

MINUTES OF IAMG 2012 INCOMING COUNCIL MEETING

Place: Conference Room, Stamford Plaza Hotel, Brisbane

Date: August 10, 2012

Time: 7 PM to 12 PM

The meeting was attended by the following voting members: Qiuming Cheng (President), Jennifer McKinley (Executive Vice President), David Collins (Treasurer), Frits Agterberg (Secretary General), Raimon Tolosama-Delgado (Vice President), Vera Pawlowsky-Glahn (Past President), June Hill (Ordinary Council Member), Yongqing Chen (Ordinary Council Member) and Liu Gang (Ordinary Council Member).

Non-voting Council members in attendance were: Roussos Dimitrakoupolos (Editor-in-Chief, Mathematical Geosciences) and Harald Poelchau (IAMG Newsletter and Website Editor).

Invited members of the 2008-2012 IAMG Council in attendance were: Gina Ross (former Treasurer), Dan Tetzlaff (former Secretary-General) and Katsuaki Koike (former Ordinary Council Member).

Special guests were: Ricardo Olea (former President and Chair Meetings Committee), Eric Grunsky (former Editor-in-Chief, Computers & Geosciences, and former IAMG Website Editor), Richard Sinding Larsen (former IGC Vice President and IGC Councilor), Yan Guangsheng (Head, Development Research Center, China Geological Survey), Helmut Schaeben (Chair, Student Affairs Committee) and Gerald van den Boogaart (representing Regina van den Boogaart, IAMG Office Manager).

The meeting commenced with a one-hour buffet dinner sponsored by Wuhan Dida Quanty Science & Technology Co. LTD. (Quantysoft). This was followed by 4 hours of discussion during which three new resolutions were proposed, seconded and unanimously approved by the nine voting members.

At 8 PM, President Qiuming Cheng called the meeting to order, welcoming the participants and thanking Quantysoft for the excellent meal provided. The proposed agenda was as follows:

- 1. President's introduction of new Council Members and overview**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
- 3. Review of former Council reports**

- a. Former President's Report**
- b. Vice President's Report**
- c. Secretary General's Report**
- d. Treasurer's Report and Budget**

4. Review and suggestions about existing committees

- a. Publications Committee**
- b. Awards Committee**
- c. Distinguished Lecturer Committee**
- d. Matheron Lecturer Committee**
- e. Meetings Committee**
- f. Curriculum Quality Committee**
- g. Student Affairs Committee**

5. Concerns and new initiatives

a. Current vision of IAMG: promotion of research by IAMG in order to solve key problems and key issues of nations, especially concerning natural resources, energy, environment, hazards, education, financial matters, and big science.

b. Areas to be expanded:

(1) IAMG-Geological Surveys: How can IAMG play further key role in government programs on various key issues?

Action 1:

(2) IAMG-Industry: How IAMG can play a role in supporting industry activities. How can industry get more involved in IAMG?

Action 2:

(3) IAMG-Universities: How can IAMG be related more closely to university programs and students?

Action 3:

(4) IAMG-Research Centers and Research Labs: How can IAMG be involved with existing research centers and Labs, and set up new international research centers and Labs sponsored by IAMG. How can IAMG help in the development of international research centers? What should the standards be for supporting these research centers?

Action 4:

(5) Student chapters and young researcher networks. How can IAMG keep young people involved?

Action 5:

(6) IAMG-Associations: How can IAMG be linked to other relevant associations such as those involved in Geostats, Geoinformatics, Computational Geosciences, Quantitative Stratigraphy, Nonlinear Geophysics, Applied Geochemistry, Exploration Geophysics, Soil Science, and Applied Math?

Action 6:

(7) IAMG-Regional Groups: How can IAMG create closer links to regional associations such as the Chinese Association for MG, and the Japan Geoinformatics Society?

Action 7:

(8) Business and financial planning group

Action 8:

(9) Outreach

a. Website

b. Flyers

c. Section on MG success stories

d. Directory for each group to illustrate the activities of relevant groups and committees

e. List of Centers for Research in MG

f. Promotion of conferences with industry and other party involvement. Contributions for dinners, special award sessions, proceedings, opening sessions, etc.

g. Student and young researcher networks

h. IAMG Books

i. IAMG Journals

j. Awards including best papers in Journals, best paper/poster awards for Conferences

Action 9:

6. New Business

7. Adjournment

Presentations, discussions and Resolutions

- 1. President's overview:** Qiuming emphasized that the scientific and financial interests of the Association should be promoted and there should be greater visibility.
- 2. Agenda:** The agenda was approved. Next, the former officers, current editors and committee chairs in attendance were asked to summarize their reports for the last Council meeting (held on August 6th, 2012) with emphasis on future developments to be achieved by the new Council.
- 3. Review of Officer Reports:** Vera stressed that the IAMG should be further consolidated and that there should be more emphasis on quality of teaching and research to strengthen the future of the profession. There should also be more courses relevant to the IAMG membership and these courses should be validated by the Curriculum Quality Committee. Organization of the IAMG Office should be further consolidated with improvements of links to members and other associations. It should be attempted to increase the membership in countries that currently are underrepresented, India particularly. Dan commented on IAMG mailbox forwarding that, in the future, will be done automatically to the Treasurer to whom almost all mail is addressed. The IAMG website should be re-organized (see later). The new Council will have access to all communications contained in the Forum of the old Council. The IAMG Archivist should keep track of resolutions. Gina advised us that

recertification of tax-free status with IRS in the USA is being requested in order to renew the reciprocal tax-free status with Germany so that royalties from Springer DE will not have tax withheld. There was extensive discussion of the budget for 2013, but decisions were postponed awaiting Elsevier's payment of royalties generated in 2011. (Fortunately, Dave has received this royalty payment after the Council meeting.)

