

IAMG Council Meeting, Olomouc, Czech Republic

Meeting time: September 3rd 2100h -2300h; follow on meeting September 6th 12.45-2pm

Attendees:

Council Members:

Jennifer McKinley, President, acting chair of Awards Committee
Qiuming Cheng, Past President
David Collins, Treasurer, member Meetings Committee
Eric Grunsky, Secretary General, Chair of Outreach Committee
Raimon Tolosana-Delgado, Vice President
Christien Thiart, Vice President
Guillaume Caumon, Council Member
Gerald van den Boogaart, Council Member, Chair of Publications Committee
Jaime Hernandez-Gomez, Council Member, member Lectures Committee
Sanjay Srinivasan, IAMG 2019 Organizer, member Lectures Committee

Non-voting members:

Gregoire Mariethoz, (EIC, Computers & Geosciences)
Katie Silversides (Website & Newsletter manager/editor)
John Carranza (EIC, Natural Resources Research)

IAMG Committee members:

Ute Mueller, Chair, Student Affairs and Research Grants Committee
Helmut Schaeben, Chair; Meetings Committee
Ricardo Olea member, Meetings Committee

Observers:

Frits Agterberg
Courtney Jermyn, Earth Science Matters
Jan Harff

Meeting quorum requirement met

Agenda

1. Approval of Agenda. 21:00–21:03
2. President's report (Jennifer McKinley). 21:03–21:18
3. Secretary General's report (Eric Grunsky). 21:18–21:28
4. Treasurer's report (David Collins) (**require motion**). 21:28–21:43
5. IAMG privacy policy compliance. 21:43–21:51
6. IAMG website migration strategy. 21:51–22:00
7. IAMG incorporation (legal opinion from David Collins). 22:00–22:12

New Business

- (a) Election of Ordinary Vice-presidents. 22:12–22:25
- (b) IAMG sponsorship of Deep Earth 2018. 22:25–22:30
- (c) IAMG sponsorship of Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Region of the Silk Road. 22:30–22:35
- (d) IAMG session proposals for 2019 Joint Statistical Meetings. 22:35–22:40
- (e) IAMG support for the Deep Time Digital Earth (DDE). 22:40–22:45
- (f) IAMG support of Geostats meetings. 22:45–22:50

Agenda Item: Approval of Agenda

Moved by David Collins; seconded by Christien Thiart;

Agenda Item: President's Report

Jennifer McKinley presented highlights of the President's report.

A mention of thanks to the IAMG 2018 organizers.

The IAMG established and is in the process of establishing memorandum of understanding (MOU), namely EAGE, CoDa, Negotiations with CoDa are ongoing.

Female representation is an important issue in the IAMG. The Commission on Women in the IAMG is being chaired by June Hill.

Agenda Item: Secretary General's Report

The Secretary General described the experience of the IAMG interaction with the Resources for Future Generations (RFG) meeting that was held in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2018. The details of the experience are provided in the accompanying annual report to the IAMG Council. The biggest issue was that the IAMG was requested to promote the RFG meeting through email blasts and session proposals. A considerable amount of time and effort by the IAMG members and the IAMG office went into promoting the RFG meeting. However, the IAMG had no profile at the meeting and there was no preferred registration rate to organizations that provided time and effort to promote the RFG meeting. Members of the IAMG had proposed several sessions.

RS36: The impact of Climate Change on Financing for Mining and Oil Companies (Margaret Armstrong)

MIN50: Mineral Prospectivity Modeling and Assessment of Undiscovered Mineral Resources (John Carranza)

EK20: Contributions of Young Earth Scientists to Mathematical Geoscience for Resource Strategic Issues (Qiuming Cheng)

MIN26: Big-Data: Integration, Management and Regional Scale Surveys (Eric Grunsky)

RS30: Classification, Management and Sustainable Development of the Global Resource Endowment - Unification and Standardization of Terminology and Practice (Mark Mihalasky)

Short Course

Advanced Concepts in Evaluating and Interpreting Geochemical Data, presented by: Qiuming Cheng, Jennifer McKinley, Ute Mueller, Clifford Stanley, Eric Grunsky, Natalie Caciagli, Juan Carlos Calderon-Ordenez, Raimon Tolosana-Delgado

Agenda Item: Treasurer's Report

The details of the finances of the IAMG is provided in the Annual Report to Council.

