

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
MINUTES OF THE 65TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 11, 2012
BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Center
Room A1
OFFICIAL MINUTES



The meeting was opened by the newly elected President, Roland Oberhänsli at 08:37 a.m. Those in attendance were: Li Zhijian, Hassina Mouri, Peter Bobrowsky, Roland Oberhänsli, Dong Shuwen, Wesley Hill, Sampat K. Tandon, Richard Calnan and Nancy Zeigler. Roland Oberhänsli proceeded with a list of items to be covered in this initial meeting.

I. Introductions around the table:

Li Zhijian, newly appointed Secretariat from the China Ministry of Land and Resources.

Hassina Mouri, newly elected Councilor for the term 2012 to 2016, Professor from the University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Roland Oberhänsli, newly elected President, Professor, expertise in hard rock geology

William Cavazza, outgoing Treasurer from Italy

Don Shuwen, newly elected Treasurer from the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, a structural geologist who also hosted China activity for IGCP and ILP.

Sampat K. Tandon, Councilor for the term 2010 to 2014, a sedimentologist and geomorphologist whose work involves earth surface processes. Sampat sees a great deal of inequity in the geosciences globally and suggests we work closely with the IUGS Commissions to reduce the inequities.

Wesley Hill, Councilor for the term 2010 to 2014, Geological Society of America.

Peter Bobrowsky, former Secretary General from the Geological Survey of Canada

Richard Calnan and Nancy Zeigler, USGS, former Secretariat to be formally turned over to Li Zhijian, China Ministry of Land and Resources as of December 1, 2012.

II. Email List, Mail Server, News Media and Newsletter

The draft email list and IUGS letterhead had already been circulated for changes by Rich Calnan. Roland Oberhänsli asked if IUGS was on You-Tube or Twitter. The IUGS 50th Anniversary video was displayed on You-Tube and Rich Calnan commented that there is an IUGS Wikipedia Page that needs updating. Roland Oberhänsli would like to bring IUGS up to speed to be available on You-Tube and Twitter with news media and to create a platform for the future. This does not have to happen immediately, however that is the direction IUGS should go moving forward.

III. IUGS Web-Page

Currently the web-page is maintained by the former Secretary General. Ultimately this should be managed by the new Secretariat, having one person assigned to management of the web-page on a daily basis. Management of the web -site is not a difficult task, however one that needs constant attention. This is a task which all EC members should make note of and alert the Web Master as to when changes are necessary.

IV. IUGS Image

The picture associated with the newly elected Council moving towards the 35th IGC Congress in South Africa needs to be changed. This photo can be very similar to the current photo and should be a 'world class' photo and one which all geologists can identify. It should not be Matterhorn as Roland was responsible for mapping it. It was suggested to use a photo from South Africa.

V. Location of the 65th EC Council Meeting of the IUGS

Roland mentioned an offer from the Geological Society of Africa to host the next EC meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. His vision is to hold meetings in areas that are easily accessible with an airline hub and to keep the travel to the shortest route and most cost efficient for the group as a whole. He asked that the Executive Committee think about it and share their thoughts through email. Wesley Hill suggested either Switzerland or Paris for the 2013 meeting. Roland Oberhänsli will approach the newly elected Secretary General, Ian Lambert, to follow through on the venue at some point in September.

VI. Updates

Peter Bobrowsky will provide the new Executive Committee with new business cards. He also will update the IUGS Web-Site with photos of the newly elected officers. Peter explained that the Web-Site is currently based in Canada and is maintained by a private company which has been pre-paid into the future. Roland Oberhänsli agreed to keep the web-site hosted in Canada as communication regarding the web-site can be done from anywhere in the world.

VII. Treasurer

Need to make the transfer from William Cavazza to Dong Shuwen as soon as possible as William is currently not the Treasurer. This transition should be made within a month and the first step is for China to establish a U.S. dollar bank account. William Cavazza noted that four years ago the Treasurer's responsibilities were transferred within a month. Until we make the transfer it is day-to-day that William will monitor the Treasurer's position. Dong Shuwen will be responsible for the IUGS Budget next year and there are technical details. William will travel to Beijing to turn over the accounts to the Chinese.

Dong Shuwen also reported that the CAGS has established an office for Li Zhijian, and that Li will work with the former Secretariat to make the transition to China by December 1.

VIII. E-Bulletin

Colin Simpson is currently responsible for the E-Bulletin and he will edit the August 2012 edition. Colin Simpson has done an excellent job and has made timely submissions to get this publication out at the end of each month. This is an important issue which requires a lot of work and a new person should be assigned as soon as possible.

