems were encountered in 2008 for both SANGIS and PANGIS although no financial support is requested from IUGS.

Alberto Riccardi remarked the importance to know if there is any interaction of CIFEG with IUGS Commission for Geological Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE) and with other affiliate members such as AGID and IGEO.

ACTION ITEM 20

President Alberto Riccardi will contact COGE and request a response as to how they will collaborate with AGID and CIFEG.

15. Circum-Pacific Council for Energy and Mineral Resources (CPC)

Zhang Hongren noted the Circum-Pacific Council for Energy and Mineral Resources was founded in 1972. It is a non-profit international organization of Earth Scientists and Engineers. During the last 25 years, CPC has sponsored five Pacific-wide conferences, six regional symposia and dozen workshops in different countries. "The International Symposium on Circum-Pacific Petroleum and Alternative Energy Resources" was held in Beijing on 16-18 October 2007.

The latest GeoHab (Marine Geological and Biological Habitats) mapping meeting was held in Sitka, Alaska in early May 2008. Over 120 participants attended the meeting. The next GeoHab meeting is scheduled to take place in Trondheim, Norway in early May 2009. The 2009 CPC Directors meeting will be held in mid April and will include a one-day Symposium: "Advances in Circum Pacific Geology – the George Gryc Memorial Symposium" at the USGS Menlo Park, CA with associated activities at Stanford University.

There was no financial request. Alberto Riccardi asked how many people were involved in CPC; Zhang replied perhaps thousands, but it was a very loose organization.

16. Drilling, Observation and Sampling of the Earth's Continental Crust (DOSECC)

Jacques Charvet informed the EC that this corporation provides drilling expertise and equipment for conducting international scientific drilling projects and comprises 57 institutions. In 2008, it worked on the preparation and conduct of scientific drilling projects in Argentina, Russia, Israel, Turkey, USA,

Macedonia, and Ethiopia. It published 2 issues of the Scientific Drilling Newsletter. During the last five years (2003-2008), it accomplished several drillings, designed and manufactured the Global Lake Drilling System and a suite of soft sediment sampling tools. For the next five years, DOSSEC anticipates completion of many international drilling projects, and increase of education and outreach. The budget was not available.

17. European Association of Science Editors (EASE)

Alberto Riccardi reported that the aims of EASE are in promoting improved communication in science. EASE is a not-for-profit organization, registered in England and Wales. EASE is affiliated to both IUGS and the International Union of Biological Sciences and is an international non-governmental organization in relationship with UNESCO and the International Organization for Standardization. EASE also co-operates with editors' associations around the World, and is represented at meetings of ISO and BSI. Membership is 561 from 50 countries, 42% of them are from the UK and 15% from countries outside Europe.

Accomplishments for 2008 include: courses in scientific writing in Eastern European countries; four issues of the journal European Science Editing (ESE); presentation in London to a delegation of 20 Chinese academics and journal editors; participation with a seminar in the EuroScience Open Forum (Barcelona, Spain); the EASE web site was redesigned.

Main planned activities for 2009 include: EASE's triennial conference and meetings of the Council and Publications Committee in Pisa, Italy; publication of four issues of ESE; preparation of new and revised chapters of the Science Editor's Handbook (SEH).

EASE's main funding is from membership subscription, advertising, sales of the SEH, subscriptions to ESE, and from the triennial conference. No money is requested from IUGS.

18. European Mineralogical Union (EMU)

Rapporteur William Cavazza found EMU to be an active scientific organization with close links with both academia and the industry. EMU's official journal is the European Journal of Mineralogy (EJM). In April, EJM started joining Geoscience World, a bundle of Earth science journals. EJM is now available electronically from Ingenta (fast track articles are identified by a DOI number) and by GSW (entire content since the first volume).

EMU also publishes a textbook series: EMU Notes in Mineralogy. The eight volumes of the series of EMU are in print: Nanoscopic approaches in Earth and planetary sciences. The ninth volume is in preparation: Industrial Mineralogy. The Notes are connected to the last and next EMU School, respectively. Chief accomplishments by EMU during 2008 include the co-organization of three schools and workshops on:

- HPHT mineral physics: implications for geosciences (Bressanone, Italy)
- Layered material: structure and properties (Vercelli, Italy)
- Mineral Equilibria, metasomatism, and mass transport: evolution and stabilization of rock on a fluid-rich world (Smolenice, Slovak Republic).

EMU helped 56 institutional libraries facing serious financial difficulties (mainly in Eastern Europe and Latin America) by donating free subscriptions to the European Journal of Mineralogy.

19. Geochemical Society (GS)

Ochir Gerel noted that the Geochemical Society (GC) consists of 12 sustained committees with over 70 volunteers. There are 17 scientists from around the world that compose the Board of Directors. Approximately 2000 members span more than 45 countries and are diverse in background, encompassing such fields as organic geochemistry, high- and low-temperature geochemistry,

petrology, meteoritics, fluid-rock interaction and isotope geochemistry. The well presented Goldschmidt Conference was held July, 2008 in Vancouver Canada. GS annually allocates 10,000 US\$ as travel grants to qualifying students attending the Goldschmidt Conference. GS provides a number of awards to the distinguished scientists. The Geochemical Society Programming Committee also organized geochemical sessions and symposia for the Spring AGU meeting, Annual GSA meeting and the Fall AGU meeting and GC Awards. Society supports many publications, including *Elements Magazine*, *Geochemica* and *Cosmochemica Acta*, *Geochemistry*, *Geophysics*, *Geosystem Special Publications Series*, *Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry* sponsored by GS and other professional organizations.

GS makes a positive impact to Society through cooperation with many scientific organization and high quality publications.

20. Geological Society of America (GSA)

Colin Simpson reported that the Society's primary activities are organizing scientific meetings and conferences and publishing scientific literature. Other activities include disbursing research grants, assisting teachers in geoscience education, and fostering public awareness of geoscience issues. There are now more than 21,600 members in more than 85 countries and 20% of its members are students. The GSA ended Fiscal Year 2008 ahead of budget for the sixth year in a row. The Society publishes *GSA Today*, *GSA Bulletin*, *Geology*, and the Society's newest journal *Geosphere*. Are all available online at the GSA web (<http://www.geosociety.org/>), and twice a year are available on compact disc. A new journal, *Lithosphere* will be launched in 2009, to serve the high interest in tectonics with papers on tectonic processes at all scales from the surface to the base of the lithosphere.

At a GSA 2008 meeting the Council voted to eliminate the distinction between allied (who have formal memorandum of understanding) and the associated (who do not) societies. Now all are the latter. Also the GSA has integrated the associated societies more into their planning process and formally invited their associated societies to participate in setting GSA's future goals and direction. Another development is that the GSA has formed an international section to replace the international division, which was the only division not organized around a geological topic. Further developments on this will be reported in 2009.

A recent evolution at the Society has resulted in collaboration, education and outreach that links established GSA education and outreach programs, teaching awards, professional development, student development, research grants.

The GSA is addressing how they can better communicate and advance geoscience, enhancing the professional growth of its members, and promoting the geosciences in the service of humankind. They propose to address how to communicate science with politicians, the business community, and the public. How to integrate science, especially geology, into public policy decision-making, and the need to evaluate and communicate how large a population can be sustained given predicted climate, geologic, hydrologic, technical, and socioeconomic changes. To this end, two new ad hoc committees were established to examine overarching science themes for the society, our annual meeting, and other programs, and to investigate how GSA communications need to evolve in the transition to serve an ever more electronically oriented society.

Simpson summarized that the GSA is a very active organisation which continually reviews its main activities to meet changing requirements. A mentioned above The GSA ended Fiscal Year 2008 ahead of budget for the sixth year in a row. The GSA has an International Division which is outlined on its website. Also on the GSA web there is relevant information on what the IUGS is, and the linkages with the U.S. National Committee for the IUGS.

Peter Bobrowsky noted that he participated in the 2008 GSA meeting in Denver and attended several business meetings as Secretary General of IUGS. He strongly supports this organization.

21. Geological Society of Africa (GSA (f))

Ezzoura Errami in a written report informed that the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf), created in 1973, helps to improve the understanding of African geology and to promote earth science among the African continent. The major activity of the society is the organisation and the support of regional and international meetings.

