

Council Meeting for the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG)

Held at the Annual Meeting of the IAMG, Freiberg (Sachsen), Germany, Sunday, September 6th, 1400-1730h.

Burgstrasse 19, Freiberg, Germany

Attendees:

President: Qiuming Cheng (Canada, China)

Executive Vice-President: Jennifer McKinley (UK)

Treasurer: David Collins (USA)

Secretary General (Acting): Eric Grunsky (Canada)

Vice Presidents

Raimon Tolosana-Delgado (Germany)

Past President: Vera Pawlowsky-Glahn (Spain)

Ordinary Councilors

Guillaume Caumon (France)

Yongqing Chen (China)

June Hill (Australia)

Gang Liu (China)

IGC Councilor

Christien Thiart (South Africa)

Non-Voting Members

Co-Editors-in-Chief of Computers & Geosciences: Edzer Pebesma (Germany)

Editor of IAMG Newsletter & Website: Harald S. Poelchau (USA)

Other Attendees

Meetings Committee: Ricardo Olea (USA)

Student Affairs Committee: Helmut Schaeben (Germany)

Richard Sinding-Larsen

Jan Harff

Václav Němec

Karel Hron

=====

Agenda

David Collins moved to accept the Council Meeting Agenda

Seconded by?

Modified Agenda accepted as detailed below.

Agenda for 2015 Council Meeting, Freiberg, Germany
2015-September-06

1. Welcome and opening by IAMG President
2. Approval of final agenda
14. Presentation by Václav Němec and Karel Hron on IAMG 2018
13. Student Affairs Committee report
3. President's report
4. Vice President's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Secretary General's report
7. Awards Committee report
8. Lectures Committee report
9. Meetings Committee report
10. Outreach Committee report
11. Publications Committee reports
12. Redevelopment of the Website
15. Presentation by Earth Science Matters Executive Director
16. Presentation by European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers
17. Integration of IAMG Websites
18. New business
19. Closing remarks

=====

Agenda Item 14: IAMG 2018

Presentation by Václav Němec

Dr. Němec presented a case to hold the IAMG 2018 meeting in Prague, Czech Republic.

The meeting would have, in part, a GeoEthics focus and a theme of nature and humankind.

Some parts of the meeting would be held in Olomouc but the meeting and its historical significance (50 year anniversary of the IAMG) requires the focus in Prague. Dr. Němec also asked for consideration in support of seniors. Seniors have limited financial resources to attend scientific meetings and it was suggested the IAMG provide some financial support for seniors attending the IAMG 2018 meeting.

Presentation by Karel Hron

Dr. Hron presented a case for holding the scientific component of the IAMG 2018 meeting in Olomouc. Dr. Hron noted the significance of the 50th anniversary meeting of the IAMG and that some part of a social program and ceremony should be held in Prague to honour the birth place of the IAMG. Dr. Hron also made the case the university in Olomouc is an ideal venue for the meeting. The university is modern and can easily accommodate the need for lecture theaters and meeting rooms. There is support by the departments of Mathematics and Geology. Dr. Hron believes that the IAMG2018 meeting in Olomouc will raise the visibility of the IAMG in the mathematics and geosciences communities.

Discussion

Ricardo Olea – raised concern that the meeting will overlap with the IUGS meeting in 2018 and that any planning carefully consider the dates.

Raimon Tolosana-Delgado – emphasized that there is no overlap of dates with other meetings.

Vera Pawlowsky – agreed that there should be no overlap with the planned IUGS meeting in Vancouver, 2018. A scientific program of the IAMG in Olomouc is preferred over Prague, but recognizes the value of a celebration of the IAMG in Prague. A plan for the IAMG 2018 meeting should be deferred to the Meetings Committee for further discussion/consideration. Given that the IUGS 2018 meeting will be in June and the IAMG 2018 meeting will be in September, there should be no overlap.

Vaclav Němec – Dr. Němec emphasized the importance of Prague for its special venues and events.

Vera Pawlowsky – Should there be a special “Golden” meeting with invited papers / presentations?

Karel Hron – Olomouc is a city where it is easy to get around and it would be better if the IAMG meeting would be held in one place – Olomouc.

Jennifer McKinley – suggested that there should be a combination of a meeting in Olomouc with a historic keynote address in Prague. The two venues could work.

Raimon Tolosana-Delgado – The meetings in Olomouc and Prague should have two distinctive names and be identified as two distinct events.

Ricardo Olea – It is important to recognize the historical significance of the meeting but that does not mean that it must be held in Prague.

