

Minutes, IACS Closed Bureau Meeting (BM09B), Davos

Sunday 14th July, 2013, 9 am - 5 pm,
Monday 15th July 2013, 9 am – 12 pm
WSL-Institut für Schnee- und Lawinenforschung (SLF),
Fluelastr. 11 CH-7260 Davos, Switzerland.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Charles Fierz (President Elect), Andrew Mackintosh (Secretary General), Olga Solomina (Vice President), Xiao Cunde (IACS Vice President), Valerie Masson Delmotte (Head of Division IV), Ralf Greve (Head of Division V), Cecilie Rolstad Denby (Head of Division II), Hiroyuki Enomoto (Head of Division III),

Ian Allison (IACS president) joined by Skype from 10.45 am - 12 pm on the 14th, and 10.30 – 12 pm on the 15th.

Ethan Greene (Head of Division I) joined by Skype from 4-5 pm on the 14th.

ITEM 1: Welcome and opening remarks (CF)

Charles opened the meeting by thanking the Bureau for attending on Sunday after a long but successful week at DACA-13.

ITEM 2: Agenda additions/modifications (CF)

In Ian Allison's absence, Charles Fierz chaired the meeting on Sunday 14th July, while Olga Solomina chaired on Monday 15th July. This allowed Olga to manage the transfer of presidency between Ian and Charles on Monday.

There were no changes to the agenda content but some changes in order to accommodate Ian Allison and Ethan Greene's participation via Skype. The minutes are listed in the order of the original agenda (appBM09B-2).

ITEM 3: Administration and Bureau activities

3.1. Minutes of Sanya IACS Bureau meeting (BM08).

There was no additional comment or amendment. Andrew remarked that Charles and Ian did an excellent job in his absence.

3.2. Short report of the "Executive Committee" ("EC") on activities since Sanya. Andrew explained that Ian, Charles and himself (the 'Executive Committee', EC) carry out the day-to-day business of IACS and talk regularly using Skype. We had four telephone conference calls ('telecons') between BM08 in Sanya and BM09.

One of the major jobs carried out by the EC since Sanya was the reviewing of DACA-13 travel grants.

Although the current system is working well, Andrew remarked that we could possibly ask for more help from the Bureau in carrying out certain tasks. An example is IACS News. Charles suggested we could start by asking Bureau members to write a summary of their impressions from DACA-13. Valérie noted that we should also ask APECS to contribute to this, and that highlighting the poster prizes awarded to young scientists would be a good idea.

ACTION: Andrew to solicit written impressions of DACA-13 from Bureau members and APECS.

3.3. Report on and assessment of DACA-13 including informal IACS community meeting and "Festa Cryospherica".

Our informal community meeting was not completely successful. Attendance was low (24 people). Ralf suggested that it wasn't advertised well enough. Olga noted that it wasn't in the programme and that it should have been. Despite low attendance the meeting did result in discussion of possibilities for several new working groups (WGs). Charles took notes at the lunchtime meeting, which will be added as an appendix to this agenda point (appBM09B-3.3).

Festa Cryospherica was enjoyed by the 88 people that attended. The food, company and location were outstanding. Although Charles welcomed the group at the hotel entrance, Alik Ismail-Zadeh (IUGG Secretary General) noted that we could have made an official speech during the dinner. Olga suggested that we could have also asked the IACS convenors to speak about their impressions of DACA-13.

DACA-13 appears to have been a very successful conference. People noted that the plenary sessions were excellent, and that there were many highly successful oral and poster sessions. One can always make improvements though, and several suggestions were made:

Andrew suggested that fewer parallel sessions might have encouraged more interaction between the associations

Valérie suggested that we could have had a brief overview of poster sessions during the oral sessions. She also mentioned that the tool on iPlanner wasn't sensitive enough to search for key words. Valérie also suggested that we could have had more panel discussions of hot topics, in the style of the panel discussion of sea ice led by Stefan Kern. Such discussions might also have been linked to the plenary sessions. She also mentioned that Anja Schilling dealt with cancellations and changes very well.

Ralf mentioned that the poster locations and organisation were illogical.