The main activity for 2008 was focused particularly on the organisation of the joint 22nd Colloquium of African Geology and the 13th GSAf conference which were organised in Tunisia. During this meeting, a new council was elected: Prof. Mogessi Aberra from Ethiopia as President, Dr. Hassina Mouri from South Africa as Secretary General, Prof. Eckart Wallbrecher from Austria as treasurer and Dr. Peter Zawada from South Africa as editor/information Officer. Vice presidents and councillors will be selected by the nominating committee. During 2008, the Society supported meetings in Africa (International Conference on Speleology in Agadir/Morocco) and was active in supporting and promoting the International Year of Planet Earth on the continent. The society supported also the Association of Geology Students of Gaborone/ Botswana

The planned activities in 2009 are the promotion of African National Committees of the IUGS and IYPE. The society will continue to encourage the formation of national societies by supporting them through small grants and they will begin the organization of the 23rd colloquium which will be held in South Africa in 2010. The GSAf is dependent on the financial and moral support of the IUGS and requested the IUGS to maintain its grant aid for 2009. This will enable the Society to meet its commitments during 2009.

Peter Bobrowsky supported a request for US\$ 5000: the same amount of money as last year.

22. Geological Society of India (GSI)

Alberto Riccardi reported that the Geological Society of India (GSI) was founded in 1958 with the main objectives of promoting the cause of advancement in all branches of Earth Sciences in India by co-operating with other institutions with similar objectives.

The GSI has 1425 members, 683 Honorary Fellows and 10 Corporate Members. It publishes a monthly journal, memoirs, text-books, monographs, and special publications, and organizes training programmes, seminars, meetings and conferences. The Journal is the leading earth science journal of India, which in the future will be published under an agreement to be signed with Springer (India). The Society has a Library, which is under permanent expansion; its holdings are being computerized. The GSI organizes monthly meetings providing a platform to present results of research and abstracts of the presentations are being published in the Journal. In addition special lectures are arranged from time to time. The GSI has a website (www.geosocindia.org) which is under permanent improvement and is linked to IUGS website.

The Golden Jubilee Year is being celebrated with 13 seminars in different parts of India, 9 of which took place during 2007 and 2008. The jubilee began formally on October 12, 2008 with a special meeting where five special volumes were released. Seven Proceedings volumes pertaining to the Seminars already conducted were also edited, and six technical sessions with 32 lectures of leading experts of earth sciences from India and abroad were arranged.

The GSI is publishing short illustrated booklets for information of school children, 3 of which have already been published. During 2009 activities will emphasize the wise management of water

resources, and GSI will conduct national seminars in different parts of India, training programmes, publication of Field Guide Books and Memoirs. In 2010 it will organize the 6th International Dyke Conference 2010 in India.

Income and Expenditures for 2007-2008 amounted to 5,149,729 Rs (US\$ 110, 000). The Balance Sheet for 2007-2008 indicated Liabilities and Assets for 13,194,316 Rs (US\$ 265, 000). Publications of the GSI receive regular grants from the Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

23. Geologische Vereinigung (GV)

Ezzoura Errami in a written report informed the EC that Geologische Vereinigung has 1600 members from 64 countries. GV promotes the Earth sciences within the framework of modern society; fostering understanding between individuals, organisations and institutions is regarded as being an important part of its role, which it undertakes through promoting annual meetings, short courses and excursions. In 2007 and 2008 the annual meetings took place in Bremen “The Oceans in the Earth System” and in Aachen “Geo 2008 - Resources and Risks in the Earth System”, respectively. Special support is provided for students to attend the meetings and courses.

In 2007 the ranking of the *Geologische Rundschau Journal* improved. All articles since 1996 are available on-line. The society communicates with its members by GMit (Geowissenschaftliche Mitteilungen), a quarterly jointly edited with the other earth-science societies of Germany. The GV has started a new series of publications by Springer Verlag, entitled: *Frontiers in Earth Sciences*.

24. International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG)

Rapporteur Peter Bobrowsky informed the EC that no report was received. Alberto Riccardi expected Ochir Gerel’s Task Group will request they submit reports in a timely manner.

25. International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG)

Peter Bobrowsky noted that the Association’s constitution was updated in 2001; it now has 39 national members; has a general assembly held every 4 years (in 2005 in Zaragoza; and in 2009 will be in Melbourne); the Executive Committee meets annually in between General Assemblies. Primary income comes from membership and book royalties. This organization has several working groups most of which are very relevant to the IUGS. The Union should try to become more proactive in these Working Groups or attempt to merge the IAG activities with our own interests to be cost effective and mutually beneficial. There is no request for financial support for 2009.

26. International Association of GeoChemistry (IAGC)

Ochir Gerel reported that the IAGC (<http://www.iagc.ca>) sponsors scientific meetings and publications organised by their Working Groups to study problems that benefit from international co-operation. The Association's journal, Applied Geochemistry, is issued 12 times a year and periodically publishes special issues on topics of current importance. A Newsletter is published twice a year and made available to its membership electronically or by regular mail. Summary of activities and news items are included in the bi-monthly periodical Elements. IAGC has five working groups.

The 8th International Geochemistry of the Earth's Surface Symposium (GES-8) sponsored jointly by IAGC during 2008 International Association of Geochemistry, the Mineralogical Society and the Natural History Museum, GES-8 was held at the Natural History Museum in London (UK) from 18-22 August. Almost 150 mineralogists and geochemists attended the meeting which featured 25 lectures from invited speakers and posters presentations from delegates. Many of the invited presentations are available for viewing at the Mineralogical Society's website at www.minersoc.org and extended 4-page abstracts of the majority of the presentations are available as a special issue of Mineralogical Magazine which is freely available on the web at: www.minersoc.org

The IAGC initiated The IAGC Student Research Grant program in 2007, with the first awards being made in 2008. Report contains plan for 2009.

27. International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits (IAGOD)

Ochir Gerel reported that IAGOD promotes international cooperation in the study of the genesis of ore deposits and participates closely with other international bodies in the field of ore deposits research in a range of international programmes, including several IGCP projects. Current membership stands at around 500 economic geologists from more than 60 countries, both individual members and members in 9 National IAGOD Groups.

In 2008 IAGOD co-sponsored three disciplinary symposia during 33rd IGC in Oslo and three symposia in Australia, Russia, Germany and London. The journal *Global Tectonics and Metallogeny*, published by Schweizerbart'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, was edited by late J. Kutina, as part of the activities of the IAGOD Commission on Tectonics of Ore Deposits (CTOD). In 2008, Vol. 9, No. 1-4 was published under a title "Mineralogy of large and super-large ore deposits". Report includes work plan for 2008-2010 and a financial report for 2008. IAGOD launched new website in 2008 www.iagod.org. Work plan for 2008-2010 includes a workshop "Ore Deposits and Specific Features of Metallogeny of Tuva" in summer 2009, and the 13th IAGOD Quadrennial Symposium will be held in Adelaide, South Australia (April).

Peter Bobrowsky noted this was a wealthy and important affiliate to the Union.

28. International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH)

Zhang Hongren reported that IAH is a charitable, incorporated organization registered in the United Kingdom. Its objectives are to advance public education of the knowledge of groundwater science and to promote hydrogeological research, and to disseminate the useful results.

IAH in November 2008 had 3800 individual members from over 140 countries. There are currently 44 National Chapters. Elections for Council were held in 2008. The major IAH event of the year was the 36th Congress held in Toyama in October 2008 with the title "Integrating Groundwater Science and Human Wellbeing". The congress drew nearly 500 attendees. The second major event of 2008 was the conference on Groundwater and Climate Change in Africa, which attracted more than 300 delegates to Kampala, Uganda in June. IAH, through its Commissions and Chapters, organized and co-sponsored nearly 30 groundwater related meetings around the world.

IAH continued its active participation with bodies with responsibilities for water management in the UN-system. With UNESCO the most significant are WHYMAP (Hydrogeological Map of the World).

Hydrogeology Journal, published by Springer, is one of the major cited international journals dealing with groundwater issues. It is in its 16th volume and now has eight issues per year with a target of 1650 pages annually.

Following the decision to host the World Water Forum in 2009 in Istanbul, the Association has been active in helping to shape the way in which groundwater issues are presented there. The IAH congress in 2009 will be held in Hyderabad, India (September 2009), with subsequent congresses planned for Kracow (Poland, 2010), Dublin (Ireland, 2011) and Canada (2012).

There was no financial request.