There was a discussion on the disbursements associated with the IAMG 2018 meeting.

There was a discussion around the value of auditing the expenses of the IAMG. In particular, the lack of auditing expenses associated with Student Awards. Additionally, there has not been a report on the final accounting of the finances for the IAMG 2017 meeting. The Treasurer does not have the time to follow the details of expenses provided to grant/award recipients and the expenses associated with the operation of IAMG meetings.

It was proposed that a Finance Committee or alternatively, an Audit Committee be established; to assist the Treasurer and oversee IAMG governance including data protection. This will be discussed within the Council in the near future.

Motion: Accept the IAMG 2019 budget with the addition of \$8000 USD for conference expenses and \$8000 USD for conference income. The total budget expenditure/income is \$305085.00 USD.

Motion moved by Gerald van den Boogaart; seconded by David Collins.

Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: IAMG Privacy Policy Compliance

Gerald van den Boogaart provided an update of the European data privacy compliance laws. Because the IAMG office is based in Germany, the data privacy laws of Europe must be implemented. The IAMG office manager, Regina van den Boogaart, is working on the data privacy compliance requirements. The data policy rules for the IAMG will be placed on the IAMG website.

The IAMG is required to complete forms that describe how the IAMG implements data privacy legislation. A component of the compliance requirements is that IAMG describe how it will prevent and deal with data privacy breaches.

The issue of responsibility was raised. Who is responsible for any breach of data and subsequent remedies? Are the officers/employees of the IAMG indemnified of personal liability? The IAMG should investigate what other agencies (EAGE, AGU, IUGS) are doing in terms of indemnification of officers. Several participants were of the idea that adequate addressing of this new European regulations may end up requiring IAMG spending some money in lawyers.

Action Item: Gerald van den Boogaart and the IAMG will provide the list of requirements for data privacy compliance and security. He will present the list and findings to the Council for further discussion.

Agenda Item: IAMG Website Migration Strategy

The IAMG office website requires a significant update in order to remain operational in the near future. The IAMG website (www.iamg.org), which is managed by Katie Silversides, is currently stable. Several participants suggested that the website requires updating including both design and content improvements.

Updating the iamgmembers.org website will not involve any significant cost, if any. The updating will also require compliance with the data privacy policy.

Two solutions to handle the membership list were mentioned: (a) a simple and inexpensive one, and (b) a more radical but expensive approach. The conclusion was to try the inexpensive approach first, even though there is no assurance that it will produce satisfactory results.

Eric Grunsky mentioned that it might be worthwhile to look into the merging of the two websites. Merging the two websites would reduce costs and result in a more integrated internet platform for the IAMG.

Motion by David Collins: Approval for Regina van den Boogaart to update the iamgmembers.org website.

Motion seconded by: Jennifer McKinley

Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item: IAMG Incorporation

The IAMG is currently not incorporated, which prevents the Association from conducting certain business activities. This issue came up during the organization of the IAMG 2015 meeting in Freiberg, Germany, whereby, the local organizing committee was unable to open a bank account because the IAMG was not incorporated.

Recently, David Collins met with an attorney, in Lawrence, Kansas, to discuss the possibility of the IAMG becoming incorporated. Although the IAMG is a not-for-profit organization, its legal/financial status falls within a 'grey zone'.

Incorporation of the IAMG requires:

- 1) Articles of incorporation
- 2) Bylaws
- 3) Tax status

Incorporation requires the use of a "Designated Agency" that acts on behalf of the incorporated entity for any legal issues. The cost is about \$100-200 USD per year.

These requirements can be easily met. Incorporation is state controlled and David Collins recommends that the incorporation of the IAMG be undertaken in Kansas, which is based on the Delaware model. Incorporation within the USA requires that the Treasurer of the IAMG be an American citizen.