3.4. Document on Bureau member's responsibilities (appBM09B-3.4).

The aim of the document is to clearly explain responsibilities in an easy to access manner. It also explains the role of the EC, which isn't in the IACS statutes.

Charles showed the document now including 'Email voting procedure'. The Bureau agreed that this document and the procedure is fine.

We discussed the 'Funding of Bureau Members and other representatives to attend meetings' document. We agreed on the content of this document, however, Ralf suggested that we increase per diem support to 50 Euro, and the Bureau supported this amendment. Ralf also suggested that we might consider making all IACS financial allocations and statements in the same currency (Euro).

ACTION POINT: Update 'Responsibilities and 'funding' documents on Dropbox.

3.5. Establishing IACS prize(s)/award(s) (appBM09B-3.5).

Ian joined us by Skype.

The EC discussed this concept by telecon prior to BM09. We first discussed a medal, but we decided it would be too expensive and onerous to manage at this stage. This led to the proposal that an IACS prize should be awarded to an early career scientist for an outstanding paper in the cryospheric sciences (Appendix BM09-02).

We agreed that scientists and their papers will need to be nominated by someone other than the scientist themselves, or an IACS Bureau Member, and that the selection committee should have representatives from all IACS Divisions, as well as APECS.

Ralf suggested that we should make it a 'joint IACS/APECS early career prize in cryospheric sciences'. He noted that the title of the prize should make it clear that the emphasis is not only polar, which is one risk of including APECS. Charles suggested that we spend 1000 Euro from IACS budget in support of this prize. We could also support the awardee to attend the meeting where the award would be presented. We might also consider including a small 'souvenir'-like object to be given with the award, and/or a certificate.

Valérie: We could consider a two stage reviewing process, with a small committee first (including APECS) and then finally discussed/voted on by the Bureau.

Ian, Olga and Valérie agreed to participate. Charles suggested that Ethan Greene might also be involved. Ian agreed to chair this committee.

Ralf asked whether we will accept nominations from the entire community. The Bureau agreed that we would.

Ian noted that we should advertise the award at assemblies, on our website, on cryolist, and also with APECS. Charles noted that we should inform Alik Ismail-Zadeh.

Ian suggested that we should establish this prize over the coming year. In the next three to four months, we should work out the terms of reference for the prize. Valérie pointed out that we should have a clear 'conflict of interest' clause.

ACTION: Ian to contact Penny, Alik, and Ethan, and should convene the first meeting of the IACS 'Early Career Scientist Award' committee (by telecon). The committee will notify Alik about the award when the terms of reference are clear.

3.6. Proposed Statute changes for 2015 Plenary in Prague. Table and approve drafts of changes. Appoint committee to work on others, e.g. definition of "Assemblies" (appBM09B-3.6).

Charles mentioned that we discussed these changes in statutes in Sanya. We plan to change the title of Division III to 'Sea Ice; Lake and River Ice.' This will be proposed in Prague. The Bureau agreed.

We also discussed an amendment to our statutes concerning the compulsory attendance of the SG at Bureau meetings. The amendment would allow us to hold a Bureau meeting if 'Three of the President, Secretary General, Immediate Past President or President Elect, and a Vice President' are present. The Bureau agreed.

We also noted that 'Assembly' is used ambiguously in the statutes. We proposed that Charles, Ralf and perhaps Olga to check the documents and that we discuss this at next Bureau meeting.

The proposed changes to the statutes document will also be translated by Valérie into French, to be voted on by delegates in Prague.

ACTION: Charles, Ralf and Olga to review the statutes document. Charles to initiate this (by email).

3.7. Proposal for nomination of GK as Honorary Member at 2015 Plenary in Prague (in confidence). Table draft of proposal.

The draft document is on Dropbox. Bureau members present (Charles, Andrew, Ian by Skype, Olga, Cecilie, Ralf, Hiroyuki) agreed this is entirely appropriate and will be voted on in Prague.

3.9. Sharing documents. Discussion of developments and experience since BM08. Short presentation on pros and cons of possible solutions, including Dropbox, Wiki, and Google Drive.

Valérie noted that she is not officially allowed to use Dropbox or Skype. It is okay for her to use a weblink though. We agreed that we will use Dropbox in a more limited manner, where the EC has access to the folders and the Bureau is emailed a weblink.

