

IACS



International Association of Cryospheric Sciences

6th IACS Bureau Meeting – part I
(closed meeting: IACS Bureau and invitees only)
Melbourne – June 27, 2011
9:00 – 12:30 --- 14:00 – 18:00

Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
1 Convention Centre Place
South Wharf, Victoria 3006

Room MR103

AGENDA and Minutes¹

¹ the minutes of the meeting are given in blue and in Calibri font

In attendance² (from right to left, photo by R. Warner):



Ian Allison (President: P Allison)

Georg Kaser (Past President: PP Kaser)

Ralf Greve (Division Head; *Planetary and Other Ices of the Solar System*: DH Greve)

Inga May (APECS representative)

Claude Duguay (Division Head; *Marine and Freshwater Ice*: DH Duguay)

Kumiko Goto-Azuma (Vice President: VP Goto-Azuma)

Charles Fierz (Division Head; *Snow and Avalanches*: DH Fierz)

Manfred Lange (Secretary General: SG Lange)

Bureau members absent with regrets:

Peter Jansson (Vice President: VP Jansson)

Gino Casassa (Vice President: VP Casassa)

Julian Dowdeswell (Division Head; *Glaciers and Ice Sheets*: DH Dowdeswell)

Valérie Masson Delmotte (Division Head; *Cryosphere, Atmosphere and Climate*: DH Masson Delmotte)

² Invited attendees to Bureau Meeting 6.1:

Andrew Mackintosh (Sole nominee for election as next IACS SG) - he did not make it due to the volcanic-ash problem

Roland Warner (IACS local representative on IUGG 2011 Science Committee)

APECS representative Inga May (Item 13.1)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Ian Allison)

P Allison welcomes the Bureau members present as well as two guests, APECS representative Inga May and Roland Warner (IACS local representative on IUGG2011 Science Committee).

2. Agenda additions/modifications (Ian Allison)

P Allison proposes a number of changes due to other commitments he will have to attend to (IUGG Council etc.).

A new agenda item (26. **Vision on IACS and Legacy of present Bureau**) has been added.

3. Minutes from the 5th IACS Bureau (teleconference) (Manfred Lange)

3.1. Corrections/modifications/additions

SG Lange gave a brief account on the teleconference and its main results.

3.2. Acceptance

It was agreed that the Minutes will be edited and accepted during the second part of the present Bureau meeting.

4. Actions from 5th IACS Bureau Minutes (Manfred Lange)

Decision item 007: IACS Travel grants for IUGG Melbourne 2011, was followed through in providing grants not exceeding Euro 10 000 in total. As of now Euro 5 862 have been expended.

MoUs with APECS and IPA: The MoU with APECS is moving ahead. The one envisioned with IPA has not been advanced as yet.

5. President's Report (Ian Allison)

P Allison gave a concise report on the activities and main accomplishments during the past year. In so doing, he highlighted a few topics in particular:

- The two publications produced by IACS WGs, *The International Classification of Seasonal Snow on the Ground* and the *Glossary of Glacier Mass Balance and Related Terms* (<http://www.cryosphericsscience.org/products.html>) are a clearly remarkable achievement of IACS during the past year.
- MOCA 2009 has been a success, particularly through promoting interdisciplinary symposia.
- Recognition by other organizations has been improved. Formal MoU with IASC and SCAR.
- IACS enjoys positive and constructive relationships with IUGG, in general.
- We have developed good relationship with other IUGG associations, particularly IAMAS and IAPSO).
- However, we do not yet seem to be appropriately recognized by other Cryospheric organizations and our profile is still relatively low. The Cryo-manager initiative may be one way of raising our profile. It is currently supported and driven by IGS and IACS.

- We need to nurture and develop our relationship with cryospheric scientists in developing countries.
- We have been successful in establishing our view on the Cryospheric component of the current IPCC fifth assessment process.
- Our role in the WGMS has to be mentioned. WGMS is a part of the ICSU family; IACS has been granted with the responsibility for WGMS. In that role, IACS holds the chair of the Steering Group for the joint initiative GTN-G.
- ICSI archives: the documents, previously stored at the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, UK, have been reviewed, winnowed, and sent to the World Glacier Data Center in Boulder, CO, USA for digitizing and archiving.

Past President's Report (Appendix BM06-A)

PP Kaser also provided a brief account of activities during the last year that he was involved in. He also referred to a few issues in particular:

- He first gave a brief account of the informal Bureau meeting that took place in Stockholm, in November of 2010.
- He then mentioned a meeting, jointly with Liz Morris and Magnus Magnusson, the SG of the International Glaciological Society (IGS). The meeting aimed to clarify the confusion regarding an email message that had been sent to the IGS SG regarding meeting scheduling and organization.
- PP Kaser participated, on behalf of IACS and P Allison, and presented a paper to a meeting in Bonn of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This meeting was organised in the run up of the UNFCCC COP 17 to take place in Durban, SA) later this year. . A number of scientists and scientific organizations had been invited, IACS was one of them.
- PP Kaser is representing IACS at the IUGG History Meeting at IUGG2011, which is steered by IAGA; PP Kaser emphasized that he will not be able to continue representing IACS in this group.