Discussion of the incorporation led to a wider discussion including two important points: (a) country where the incorporation should be done, and (b) end of the IAMG self-imposed restriction that the Treasurer must be a USA resident. Additionally, how this will affect the data protection issues? Would an incorporated status protect the IAMG more fully in this matter?

A decision was made to continue to discuss the issue of incorporation within the Council via email. Incorporation will likely have an impact on the Bylaws and Statutes.

Action Item:

David Collins will investigate the changes in the wording and layout of the Statutes and Bylaws in order to conform with the requirements of incorporation.

New Business

Election of Ordinary Vice-presidents.

A discussion on whether or not, IAMG Vice-presidents be appointed or elected.

The appointment of Vice-presidents was initially utilized by Vera Pawlowsky in order to assist the President with a range of tasks. The appointment of Vice-president minimizes the likelihood of conflict on the Council.

The issue was also raised by Jennifer McKinley that appointing an additional two vice presidents allows the Council to account for an lack of gender and geographic diversity not accounted for through voting. If the nomination committee ensures that there is a gender and geographic balance in nominations then it could be proposed that the President could still appoint one Vice President and that the Council should appoint one additional Vice president selected from the nominations to ensure gender and geographic diversity.

Other important remarks during the discussions were: (a) No other reputable professional societies, say IUGS, Royal Statistical Society or AAPG, allow their presidents to appoint members of Council (or equivalent bodies) with voting rights; (b) in other societies and for 40 years in IAMG the normal way for the president to have assistance is to appoint committee chairs, who have never have had voting right at the Council, not even the editors-in-chiefs are voting members of Council for the reason that they are not popularly elected; (c) the current system gives an unfair 4-0 advantage to the president in any voting; and (d) the 2012-2016 Council voted to end with the system of letting the president to appoint two vice presidents with Council voting rights, but decided to let the 2016-2020 implement the consultation to all members not have a last minute effect on the 2016 election

The current model is based on the creation of “teams” in which the candidate for President chooses a Secretary General and two Vice-presidents as part of the election platform.

A motion was proposed by Gerald van den Boogaart to have the Vice-presidents and Secretary General be appointed.

The motion was not voted on.

Action Item: A discussion on this issue will continue amongst the Council members.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was proposed by David Collins.

The motion was seconded by Christien Thiar

The meeting was adjourned for continuation on 2018-09-06 at 12:45 pm

Continuation of the IAMG Council Meeting, Olomouc, Czech Republic,
2018-September-06, Seminar Room, Faculty of Education.

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Council Members:

Jennifer McKinley, President, acting chair of Awards Committee

Qiuming Cheng, Past President

David Collins, Treasurer, member Meetings Committee

Eric Grunsky, Secretary General, Chair of Outreach Committee

Raimon Tolosana-Delgado, Vice President

Christien Thiar, Vice President

Guillaume Caumon, Council Member

Gerald van den Boogaart, Council Member, Chair of Publications Committee
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Courtney Jermyn, Earth Science Matters

[Continued Discussion on the Election of Ordinary Vice-presidents](#)

Although the Secretary General stated that there was nothing to discuss further about point (a) in the New Business of the agenda. Gerald then made the point that arguments had been exhausted in the previous meeting, so all that it was required was to bring the matter to an end by having a vote. Instead, Council approved Treasurer Collins's counter-suggestion to continue the discussion by email.

Action Item: Council to continue the discussion on the election/appointments of Ordinary Vice-Presidents.

[Update on IAMG 2019](#)

Sanjay Srinivasan provided an update on the IAMG 2019 meeting. The organizing committee has reached out for sessions. The Abstract submission site is being constructed. Schlumberger and ARAMCO has both offered significant sponsorship for a total of \$20,000 USD. The meeting rooms and necessary space has been arranged. The organizing committee is looking for short course proposals.