Charles demonstrated the IACS Wiki. Olga suggested that wiki is too complicated. We agreed to post a pdf document showing action items (following the Bureau meeting), which will be housed on dropbox and sent to Bureau members as a link.

3.10. IACS website. Discussion of developments and experience since BM08. Short presentation of 'new' design.

We discussed the website. We agreed that Charles' revision is an improvement and in particular, it has a more logical structure. Ralf and Andrew suggested a few minor changes. E.g. 'Request for support' to be a clear option within the menus. Also add a 'home' tab to top menu. Ralf and Hiroyuki volunteered to check it once Charles has made the final revisions.

ACTION: Charles to finalize the changes prior to ask Ralf and Hiroyuki for review.

ITEM 4. IACS Divisions and scientific activities

4.1.1 *A short review of the outcomes of the open meeting. IACS relation to IHP-- -UNESCO*

Charles mentioned that we did not cover all of the points on the Open Meeting agenda. For example:

- WGMS Summer school in Zermatt. Cecilie suggested that Charles should attend and he agreed. Note that Charles had the pleasure of opening the summer school. During his speech, he explained the relationship between IACS and WGMS. He also suggested that a similar summer school could be envisaged for Snow Water Equivalent measurements. Many of the participants were from non-IUGG member countries and this was their first impression of IUGG and IACS.

- Randolph Glacier Inventory (RGI). Georg Kaser is interested in establishing a WG to help incorporate the RGI into GLIMS, including a time stamp and better documentation. The Bureau would be happy to consider this WG, but the community involved should make an application.

- Michael Zemp would like to see GLIMS being more active again, most likely by having an additional position established, perhaps in Norway.

ACTIONS:

Cecilie to let Michael know that IACS will support him in trying to establish a position.

Andrew to write to key members of RGI group to invite them to submit a request for a WG.

* Note (Andrew); there may be advantage in combining this request with recent WG request by Dr Li Huilin (China).

- IASC is planning the ICARP III in 2015 (appBM09B-4.1.1a). Hiroyuki mentioned that these events occur every 10 years and that we need to write a 1-page description of what IACS might contribute to ICARP III. Hiroyuki agreed to represent us (he is part of IACS, IASC, and the local organising committee).

ACTION: Valérie, Cecilie and Hiroyuki to discuss, and keep the EC involved.

* Note (Charles): in a first step, we agreed to follow the ideas and recommendations of the IASC Cryosphere Working Group.

- IPA. We need to maintain links to IPA, perhaps even a little more than via GAPHAZ.

- CliC (appBM09B-4.1.1b). Charles has been in contact with Jenny Baeseman about the possibility of signing an MoU with CliC. There was some resistance from within CliC, and Charles agrees that it might not be sensible given that we already have an MoU with the 'CryoOrganisations', which incorporates CliC.

ACTION: Charles to let CliC know about the Bureau decision not to sign an MoU but signal our willingness to collaborate (ICSU Future Earth, IACS Working Group, IUGG Session)

- CliC has developed a comprehensive calendar of cryospheric events. Charles suggests that we just show IACS events on our own website, especially ones that we sponsor. These and others events of less relevance to us could be sent to CliC or directly linked to the calendar.

4.1. Reports from Division Heads.

Division I (Ethan Greene by Skype).

Ethan started by discussing the new working group on quantitative snow structure. Ethan's impression is that they are making good progress. Charles commented that he would appreciate Ethan's continuing engagement with this WG.

Canadian standard for classification of snow and avalanche coverage (CAAML-Canadian Avalanche Association Mark Up Language). Ethan has been working on an ad hoc international committee to decide on whether this classification scheme should become a standard, with IACS as one supporting group. Ethan thinks it might be useful for the community but it would need to be acceptable by all. Charles noted that this forms an important link to the practitioners in the community, not just scientists.

Charles also informed Ethan that we assigned him a task being on a committee for IACS award. Ethan agreed to this.

ACTIONS: Ethan to keep us informed about CAAML developments.

Ethan to stay in touch with leadership of new snow stratigraphy working group.

Division II (Cecilie Rolstad-Denby; appBM09B-4.1b).

