

**7th IACS Bureau Meeting
(closed meeting: IACS Bureau and invitees only)
Melbourne – July 3, 2011**

12:30 – 16:30

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

Room MR201.1

MINUTES

In attendance

IACS bureau

- Ian Allison (IA)
- Charles Fierz (CF)
- Andrew Mackintosh (AM)
- Ralf Greve (RG)
- Hiroyuki Enomoto (HE)
- Cunde Xiao (CX)

Invited: Hugo Delgado Granados (HG)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (IA)

IA welcomed the new IACS bureau members and Hugo Delgado Granados from Mexico, who was representing 'Glacier And Permafrost Hazards in mountains' (GAPHAZ) and the IAVCEI/IACS joint commission on volcano/ice interactions.

IA also discussed the agenda.

HG introduced himself and explained the importance of understanding ice/volcano hazards, e.g. >20,000 people died in Columbia in 1995 from lahars originating from ice-covered volcanoes. He also explained that GAPHAZ was a working group, but has proposed to be a standing group (Joint between IPA and IACS).

2. Agenda additions/modifications (IA)

There were no other items.

3. IACS report to EC and council

IA described the report that he gave to the IUGG executive committee. This included discussion of the IACS history, recent publications (x 2), changes in bureau membership, structure of IACS working and standing groups, terms of reference, partner organisations and budget. It was proposed that new IACS activities could include (but not be limited to);

- *Building visibility within cryospheric community.*

- *Developing links at interdisciplinary boundaries.*
- *A greater focus on sea ice, snow hydrology and permafrost.*
- *A focus on IACS activities within developing nations.*
- *Education and outreach.*
- *Investigating links with proposed new IUGG climate change commission and WMO polar initiatives.*

4. Report on IACS science program at IUGG 2011 (IA, CF).

The committee discussed how well the IUGG Melbourne General Assembly was perceived. There were many positive aspects but the discussion focussed on ways that we might seek to improve next time. These included:

- Doing more to avoid overlap between sessions.
- Focus on improving quality and depth of a fewer number of sessions, rather than introducing more sessions.
- Better covering the topic of sea ice.
- Promoting joint sessions (between different IUGG associations).
- Having more input into the Union symposia.
- Reducing registration fee.
- Asking session convenors to invite one expert in their field, and another who works on a different but overlapping topic.

ACTION - IA will work with key organisations to form joint sessions at DAVOS. Especially for snow hydrology, permafrost and sea ice.

ACTION - IA will draw up a list of tasks and duties for convenors.

5. Budget outlook for 2012 and beyond (CF)

- 5.1. IA proposed that Manfred Lange (ML) stay on as interim treasurer for next 2-3 months. This will allow existing transactions to be finalised. IA also suggested that ML, AM, CF and IA should work together as a finance group until a new system is in place.

Decision - Agreement.

IA discussed our current budget and the need for maintaining a contingency fund of about 70-80% of one year's income (\$15-18 K). RG asked whether it was wise to transfer the IACS account to NZD. CF suggested either leaving the account in Germany or perhaps opening a USD account in NZ. AM indicated that this may be possible but that interest rates might be lower for such an account.

ACTION - AM to investigate NZ banking possibilities.

IA explained how IACS receives a proportion of IUGG funding, and that our current level of funding is unlikely to change in the near future.

CF put together a draft budget for the future. The aim of this exercise was to work out approximately what we spend in each section of IACS. This is approximately 1/3 of the budget to support administration and bureau travel costs, 1/3 for working or standing groups, and 1/3 for supporting young scientists and/or scientists from developing nation.

Decision – we agreed to support this structure (see Appendix BM07-A).

Other budget discussions.

- IA suggested that it might be better to support young scientists in attending joint assemblies (every 2 years) rather than solicit annual requests.
- We could help to strengthen education and outreach by providing some funding to APECS to work on behalf of IACS.

6. WGMS (IA)

- 6.1. GTN-G Advisory Group
- 6.2. Acceptance of GTN-G Steering Committee as an IACS Standing Group (GTN-G SG)
- 6.3. WGMS Annual report
- 6.4. Other WGMS issues.

Information item only. Bureau members acknowledged that they had read the WGMS report submitted by Michael Zemp. Julian Dowdeswell will remain Chair of the GTN-G Advisory Group for the immediate future, although no longer a Bureau member. Cecilie Rolstad (CR) and AM will develop a direct Bureau link with WGMS and the GTN-G. We will also inform Michael Zemp about these changes.

7. Recommendations from BM6.1 on Working Groups, Standing Groups and Joint Bodies

- 7.1. Mass Balance WG cryo-dictionary. Chinese initiative. Glossary.

We discussed these initiatives. IA noted that a proposal might be coming to extend the life of the WG to also describe mass balance methods (going beyond the glossary of mass balance terms).

ACTION - CX to check to see if there is a requirement for the snow classification to be translated into Chinese, and to investigate possible mechanisms for doing this.

- 7.2. Partnership: APECS (Association of Polar Early Career Scientist) (IA).

We discussed the MOU currently in development. We suggested some modest funding to bring APECS people to our meetings in the future.

- 7.3. Ice sheet mass balance (ISMASS).

We discussed ISMASS and its aim to become an IACS standing group. We agreed to help them in developing new terms of reference. We will delay in making a decision about standing/working group status until this is done.

ACTION - IA will write back to Francisco Navarro (ISMASS). AM will liaise.

- 7.4. Standing Group: GAPHAZ glacier and permafrost hazard in alpine zone, extended to lahars (CF, HG).

We discussed the proposal to make GAPHAZ a standing group of IACS. RG asked for clarification about the status of joint standing groups (in this case joint between IACS and IPA). He also asked how GAPHAZ would describe its own position, for example on its website.