29. International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG)

Colin Simpson reported that in August 2008 the "International Association for Mathematical Geology" officially changed its name to "International Association for Mathematical Geosciences"

Though relatively small (in October 2008 The IAMG had 630 members) it is quite active. The mission of the IAMG is to promote, worldwide, the advancement of mathematics, statistics and informatics in the geosciences. This is done through the organization of meetings, field excursions and visits to centres of research and technology, through publications and through cooperation with other professional organizations. A Student Grants Programme supports graduate student research in broad areas of mathematical geology for the purposes of advancing the development and application of quantitative methods in the geosciences.

Scientific publication remains the primary function of IAMG and continues to account for much of their income. The Association publishes three well-known international scientific journals: Computers & Geosciences (Elsevier), Mathematical Geosciences (formerly Mathematical Geology) and Natural Resources Research (both with Springer). These are available on-line. In addition to these three main journals in 2008 the IAMG published two special issues of Computers and Geosciences, and three more are in preparation.

In 2008, the IAMG held its annual meeting at the IGC in Oslo. It also held a Topical Symposia on Mathematical Geology and co-sponsored with IUGS-CGI and the Geoscience Information Consortium the session on "General Contributions to Geoscience Information" the proceedings of these sessions being part of the general proceedings of the Congress. In April the IAMG accepted the invitation to become the 15th International Partner of the IYPE. IAMG website at www.iamg.org/

Colin Simpson commented that the IAMG appears to be an active organisation. Its website has links to the IUGS web. With their 2008 Annual Report the IAMG as requesting "a grant of \$5,000 from the IUGS to support travel expenses of scientists to the 2009 Annual IAMG meeting being held at Stanford University, California, USA. These funds would be used to assist scientists from developing countries and Eastern Europe to travel to IAMG 2009." The 2008 Minutes included the Action Item 21 - "Secretary General will contact IAMG and request that IUGS be formally added to their Constitution and that they abide by IUGS Statutes and Byelaws pertaining to Affiliate Organizations."

William Cavazza asked about funding: Simpson replied there was no financial request. Peter Bobrowsky commented that IAMG was a very compliant, supportive and important group.

30. International Association of Sedimentology (IAS)

No report was submitted in time for the EC meeting. William Cavazza suggested Ochir Gerel's Task Group should contact IAS for their report.

31. International Consortium on Landslides (ICL)

Peter Bobrowsky informed the EC that the ICL is an international organization comprising national country members (about 50 members) and several high level NGO supporting bodies including UNESCO, ICSU, FAO, WMO, UNU, etc. IUGS and IUGG are both Union supporters. In 2008 the ICL organized the 1st World Landslide Forum in Tokyo, Japan (400 participants). The 2nd WLF will be in Rome, Italy in 2011. New Executive elected, Prof. Paolo Canuti (Italy) is the new President. Dozens of international activities and projects underway including a full color journal entitled Landslides published by Springer. ICL holds annual Board of Representative meetings at which IUGS is always present. The next meeting will be in Rome in May. ICL regularly promotes the role IUGS plays in supporting the association. The request of \$14,000 for 2009 had no justification.

32. International Federation of Palynological Societies (IFPS)

Mikhail Fedonkin noted the major achievement of IFPS was the joint forum of 12th International Palynological Congress (IPC12) and the 8th International Organisation of Palaeobotany Conference (IOPC8), 30th August to 5th September 2008, Bonn (Germany) with over 900 delegates. With its 536 oral and 238 poster presentations as well as with a number of the fieldtrips this forum was a success. During IPC12 a new IFPS committee led by President Dr. Thomas Servais was elected. IFPS continued its normal activity such as newsletter PALYNOS publication, the website, a new “World Directory of palynologists”, and the membership dues collecting. \$5000 US dollars have been spent to sponsor student attendance at IPC12. No requests for funding were submitted.

33. International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO)

Marta Mantovani reported that during 2008 IGEO organized the Second International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO-2008), in Manila and Legazpi, Philippines from August 31st to September 8th, 2008. Seven countries participated (no mention to number of students). The Third IESO will be hosted by Taiwan in 2009 and the Fourth IESO by Indonesia in 2010.

Twelve oral and 20 posters were presented during IGC33 in Oslo, with the theme of ‘Geoscience education for the 21st century’. Also, the International Council Meeting of IGEO was held in Oslo. IGEO issued a Newsletter in January 2008, is supporting the ‘Earth Learning Idea’ and co-hosted the International conference on GEOSCIENCE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT (GeoDev).

Financial help from IUGS were used to support the attendance of delegates from the developing nations to attend various international initiatives conducted by IGEO. No funds are requested for 2009. Jacques Charvet wondered how they were managing without support and suggested finding out more about linkages with other affiliates.

34. International Mineralogical Association (IMA)

William Cavazza found IMA to be a large international scientific organization composed of 39 adhering mineralogical societies or groups. Its activities are carried out by 11 commissions and working groups. Their work in Standards is exceptional.

In 2008, the IMA commissions and working groups sponsored scientific sessions in five meetings. A major portion of IMA’s activities are geared toward mineral nomenclature and classification. (During 2008, the Commission on new Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification has dealt with 64 new mineral proposals, showing a slight increase on the previous years. Members of the commission evaluate all nomenclature proposals and cast their votes on a monthly basis.) The ‘Annual List of New Minerals and Changes in Nomenclature’ is now available on the IMA website. This is possibly an activity which could be somehow linked to IUGS.

A new Outreach Committee was launched during 2008. Its goal is to recommend and develop research activities, useful and educative outreach materials that will be used by IMA society members, mineralogists, and to a larger extent by Earth scientists including teachers. This will help the interest in Mineralogical Sciences and complementary Earth Sciences.

35. International Medical Geology Association (IMGA)

Zhang Hongren informed that the EC that because of the importance of geological factors on health, and the general lack of appreciation an understanding of the importance of geology in such relationships, COGEOENVIRONMENT decided in 1996 to establish an international Working Group on Medical Geology. Working Groups are established for a defined lifetime (in the order of 1 or 2 four-year terms). In March 2002 the IUGS announced that the International Working Group on Environmental Geoindicators and the International Working Group on Medical Geology would be assigned Special Project status (Special Initiatives) and operate directly under the IUGS since 2003. In January 2006 IMGA was established and became financially independent from IUGS.

In 2008 several courses and numerous presentations were held at meetings and conferences dedicated to public health, geosciences and medical sciences. A newsletter for the working group and other interested people is being produced.

Zhang Hongren reported that IMGA requires US \$2000 “to support scientists from developing countries and regional divisions in developing regions of the world making it possible for them to participate in activities, meetings etc”.

36. International Permafrost Association (IPA)

Zhang Hongren informed the EC and Observers that 2008 was highlighted by the Ninth International Conference on Permafrost (NICOP) and the continuation of the IPA participation in the International Polar Year. From June 29 to July 3, 2008 approximately 700 participants representing 30 countries convened at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) for the NICOP. The theme of the conference was “Permafrost on a Warming Climate: Impacts on Ecosystems, Infrastructure and Climate”. During the conference, the IPA Council met to elect a new Executive Committee. A three-session symposium was organized for the IGC Oslo conference.

Peter Bobrowsky commented that the IUGS and IPA have a long positive tradition together, and that the GSC supports the IPA Secretariat in Ottawa.

37. International Palaeontological Association (IPA)

Mikhail Fedonkin reported that the IPA is affiliated with the IUGS and with the IUBS but receives no funding from either organization. IPA unites 12 corporate members from China, Czech Republic, France, India, Japan, New Zealand, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom and United States. There are about 160 individual subscribers for the *Lethaia* magazine which is authorized by IPA to collect membership dues as a component of each subscription. The IPA supports extremely popular web site <http://ipa.geo.ku.edu> (over 600 hits a month internationally). Three electronic directories are available on the website: *The Directory of Paleontologists of the World* (1,884 records), *The Directory of Fossil Collections of the World* (99 records), *The PaleoLink Database* (313 records), under construction is new electronic directory *PaleoParks: The Preservation and Conservation of Fossil Sites*, coordinated by Jere Lipps (33 records). IPA is actively involved into the IYPE, Paleopark and Geoheritage initiatives. IPA sponsored 4 symposia in 2008 and 4 symposia in 2009, and it will be among the key organizers of the Third International Palaeontological Congress in London in the summer of 2010.