Cecilie reported that the GTN-G Steering Committee met at EGU 2013 in Vienna, and again at DACA-13. Several items came up in discussion at both of these meetings:

- The activity of this division is shown by a number of glacier mass balance sessions held at EGU and AGU.
- The WGMS summer school will soon be held in Zermatt (see 4.1.1 above).
- Zemp et al.'s 'glacier mass balance reanalysis' paper has now been published in The Cryosphere.
- There will be a WGMS advisory board evaluation in 2014, which will be held in Boulder, USA.

Cecilie also recently attended a meeting to discuss a future gravity satellite mission to replace GRACE. Cecilie asked whether IACS can support this. Charles suggested that Cecilie makes a request once they know better what might be on the table (e.g. a finer spatial resolution? How can IACS help?).

Division III (Hiroyuki Enomoto; appBM09B-4.1c).

Hiroyuki reported that there were many sea ice sessions held at DACA-13, and that they were well attended. The DACA format led to a good exposition of atmosphere-sea ice interactions. The contrasting behaviour of Antarctic and Arctic sea ice was discussed in detail. Knowledge gaps in understanding sea ice processes were also highlighted.

Charles made the point that Hiroyuki represented IACS at the IASC council meeting that was held 16 April 2013 in Krakow during the Antarctic Science Summit Week 2013. This was the occasion for IACS, IASC, and SCAR to renew their MoU for further five years.

Division IV (Valérie Masson-Delmotte; appBM09B-4.1d).

Valérie apologised for not recently being very active. She has been committed to her coordinating lead author role in IPCC AR5. Valérie talked to her report. She made some suggestions in her report about 'hot topics', which might be appropriate for IUGG Prague. One not listed is 'detection/attribution of cryospheric changes', which could be a topic that we might promote in the future. Andrew also works on this topic and agreed that it is important.

Valérie noted that her division has a very broad scope and that it is hard to cover all of this. It might need a second division head. Andrew asked what is needed to make this happen.

ACTIONS: Charles to check statutes and by-laws about changing the leadership structure of a WG.

Valérie sent us a page of excellent text that is already on line.

Division V (Ralf Greve; appBM09B-4.1e).

Ralf discussed his report and started by noting that the 'planetary' part of his Division has been active. For example, a one-day symposium at DACA-13 was held on ices of the inner and outer planets. He would also like to play an active role in suggesting planetary topics for IUGG Prague.

As previously noted, the working group on polycrystalline ice is in a difficult phase. Please see Item 4.1. in minutes of BM09a.

Monday morning: Olga Solomina chairing.

We continued our discussion of **ITEM 4**, beginning with outcomes from the Open Bureau meeting (BM09a).

WMO/Global Cryosphere Watch. Charles attended meetings in November 2011 (Geneva) and November 2012 (Vienna, focus was on Cryonet). Charles has written a report (appBM09B-4.1.1c). IACS is participating but does not have a formal link. Note that Xiao Cunde has also attended these meetings representing China (not just IACS). WGMS (Michael Zemp) was also present.

There is no financial commitment associated with Global Cryosphere Watch and this makes it unclear what it can achieve. We do not wish to formalise our relationship further (e.g. with a MoU) at this stage and Charles is happy to keep our connection going.

4.2. Involving the cryospheric community in establishing new WGs. Ongoing discussion of demonstrating our role and usefulness to the community. Report on feedback from informal lunchtime meeting at DACA-13

We had a brief discussion about WGs in general and we then discussed the draft proposal by Ramesh Singh for a new working group on 'Dust and black carbon and its impact on the cryosphere.' (appBM09B-4.2)

ACTION: Charles to look at ToR and our request form, to make sure it includes what we expect.

Andrew to get back to Ramesh, ask him to put his request for a new WG on form, and discuss with Valérie.

*Note (Andrew): Valérie provided three informal reviews and these were passed on to Ramesh. Ramesh responded to a prompt from Andrew on 18/9/2013, explaining that he would provide a new WG description within 2 weeks. We have not yet received it (4/11/13).

4.3. Roles and responsibilities of National Committees and National correspondents.
Discussion on how to get more involvement from Correspondents (named by an IUGG National Committee) and/or Representatives (designated by the Bureau).
Message to take to IUGG EC meeting.