Decision - We agreed that GAPHAZ would become a standing group.

ACTION - IA, RG and CF will review the terms of reference for our subsidiary bodies.

ACTION – We will inform Christian Huggel that GAPHAZ has been accepted as a standing group. Olga Solomina as our internal link should be asked and then her name communicated to GAPHAZ.

- 7.5 Working Group: Microstructure based modelling of snow (CF)

It was decided that IACS would provide funding to help in developing a proposal for this body to become an IACS working group. This meeting might (for example) be held at the start or finish of a meeting such as EGU.

Decision - We will sponsor a meeting to develop a working group. We will ask them to prepare a proposal for this. A sum of \$1500 seems reasonable.

ACTION - CF to contact proposers and explain our decision. The outcome of workshop will be published, e.g. in EOS.

7.6. Any others. None discussed.

8. Working at the disciplinary margins: relationship with IPA, ICSI-H

Next meeting of ICSI-H in Gothenburg. Many suggestions were related to IACS. ICSI-H is usually in IAHS.

ACTION - We need to avoid overlap with their symposia and sessions. IA will work on this. IA will also contact the IPA.

9. IUGG and ICSU (IA)

- 9.1. Actions from IUGG EC and Council Meetings, Melbourne.
- 9.2. IUGG resolutions from Melbourne General Assembly.
- 9.3. Union Commissions.
- 9.4. IUGG liaisons.
- 9.5. IUGG support for workshops, summer schools, etc.

The IACS proposal for an IUGG resolution on snow and glacier mass balance nomenclature was accepted (see attachment). No actions required for any of the above except item 9.3. Mark Parsons at NSIDC will represent us in UCDI (Data and Information), Ralf Greve in CMG (Mathematical Geophysics), and Andy Käab should be asked to represent us in GeoRisk (Geophysical Risk and Sustainability).

ACTION - IA will ask Olga and write to Mark.

10. New Union Climate Commission and WMO polar activities (IA)

- We discussed this proposal, which is being led by IAMAS, but it is obviously broader. No decision has been made. We need to be involved. We wonder what the terms of reference are going to be. No action required at present.

11. Future amendments to statutes

- We discussed the option of conducting IACS elections by email to avoid problems of having a quorum at meetings. If we wish to change the current system then we will need to be ready in time to give the required advance notice before the next IACS Plenary.

ACTION – IA, CF and CX to investigate bylaws and statutes surrounding this issue.

12. Planning for the Davos 2013 Joint IAMAS/IACS Assembly (DACA-13) (CF)

CF briefly discussed the status of this meeting. Expressions of interest for sessions are currently open. It has not yet been advertised on Cryolist but CF plans to do this soon.

13. IACS sponsorship of future conferences

Information item only. The following meetings will be supported in the next 12 months.

- 13.1. Research urgencies in the Polar Regions, Siena, Italy (prelude to ICSU GA)
- 13.2. Fifth International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration.
- 13.3. Other.

14. Other Activities seeking IACS funding (item 14).

- 14.1. An international format for the exchange of snow profiles (CF).

Decision - We agreed to become a corresponding member (i.e. have an 'observer role') for the first year, pay \$500 Canadian dollars, but not sign up as a member and accept their terms of reference.

ACTION – CF to make contact.

14.2. Alaska glaciology summer school. Regina Hock (Glaciology summer school in Alaska).
Decision - Recommend that they apply through IACS for IUGG funds when the next call for summer school funding is made.

ACTION – IA to do this?

14.3. Microstructure-based modelling.
Decision - We will sponsor a meeting to develop a working group. We will ask them to prepare a proposal for this. A sum of \$1500 seems reasonable.

ACTION - CF to do this

14.4. IPICS. Ice core funding. Tas Van Ommen made this request in meeting (6.2).
Decision - IACS will make a \$2000 USD contribution.

ACTION – IA to inform them.

15. MoU for coordination of cryospheric organisations (CF)

We discussed the need to revive this scheme, which exists mainly to avoid conference overlap.

ACTION– CF to keep this going. This requires an up to date database of contact people in each organisation.

16. Improving IACS administration, organization and communication.

16.1 IACS web site and webmaster.

Decision - CF agreed to be webmaster and AM will provide support.

ACTIONS - CF to send agreement with Koni Steffen to AM regarding hosting of website at CIRES. CF to communicate new responsible persons to CIRES. All Bureau Members to provide feedback on errors (send a pdf-copy of web page with error marked on it).

16.2 Newsletter.

ACTION - IA will write a president's report and he will update it every 4 months. IA will produce first report within a month.

ACTION - IA will ask division heads for a short report at the same time.

16.3 Web-based document exchange and calendars.

ACTION - CF to investigate setting up a password-protected section of the IACS website. He will seek professional advice on how to do this.

16.4 Database of WGs and SGs and "invitees".

16.5 Database on IACS National Correspondents and Delegates.

ACTION- IA will put together the initial list. CF will update the list of IACS representatives.

16.6 Bureau list of responsibilities.

ACTION – IA will look into making a sheet that we can distribute based on the terms of reference.

16.7 Tele-conferences.

ACTION – AM to set up a meeting with IA and CF every three months. This meeting will be open to other bureau members if they wish. AM to set an appropriate time and platform (e.g. Skype or Vyew).

16.8 Division “descriptions of activities”.

A provisional plan is to hold our next meeting at the end of April in 2012 in Montreal, immediately following the IPY meeting.

ACTION – Inform everyone that this is a possibility and set up a doodle poll. It doesn't have to be Montreal – but somewhere in NE North America. IA can't do the period before IPY2012 because of an IPCC meeting

17. Other business.

- Gerry Jones accepted his new honorary role, and this will be placed on the IACS website.

18. Next Meeting.

See above.

19. Closure.