38. International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM)

The International Society for Rock Mechanics, created in 1962 aims especially to encourage international collaboration and exchange of ideas and information between rock mechanics practitioners, reported in writing by Ezzoura Errami.

During 2008, the society organized the ISRM Regional Symposia: “Construction Technique of Subsea Tunnel”, in Xiamen (China), the 6th International Symposium on Ground Support in Mining and Civil Engineering Construction in Cape Town (South Africa), the Rock Mechanics Symposium in San Francisco (USA), the I Simposio Suramericano de Excavaciones en Roca, Bogota (Colombia), the 1st Southern Hemisphere International Rock Mechanics Symposium held in Perth (Australia) and the 5th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium in Tehran (Iran). The society publishes one issue of the “ISRM News Journal”, a quarterly “Newsletter” and reports. It creates new ISRM Commissions, Joint Technical Committees and Interest Groups, a Federation of International Geo-engineering Societies and a Virtual Library.

Different activities are planned for 2009 as annual meetings of the board, council, Commissions...etc, creation of new commissions, joint technical committees and interest groups, publication of one issue of the "News Journal" and 3 issues of the "Newsletter" and reports.

The Society is interested to undertake certain scientific activities with IUGS and also to cooperate with IUGS and UNESCO in IYPE. A summary budget for 2009 is given and if IUGS will support, it is required to specify in which budget. Peter Bobrowsky was unclear about the budget request.

39. International Society of Soil Mechanics & Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)

No report received from ISSMGE at the time of meeting. This is another affiliate to be contacted by Ochir Gerel's Task Group.

40. Meteoritical Society (Met. Society)

Ochir Gerel saw the main objective of the Meteoritical Society as the understanding the origin of the Earth and its geological development. As such, it has benefited greatly from the planetary science perspective provided by meteorite studies. The Meteoritical Society, which was founded in 1933, is one of the oldest international, interdisciplinary scientific societies with 960 members in 38 countries.

The 71st annual meeting of the society was held July 28–August 1, 2008, in Matsue, Japan. The program committee accepted 326 abstracts for oral or poster presentations. Number of awards presented to distinguished scientists during Annual Meeting. Some students were sponsored by Planetary Studies Foundation, and were sponsored by the Barringer Crater Company, the Planetary Studies Foundation, SOKENDAI, and, NASA Cosmochemistry Program. Important changes were made to the electronic access for the journal *Meteoritics and Planetary Science*. Two issues of the *Meteoritical Bulletin* were published in 2008, under the editorship of Harold Connolly and Michael Weisberg, listing descriptions of 2365 new meteorites. The *Meteoritical Bulletin* online database of all known meteorites has grown and improved: <http://tin.er.usgs.gov/meteor/metbull.php>. although the IUGS is not mentioned.

41. National Ground Water Association (NGWA)

Zhang Hongren reported that NGWA is one of the newest affiliated organizations of IUGS. It has more than 14,000 members in 60 nations to advance the science and technology of the ground water professions. NGWA is supported by dues from individual and organizational members, and by income derived from its other activities. Federal government support of various NGWA professional development initiatives tallied more than \$400,000 US. NGWA neither receives nor expects financial support from IUGS.

The impact factors for the journal *Ground Water* increased from 1.117 to 1.441 and *Ground Water Monitoring & Remediation* increased from 0.704 to 1.194. In March 2008, the National Research Council of the National Academies of Science, in cooperation with NGWA and other ground water organizations, hosted a managed underground water storage public policy forum in Washington, DC, to discuss the development and implementation of science-based policy and regulations for aquifer storage and recovery.

In 2009, NGWA is to continue broad reaching scientific conference schedule, including events related to the petroleum hydrocarbon contamination of ground water, the impact of abandoned mining sites on ground water resources, effective ground water remediation technologies and strategies, and other topics.

Jacques Charvet wondered about the relationship of NGWA with the IAH.

42. The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage (ProGeo)

Peter Bobrowsky reported that ProGEO is a newly recognized Affiliate to the Union. It held its 5th Annual ProGEO conference in 2008 in Croatia, where W.A.P. Wimbledon (UK) was elected the new President. The Association has launched a new journal entitled *GeoHeritage* through Springer Verlag (under the editorship of Jose Brilha) with the first issue planned for 2009. ProGEO sponsored two sessions in Oslo and is trying to be active on behalf of IYPE. It publishes a digital newsletter four times per year. Next significant meeting will be in June 2010 in Ruhr, Germany. There is no request for financial support for 2009. He very much likes this group as it provides support to the IUGS interest in Geological Heritage. William Cavazza noted that their website displays the IUGS logo.

43. Society of Economic Geologists, Inc. (SEG)

Ochir Gerel informed the EC and Observers that SEG is one of the world's leading professional societies: it is well managed, with an excellent journal (*Economic Geology*) and the SEG Newsletter. Established in 1920 the SEG is an international society committed to excellence in the science, discovery, documentation, evaluation, and responsible development of mineral resources, totalled 4,937 members distributed through 98 countries. The Society currently has 52 Student Chapters located in 18 countries.

In 2008, the Society organized, sponsored, or participated in the 15 conferences, workshops, symposia, field courses, and field trips. SEG successfully continued in SEG lectures program, and awards for leading scientists and distinguished lecturers.

SEG publications for the three quarters of 2008 exceeded the same period last year and were made up largely of bookstore orders (80%) with the remainder (20%) coming from exhibit booth sales. Publications includes monographs, Guidebooks, including CDs,¹ Compilation series (CD) , Special publications, the Dummett DVD, and other very popular series, like the most popular digital publication is the Hugo Dummett Memorial Economic Geology Archive 1905-2004, available for all members.

The SEG Foundation and SEG Canada Foundation awarded a total of 70 student research grants worth \$220,000. The grant recipients attended 45 universities in 14 countries. In addition, \$212,500 was awarded in graduate student fellowships to 18 students at 13 universities. Thirty students also benefited from the SEG Foundation student field trip program with two trips taking place in northern Chile at a cost of US\$70,000.

44. Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM)

William Cavazza reported on the Society for Sedimentary Geology: a dynamic and well organized scientific organization. Its two flagship journals *The Journal of Sedimentary Research* and *Palaios* have increased significantly their distribution and impact over the last few years. During 2008 SEPM also published five memoirs. In 2008, SEPM organized its annual meeting in cooperation with AAPG (American Association of Petroleum Geologists) and was involved in four major research conferences, two of which were in partnership with The Geological Society of London. The schedule for 2009 includes two to three conferences with meetings in Chile, Houston and tentatively in Bermuda. SEPM also organized eight short courses and fieldtrips. Only one mistake in the annual report: IUGS was spelled out wrongly as "International Union of Geologic Societies." This should be corrected.

45. Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits (SGA)

Ochir Gerel was rapporteur for the Association. SGA includes over 850 members from 80 countries. The objective of SGA is to advance the application of scientific knowledge in the study and the development of mineral resources and their environment. In May, 2008 SGA co-sponsored GAC-MAC-SEG-SGA meeting in Quebec, Canada and sponsored and co-sponsored several symposia during

33rd International Geological Congress and Special Session and 3 short courses in XIII Latin American Geological Congress and the XIY Peruvian Geological Congress. Publications include journal Mineralium Deposita, 7 issues and SGA News, 3 numbers. SGA presented Award for the best paper, Young Scientist's Award, and SGA-Newmont Gold Medal. SGA contributed to IYPE. The next 10th SGA Biennial Meeting will be held in 2009, Townsville, Australia.

46. Geological Society of France (SGF)

Jacques Charvet reported that SGF is a non-profit association built in 1830. It publishes scientific results in a bulletin (6 issues per year) and various books, organizes scientific meetings, for scientists and a larger public. In 2008, it entered the French Federation of Geology. In 2009 it will merge with UFG (Union Française des Géologues). It plays and will play a role in the preservation of geological heritage.

ACTION ITEM 21

Vice President Ochir Gerel and the Task Group on Affiliated Organizations should check all affiliate websites and politely request that their affiliation with IUGS be recognized on their own website and a link to the IUGS website be added if not yet present.

6) REPORTS ON CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISES

6.a. Earth Sciences at UNESCO

Alberto Riccardi thought the UNESCO cooperative enterprises were most important for IUGS. He focused reporting on IGCP activities, the new International Karst Centre in China; GeoParks in the framework of IYPE, IYPE particularly with respect to Africa, and GARS (final report still outstanding).

