



Minutes of the **Annual SNC-IUGG Committee Meeting** 21 November 2008, Lugano Palazzo dei Congressi

Committee members present

Prof. Dr Hubert van den Bergh (President, IAMAS)
Dr Charles Fierz (Secretary and treasurer, IACS)
IAG: Mr Adrian Wiget, Dr Beat Bürki
IAMAS: Dr Markus Furger
IAPSEI: PD Dr Luigi Burlini
IAVCEI: Prof. Dr Peter Ulmer
IPA: Dr Marcia Phillips

Committee members absent with regrets

IAGA: Prof. Dr Andrew Jackson
IAHS: Prof. Dr Rolf Weingartner

Committee members absent

IAGA: Prof. Dr Peter Wurz
IAPSO: Prof. Dr Thomas Stocker

The president opens the meeting by welcoming all members present.

1. Approval of the agenda

No modifications or additions are requested and the agenda is accepted as proposed in the invitation to the meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes of the committee meeting in Geneva, 16 November 2007

The treasurer notes that the travel assistance budget numbers were incorrectly reported under item 9. According to the discussion in Geneva, the amounts allocated were CHF 1250.- each for two IAG, one IAVCEI and one IPA representative as well CHF 500.- for the IACS representative. Nevertheless, the minutes were accepted without further modifications and with thanks to snc-iugg secretary C. Fierz

3. Communications

- Greece was re-admitted as a member of IUGG, in line with the positive vote of snc-iugg.
- PD Dr Luigi Burlini is the new IASPEI representative in snc-iugg. He replaces Prof. Dr E. Kissling who stepped down at the end of 2007.
- Elections of committee members are supervised by the Executive Board of the Platform Geoscience and then ratified by the Executive Board of SCNAT. This will first happen for the next three year term 2009-2011.
- Fund transfers from one fiscal year to another have to be asked for in writing from the Executive Board of the Platform Geoscience with copy to the SCNAT accountant office.

4. Reports of the members

The complete reports will be made available on the future snc-iugg web page (see item 8).

IACS:

- Prof. Dr M. Funk was appointed as IACS representative to the IUGG GeoRisk Commission. This may hopefully give somewhat more weight to the cryospheric Natural Hazards.
- Prof. Dr M. Funk was elected as one of the vice-presidents of the International Glaciological Society IGS.
- The Swiss Government allocated some substantial funding to cover the cost of long-term monitoring of snow and glaciers and permafrost in Switzerland as well as for the World Glacier Monitoring Service WGMS based at the University of Zürich. WGMS is supported by the International Council for Science ICSU (World Data System) and is due to become a standing group of IACS. WGMS is working together with both the *Global Land Ice Measurements from Space* GLIMS initiative and the US *National Snow and Ice Data Center* NSIDC, a World Data Center, towards a Global Terrestrial Network for Glaciers GTN-G. The GTN-G Advisory Board will be chaired by a member of the IACS Bureau.
- President van den Bergh asks whether the cryosphere is duly represented within the Global Atmosphere Watch of WMO as he could intervene if needed. WMO is involved in various programs such as WCRP, IGOS, IPY, CliC, WGCM, etc.
- Michael Zemp, WGMS collaborator, won jointly with C. Scapozza the 2008 A.F. Schläfli award of SCNAT.

IAG:

- Switzerland was well represented at two IAG related meetings, that is, the 2008 GGOS Retreat & Thirteenth GGOS Steering Committee Meeting and Retreat of the International Gravity Field service IGFS in Italy (Dr U. Marti) and the Symposium on Gravity, Geoid and Earth Observation GGEO in Greece (Dr U. Marti and dipl. Ing. ETHZ S. Guillaume).
- Prof. Dr. M. Rothacher, the successor of Prof. Dr H.-G. Kahle at the Geodesy and Geodynamics Lab of ETHZ, is member of the Executive Committee of the IAG Global Geodetic Observing System GGOS

IAMAS:

- The annual meeting off the European Meteorological Society and the European Conference on Applied Climatology 2008 took place from 29 September - 03 October 2008 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The Swiss Society for Meteorology is now represented in the EMS Council for the years 2009 and 2010 by PD Dr Rolf Philipona.
- The annual meeting of the Swiss Society for Meteorology takes place in the framework of the 6th Swiss Geoscience Meeting 2008 in Lugano.

IAVCEI:

- Dr E. Reusser represented Switzerland at the IAVCEI General Assembly in Reykjavík with an attendance of 600 to 800 scientists. About 12 to 15 other Swiss scientists also attended the assembly. Discussion topics were the association structures, the tight budget, the relation to IUGG (would it be more effective to be part of AGU or EGU?) but also outreach work, and support for education of young researchers in Third World countries.
- Prof. Dr P. Ulmer also hints at the Focus Terra initiative of ETHZ.