We first discussed the differences between different types of IACS representation: The Adhering Bodies to IUGG elect correspondents as members of the IUGG National Committees. Many are people that are also part of IACS, or have played an important role previously (e.g. Charles Fierz, Georg Kaser, Ian Allison). Usually, the correspondents are also appointed to act as Delegates with voting rights at Plenary Administrative Sessions. Representatives are people that we designate (this is acceptable according to the IACS statutes). Correspondents have not been nominated in several countries where IACS should be represented (e.g. Canada, Italy). In such cases, if we cannot initiate a formal connection (e.g. countries that are not members of IUGG), we could still establish representatives. This is the most useful way of using 'representatives'.

Valérie notes that a French white paper for Arctic studies will be published soon. The web site (French and partly English) is available at: <http://www.chantier-arctique.fr/fr/>.

ACTION: Charles to review list and will attempt to contact member countries which are not represented by correspondents.

4.4. Translation of IACS snow classification into Chinese.
Cunde noted that it has been translated, and they are now waiting on Charles to write a Forward.

ACTION: Charles to write Forward for Chinese edition.

4.5. 2015 IUGG Assembly. Proposals for Union Symposia. Ideas for Joint Symposia and IACS Symposia. IACS contact in Prague.

Charles explained that the SPC will meet in Prague in September, and then again a year later (appBM09B-4.5).

Charles expressed that we need to have a good contact in Prague from the local organising committee.

Ian stated that we need to be prepared for Prague meeting in September, and that we should focus on joint symposia with different associations.

Valérie was present at a meeting of the IAMAS International Commission on Climate (ICCL). They are already making progress on an agenda for Prague.

Preliminary topics: Ice sheet – ocean Interactions, ice cores and climate, solid earth geophysics and ice sheets (IAG), data assimilation in snow and ice (IAMAS and ICSIH/IAHS suggested by Richard Essery).

Union symposia: We need one or two good ideas. Andrew suggested sea level change as a critical and unifying topic. Valérie suggested mechanisms of polar amplification, and regional impacts of climate change, which might include the mountain cryosphere and hazards. We noted that the forthcoming IPCC report (AR5) might influence our decision-making.

Another proposal was ‘limits to predictability’ (or perhaps ‘communicating uncertainty’), which is a topic that might span all IUGG fields.

Charles suggested that most effort should be placed on joint symposia (perhaps no effort on IACS-only symposia?).

In Melbourne we had ~ 7 IACS-only symposia and 11 joint symposia, but it was a relatively small assembly for cryospheric studies. In Prague we might have more cryosphere-oriented symposia.

Charles reminded us that we should also consider Geodesy (e.g. GRACE estimates of ice loss in mountain regions and its controversial interpretation).

ACTION: Andrew to finalise ideas and pass to Bureau prior to SPC meeting in Prague. He will also seek the opinion of our major partners, and the broader community via cryolist. We should focus on joint symposia, but we shouldn't say no to IACS only sessions proposed by the community.

4.6. 2017 IACS Scientific Assembly. Progress with proposal for a joint meeting with IGS in Wellington, NZ. Approval/discussion of theme.

Ian explained that there is genuine agreement between the two organisations to hold a meeting. Excursions are likely to be important in a location such as NZ, and will be held before and after the field trip.

The major outstanding issue is deciding on an appropriate theme for the meeting.

Ralf said it should be broad enough to include all of the cryosphere (for IACS). It might be difficult to find an appropriate theme that is both regional and global.

Andrew reminded the Bureau that the Southern Hemisphere is the 'oceanic hemisphere' and that it might be a good location for discussing the influence of the oceans on the cryosphere. Following on, Valérie suggested 'the westerlies and the cryosphere' as westerly atmospheric and oceanic circulation are important drivers of the cryosphere in both hemispheres, as well as in Antarctica.

Ralf suggested 'Southern Hemisphere cryospheric science,' which has a broad scientific focus and specific reference to the Southern Hemisphere.

ACTION: Andrew to correspond with the local organising committee and communicate these possible topics to them, and request feedback.