6. Treasurer's report (Manfred Lange)

6.1. Report

The Treasurer, SG Lange gave a brief report on the current state of IACS finances (Appendix BM06-B). As of May 18, 2011, the IACS budget sheet shows a positive balance of Euro 37 553,62 with some expenses outstanding, which will, however, not lead to major changes of the overall balance. Thus the overall economic state of IACS appears to be quite satisfactory. SG Lange did point out, though that care should be taken in expending resources in the future, as the future annual allocation of IUGG funds may be lower than in previous years.

6.2. Acceptance of audited accounts of IACS for 2007-2011

This item has been postponed to the Plenary Administrative Meeting.

6.3. Budget outlook for 2012 and beyond (recommendations to the incoming Bureau)

In assessing possible future expenses, a total of nine expense- and three income categories have been defined. As for outlooks, it is estimated that we will receive about AUD 2 700 as "Head Tax" from IUGG2011 (as of June 18, 2011).

DH Fierz presented a table that goes beyond the original table providing alternative views on the expected expenses for 2011 by P Allison, SG Lange and himself as well as projections for the expenses beyond 2011.

It was stressed by DH Greve that any support that IACS provides to external activities needs to be publically and appropriately acknowledged, e.g., through explicit mentioning at conference websites, by presenters of papers, who have been given grants etc. This was supported by a number of Bureau members.

7. Absent Bureau member reports on issues additional to this Agenda (if submitted)

No reports have been provided.

8. Division reports³

8.1. Snow and avalanches (Charles Fierz)

See report by DH Fierz (Appendix BM06-C)

P Allison thanked DH Fierz for his good work for IACS as the head of the division.

8.2. Continental Glaciers and Ice Sheets

No reports have been provided.

8.3. Marine and Freshwater Ice

DH Duguay gave a brief report on the activities of the division.

8.4. Cryosphere, Atmosphere and Climate

No reports have been provided.

8.5. Planetary and other Ices of the Solar System (Ralf Greve)

DH Greve referred to his report that was provided to the teleconference of last December.

He then went on to briefly mention the new WG on the **Flow law for polycrystalline ice**, which is established in this Division and explained in more detail below.

DH Greve then briefly explained the overall concept of the 5th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration. IACS is an official sponsor and provides Euro 2000 in support. DH Greve is a member of the conference steering group.

During IUGG2011 there will be a joint symposium with IAMAS on planetary ices.

Dr. A. Humbert, Chair of the newly installed WG on **Flow law for polycrystalline ice** provided a first status report (Appendix BM06-D).

9. The Glossary of Glacier Mass Balance and related Terms (Georg Kaser)

The WG finalized the drafting of the *Glossary of Glacier Mass Balance and Related Terms*, which has now been published as a joint UNESCO/IACS publication (Appendix BM06-E).

³ WG and SG reports will be given in Bureau Meeting 6.2, 30 June

Action: P Allison to thank the chair of the WG and to ask him about the proposed future direction of the WG.

10. The IACS science program for IUGG 2011 (Manfred Lange, Roland Warner)

There are a total of four IACS-only, four IACS co-sponsored Joint symposia, and IACS is involved in four Union symposia as well as in 14 additional symposia by various IUGG Associations during IUGG2011 (for more details, see <http://www.iugg2011.com/program-iacs.asp>). 136 IUGG2011 delegates have registered as IACS affiliate.

11. Election of new Bureau Members

11.1. Report of Nominations Panel, including slate of candidates (Ian Allison)

The slate as prepared by the Nomination Committee was briefly introduced by P Allison (Appendix BM06-F). This slate has been circulated to those eligible for voting to the IACS Administrative Plenary.

12. WGMS (Ian Allison)

12.1. Global Terrestrial Network – Glaciers (GTN-G) Advisory Group

GTN-G links existing networks and systems for integrated observations of glacier systems and their fluctuations. To strengthen, support and coordinate the cooperation between WGMS, NSIDC and GLIMS in these activities, a GTN-G Steering Group has been established. This consists of two parts (Appendix BM06-G):

(a) an Executive Board of representatives of the three operational organisations

(b) an independent Advisory Board that will support, consult with, and periodically evaluate the work of the Executive Board and the three operational organisations.

The members of the GTN-G Advisory Board are jointly nominated by the IACS Bureau and the GTN-G Executive Board. Julian Dowdeswell (as IACS Division Head for Glaciers and Ice Sheets) was appointed as chair of the Advisory Board.

