

**IAMG 2024
Council Meeting**

Meeting Time/Location

Date/Time: Aug 26, 2024 (Monday) @ **19:00-21:00** (GMT+9) Busan, Republic of Korea
Location: Busan Youth Hostel Arpina (Nuri)

Agenda

- 0:00 – 0:05 Approval of agenda
- 0:05 – 0:15 President's report (Peter Dowd)
- 0:15 – 1:15 Treasurer's update (Tim Coburn/Sean McKenna)
- 1:15 – 1:25 Awards committee (Xiaogang Marshall Ma)
- 1:25 – 1:30 Student affairs committee (Ute Mueller)
- 1:30 – 1:40 Outreach committee (Dionysios Hristopoulos)
- 1:40 – 1:50 Publications/Journals/Website/Newsletter (Journal Editors + Katie Silversides)
- 1:50 New business (if time permits)

Minutes

Attendees

In-Person (voting members): Peter Dowd, Juliana Leung, Renguang Zuo, Karel Hron, John Choe.

Non-voting members: Katie Silversides, Ute Mueller, Xiaogang (Marshall) Ma,

Virtual (outgoing Council): Tim Coburn, Dionysios Hristopoulos (non-voting),
Observers: Zhesi Cui, Guoxu Chen, Qiyu Chen

Observers (incoming Council): Raimon Tolosana Delgado, Guillaume Pirot, Mario Rossi, Caterina Gozzi, Joerg Benndorf

Approval of Agenda

Peter welcomed everyone. The agenda was approved unanimously.

A quorum was attained (6 of the 12 voting members were present – the Statutes & Bylaws stated: "A quorum shall be at least half the voting members of the Council and include at least two (2) of the officers."

President's Report

Peter expressed concern about the lack of engagement of the members and suggested that this should be a primary focus of the new Council. In the elections for the IAMG Council for the period 2024-2028, a total of 164 votes were cast for the positions of President, Vice-President and Ordinary Councillors. This represents approximately 23.8% of the total membership. Thus 76.2% of the membership did not vote. In other words, the overwhelming majority of the membership chose not to be actively involved in the appointment of Councillors.

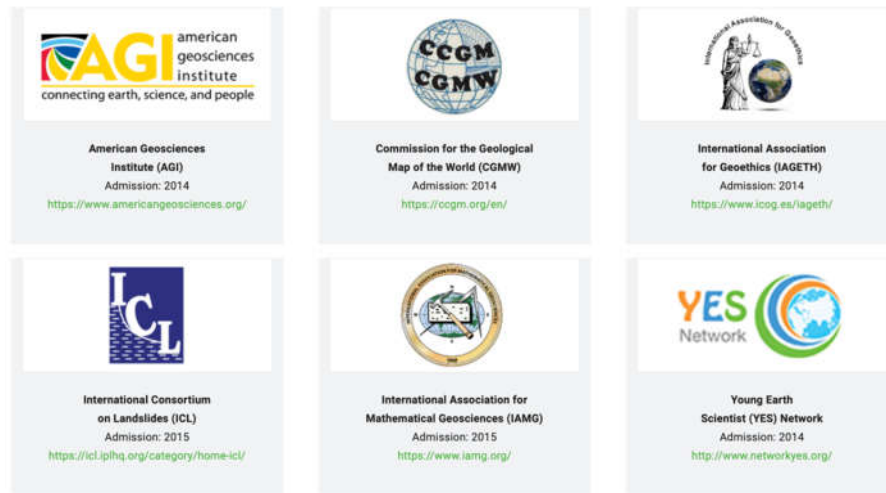
He noted that, following significant discussions, a new Outreach Committee, led by Dionysios Christopoulos, has been formed. Dionysios discussed the committee's progress, which has involved identifying individuals who can serve as liaisons with other associations. Peter raised questions about the affiliations with some of these associations, noting that for some of them there are no records of affiliation agreements of the IAMG with their organization. He emphasized the need to consider the nature of these relationships and how they could potentially benefit all parties involved.

The following is a summary of the current status of existing agreements of Association with the IAMG and the status of formal agreements of Association:

- Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG) – formal agreement in place: John Carranza. Document at: <https://iamg.org/association-agreements/>
- International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). IAMG statutes **1 Name and aim**: IAMG shall be affiliated to the International Union of Geological Sciences and the International Statistical Institute and associated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.
- European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE) – formal agreement in place: *Vasily Demyanov, Guillaume Caumon*. Document at: <https://iamg.org/association-agreements/>
- CoDa: Caterina Gozzi. Document at: <https://iamg.org/association-agreements/>
- Earth Science Matters (ESM) – formal agreement status unknown. No document available.
- Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) – formal agreement process started but not completed, Julianna Leung.
- International Statistical Institute (ISI) – IAMG statutes **1 Name and aim**: IAMG shall be affiliated to the International Union of Geological Sciences and the International Statistical Institute and associated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

- American Association of Petroleum Geologists. (AAPG) – IAMG statutes **1 Name and aim:** IAMG shall be affiliated to the International Union of Geological Sciences and the International Statistical Institute and associated with the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.
- Deep time Digital Earth (DDE). Formal status unclear, although IAMG was a founding member of DDE and Jenny McKinley is the current President of the DDE Governing Council. E-mail from Jenny McKinley on 23rd August: "IAMG was a founding partner and signed the DDE Accord in Beijing on 25th February 2019. Jenny was the IAMG President at the time and Qiuming Chen was the IUGS President and founding member of DDE". Jan Harff.
- Spatial Statistics, status still unknown.
- IUGG. No document was found but IAMG is listed as an IUGG Affiliate Member on the IUGG website. Partial screenshot of Affiliate members on the IUGG website:

[IUGG Affiliate Members](#)



For the organisations for which there is no formal agreement in place, we need to decide on whether there is any meaningful association to be had by entering into an association.