4.7. Sponsoring of other scientific events. Forthcoming meetings include:

4.7.1. IGS 2014 Hobart (sea ice)

Rob Massom is the chair of the local organising committee. Ian is also on the local organising committee. Hiroyuki is on the Scientific Committee. Ian suggests that Hiroyuki and Ian both represent IACS at this meeting.

ACTION: Ian will discuss with local organising committee and Magnus to see how IACS will be involved. Aim is to have IACS identified as a sponsor. This will also involve making a financial contribution of 2000 Euro, 1700 for the conference and 300 for an Early Career Scientist prize.

4.7.2. Arctic Workshop, USA (Tad Pfeffer)

We are prepared to support a workshop in 2014, as promised in Sanya, but not as an ongoing commitment.

4.7.3. Others?

Olivier Gagliardini, Martin Sharp and Catherine Ritz requested support for a workshop on calving glaciers to be held in association with the IGS meeting in Chamonix in 2014 (appBM09B-4.7.3). We agreed to support this initiative with a sum of 2000 Euro.

ACTION: Cecilie to contact Olivier to let him know our positive outcome. At the same time, she could also suggest that an IACS Working Group on calving mechanisms would be viewed favourably by the Bureau

Ralf noted that the Sixth international conference on Mars polar science and exploration will be held during 2014, and that we should put this on our watch list.

4.8. IUGG Union Commissions

4.8.1. Climate and Environmental Change (Ian Allison; appBM09B-4.8.1)

The Executive Committee of IUGG established this union commission in 2012 in order to provide an all-Union perspective on climatic and environmental change. Its objectives are:

- To build scientific capacity for responsibly addressing the broad, multi-disciplinary issues involved in climatic and environmental change;
- To provide useful information, understanding, and support to the public and governmental organizations;
- To interact and cooperate with outside activities that would benefit from the capabilities and resources of the IUGG Associations; and
- To strengthen links across the Scientific Associations within IUGG, to build new external links to organizations outside IUGG, to strengthen existing links to external organizations and to promote IUGG's contribution to global change research.

The CCEC has a representative from each of the IUGG Associations, but has been inactive to date.

Valérie made the point that IAMAS certainly needs to have its own climatic commission, and hence overlap with IAMAS/ICCL seems reasonable. Charles agreed that this makes sense.

4.8.2. Data and Information (Mark Parsons)

This commission is active but IACS has not had any recent involvement.

ACTION: Charles to request a report from Mark Parsons. He will also ask him if he wants to remain as IACS representative.

4.8.3. Mathematical Geophysics (Ralf Greve)

They will be organising a biannual conference on mathematical geophysics in Mexico 2014. Ralf would like to step back from his role as IACS liaison. He suggests that we recruit somebody from the wider community to do this. One suggestion was Olivier Gagliardini at Grenoble. Angelika Humbert (AWI) is another. Ute Herzfeld in Boulder is a third (Uch5678@gmail.com).

ACTION: Ralf to ask these individuals whether they would be willing to replace him, and report back to EC.

4.9. IUGG History group

IUGG will be celebrating its centenary in 2019. This working group on the history is important for putting together a consolidated view on the history and impact of IUGG. Mark Carey is our IACS representative.

4.10. Nomination Committees for IUGG awards and prizes

Andrew explained what these new awards consist of, and that we had a request from IUGG for representatives. We suggested Georg Kaser and Koni Steffen for the Gold Medal, Olga Solomina for the Fellowship, and Jenny Baeseman for the Early Career Award.

NOTE: Olga was nominated by IUGG President Harsh Gupta to serve in the Gold Medal committee.

ITEM 5: Finance/budget

5.1. IACS budget.

Andrew noted that we have so far slightly underspent relative to our projection at BM08, although this does not take into account DACA-13 expenses, which are considerably larger and may change this situation (appBM09B-5.1a & b). Note that we did not support the Arctic Science Workshop (request from Tad Pfeffer, listed in AppBM08-V below), although we have offered this support in 2013. IACS expenses made to date are consistent with IACS statutes.

Charles explained the IACS expenses incurred in support of DACA-13, using a document that he put together (appBM09B-5.1c) This document will be formalised before a final version of the minutes are put together. The total IACS contribution for travel grants to this meeting was ~7600 Euro. APECS event ~ 1000 Euro, Festa Cryospherica ~1156 Euro, IACS information session, 333 Euro.