12.2. Acceptance of GTN-G Steering Committee as an IACS Standing Group (GTN-G SC)

To better formalize the links between GTN-G and IACS (and between WGMS and IACS) it was agreed that the GTN-G Steering Group would be appointed as an IACS Standing Group.

12.3. WGMS Annual report

A cover letter as well as the written version of the Annual Report of the WGMS is provided as Appendix BM06-H.

12.4. Other WGMS issues

Action: We need to clarify with ICSU to what extent the restructuring of the FAGS and the WD center on Glaciology (NSIDC) and the setup of a new data system affects the relationship between IACS and WGMS.

13. Proposals for new Working Groups, Standing Groups and partnerships (recommendations to the incoming Bureau)

13.1. Partnership: APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientist) (I. Allison)

P Allison introduced a draft of an MoU (Appendix BM06-I), which he seeks general support for from the Bureau.

The APECS representative (Inga May; inga.may@lmu.de) briefly presented APECS' main activities. APECS has been established in 2006 and has already about 2500 members from 45 countries (for more details, see <http://www.apecs.is/>).

P Allison proposed that the Bureau accepts the draft MoU in principle and that he, the APECS Director, the APECS Council and the Executive Committee develop a final draft. This was unanimously approved by the Bureau members present at the meeting.

13.2. Standing Group: Ice sheet mass balance (ISMASS)) (I. Allison)

Formed in 1993 by a SCAR WG and now expanded to the Greenland ice sheet. There is a proposal for "**Terms of Reference: Ice Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level (ISMASS)**" by Francisco Navarro (Appendix BM06-J). In the discussion it became clear that the establishment of ISMASS is not appropriate either as a Standing Group or as a Joint Body in IACS. IACS does however fully endorse and support the objectives of ISMASS and will maintain close liaison with the project.

P Allison to write to Francisco Navarro to communicate a) our decision, b) let him know that the Bureau will appoint a "correspondent to ISMASS (Cecilie Rolstad Denby will be asked).

13.3. Standing Group: GAPHAZ (Charles Fierz)

A report by C. Huggel on the activities of- and a proposal to raise GAPHAZ to a Standing Group of IACS is presented at Appendix BM06-K. It was discussed that such a proposal may be considered, if GAPHAZ assumes the liaison function to GeoRisk. We would like to propose A. Käab to assume this liaising function of GAPHAZ to GeoRisk.

In light of these discussions, we recommend that the new Bureau considers GAPHAZ to raise GAPHAZ from a WG to an IACS Standing Group.

13.4. Working Group: Microstructure based modeling of snow (Charles Fierz)

DH Fierz introduced a proposal to form a new WG on the theme of "**From quantitative stratigraphy to microstructure based modeling of snow**" (see Appendix BM06-L). He suggests that the Bureau accepts this proposal. However, it has to be clarified beforehand, what the envisioned products of such a WG might be.

After intensively discussing the issues at hand, a consensus was reached by the Bureau members present, not to establish this WG at this point, but to recommend support for a workshop to further develop the concept.

14. **Database of WGs and SGs (Kumiko Goto Azuma)**

See Appendix BM06-M for latest version

15. **Update on IACS National Correspondents and Delegates (Manfred Lange)**

See Appendix BM06-N

16. **IUGG and ICSU (Ian Allison, Manfred Lange)**

16.1. IUGG Executive Committee Meeting, Melbourne, 9-11 Oct. 2009.

P. Allison attended the IUGG EC meeting and reported on the activities of IACS. The major business of the meeting was preparation for the 2011 General Assembly, including determination of a framework schedule for the meeting and agreeing to a MoU between IUGG and the Melbourne LOC. Appointments were made to a Statutes / By-Laws Committee, Nominating Committee for 2011 IUGG Elections and a Site Comparison Committee for the 2015 General Assembly.

P. Allison also reported on the recently completed IPY 2007-2008. Other issues included relation between IUGG and ICSU, a proposal to establish a new membership category of IUGG Fellow, and routine IUGG finance and budget business.

16.2. IUGG EC and Council Meetings, Melbourne, 26, 27 June 2011.

P. Allison attended the IUGG EC meeting on 26 June as a member and part of the Council meeting on 27 June as an observer. Subsequent meetings of both groups (at which IACS activities over the last quadrennium were reported) were also held during the Melbourne General Assembly. These initial meetings dealt with reports from IUGG officers, Union Commission reports, matters of membership and statutes, and proposals to host the 2015 General Assembly.