Discussion was put on hold until a teleconference with Robert Missotten. Missotten reported that there would be a new Director General at the end of 2009 and he expects changes in implementation of new projects and more control on budgets. There will likely be platforms of climate change, sustainability, resources general education and science education on which to build projects. Inter-sectoral and inter-disciplinary society oriented projects with a main focus in Education, Climatic Change and Africa would be encouraged according to Missotten.

UNESCO was pushing for support of few "mega-projects" in the framework of IGCP. Missotten suggested relying on OneGeology since this builds on an IUGS, UNESCO, IYPE and CGMW initiatives and maintains visibility of all organizations.

Missotten had some comments on the struggle to get support for earth sciences from Member States and hoped that IUGS could do more to approach relevant contacts. Briefing notes on key talking points for visiting Permanent Delegations were also suggested. Alberto Riccardi expressed concern about the future of the IGCP in the light of these new trends and changes; but was also encouraged because they presented new avenues of cooperation with UNESCO.

Another example of cooperation is through GeoParks. Missotten wants to strengthen and build the program in closer consultation with IUGS. A letter to this effect will be sent to Alberto Riccardi as President of IUGS: Riccardi was happy to hear this news. Missotten thanked the EC for their past contributions and looks forward to further and closer collaboration in the future.

ACTION ITEM 25

President Alberto Riccardi will draft a proposal regarding future activities with UNESCO before the Bureau meeting in February.

ACTION ITEM 33

President Alberto Riccardi will contact Ian Jackson of One Geology and ask for an update on the status of the initiative.

6.b. IUGS-UNESCO International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)

William Cavazza recapped the history of the organization and new themes. Despite efforts made to realign, the situation is still not entirely favourable to geoscience (as a result of the budget cuts). The IGCP is poised to change its attitude to geoscience, but new guidelines must be adhered to. Because of financial problems, smaller UNESCO programs could be cancelled, or scaled back, and this might affect activities of the IGCP. Currently there are 33 projects, with 5 on extended terms. In 2009, a number of new projects will be proposed.

Mikhail Fedonkin wondered whether the decline in funding will affect others. There was a clear feeling that the top officers want change, with a focus on a few large programs: smaller ones will be terminated. Peter Bobrowsky wanted to know what the new EC thought about the relationship with UNESCO. He saw UNESCO as important to IUGS, but wanted opinions from others on content and expanding relationships and contacts with other activities and programs (e.g., Hazards, Engineering and Groundwater). Colin Simpson reminded all that UNESCO put money into IYPE and this contribution should be recognized.

Alberto Riccardi saw the need to improve capacity building, sharing knowledge with developing countries using Commissions, Affiliates and other IUGS bodies. However, a formal proposal needs to be written before the February bureau meeting.

Cavazza suggested that given changes in geosciences, it was time to propose something new. This would require good contacts with the upper echelons in UNESCO, Paris. Fedonkin saw Education and Geoinformatics as possible new focus areas; Riccardi added GeoParks. Simpson asked whether there had been significant changes in the aims of projects since 2005. Cavazza replied that there had been an increase in the number of projects focussing on applied aspects of geoscience.

William Cavazza wanted to know more details on the US\$ 60,000 allocated to IGCP. Robert Missotten informed the EC that UNESCO would try to contribute the same amount as 2008, but could not make a commitment for 2010-2011 before the Member States vote on the budget in October 2009. The IUGS would be informed on the level on contribution in due course.

6.b.1. IUGS-UNESCO deadlines for IGCP Reports

Peter Bobrowsky touched on deadline concerns by Edward Derbyshire, Chair of the UK National Committee for the IGCP. Derbyshire requested to see a rationalization of two IGCP deadlines posed by IUGS-UNESCO. New Guidelines indicate Project leaders must submit their Annual Report electronically to the IGCP Secretariat and simultaneously to the IUGS Permanent Secretariat before 15th December.

ACTION ITEM 26

Permanent Secretariat to contact IGCP Secretariat and forward Edward Derbyshire's concerns regarding timing of report and cc: to National Committees.

6.b.2. Guidelines for project leaders

Peter Bobrowsky referred to new forms for proposals and reporting for new IGCP projects and the Annual Reports of ongoing projects. These are conducted once a year by selected representatives of the IGCP Scientific Board, usually during the first half of February. Assessments are based upon the criteria and objectives of IGCP (e.g. the scientific potential and feasibility of proposals, adherence to the overall goals of IGCP, qualifications of the proposers, scientific progress of the projects,

significance of their results, adherence to an approved budget and so on). Projects are ranked into one of three funding levels by the IGCP Bureau: high, medium, or low.

6.b.3. IUGS internal report on IGCP activities

This agenda item was closed to observers. Mikhail Fedonkin suggested the changes at UNESCO may have a repelling effect at the national level.

6.c. IUGS-UNESCO Programme on Geological Application on Remote Sensing (GARS)

Marta Mantovani and William Cavazza commented on the US\$ 10,000 for GARS, adding that the IUGS contribution is outstanding. Robert Missotten noted that UNESCO is cooperating more with GEOSS through GARS.

6.d. IUGS-IUGG International Lithosphere Programme (ILP)

Jacques Charvet reported that ILP is a body of IUGS and IUGG, established by ICSU in 1980. IUGS and IUGG are represented in the ILP Bureau. ILP cooperates with IUGS and IUGG on the IYPE; it is leading the IYPE theme Deep Earth, published in a special brochure. The Bureau, which meets annually, was restructured in 2008, with a new Secretary General: R. Oberhänsli.

ILP has 9 Task Forces dealing with 3 general scientific themes, and 5 Regional Coordinating Committees. A meeting of ILP joint Task Forces was held in September in Ensenada, Mexico, with 70 participants. The decision was taken to publish a special volume "Marine and Petroleum Geology". ILP Task Force meeting "World Stress Map" took place in Potsdam, 15-17th October, sponsored by Task Force VII. The 4th International TOPO-EUROPE workshop took place in Madrid, 5-7th October 2008. A thematic IYPE volume "Frontiers of Integrated Solid Earth Science" is to be published during winter 2008-2009.

The work plan for 2009 includes publications in EOS, Episodes, and Earth Reviews, advertising for new support, and at least 4 meetings. Anticipated work plan for the next five years is to stimulate further projects relating to TOPO-EUROPE philosophy on all other continents, propose new Task Forces, and hold an international meeting in 2009 reporting all the results of running activities.

ILP is basically financed by IUGS and IUGG (US\$ 15,000 each in 2008) but additional funding comes from some national bodies: more than US\$ 35, 000 in 2008. The planned expenditure for 2009 is of US\$ 65,000. Implicitly, the request to IUGS is US\$ 15,000.

Tom Beer was mystified by ILP and was not sure they need the money; but cutting contributions may send the wrong signals. Formerly ILP was poorly administered, but the restructuring in 2008 may help. Peter Bobrowsky suggested supporting ILP is important. Eduardo de Mulder encouraged giving ILP moral support. Alberto Riccardi recognized that their focus was now more that just the lithosphere, and suggested the program needs to be reviewed by a combined IUGG and IUGS ARC. Beer suggested on EC member from each Union as co-chairs, with two other experts.

ACTION ITEM 23

One EC member from IUGS (Jacques Charvet) and IUGG will co-chair, with two other experts, an ARC of the ILP in the next 6 months.

7) INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC)

7.a. 33rd IGC in 2008 (Oslo)

Alberto Riccardi informed the EC and Observers that the Proceedings of the 33rd IGC are being prepared. Finalized minutes of the Joint IGC and IUGS Council Meetings are required for this purpose. The IUGS Secretariat has forwarded the listing of Council participants to IGC for to be included.

7.b. 34th IGC in 2012 (Brisbane)

Alberto Riccardi invited Ian Lambert to open the discussion on the 34th IGC, to be known as AUSTRALIA 2012, to be held at the Brisbane from 2nd – 10th August 2012.

Alberto Riccardi informed the EC that the legal entity responsible for AUSTRALIA 2012 is the Australia Geoscience Council Incorporated (AGC), the main body of Australia's geoscientists comprising the Presidents or CEO of eight geoscience related societies. The AGC has signed a MOU with the IUGS and has also facilitated an agreement under which Australia's learned and professional societies will invest at a proportional profit in Australia 2012.