[IAMG sponsorship of Deep Earth 2018](#)

Qiuming Cheng presented a slide show outlining the objectives of the Deep Time Digital Earth Initiative as an IUGS initiative being led by the IUGS. The Deep Time Digital Earth initiative is proposed as a "Super IGCP" as part of an IUGS Big Science Program. The IAMG has the potential to be involved in this initiative through the skills of quantitative geoscientists that are members of the IAMG.

The Deep Time Digital Earth program is envisioned as 4D, three geospatial dimensions, plus time.

The overall structure of the Deep Earth project is to assemble:

- 1) Big Data
- 2) Create a Geo-knowledge databased
- 3) Derive information and knowledge

The Deep Time Digital Earth Initiative is guided by the Super IGCG project based on gaining more information on converging tectonic plate boundaries (disaster and risk management) and extreme geoevents (prediction of hazards).

The Deep Time Digital Earth Initiative will work on topics including the reconstruction of paleogeography.

In addition, the Super IGCP will aim to:

- 1) establish new scientific paradigms
- 2) predict climate change
- 3) provide an integrated link from the past to the present and future.

The IAMG is urged to be a partner in this initiative. An agreement between participating agencies will take place in February, 2019.

The IAMG can offer training and support to the integration and evaluation of the DDE initiative.

Qiuming Cheng will provide a copy of the proposal.

Action Item: The IAMG Council will discuss the Deep Time Digital Earth Initiative to determine how the Association can contribute.

[IAMG sponsorship of Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Region of the Silk Road.](#)

Qiuming Cheng briefly discussed the Silk Road project which is involved with the identification and assessment of risk throughout the Tethys ranges extending from east Asia to Europe.

The IAMG should consider participating in this proposal along with other members of the IUGS.

A news item on the Silk Road initiative should be sent to the IAMG membership via the Newsletter or website when more information is available.

A meeting on the Silk Road has been proposed for May, 2019.

Action Item: The IAMG should obtain more information on the Silk Road initiative and the IAMG Council should discuss how it might contribute.

[IAMG session proposals for 2019 Joint Statistical Meetings](#)

The IAMG has an arrangement with the ASA and ISI by which the IAMG is invited to submit session proposals to the Joint Statistical Meetings. The next meeting will take place two weeks before the IAMG 2019 meeting (July 27-August 1), in Denver, Colorado, USA.

Historically, accepted session proposals by the IAMG have been poorly attended. This is mainly due to the interests of most JSM attendees, which is mainly in the medical sciences and business statistics.

There was discussion of how the IAMG can have more impact. Should the IAMG focus on meetings in which there are sessions on spatial statistics?

As the field of compositional data analysis evolves, there is likely to be increased interest in compositional data in the fields of medicine and economics.

The continued involvement of the IAMG with the JSM meetings was not resolved. The Council will discuss further whether the IAMG should sponsor a booth at the JSM meeting in 2019.

IAMG support of Geostats meetings

The next Geostats 2020 meeting will be held in Toronto, Canada during the last week of August, 2020. The IAMG President received a request from Mohan Srivastava to support the meeting by managing the registration and finances. This level-of-support request was investigated by the IAMG Treasurer who reported back that it would not be advisable to provide support in this form due to financial security regulations that are currently in place.

The IAMG is interested in developing an affiliation with the Geostats community and the individuals that develop the meetings, which take place every four years. The Council indicated full support for a close association between the IAMG and the Geostatistical Congress meeting committees.

One suggestion was that the IAMG provide a level of sponsorship to the Geostats meetings.

Another suggestion was that the IAMG take over the running of the Geostats meetings or integrate the Geostats subject areas into the annual IAMG meetings.

Qiuming Cheng suggested that the Geostats organizers/community should work together with the IAMG.

Action Item: The IAMG President, Jennifer McKinley, will negotiate with Mohan Srivastava to discuss:

- 1) sponsorship of the meeting by the IAMG
- 2) that the IAMG propose sessions for the Geostats meeting
- 3) IAMG members be offered a reduced registration fee at the Geostats meeting.

Motion to Adjourn the meeting by David Collins. Motion seconded by Eric Grunsky. Unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.