16.3. Union Commissions

There are currently four Union Commissions (UC) (see Appendix BM06-O)

UC on Data and Information; Mark Parsons is the IACS representative

UC on Mathematical Geophysics; DH Greve is the IACS representative

UC on Structure of the Deep Earth; IACS has no involvement and is not represented

UC on GeoRisk; we need to find a new representative to replace Martin Funk

16.4. New Union Climate Commission and WMO polar activities.

We have indicated that we are interested in the issues to be taken up by the UC; however, we do not see us committing substantial monetary resources to the proposed UC. It seems, though that the status and nature of the forthcoming body is still to be defined (Appendix BM06-P).

We made initial contact with WMO to indicate that we liked to be involved in the planning of their new polar initiatives (Appendix BM06-Q).

16.5. IUGG support for workshops, summer schools, etc.

It was briefly discussed that the IUGG provides moderate support for workshops, summer schools, etc. each year. Bureau members and associates should watch out for the announcements, which has in the past been forwarded by the SG to the Bureau members.

16.6. IUGG liaisons

P Allison has been the IUGG liaison to SCAR and has indicated to remain in that function.

17. IACS Honours and awards (Ian Allison)

It has been discussed earlier to make PP H. Gerald Jones an honorary member of IACS. A citation has been prepared by DH Fierz (Appendix BM06-R). The Bureau approved this document and welcomes this initiative, which is to be approved by the upcoming Plenary.

18. Amendments to agenda for IACS Plenary Meeting Melbourne, 29 June 2011

None received

19. Agenda for IACS 7th Bureau Meeting, Melbourne, 2 July 2011

This agenda will be prepared after part 2 of the 6th Bureau Meeting on 30 June.

20. Planning for the Davos 2013 Joint IAMAS/IACS Assembly (DACA-13) (Charles Fierz)

DH Fierz gave a brief account on the planning and the current state of the joint IAMAS/IACS Assembly DACA13, which will take place in Davos, Switzerland in July of 2013 (for more details, see www.daca-13.org).

21. Other conferences in which IACS was/is/will be involved

The following meetings with IACS involvement were briefly reported:

21.1. Valdivia, Chile, February 2010)

21.2. Lijiang, China, August 2010

21.3. International summer school/workshop in glaciology, Alaska

21.4. Glacier and Ice Cap (GIC) Workshop, Boulder, CO, June 2011.

PP Kaser gave a brief report on the workshop in Boulder, CO, USA.

21.5. Meetings for which IACS support has been agreed: Research urgencies in the Polar Regions, Siena, Italy (prelude to ICSU GA) (I. Allison)

IACS will cosponsor this two day symposium, with SCAR and IASC, which will be held in Siena, Tuscany, on 23 and 24 September 2011 as a precursor to the ICSU general Assembly in Rome the following week. . It will develop the legacy of the IPY 2007-2008 and address all aspects of polar science, with a focus on the functioning of the Earth System in the Arctic and Antarctic, the major drivers of pervasive change and the as yet unaddressed research issues in these regions. These global issues will be considered in the polar regions within the context of the ICSU Grand Challenges and the research priorities of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) and other ICSU Unions and Interdisciplinary Scientific Bodies with interests in polar sciences.

21.6. General IACS policy (I. Allison)

Not discussed

21.7. IACS sponsorship of future conferences (approved out of session): 5th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration (Ralf Greve); recent past, present, and future regional and global mass changes of mountain glaciers and ice caps (Georg Kaser); any others.

The Bureau briefly reviewed some of the previous requests for funding support for IACS-sponsored conferences and workshops, particularly the 5th International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration (see Appendix BM06-S).

22. IACS web site and Newsletter (Peter Jansson)

VP Jansson had to cancel his attendance; DH Fierz reported instead. The IACS website (www.cryosphericciences.org) has been improved and the functionality extended. This was

demonstrated live during the meeting and discussed. One important issue to be improved are brief descriptions of each division. We also discussed the issue of naming the individual entries (e.g., "products" etc.).

DH Fierz agreed to be responsible for maintaining the website.

23. Activities seeking IACS funding

23.1. An international initiative to implement and define a general format for the exchange of snow and avalanche data (Charles Fierz)

There is a request for start-up funding of this initiative of CND 500 (see Appendix BM06-T).

23.2. Others

None.

24. MoU for coordination of Cryospheric organizations (Charles Fierz)

During the last EGU, this issue has been discussed between representatives of the IGS and IACS. As a result a draft MoU was proposed (see Appendix BM06-U), which embraces a number of organizations dealing with Cryospheric Sciences.

It was proposed by P Allison to continue to push for the revitalization of the Group of Cryospheric Managers. He also proposed that DH Fierz remains the main IACS contact with him in support of the forthcoming activities.

The tabled MoU was unanimously approved by the Bureau.

25. Issues carried forward to Part II of 6th Bureau Meeting (30 June)

26. Vision on IACS and Legacy of present Bureau

26.1. IPA relationship

26.2. Education and outreach activities

27. Other business

None

28. Closure