The Local Organizing Committee for AUSTRALIA 2012 ha been appointed and includes 11 members, one of them being a New Zealand representative.

Geoscience Australia (GA) has a strong in-kind commitment to AUSTRALIA 2012, as it has contributed towards its costs, has arranged contributions from each of the State/NT Geological Surveys and GNS New Zealand, it will coordinate the Scientific Program, it will organise communications and the education outreach program and will contribute with money and personnel to promotions and delivery of products, including the publication of a book and maps on the Geology of Australia, and a tectonic map of the SW Pacific. GA has also contributed to the costs of the 2009 IUGS EC meeting and will do the same for the 2010 IGCC meeting in Brisbane. Expenses paid towards those meetings will be in advance against the capitation fee due to IUGS from the 34th IGC.

Financial aspects are based on a minimum of 4000 delegates, although number of delegates that could be accommodated in the venue is about 7,000. Registration fees will be set in 2011 but will be similar to the fee for the 33rd IGC. Official Circulars will be produced electronically, with limited number of hard copy materials.

The 34th IGC is planning about 30 pre- and post-Congress field trips in Australia, New Zealand, and possibly Malaysia and New Caledonia. Additionally, a large GeoExpo is expected, public lectures and student events will be organised, and a GeoHost Program will be in place. Thus far the 34th IGC has received for its promotion the support of the Queensland Events Corporation, a major "Patron" Sponsor will de decided for the end of 2008, and other sponsors will also be approached. Sponsorship target is Aus\$ 2,000,000 to S2,500,000.

Marketing of AUSTRALIA 2012 is well underway, including for 2008 exhibitions and promotions at the 33rd IGC in Oslo, at the Australian Earth Sciences Convention in Perth, and at Mining 2008 in Brisbane. For 2009 it will be promoted at the Producers and Developers Association of Canada, and at selected large international conferences. An AUSTRALIA 2012 promotional brochure was printed for the 33rd IGC, and the website www.34igc.org is the key media outlet for the 34th IGC.

Summarizing, Riccardi noted the organization of the 34th IGC is progressing well in all fronts, and he thanked the Local Organizing Committee for their hard work.

Alberto Riccardi opened the floor to comments and questions. Tom Beer talked briefly about the links with IUGG and hoped their congress would not conflict, even if perceptions are that there is. IUGG will try approaching local governments to sponsor students. Peter Bobrowsky thought it was great that IUGS organizations (e.g., Commissions, Affiliates) will be involved by appointing members as co-chairs with local representatives at daily sessions. Bobrowsky also raised the issue of

conference abstracts: he had a problem with paying separate fees for each abstract. Concern was also raised about presenters being allowed only one oral presentation. Lambert stressed that there would be an emphasis on posters. It will be possible for participants to contribute multiple papers, but only one oral presentation. Mikhail Fedonkin wondered whether some countries would send research vessels as accommodation.

Mikhail Fedonkin asked about the Scientific Programme. Lambert replied that the Scientific Programme, under the theme “Unearthing our Past and Future”, will encompass the contributions of geoscience to societal needs and sustaining planet Earth. The technical program will include plenary sessions, Symposia and poster sessions.

William Cavazza recommended seeking help from past IGCCs; Ian Lambert informed him that this was already happening. Lambert has seen a steady increase in the quality of IGCs over the years, but beyond ICOGS, what has been lost is representation of national organizations (e.g., geological surveys). Bobrowsky saw the IGC as presenting opportunities for business and governments to create bilateral agreements through networking. He also thought that conflicting schedules were another problem with IGC 33. Neil Williams assured the EC and observers that this would not happen at IGC 34; and that there would be better lunches.

Godfrey Nowlan encouraged the IGCC to think about publication outputs via GSL: 11 out of Florence and only 4 out of Oslo; this has to be improved. The GSL will be contacting the convenors. Nowlan saw the need to create sessions with interdisciplinary threads (e.g., petroleum and minerals). Out of these sessions could come books, with the convenors responsible for compiling the special issues. Nowlan advocated first refusal to GSL. Mikhail Fedonkin suggested “recycling” as a topic: this generated some discussion amongst the EC and Observers.

Ian Lambert was interested in the possibility of distributing the IGC Circulars through the IUGS National Committees, and with a strong input of IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, Joint programmes plus selected affiliate organizations in the IGC scientific sessions.

Alberto Riccardi was concerned about IUGS involvement and participation of affiliates, commissions, etc. The Congress must set minimum conditions for meetings and IUGS bodies must be contacted in time. Ian Lambert was looking to the IUGS for formal guidance for active partners. Riccardi closed the agenda item by congratulating the new IGCC and thinks it will be a great Congress.

7.c. 35th IGC in 2016 (Cape Town)

Alberto Riccardi reported that the 35th IGC is being driven by the South African Council for Geoscience (CGS). The CGS has been informally contacting role players across the multidisciplinary Geoscience fraternity in the Southern African Region to inform them that the 35th IGC will be held in Cape Town and on the task ahead. A South African Cabinet Memorandum has been submitted to the South African Ministerial Cabinet informing the South African Government that South Africa will host the 35th IGC in 2016.

The CGS has held at least two meetings with the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) that reiterated their full support for the 35th IGC. Informal discussions on the 35th IGC have been held with a number of potential industry sponsors who have already indicated an interest in assisting with sponsorship for the event.

In the first quarter of 2009 (January to March), a CGS-hosted workshop will be held with all stakeholders including representatives of relevant government departments (Department of Science and Technology – DTS, and Department of Minerals and Energy – DME, amongst others), ICSU regional office representatives, Academic Departments, Industry role players, Regional role players in

the Geosciences, and the South African National Committee of the IUGS. Key aims of the workshop will be to establish the Organizing Committee for the 35th IGC, a business plan and a project plan. A summary report on the outcomes will be submitted to the IUGS Secretariat.

7.d. International Geological Congress Committee (IGCC)

Rapporteur Alberto Riccardi reported on two meetings in 2008. The focus of much discussion was the IUGS and IGC Statutes and Byelaws and whether they are separate or integrated. Ian Lambert informed the EC that the current IGCC favours integration. Neil Williams thought it would be tragic not to continue the work of Eldridge Moores. Jacques Charvet commented on the “streamlining” process, pointing out the separate versions were somewhat identical to the combined.

ACTION ITEM 22

President Alberto Riccardi to find out if the IGCC could decide by e-mail regarding integrated or separate Statutes and Bylaws or see if an IGCC meeting could be arranged for 2009.

8) INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE (ICSU)

8.a. Relations with ICSU

Alberto Riccardi reported that IUGS has a good relationship with ICSU, and he went to the General Assembly in Maputo and met the new EC. Riccardi wants to focus on increasing the IUGS presence within ICSU. ICSU was never really supportive of IYPE, but has supported the International Polar Year. However, now three EC members have been asked to act as liaison with ICSUs regional offices for Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. GeoUnions are becoming more visible and with the new EC, a new beginning is expected. The general consensus is that ICSU is doing too much with too little money. Robert Missotten was informed of ICSU matters during a teleconference.

8.b. ICSU Committees and IUGS representation

Peter Bobrowsky informed the EC and Observers that various calls for nominations were sent out in the fall 2008 for representatives to ICSU Committees. IUGS will present a nomination of John Broome for the Strategic Coordinating Committee for Data and Information (SCCDI). Deadline for submission of the proposal was 19th January. Alberto Riccardi thought it was important that the GeoUnions have a member on the Council, i.e., Uri Shamir. H. Modaresi and E. Moores have also been nominated by IUGS for, respectively, ICSU Committees for Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) and on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR).

ACTION ITEM 27

Secretariat to inform ICSU that the IUGS EC agrees John Broome will represent IUGS on ICSU Data Management Committee.