ACTION 1: We need to appropriately document the grant-reviewing process, and post this on the web (who to do this? => current EC, Charles to make a draft).

ACTION 2: Charles needs to finalise document for DACA-13 transactions. Andrew to update IACS budget sheet after DACA expenses are finalised.

ITEM 6: Other

6.1. The International Polar Initiative (IPI; appBM09B-6.1).

Ian joined us by Skype.

Ian explained that Polar regions are undergoing fast and dramatic transformations, however there remains an acute shortage of sustainable environmental observations in the Arctic and Antarctic. Hence an “International Polar Initiative” (IPI) has been proposed as a cooperative framework for the development of observing systems, research, services, related education and outreach, and practical applications of scientific knowledge in the polar regions. The IPI would optimise the use of existing resources and identify areas where new investments in polar activities are necessary for environmental protection, sustainable development, and addressing existing and emerging societal needs. Existing polar programs and infrastructure including the legacy of the recently concluded International Polar Year 2007-2008 (IPY) will provide initial building blocks for IPI.

A version of the IPI concept (presented at the December 2012 AGU meeting) is available at <http://internationalpolarinitiative.org>. Review and endorsement of the IPI Concept by executive bodies of international agencies (including ICSU) is sought by mid-2014 with development of a draft Implementation Plan then scheduled for about 2015-16

The IPI Concept includes a brief discussion of the similar challenges in alpine regions to those in polar regions, especially concerning the cryosphere. IPI would be of direct relevance to IACS if alpine regions were included, although the concept makes no direct recommendation on this. IPI is also suggested as a polar regional component of the ICSU Future Earth initiative.

No action item is required as yet but it is worth watching this development. Ian agreed to be the IACS representative.

ITEM 7. Other business.

ACTION: Ian will put together a document thanking the National Organising Committee for their work at DACA-13. Charles will check this prior to submission.
Note (Andrew): this was done and well received by DACA-13 organisers.

The National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) is archiving our documents. Charles proposed to donate to the action "Adopt a glacier at NSIDC" (Appendix BM09-??) The Bureau agreed, and that a payment of at most 1000 Euro should be made.

ACTION: Andrew to contact Allaina M. Wallace at NSIDC.

ITEM 8. Transfer of Presidency.

Ian made a statement explaining how he became involved in IACS. In 2007 he became President-Elect without much background because IACS had just formed. Georg was excellent and active as an Immediate Past President. Ian has very much enjoyed his role as president, and Charles, Andrew and Ian have worked well together as an EC. Ian noted that Charles has already shown excellent leadership.

Ian suggested that IACS still needs to be more visible in the scientific community, and that success will to some extent be indicated by the activity, and formation of new WGs.

Charles and Andrew thanked Ian for his work as President and his personal commitment to IACS. The Bureau members present enthusiastically endorsed these statements and applauded Ian for his contribution.

The presidency was officially transferred to Charles. Olga provided a gift to Charles, a multi-handed doll from a rural area of Russia (Kostromskaya Oblast), representing the many tasks Charles will need to manage or perhaps, the many Bureau members

that will assist him. There was applause and congratulations to Charles from the Bureau members present.

Charles took over the Chair of BM09 in his new role as president.

ITEM 9. Next meeting.

Charles suggested that we might meet in Paris, with the Bureau meeting potentially being hosted by UNESCO. Ralf suggested that this could be around the time of the IGS meeting in Chamonix (late May, 2014). We also suggested Geneva as another option for the Bureau meeting, hosted by WMO.

Andrew suggested Tokyo/NIPR, hosted by Hiroyuki. This might make it easier for Cunde, Ralf, Hiroyuki, Andrew and Ian. It might also make sense because the 2015 meeting will be in Europe (at the Prague IUGG general assembly). 10th-12th July was suggested by Charles.

ACTION: Andrew to canvass entire Bureau about Tokyo option, after he hears back from Hiroyuki about whether NIPR can be our host.

Note: Andrew also asked Hiroyuki about the possibility of holding an IACS 'retreat', for example in a mountain or onsen town, following our formal Bureau meeting.

ITEM 10. Close.

The meeting was formally closed by Charles.

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