

MINUTES OF IAMG COUNCIL MEETING
IAMG'99 - Trondheim, Norway
August 9, 1999

The Council meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by President Ricardo Olea in the Prinz Olav Grill of the Raddisson Hotel. Present were President Ricardo Olea, Vice President Carol Crawford, Secretary General Tom Jones, Councilors Cedric Griffiths, Ute Herzfeld, and Hernani Chaves, Past Presidents John Davis and Mike Hohn, Editors Graeme Bonham-Carter and JoAnne Degraffenreid, and Committee Chairs Jan Harff, Frits Agterberg, Vera Pawlowsky, and Andrea Fabbri.

President's Report

President Olea stated that this meeting was planned to concentrate on reports from committees and commissions. First, however, he summarized what the Council has accomplished since the meeting at Ischia in October 1998.

1. Preparation of guidelines by a Meeting Grant Commission to regulate support and participation in meetings not organized by IAMG
2. Preparation of guidelines to issue Certificates of Appreciation
3. Review of all existing guidelines – with the exception of the Awards Guidelines – and publication of all guidelines on the Internet
4. Design and printing of 10,000 brochures through a Brochure Commission
5. Extensive discussions to increase membership, both by increasing the number of new applicants and by reducing the number of members leaving the IAMG
6. Selection of Cancun, Mexico, as the site of the IAMG2001 conference
7. Call for proposals to organize IAMG2002
8. Approval of exceptional aid to the Institute of Mathematical Geology, Saint Petersburg, Russia, consisting of a \$10,000 grant toward preparation of a special issue of one of our journals (yet to be determined)
9. Approval of two commissions to submit to Council separate proposals to start a Student Grant Program and a Lecture Series
10. Appointment of a 1999 Nominating Commission to prepare a slate of candidates to run for 10 seats in the 2000-2004 Council

Ute Herzfeld suggested that more discussion is needed on issues that are handled by e-mail, rather than just bringing up a proposal for voting. President Olea pointed out that he typically asks for comments before the voting starts, and in many cases receives none.

Environmental Group

Andrea Fabbri reported on the activities of the Environmental Group: organized NATO-ASI held in Matrohata, Hungary, Sept. 6 – 19, 1998; session at IAMG'99, Aug. 10, 1999; two new EC research projects.

Awards Committee

Vera Pawlowsky reported on activities of the Awards Committee; a copy of the report is attached. Discussion suggested that organizers of IAMG Annual Meetings set up appropriate times in the schedule for awards presentations in order to get better attendance. A second point of discussion: It is sometimes difficult to get to get CV information from anyone except the nominees themselves, thereby making evaluation more tenuous. Pros and cons of making potential nominees aware of nomination were discussed, but no conclusion resulted.

IGC Representative

Hernani Chaves reported that a strong program in mathematical geology is being developed for the IGC meeting. The IAMG is sponsor or co-sponsor of five special symposia and 12 general symposia. Additional information may be obtained from the IGC website: www.31igc.org.

Membership Committee

Jan Harff reported on activities of the Membership Committee; a copy of the report is attached. Ute Herzfeld suggested that IAMG meetings are too expensive for students and others, and feels that membership would be encouraged if IAMG planned for low-cost options: housing, registration, etc. It was pointed out that the meetings are not planned and budgeted by IAMG, but by local organizers.

Publications Committee

Frits Agterberg reported on activities of the Publications Committee; the report is attached.

Education Committee

Chairman John Tipper was not present, but he provided a written report on activities of the Education Committee; a copy is attached.

Webmaster

Webmaster Eric Grunsky was not present, but several graphs were distributed that show activities on the IAMG website. The graphs were taken from the website.

Treasurer

Treasurer Dan Tetzlaff was not present, but a financial report was provided; a copy is attached. Tom Jones summarized items from the report.

The meeting was adjourned by President Olea at 10:04 pm.

Thomas A. Jones

Secretary General, IAMG

IAMG Education Committee: Report for 1998/99

The principal activity of the IAMG Education Committee in 1998/99 has been to continue to oversee the series "Mathematical Geology: Studies for Students" (SfS). Although there is evidently continued interest in the SfS in many quarters - not least among non-IAMG members who have contacted me to obtain further information about it - it is not proving easy to turn good intentions into published papers. Potential authors of SfS articles should recognise (a) that there are many journal editors out there who are very willing indeed to accept appropriate manuscripts on topics in mathematical geology, and (b) that those papers will receive very considerable exposure to the general geological public. I encourage all potential authors either to contact me personally to obtain further information or to look at the committee's page on the IAMG website.

The third article in the series has now appeared, again in the European Journal of Soil Science. The Committee would like to express their appreciation to Richard Webster, editor of the EJSS, for the strong support that he has given to the series. The newly appeared article is: Lark, R. M. and Webster, R., 1999, Analysis and elucidation of soil variation using wavelets, European Journal of Soil Science, 50, 185-206.

Another manuscript ('On natural and simulated topographic surfaces: fractals and the role of erosion', by Jim Carr) has passed through the committee's internal review system, and a revised version is awaited.