Full Name	Acronym	Representative
Committee on DATA for Science and Technology	CODATA	John Broome
Committee On Space and Research	COSPAR	GARS will represent (Stuart Marsh)
Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services	FAGS	No IUGS Representation - IUGG interested
International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)	IGBP	
Integrated Global Observing	IGOS	Stuart Marsh (GARS) – IUGS funding NOT

Strategy (IGOS)		required
International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications (INASP)	INSAP	No IUGS Representation, AGID will participate
Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)	SCAR	Carlo Alberto Ricci - IUGS funding NOT required
Scientific Committee On Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)	SCOPE	GEM Representative?
Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)	SCOR	No representative- IUGG has representative

8.c. ICSU Grant Program

Rapporteur Alberto Riccardi observed that there was only one proposal submitted and awaiting approval by ICSU: "*USE OF VOLCANIC PRODUCTS FROM THE CAMEROON VOLCANIC LINE AREA OF THE NOUN RIVER BASIN AS ROCK FERTIZERS: A CONTRIBUTION TO FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE*" (Dr. Jean Pierre Tchouankoue). Colin Simpson asked where ICSU get its funding. Riccardi answered that some comes from the Unions, but most from National contributions.

8.d. Relations with ICSU Regional Offices of Africa, Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean

Alberto Riccardi informed the EC and Observers that Ochir Gerel, Ezzoura Errami, and Marta Mantovani have been appointed as IUGS contact people for the ICSU Regional Offices of the Asia and Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively. All the ICSU regional offices have acknowledged these appointments. Marta Mantovani is to represent and promote IUGS, and provide support to get IUGS involved at an ICSU meeting in Mexico City in early 2009.

8.e. Relations with other ICSU Unions (GeoUnions)

Alberto Riccardi and Tom Beer noted that the eight GeoUnions related to international earth science represent one of the most effective groups within ICSU: a collective view is very effective. Some hope of improved representation was expressed once the new ICSU Director comes into office.

9) IUGS POLICY AND STRATEGY MATTERS

9.a. IUGS Statutes and Byelaws

Alberto Riccardi recapped the history of the Task Group created in Vilnius and the history of streamlining. The work related to streamlining the IUGS and IGC Statutes will continue over the next term. Council did not approve the combined Statutes as set forth by the IUGS Executive Committee; the new EC will set up a new Task Group.

The full EC had some discussion on the question of whether to have integrated or separate statutes. This ended in a vote on whether to have merged or separate Statutes and Byelaws.

Vote

All but one of the EC members voted in favour of a merged IUGS and IGC Statutes and Byelaws document.

9.b. Priorities of IUGS

Alberto Riccardi opened with a review of events at Oslo. For the future, with fewer resources and funds, it will be difficult for IUGS to support scientific endeavours. Eduardo de Mulder thought funds might increase partly through IYPE, but this has not happened yet.

Riccardi noted that most money comes from the National Bodies, and there has been a slight increase because funding is index-linked to the inflation rate in the US. This, however, implies limited financial capacity. IUGS should encourage indirect action: e.g., “grass root” actions from geoscientists. Riccardi also stressed the importance of relations with ICSU and UNESCO was critical for promoting research.

There is a need to know exactly what National Committees, Affiliate Bodies, ICSU and UNESCO are doing through internet and external reviews suggested Riccardi. IUGS must also increase its efficiency and use available money wisely: the Strategic Planning Committee would be a help here. However, the actions of the EC are not enough and a specific working group is needed. The SPC could look at how other organizations are working, including the Commissions and other IUGS bodies.

Important roles for IUGS are to maintain capacity building, update, maintain and reinforce standards (e.g., ICS). Products of, or endorsed by the IUGS, require international cooperation. IYPE has almost become a parallel to IUGS, but will end in 2010 leaving a legacy, but having failed to fund scientific projects. Looking to the future, IUGS should consider how to increase the promotion of science. This should include improving and maintaining the IUGS Website and Episodes.

Colin Simpson commented that the aim of the commissions is to address topics IUGS believes needs to be promoted in the global community. Issues that could be addressed include environmental geology, geoinformation to promote earth sciences and education. Ian Lambert wondered about having specific sessions on standards at the next IGC to focus attention. This was seen as a good idea by the EC. William Cavazza remarked that the core business of IUGS through time has been geological standards. Simpson suggested a role for the new Committee would be to interact with the IGCC.

ACTION ITEM 28

IUGS EC to work with IGC 35 to include specific sessions on international standards.

9.c. Financial support for access to Bureau positions

William Cavazza reminded the current EC that at the Punta Arenas meeting, the EC at the time voted for a contingency travel fund for elected officers. Since then, US\$ 3000 per year has been put away for this. A total of \$20,000 USD maximum for travel to Bureau and EC meetings was approved by Council in Oslo. This topic is also addressed in Agenda Item 11.

9.d. Young Earth Scientist Congress

At IGC 32, Zhang Hongren was approached to support YES. Alberto Riccardi asked whether there had been any direct contact since. Peter Bobrowsky reported that a representative approached him at Maputo and that planning is in progress for the YES Congress in Beijing. IUGS supports this organization morally, but not financially. Ian Lambert observed that a circular for the meeting is in production. Jacques Charvet was invited to be part of the committee and participate in the Beijing Congress (October 25-28, 2009).

ACTION ITEM 29

Past President Zhang Hongren, Vice President Jacques Charvet and IGC SG Ian Lambert to provide President Alberto Riccardi with details about YES.

10) INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH

Alberto Riccardi welcomed Eduardo de Mulder and invited him to report on the International Year of Planet Earth. To remind and inform the EC and Observers, de Mulder recapped the history of IYPE from 1982-2008.

10.a. Organization

The IYPE is a non-profit organization, incorporated in USA. It consists of a Board and a Secretariat and an Advisory Board. The IUGS has veto-power seat on the Board. There are 11 founding partners, 25 associate partners, and 24 international partners; and to date, 192 Nations have signed the UN proclamation.

10.b. Science & Outreach Programme

The overall objectives of the IYPE are raising awareness among the public on the science of the Earth and urging politicians to apply that science in decision-making.

Chief accomplishments in 2008, based around the 10 IYPE themes were: OneGeology, the Young Earth Scientists initiative; the IGC; and IYPE Nature Supplement; IYPE Springer books; a Global Launch Event at UNESCO HQ in Paris, an African Launch Event in Arusha; a Latin American Launch Event in Brasilia; many national launch events; a Supplement of the journal Nature and 2 issues of an IYPE book; other promotional items (e.g. brochures, stamps and art exhibits).

10.c. National Committees

The IYPE has 74 National Committees. The following EC members and observers were introduced as members of NCs: Neil Williams and Ian Lambert (Australia); Ochir Gerel (Mongolia); Godfrey Nowlan (Canada); William Cavazza (Italy); Marta Mantovani (Brazil); and Andang Bachtia (Indonesia).

10.d. Annual Report & Financial statement 2008 and Budget 2009

It was expected that the US\$ 1.5 Million budget would be realized. Expenditures for 2009 are estimated at US\$ 1 Million and include a reimbursement of an IUGS loan of US\$ 10,000.

10.e. Fundraising Strategy

Fundraising efforts are based around 30 International Partnerships, books, donations and public events. The chief problem in 2008 was that level of funding by industry was less than anticipated. Oil and mining companies have not really contributed significantly (perhaps US\$ 100,000 all together). More effort is need to foster International Partnerships, including banks. Another source of income could be through advertizing. Another problem identified by de Mulder was fake donations.

10.f. Events in 2009 and IUGS involvement

Planned activities for 2009 include: three international events, i.e., the YES Congress in Beijing, a Global IYPE event in Lisbon and the IYPE-AGU Fall Congress (to be confirmed). IYPE will also have a presence at the 2009 GSA Meeting.

10.g. Termination of IYPE

Closure of IYPE will be June 10th 2010. A Board Meeting on January 26th 2009 addressed important issues including the destinies of any surplus or deficit, and the National Committees.

10.h. After 2009

Eduardo de Mulder anticipated some US\$ 693,000 income from books, revenues and sponsorship; balanced against expenses of US\$ 226,000 from Science & Outreach programs and the Secretariat. A small surplus is expected.

10.i. IUGS internal report on IYPE activities

Jacques Charvet asked what kind of actions directly linked to geology were going on in other countries: in France, colloquia, field trips and symposia were all long-term actions of the National Committee. Eduardo de Mulder replied that thousands of activities were going on globally and National Committees post activities on the IYPE Website. Ochir Gerel reported that activities in Mongolia included books for children and songs about geology; most without government support.

William Cavazza wondered whether there was something IUGS could do to facilitate the allocation of funds to the IGCP. Eduardo de Mulder urged IUGS to write a letter expressing the desire for IYPE to contribute \$50,000 to IGCP. Robert Missotten was informed of this action.