- 4. Review of Committee Chair reports:** The Publications Committee currently has three major concerns: (a) Roussos pointed out that recently there has been a significant drop in manuscripts submitted for publication in *Mathematical Geosciences*, partly because of the appearance of the new Elsevier journal called *Spatial Statistics*; (b) Our contract with Elsevier for *Computers & Geosciences* is being renegotiated; and (c) *Natural Resources Research* needs a new Editor-in-Chief. Richard suggested that use could be made of a possibility offered by the IUGS to migrate a computational journal of the IAMG to the Lyell collection of The Geological Society. It was decided to ask the Publications Committee to look into these matters and to come up with suggestions. The Awards Committee needs a new Chair, preferably a member currently serving on the committee. Because of overlap of responsibilities, the Distinguished Lecturer Committee and the Matheron Lecturer Committee are to be combined into a single committee (see **Resolution 1**). Ricardo has agreed to continue to serve as Chair of the Meetings Committee; Jenny will be its non-voting *ex officio* member. The Curriculum Quality Committee needs a new Chair and its activities should be linked closely to those of the new Lecturer Committee. Helmut has agreed to continue to serve as Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. Dave will be the non-voting *ex officio* member on the Student Affairs Committee. The committee needs one more member: a YES member is to be on this committee. YES (Young Earth Scientists) originally was created in 2008 as part of International Year of Planet Earth with IAMG as a scientific partner. An IAMG-YES network is to be developed and managed by the Student Affairs Committee to provide services to IAMG-young earth scientists.

Resolution 1: The IAMG Distinguished Lecturer Committee and the Matheron Lecture Committee are to be combined into a single committee called the Lecturer Committee to be chaired by one of the IAMG Vice Presidents. Remark: Selection of the Distinguished Lecturer for a particular year should be completed before the IAMG Annual Meeting held during the previous year, so that the membership can be informed of topics of lectures and preliminary invitations to lecture can be extended.

5. New Initiatives: It is to be expected that co-operation with the IUGS will be strengthened. Roland Oberhänsli was elected to be the IUGS President during the next four years. Vera, Qiuming and Frits met with him at the Earth Science Matters (ESM) Symposium chaired by Ed de Mulder (ESM Executive Director) where the IAMG made its Outreach presentation. Both Ed and Roland are keen on promoting mathematics in geoscience. (At the 34th IGC in Brisbane, IAMG shared a booth with ESM and the International Lithosphere Program of which Roland was the Secretary General.)

Qiuming suggested that the IAMG might propose a new International Geological Correlation project to IUGS. During the 1970s, IAMG had initiated three successful IGCP Projects concerned with resource potential mapping, quantitative stratigraphy and igneous rock data bases (IGBA), respectively. This resulted in many international symposia, research papers, special journal issues, books, computer programs and data bases.

Richard proposed the development of an operational arm of the IAMG to highlight geomathematical teaching at universities and other institutions. Specifically, he suggested to contact the 36th IGC organizers in India. A Working Group on Mathematical Geoscience Numeracy can be launched during the 2014 IAMG meeting to be held in Delhi. It could be comprised of leading scientists from the 56 Indian institutions currently interested in promoting the use of mathematics in geoscience research by their MSc and PhD students.

Initial response within the IAMG Council meeting and also from the newly appointed 36th IGC organizers in India to this numeracy proposal was positive. It would fit in with the IAMG's desire to significantly increase its membership on the Indian subcontinent. Before 2014, the IAMG President and Distinguished Lecturer may visit India, and it might be a good start for organizing a traveling one-week short course to be taught by prominent IAMG members covering our main areas of research. Special sessions at the 36th IGC in 2020 could be convened for the Indian researchers to present their new, geomathematically-based research results.

Yan Guangsheng summarized the 10-year plan for mineral exploration research at the Geological Survey of China that will involve the teaching of short courses and international co-operation. Subsequent discussion resulted in the following resolution to form a new IAMG Commission:

Resolution 2: A new IAMG-Geological Survey Commission to be chaired by Yan

Guangsheng will develop close ties between the IAMG and Geological Surveys worldwide to advance the use of geomathematics and geoinformatics within government organizations. Remarks: Countries to be considered for this collaboration include China, U.S.A., U.K., Canada, Australia, India and Spain. Jenny will be the non-voting *ex officio* member on this commission. Each member of this commission will have to ask his/her employer for formal permission to participate in it in order to ensure compatibility with his/her current working responsibilities.

The IAMG Website was discussed under Outreach (item 5(9)a on agenda). This led to the creation of another new IAMG Commission as follows:

Resolution 3: The new IAMG Website Commission to be chaired by Dan Tetzlaff will evaluate the existing IAMG Website and recommend any changes to be made in the way it is currently organized. Remarks: The members of the IAMG Website Commission will be Harald, Eric, David, Gerald and Zhijun Chen (remains to be invited). Jenny will be the non-voting *ex officio* member on this commission. An initial objective of the commission will be to reduce server/developer costs (InterSpot/Dragonfly) but other aspects including new outreach content and website design are to be considered as well.

6. **New Business:** Because the hour was approaching midnight, the discussion was moved to this last item on the agenda. It was discussed that the IAMG Office may become more closely involved with organization of our annual meetings and the organization of local groups.
7. **Adjournment:** Qiuming closed the meeting after thanking all those present for their participation.