IX. Episodes

A discussion followed on Episodes – it is a nice publication, however it is dated and should be distributed digitally. Roland Oberhänsli would like to come up with a new journal which is one-half science and one-half information at the industry level. We should think about moving to a wider distribution. People on the list for distribution are already involved with IUGS at some level. We need to reach more people out there who are interested in what we do and to provide information to a wider network. Roland Oberhänsli asked the group to get back to him with thoughts to be addressed at the next EC Meeting.

X. What is the Benefit of IUGS?

- Need to revisit and enlist youth.
- YES Committee has opportunity approaches in place with young scientists.
- IUGS needs to take advantage of YES's approach and success and become more involved in the future.
- The USNC US NSF had submitted a list of questions on this issue to IUGS. A response has been drafted by Alberto Riccardi.
- An IUGS Blog had been created at one time but that did not work out.

Start with the EC and take time to address this issue:

- Look at the value
- Critical issue for the next few years
- EC knows about the IUGS and others need to understand the IUGS.
- Establish a booklet that is simple, politically correct, and describes the IUGS role.

Peter Bobrowsky suggested that the new IUGS EC set up a new short term temporary committee or task group to address this issue and provide recommendations to the EC.

XI. Upcoming EC Meeting Topics

There is currently an IUGS surplus of funds and although a contingency fund is necessary the new EC should think about putting some of the surplus funds to use. Consider having an IUGS Annual or Regional Congress, Biennial Congress, or a Congress on a 4-years scale, offsetting the IGC schedule similar to the Olympics. Topic is open for discussion. Suggested outline:

- IUGS on a 4-year scale would have workshops, summer school sessions and offer training for small communities that would not be expensive while providing enormous outreach.
- Organize on a level of 500 attendees and invite lecturers.
- Secretary General would coordinate with colleagues, keeping in mind some may decline.
- Lectures could be published on the Web to benefit non-attendees.
- Get IUGS Commissions involved and provide funding, using IUGS avenues already in place.

- ICS is a good example with the International Chronostratigraphic Chart which is benefitting both students and industry.
- Consider having an “Industry Level” person on the EC in the future. Then industry would be more inclined to support the IGC Congress because it would profit industry.

It was noted that Jacques Charvet had made a recommendation to have a representative from academia, government, and industry on the EC.

XII. IGC

- 34th IGC was a success however, there is room for improvement. The IGC Schedule Book was huge and cumbersome and there are digital alternatives such as downloading from Web or providing thumb drives and having screens and printers available at various areas at the Congress site. There were also some sessions that were over crowded as rooms were too small to accommodate whereas others were held in huge rooms with few in attendance. In addition, the poster session area was extremely tight. The AGU and GSA conferences do not seem to have the same difficulties with large conferences.
- Suggest that a professional Science Programming service be used to assist with planning the IGC in South Africa.

This topic is open for discussion.

XIII. Publications Committee Chair

Need to fill the position of Publications Committee Chair and a suggestion was made that Brian Marker, GEM, may be interested. This is an important and time-consuming position which is responsible for the following:

- Episodes
- Proof-reading all publications
- Developing new flyers
- Text on IUGS Posters
- Editing of Minutes
- Editing of Annual Reports
- Coordination with GSL
- Managing the website content
- E-Bulletin
- Provides the final approval on all IUGS publications

Revisit whether IUGS should contract out for some of these duties.

XIV. Commissions and Task Groups Status

Should some Commissions and Task Groups be shut down? Yes and this process is based on recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee reviews. For example, based on

recommendations from the Ad Hoc Review GEM is closing down in 2016 and the TGGGB will transition to an Affiliate Organization in the next few years.

Question raised on how to establish a new Commission on Marine Geology? A proposal should be submitted to the IUGS. The first step is to send a letter of interest to the IUGS President. A Task Group can be approved by the EC, an Initiative is the most expensive and any new Commissions must be ratified by the Council. The process can be accomplished through email communication.

XV. Transitions of Duties

Wesley Hill reported that for GEOPARKS she serves as a Global Representative. She would like to nominate Marko Komac as the European Geopark (EGN) Representative. Patrick McKeever of UNESCO highly recommends Marko as well. The meeting will be held in September in Portugal and Wesley can introduce him at that meeting. If he cannot attend, Wesley will represent EGN. Wesley will communicate through email to get this accomplished.

XVI. Streamline Agenda for EC Meetings

- IUGS Secretary General will put out a call for reports six months in advance of the EC Meeting.
- Annual reports should be circulated to the EC for comments.
- Final version should be submitted to the Secretary General well in advance for inclusion in the Meeting Document.
- Agenda will focus on IUGS Issues and setting priorities.

The official meeting of the 65TH EC Committee will be held in February at a site to be determined. This EC Meeting ended at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Nancy Zeigler and Richard Calnan