IPA:

- The 9th International Conference on Permafrost NICOP was held in Fairbanks, AK, USA. The conference turnaround changes from 5 to 4 years. The next European Conference on Permafrost EUCOP will take place 2010 in Svalbard.
- The Swiss representative to the International Permafrost Association IPA, Dr Daniel Vonder Mühll, stepped down. A new delegate will be designated in conjunction with the Expertenkommission Kryosphärenmessnetze EKK and the Swiss Snow, Ice and Permafrost Society SIP.

- Dr M. Phillips will chair the advisory committee to the next ICOP to be held 2012 in Tyumen, Russia.
- The EKK issued a report on long term monitoring of the Swiss cryosphere that results in government funding for various networks in Switzerland such as PERMOS, but also snow (SLF, MeteoSwiss) and glaciers (VAW ETHZ).

5. Treasurer's report

The treasurer tables his report. The report evidences incomes of CHF 6808.45 and expenditures of CHF 5942.95. The bank account balance on 31 December 2007 amounts to CHF 865.40. The report is accepted by the members present with thanks to the treasurer for his work.

6. Budget 2009

The proposal has been cut by CHF 2000.- (travel assistance). According to the Executive Board of the Platform Geosciences, the allocated amount can be divided equally among the travel assistance requests. Thus CHF 1500.- are available for each request.

The treasurer will ask SCNAT whether leftover funds for the Union Lecture may be transferred to 2009 to help fund the travel of the union lecturer to the Swiss Geoscience Meeting 2009 in Neuchâtel.

7. SNC-IUGG bylaws

Dr B. Bürki (IAG) proposes that the bylaws be written in English only. A majority of the members present, however, prefer having the bylaws stated in both German and French because of juridical issues. The final draft of the German bylaws shall be sent to the EB of the Platform Geosciences for approval. Furthermore, the Platform or/and SCNAT will be asked whether they could provide the French translation.

All members were invited prior to the meeting to review the new committee bylaws drafted by the secretary. Only few comments were made, which are summarized below (in German). The amended bylaws are attached to these minutes for final approval by the committee members.

- Artikel 5: Mitglieder werden nicht auf unbestimmte Dauer gewählt (Abwahl bei Inaktivität möglich) und das Höchstalter wird auf 70 Jahren gesetzt.
- Artikel 6: Für IAVCEI ist die Schweizerische Geotechnische Kommission zuständig.
- Artikel 7: Wichtig ist, dass das Komitee selber seinen Präsidenten wählt und diese/r nicht „fremdbestimmt“ wird.
- Artikel 9: a) PräsidentIn und SekretärIn verpflichten das Landeskomitee SNC-IUGG durch Einzelunterschrift gegen Aussen. b) wird ersatzlos gestrichen.

8. Web page

All members present agree that the web page shall be in English only. A short discussion follows about the overall structure of the page. The secretary will come up with a proposal. He will ask the IT service of scn|nat whether a member area can be installed where minutes and other committee related documents can be made available, maybe even a discussion forum (voting matters, etc.). Logo and page name (iugg.scnat.ch, as proposed vs. snc-iugg.scnat.ch) will also be matter of discussion with the IT service.

9. Status “Union Lecture”

The Swiss National Committee for the International Union of Geological Sciences snc-iugs was contacted. Its new president, Prof. Dr Karl Föllmi, is very open to the collaboration suggested at our 2007 Geneva Meeting by president van den Bergh. Unfortunately, we could still not organize a Union Lecture within SGM 2008.

The situation is more promising for 2009. The organizing committee under Prof. Dr F. Zwahlen is willing to help us organizing a joint “IUGG-IUGS Union Lecture” in Neuchâtel. We plan to support and help organize one of the lectures given during the plenary session. The tentative speaker is Prof. Dr G. Young (Canada), by then president of IAHS.

10. Meetings 2009

- MOCA-09, joint IAMAS–IAPSO–IACS Scientific Assembly, Montreal, Canada, 19–29 July 2009
- IAG Scientific Assembly 2009, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 31 August - 4 September 2009
- IAGA 11th Scientific Assembly, Sopron, Hungary, 23–30 August 2009
- IAHS 8th Scientific Assembly and 37th IAH Congress, Hyderabad, India, 6–12 September, 2009
- IASPEI Scientific Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa, 11–16 January 2009

11. Varia

Prof. van den Bergh feels a little uncomfortable as committee president because of his limited involvement in IUGG affairs. The president would not like to have his successor designated from outside the committee and asks the members to discuss possible solutions. On the other hand, he would be willing to continue assuming the presidency if it requires more time to find a satisfactory solution. Some members argue that he also gave very valuable input as an external observer. To allow for a free discussion among committee members, the president leaves the room. The members present rapidly agree that:

- they do not have a solution right at hand
 - the president of the committee should be at the professorial level
 - it would be an asset if the future president is already acquainted with IUGG business
 - one name is tentatively put forward but it is agreed that this candidate cannot be asked right away
- ⇒ accordingly, we would like to ask the current president to assume his duties while we look for a possible successor. This may take one or two years, however.

12. Next committee meeting

20 November 2009 in Neuchâtel.

Davos, 23 February 2009

Dr C. Fierz, snc-iugg secretary