David Collins – Prague is a good destination because it is a transportation hub. The scientific sessions could be in Olomouc and the celebration of the IAMG 50th anniversary could be a special event with an additional fee.

Harald Poelchau – There has already been a precedent for IAMG meetings being held at two venues, as is the case for China.

Vera Pawlowsky – The 50th anniversary should have invited talks with a separate registration. The Olomouc meeting would be held independently.

Qiuming Cheng – requested that the Meetings Committee consider the proposals and report back to the Council. Additionally, what should be done in 2018 with respect to the IUGS meeting to be held in Vancouver?

Ricardo Olea – The IAMG should not hold a meeting in the same year as the IUGS. The options that could be considered are:

- IAMG meeting in the Czech Republic and nothing else
- IAMG meeting in the Czech Republic and representation at the IUGS in Vancouver.

Jennifer McKinley – there is no need to have any overlap and it is not unreasonable for the IAMG to organize/participate in more than one meeting in a year.

Vera Pawlowsky – will there be adequate financial resources for attendance at both meetings?

MOTION – By David Collins – The IAMG Council support that the 2018 Annual Meeting be held in the Czech Republic with a scientific meeting in Olomouc and other events to be held in Prague.

MOTION seconded – Ricardo Olea

Vote – 10 in favour – unanimous for those present

=====

Agenda Item 13: Student Affairs Committee Report – Helmut Schaeben

Helmut Schaeben reported that 3 student chapter reports had not been submitted (Quebec; India; China University of Geosciences, Wuhan)

Helmut recommends creating a standardized report that can be used by the Student Chapters on an annual basis. The student affairs committee will design a template for reporting.

Helmut reported that there is a problem with the updating of IAMG student chapter pages. Some have not been updated in some time.

Qiuming Cheng – encourages reporting by the student chapters and the student chapters should be reminded of the importance. Qiuming also recommends that a student advisor be the one responsible for the continuity and updating of the student chapter.

=====

Agenda Item 3: Presidents Report – Qiuming Cheng

Qiuming provided a summary of his report by providing highlights of the key issues. He also requested that the proposals for the IAMG 2018 meeting by Václav Němec and Karel Hron be made available with the rest of the reports to the IAMG Council.

=====

Agenda Item 4. Vice President's report

In addition to the report submitted by Jennifer McKinley she also reported that she has been invited to Japan and Hong Kong to discuss forensic geosciences and compositional data analysis.

=====

Agenda Item 5. Treasurer's report

David Collins stated that the Treasurer's report was available for all to examine and provided some details on the state of the IAMG finances under the current financial market volatility. Overall, the IAMG finances are in good shape. David also discussed the requirement of those to do business with the IAMG, in the form of Executive and Council related matters and those that receive support from the IAMG, sign a "Conflict of Interest" document that is required by the United States Internal Revenue Service.

MOTION – by David Collins - The IAMG Council adopt the 2018 Budget as presented in the Treasurer's Report.

MOTION seconded – Vera Pawlowsky

Vote – 10 in favour – unanimous for those present

=====

Agenda Item 6. Secretary General's report

Frits Agterberg submitted his report prior to the meeting. Eric Grunsky read highlights in the report.

=====

Agenda Item 7. Awards Committee report

IAMG award winners (Krumbein Medal, Griffiths Award, Chayes Prize and Vistelius Award), by definition, are scientists who have excelled in the profession. Naturally, there is an above average interest from colleagues to learn about their findings and any special aspects in their methods and procedures that have allowed them to flourish. For such a reason, they are invited to deliver keynote lectures at IAMG conferences and IGC Congresses with all expenses paid by the Association.

Mention of the topic brought the comment that IAMG could be doing a better job on advertising its meetings and an earlier release of the names of the winners and the title of their presentations could help attract participants. The guidelines do not specify any deadlines to release the name of the awardees, but the tradition is to invite members in the Newsletter to submit nominations by January 31. This year, partly for lack of sufficient nominations, winners were announced at the end March, that is 5 months ahead of the opening of the annual conference.

An exchange of opinions started about the advantages and disadvantages of establishing earlier deadlines for the announcement of the winners and the appointment of the lecturers (Distinguished Lecturer and Matheron Lecturer), say, January 15 of the year in which the awards are going to be presented.

MOTION – By Ricardo Olea – It is clear that the matter has some merits but it is too complex to be decided at this meeting, especially considering that the Chairman of the Awards Committee is not present. Internally, the Awards and the Lectures Committees should discuss the possibility to make an earlier release of names than at present and report back to Council by 1 November 2015.