Alberto Riccardi complimented Ezzoura Errami for a tremendous job comparing the IUGS and IYPE NCs, with help from Jean-Paul Cadet, Peter Bobrowsky and Anne Liinamaa-Dehls. Major findings were that IYPE NCs were often better organized, and that for many national committees, there was no clear relationship, nor with UNESCO NCs. Errami recommended links for IUGS National Committees on the Unions' Website and specific instructions for website content. Mikhail Fedonkin also raised an issue with NC websites publishing in their native language.

Riccardi suggested some guidelines for the IYPE Board Meeting in January 2009, where he will not be present and has asked VicePresident Jacques Charvet to represent IUGS: 1) the budget should not be approved if there is not US\$ 50,000 allocated for IGCP (Mikhail Fedonkin supported this); 2) the destiny of the surplus – Eduardo de Mulder was not clear on this point and there are no provisions in the IYPE budget (this will be decided on at the meeting); 3) final disbursement of surplus funds should also be proportional to original founding members; 4) destiny of the IYPE National Committees depends on Member Countries; and 5) the veto power can be used if the proposals are not accepted. All EC members agreed with these guidelines. After 2010, Riccardi thought perhaps IYPE would become more business oriented and IUGS would play only a small role. Bobrowsky suggested that there may be opportunities with Affiliates.

ACTION ITEM 37

Vice President Jacques Charvet will represent IUGS at January IYPE Board meeting. Inflexible positions on \$50,000 for IGCP in 2009 budget and final disbursement of surplus funds must be proportional to original founders. National Committee positions should revert to their previous status: no exact commitment without further details on IYPE 2020.

Andang Bachtia commented that IYPE is socializing geology and amplifying the concerns of governments world-wide. Ian Lambert stressed that activities need to have long-lasting impacts and that the public should come away with more knowledge of the 10 IYPE themes; but wondered how successful NCs have been in these areas. Colin Simpson asked whether there were formulae for NCs to assess their effectiveness and for reporting.

Eduardo de Mulder thought the answer would be known by the end of the triennium. An increase in the number of earth science students would be one effect. The UN proclamation has been vital for the success of IYPE. The final report to UNESCO may highlight the do's and don't's, however the format for reporting to UNESCO was uncertain.

Ian Lambert and Godfrey Nowlan discussed the need to highlight the importance of IYPE in National Committee reports. Many NC members saw IYPE initially as a short-term event. Every NC was doing its best, remarked Nowlan, adding that Canada was focusing on legacy products (e.g., books). The IYPE Secretariat should provide a template for the NCs to use in a concrete and constructive way. The cumulative impact may be significant but hard to evaluate. Nowlan also suggested a conference to share the successes and failures of IYPE.

ACTION ITEM 24

PC Chair Godfrey Nowlan and IGC Secretary General Ian Lambert will draft a generic reporting template for National Committees of IUGS.

11) REQUESTS FOR FUNDING AND BUDGETS FOR 2009

This was a closed session to Observers. William Cavazza and the EC reviewed IUGS income, expenses and allotments in 2008 and for 2009.

VOTE

Budget was **unanimously approved** for 2009.

12) UPDATE**12.a. Annual Reports 2007 and 2008**

David Huntley reported that the 2007 Annual Report was circulated for review in May and printed off in time for distribution at IGC 33 in Oslo; an online version posted on the IUGS Website. Work on the 2008 Annual Report began in January 2009 and a first draft circulated to EC members in the spring. At the EC meeting, members were encouraged to consider what should be included, changed or removed.

Peter Bobrowsky thanked Huntley for his excellent volunteer service and quality performance.

12.b. IUGS Brochure and Flyers

Godfrey Nowlan circulated edited brochures in December 2008. Costs were discussed for redesign and hard copy production. Nowlan also recommended reviewing content of the website, flyers and e-bulletins. Redesign of the brochure is estimated at \$ 2200; unit costs for printing quoted by Nowlan ranged from \$1.15 for a run of 5000 to \$0.54 for 20,000 (Canadian dollars). Redesign of the flyer would be \$440, and printing costs would vary from \$0.36 for 5000 to \$0.13 for 20,000. Alberto Riccardi and Peter Bobrowsky suggested the PC send details of costs to the EC. Discussion then moved to the new signature photo. Alberto Riccardi suggested a new mid-February deadline for submissions.

ACTION ITEM 30

PC Chair Godfrey Nowlan to distribute revised text of brochure and flyers to the EC by April.

ACTION ITEM 31

All EC members to send at least one image to PC Chair Godfrey Nowlan before 15 February 2009 for the new brochure cover.

12.c. IUGS Exhibitions for 2009

Anne Liinamaa Dehls noted that no exhibits were planned for 2009. IUGS Secretariat can assist in developing smaller door-sized posters for EC members to take to meetings.

ACTION ITEM 32

Permanent Secretariat will revise the door-size poster for the IUGS and distribute to the EC for review before 1 April 2009.

12.d. IUGS Exposure and Advertising Products

Peter Bobrowsky reviewed items on offer: ties, scarves, geoart cards, compasses, mouse pads. David Huntley suggested releasing the 2013 Annual Report on memory sticks for IGC 34 to save significant hard copy production and shipping costs. Ideas from the EC for new promotional items were requested by Bobrowsky.

12.e. IUGS Website

Alberto Riccardi mentioned that following a general request made by him several EC members sent proposals. Thus, E. Errami proposed to establish a Task Group, J. Charvet considered the possibility that the Federation Francaise de Geologie could take it, Zhang Hongren considered that the website could work from La Plata under the President's supervision, and M. Fedonkin proposed to have some exchanges with people from the Monash University, Melbourne, to explore their interest in having the website.

Alberto Riccardi, Peter Bobrowsky, Jacques Charvet, Ochir Gerel, Mikhail Fedonkin, Ezzoura Errami and Godfrey Nowlan discussed the need for an updated website, budgetary matters, other proposals, including those mentioned above.

Zhang Hongren considered three aspects of the IUGS website: 1) legal problems –an institution who would formally accept the responsibility is needed for hosting; 2) the website must be more vivid and useful; and 3) financial aspects are not important because it is quite cheap. Bobrowsky thought the IYPE Website is much better than the IUGS, but that it took a lot of work and money including professional companies. Charvet and Ochir proposed a developing country take on the website. Lambert reported that a professional commercial organizer was retained for IGC 34: he will ask for a quote. Nowlan mentioned that websites were developed in Canada for IYPE using a content management system.

ACTION ITEM 34

President Alberto Riccardi will send a copy of the website specifications to Godfrey Nowlan and Ian Lambert.

12.f. E-Bulletin

Colin Simpson reported that he was going to start releasing a more comprehensive E-Bulletin every three months, with the first coming out in March. Alberto Riccardi encouraged input from National Committees, Adhering Organizations and Affiliated Bodies. Peter Bobrowsky and Anne Liinamaa-Dehls supported continuation of the monthly E-Bulletins, stressing that they should not be too elaborate (i.e., plain text that can be uploaded to a website).

13) FREE DISCUSSION

There were no topics for free discussion.

14) VENUE AND DATE OF THE 61st and 62nd EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

William Cavazza suggested EC meetings take place every second year in Paris and that they take place in association with the IGCP. Budget confirmation needs to be done in March to allow for banks to generate meaningful financial statements. Alberto Riccardi recommended that future meetings be kept to a maximum four days to reduce costs. Riccardi had contacted Mikhail Fedonkin about Russian interest and Turkey was expressed interest in hosting the EC in the near future. Turkey also intends to submit a bid for the 2020 IGC. Ezzoura Errami noted a proposition for South African 2011 and problems for some EC members getting visas in time for early meetings (in January). Jacques Charvet was concerned that meetings in the northern hemisphere may be hampered by bad weather early in the year.

ACTION ITEM 38

Secretary General, Peter Bobrowsky to coordinate with the full EC the potential venue options for the next IUGS EC meeting in 2010.

15) OTHER BUSINESS

Colin Simpson expressed concern about the loss of knowledge as the Secretariat passes from the NGU to another organization, recommending that Anne Liinamaa-Dehls be involved in the transition process. Alberto Riccardi expressed on behalf of the IUGS thanks to Anne Liinamaa-Dehls for the excellent work done throughout the years from the IUGS Secretariat.

Alberto Riccardi closed the meeting thanking all EC members and all observers for their very positive participation and work during the EC meeting.