As a suggestion, before proceeding with an association, we should address the following questions:

- What is the purpose of the Association?
- How would the Association contribute to the IAMG?
- How would the IAMG contribute to the Association?
- Who would manage the Association?"

Dionysios advised that the Outreach Committee will be meeting soon to discuss strategies for strengthening bonds. They will consider the benefits of collaborating with other associations for IAMG and address the fact that many colleagues work on projects of interest to IAMG but are not members and do not publish with us.

Karel inquired about the Mathematical Geosciences contract with Springer. Peter highlighted concerns about payment and royalties. There are ongoing questions about whether we should maintain our relationship with the current publisher.

Treasurer's Report

Tim provided an overview of the Association's finances and presented the proposed budget. Key points are:

- The IAMG's finances are in good shape, with \$1.5 million in reserves, but net revenue (and hence, net income) has declined from 2022. To some extent, the organization continues to thrive because of its investments. If dues, membership, or journal subscriptions are not increased, or if expenses are not reduced, then IAMG faces a "no net revenue" situation in 2025 (assuming endowment investments remain untouched).
- Dr McKenna and Dr. Coburn re-established connections with IAMG's Ameriprise representative/agent, revised the way the account is managed, and established a quarterly meeting with the agent to go over performance details.
- The IAMG banking practices with US Bank were streamlined to save fees.
- The 2022 US taxes have been filed after hiring a new accountant. Although the IAMG does not owe taxes, the organisation faces penalties of over \$5800, for which an appeal has been filed. The IRS decision is pending. Additionally, IAMG has received approval from the IRS to delay filing 2023 US taxes.
- Review and revise Ms. v. d. Boogaart's contract. Regina's contract has not been updated or clarified in quite some time. Her duties and responsibilities need to be brought up-to-date, and her payment needs to increase commensurately.
- IAMG needs to ensure that a document retention and destruction policy and a conflict of interest policy are in place to comply with IRS regulations.
- Update the website so that all information is current, including addresses. It needs to be ensured that IAMG's non-profit status in Kansas is reflected.
- Establish a policy to ensure that activities associated with the Distinguished Lecturer award are planned and completed in the year the award is made and that all associated travel is committed and paid for during that year.
- A new treasurer must be recruited and the position's responsibilities must be redefined.
- To ensure institutional memory, it may be useful to introduce the position of past treasurer.

There was some discussion about the treasurer's responsibilities and mechanism to support the treasurer in the role. These included hiring an assistant, and having a job description for the role. There is also a need to ensure continuity in the position.

Two signatories on the bank accounts are needed. Sean/Tim agreed that they would not make transactions unless both of them agreed.

Action Items:

1. Tim will provide a list of exactly what needs to be done by the US treasurer and what can be done by someone we hired (e.g., a management company).
2. The Council needs to find a new treasurer.

The proposed budget for 2025 was discussed. Ute requested clarification about the distinction between membership dues and subscriptions (need clarification from Regina). She also asked about the differences in funding allocated to the various association awards (Krumbein and Griffiths, in particular)

Questions were raised about the donations. The IAMG has not received any donations for many years.

Marshall cautioned that one needs to consider the advantages and disadvantages of any new committees carefully.

Peter thanked Tim for his hard work.

Awards Committee's Report

Marshall's report summary:

- A list of awardees
- Committee members' rotation compliance with the bylaws, with consideration given to geographical, gender, and career stage balance. It's also worth noting that Marshall has gone well beyond his term, so the incoming Council needs to find a new committee chair.
- A motion to change the description of the awards committee in the bylaws: the founders' scholarship should be incorporated into this committee's responsibilities.
- Marshall took over this committee from Jennifer 7 years ago and spent some time drafting the handbook covering various aspects of this role.

Tim mentioned the committee expenses are not included in the budget, but Marshall clarified that there are no other expenses apart from prizes and travel expenses. Tim was wondering why there were no expense requests from any committee chairs.

There will be further discussions with the new Council about the motion. Then, an electronic vote should be set up for the entire membership to vote on this issue and several other changes we may make to the statute or bylaws.

Student Affairs Committee

Ute provided an update on the student affairs committee: \$15,000 budget (e.g., travel grants), as summarized in the report.

Several student groups contacted them, but they never finished the paperwork. Chinese chapters do very well and grow. Other chapters have decreasing membership.

She also discussed the membership of the committee. Some members are rotating out (we need representatives from Africa and South America). Can the new Council endorse the proposed new chair?

Outreach Committee

Dionysios already discussed much of the progress earlier in the meeting. A few additional points were added. He provided an update on IAMG support for the geoENV, ideas for journal editors to attract more manuscripts to their journals, and ideas for improving the website, which currently looks a bit more geology (subsurface). Katie commented that the current images can be easily changed and would like help from the outreach committee. He also wants to get industry sponsors. Tim says that, in the past, there were regional groups with similar interests that could be invited to join IAMG.

Karel raised the possibility of a YouTube channel for IAMG. Have our younger members' presentations be involved.

Peter provided a summary of the reports on the performance of the IAMG journals.

Katie requested that IAMG maintain an InDesign license to create the newsletter (\$50/month, \$350/year).

Action Items:

- 1) Tim will contact Katie to ensure our website shows the official corporate and mailing addresses.
- 2) All the financial information should be removed from the website.

Peter closed the outgoing council meeting at 8:58 pm.