Prepared by Ricardo A.Olea
David R. Collins
26 September 2015

=====

Agenda Item 8. Lectures Committee report

Discussion combined with the Awards Committee report above

=====

Agenda Item 9. Meetings Committee report

A short summary of the Meetings Committee was provided. The Committee mostly continues assisting IAMG meeting organizers and submitting recommendation to Council, primary in matters related to the selection of sites.

=====

Agenda Item 10. Outreach Committee report

No verbal report provided.

=====

Agenda Item 11. Publications Committee reports

The committee is dealing with two important issues:

- 1) Designation of a fixed tenure, with renewable options for Editor-in-Chief positions for the IAMG journals, Mathematical Geosciences, Computers & Geosciences, Natural Resources Research.
- 2) Discussion on a future publications strategy for the IAMG

The committee is seeking guidelines on what criteria should be used to establish the length of tenure for an editor-in-chief for each of the IAMG journals. Currently Elsevier imposes a 5 year limit for Computers & Geosciences. Springer also recommends a 5 year term but does not enforce it if there are sufficient reasons for an existing editor-in-chief to continue. The committee will report back to Council on adopting a tenure strategy that must work in coordination with the Publishers.

No tenure limits have been suggested for the IAMG Newsletter or Website.

June Hill submitted an excellent review of possible scenarios for IAMG publications based on journal title ownership (MG, NRR – Springer) and non-ownership (C&G – Elsevier). A SWOT analysis carried out by June shows the benefits and challenges of managing publishing under the current arrangements and possible alternatives.

Edzer Pebesma presented a brief summary of the metrics for Computers & Geosciences and reported that the journal impact factor continues to increase. Jef Caers will step down as one of the editor-in-chiefs next year. The IAMG Publications Committee should work in coordination with Elsevier to search for a new Editor-in-Chief to replace Jef.

Eric Grunsky reported that no one has stepped forward to replace Joanne De Graffenreid as the IAMG Monograph Series Editor. Additionally, Harald Poelchau has asked the IAMG to consider finding a replacement for the Newsletter Editor as he would like to step down from this role in the next few years. Harald also mentioned that he wants to give up managing the IAMG website content.

=====

Agenda Item 12. Redevelopment of the Website

Just prior to the IAMG Council meeting, it was noted that there is a lack of integration between the IAMG memberservices.org website and the iamg.org web site. This lack of integration creates inconsistencies in the administration and management of the website but also creates a security risk. It may be time to investigate a new IAMG website where all services and content are provided in one site. The Publications Committee will investigate alternatives by communicating with other agencies. Website presence and business functions are now mainstream and the most efficient way for organizations such as the IAMG manage membership information, association news and events, conference administration and finances and publications/outreach. The IAMG should consider advertising for a position to coordinate the activities of the IAMG including:

- website management and technical interface
- website content
- IAMG monograph series
- IAMG newsletter

The Publications Committee will consider options and report back to Council.

=====

Agenda Item 15. Presentation by Earth Science Matters Executive Director

No presentation provided because Ed de Mulder was unable to attend the meeting.

=====

Agenda Item 16. Presentation by European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE)

Guillaume Caumon presented the idea of the development of an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers and the IAMG. Guillaume presented advantages of a connection to a large organization that could benefit from the association with the IAMG. Arguments were also presented that such an affiliation **could** be harmful for the IAMG because it would possibly overwhelm the IAMG with its own agenda.

MOTION – By David Collins – The IAMG Council communicate with the EAGE and report back to the IAMG Executive on the feasibility of a joint relationship between the

two Associations and a SWOT analysis be carried out on the potential Memorandum of Understanding.

MOTION seconded – Vera Pawlowsky

Vote –unanimous for those present with voting rights

This agenda item also brought up the discussion of affiliations between the IAMG and other associations including the recently formed CODA association in Girona. Vera Pawlowsky stated that CODA acknowledges the support of the IAMG.

=====

Agenda Item 17. Integration of IAMG Websites

See Agenda Item 12

=====

Agenda Item 18. New business

Jan Harff presented a description of a Marine Geology Workshop co-organized by the IAMG that will be held at Yantai, China, Sept. 18/19, 2015.

Richard Sinding-Larsen

Discussed the need to encourage secondary school interest in mathematics and its role in explaining geological processes.

=====

Agenda Item 19. Closing remarks

Motion by David Collins – close the IAMG Council Meeting

Motion seconded by Vera Pawlowsky

Vote – unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 1730h.

=====