John Tipper
27 July 1999

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Webmaster Report IAMG Web Site Activities

Introduction

The access logs of both the ftp site and www site have been analyzed and graphically displayed.

The graphs can viewed at:

<http://www.iamg.org/webstats.html>

The web site statistics have been broken down into four categories:

1) FTP access to programs from Computers & Geosciences [1994-June to 1999-June]

<http://www.iamg.org/ftplogs/index.htm>

WWW access to IAMG web pages according to various categories

2) http://www.iamg.org/wwwlogs_part1/index.htm

3) http://www.iamg.org/wwwlogs_part2/index.htm

4) A summary of ftp access by Paper name from Computers & Geosciences

<http://www.iamg.org/ftpstats.html>

In preparation for the analysis of the ftp and www logs, the following log entries have been deleted:

1) access by web site administrators and contributors (including: Grunsky, Bonham-Carter, Kopf-Johnson)

2) access to www logs by various web crawlers that catalogue web site contents for search engines.

There is a gap in the web access logs for the period of May-August, 1997. These logs were lost. Organizing and extracting access information from the web site logs has been a challenge because of a change in the way web access log files were structured. This change took place in September 1997 and created some problems in extracting common features between the file structures.

The Summary of FTP access by Paper has not yet been updated. This will be done later this year.

Intrepreting web site statistics is somewhat subjective because of the measures that are used to gauge web site activity. An exhaustive analysis of users and patterns of access requires an extensive amount of work. Commerical web analyzers are being investigated as a tool for carrying out further analysis on the www and ftp access logs.

Observations

Access to the IAMG World Wide Web site and file transfer protocol (ftp) site continued to increase through 1998 and the first half of 1999. The maximum number of web site hits exceeded 20,000 for the month of January 1999. Activity has dropped off since then with a range of 17,000-20,000 hits per month. These statistics merely indicate the amount of activity of the site. (see http://www.iamg.org/wwwlogs_part1/sld001.htm)

Access to the IAMG Home Page (http://www.iamg.org/wwwlogs_part1/sld002.htm) has continued to increase with a sharp increase in access from April 1999 where access has exceeded 2000 hits per month.

FTP downloads of Computers & Geosciences programs continues to increase. Downloads exceeded more than 2000 requests in May and June 1999 (see: <http://www.iamg.org/ftplogs/sld018.htm>)

In summary, the web site and ftp site continue to show increased usage.

Additions

In 1999, the IAMG web site was re-modelled using a frame based approach. The re-design of the web site was based on the requirement to make the web site easier to navigate. Conversion and additions are taking place over the year. The recent development of guidelines for various IAMG activities, that have been approved by council, have been added to the web site.

A member database has been constructed and will be placed on the IAMG web site during the latter half of 1999. The member database will have the ability to search for members on the basis of name and area. Access to addresses and telephone numbers will be made available only to IAMG members using a password-based technique.

Maintenance Issues

Currently, the IAMG web service is provided by a UNIX based server in Ottawa, Canada. A European mirror site was established in 1998 which provided limited capabilities because of the inability to provide updates to the mirror site. A new European mirror site has been established at: <http://www.europe.iamg.org>. This site is being maintained by Marcus Schneider through the coordination of Ute Herzfeld at the University of Trier, Germany. At this time, the site is not yet active but is expected to be operational by September, 1999. Other mirror sites are still required for Australia, South America and Asia.

Budget

Costs for managing the IAMG Web site can be broken down for the period Jan 1 1999 to June 30 1999. All costs are in Canadian funds.

Internet access costs: 848.00

Computer hardware:

SCSI Card \$150

CD Writer \$566

Dell Computer \$4720

Jaz Drive \$481

Jaz Drive Replacement \$230

Software

Books \$326

Visual Page \$170

Partition Magic \$75

Consumables \$182

Total Cost for managing web site for January 1 1998 - June 30, 1999: \$ 7748 Cdn

The IAMG has two Dell Pentium computers which are being used to manage the web site and Silver CD project. When the Silver CD project is complete, the older Dell computer will be

available for use as council sees fit. The hardware and software costs should be considered to be amortized over a 3-5 year period. This would bring the annual web site management costs to about \$2300-3200 /year.

Silver CD

The Silver CD project is proceeding on schedule. Volumes 1-14 and 16 have been scanned. Volumes 15 and 17-22 will be scanned by the end of August, 1999. The acquisition of a scanner with and automatic document feeder has increased the speed of the scanning process. The project is proceeding as planned.

Costs incurred to date:

UMAX Scanner \$330

Omnipage \$150

HP 6250 Scanner with ADF \$700

Labour for scanning \$1500

Total Cost to date: \$2680

Under the arrangement with Elsevier, costs will be shared at 50%.

Upon completion of scanning, an searchable index of programs with authors, titles, and links to the scanned programs and digital files from the ftp site will be made available on the Silver CD and the IAMG web site.

The use of Adobe Acrobat is being investigated as a method of packaging the scanned files.

It is expected that the Silver CD will be ready for production by the end of 1999 or early 2000.

Eric Grunsky
1999-July-28
Webmaster, IAMG