

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGISTS

Executive Committee Meeting: 25 August 2000
held in Nanjing International Conference Hotel, Nanjing, China

MINUTES

Present: Olav Slaymaker (President), Mario Panizza (Vice-President), Piotr Migon (Secretary), Denise Reed (Treasurer), Christine Embleton-Hamann (Publication Officer), Albert Pissart, Takasuke Suzuki, Ying Wang.

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

The meeting began with welcome address from the President. Thanks were directed to Ying Wang for her outstanding efforts to organise the IAG/AIG Thematic Conference in Nanjing and arranging the venue for the Executive Meeting. Provisional agenda has been received by all attendees and approved without modifications.

2. Apologies for absence

RECEIVED: apologies from Bernard Dumas, Andrew Goudie and Paul Williams.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

3. 1. REPORTED: minutes of the Executive Committee meeting in Rio de Janeiro (16-18 July 1999) were circulated to the Executive members in electronic or mail version.

3. 2. APPROVED: minutes of the Executive meeting held in Rio de Janeiro on 16-18 July 1999, following the proposal by Denise Reed.

3. 3. NOTED: that the IAG/AIG Regional Conference in Brazil was highly successful, well organised and understanding and assistance of the organisers towards the needs of individual participants is much appreciated. In particular, Albert Pissart notes that he received back the field trip fee although he had to withdraw from the field trip on the very day of departure. Olav Slaymaker reports that a new geomorphological journal has been established in Brazil. Congratulations have been expressed to the Brazilian colleagues.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

AGREED: No other matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5. President's report

5. 1. REPORTED: recent (mid-August 2000) visit to Japan to meet the local Organising

Committee of the V International Conference on Geomorphology. Preparations are well under way and there very positive signs of involvement of the entire Japanese geomorphological community. Japanese colleagues are congratulated for their efforts and thanked for hospitality.

5. 2. REPORTED: from the 31 Congress of the International Geographical Union in Seoul, Korea, August 2000. An attempt has been made to organise a joint IGU–IAG/AIG session on sediment budgets, co-chaired by Richard Dikau, Maria Sala and Olav Slaymaker. The initial response from the geomorphological community was considered inadequate and the eventual level of participation was limited, nevertheless Maria and Olav succeeded in organising a rather well received session, with six invited speakers.
5. 3. REPORTED: from one of the pre-conference field trips, in Yunnan Province, 19-23 August 2000. Guidance and organisation provided by Professor Tang from Kunming are highly appreciated.

6. Vice-President's Report

6. 1. REPORTED: on behalf of the Vice-President, and following the initiative of the British Geomorphological Research Group, Mauro Soldati (University of Modena, Italy) attended workshop for young geomorphologists in Windsor in December 1999. Report from the workshop and proposals for future co-operation are available from the Vice-President.
6. 2. REPORTED: the next training course focused on managing natural hazards will be organised in September 2000, with financial support from the European Community. Unfortunately, on formal grounds support for young geomorphologists from overseas to attend is not possible.

7. Secretary Report

7. 1. REPORTED: The IAG/AIG Secretariat is still based in the Department of Geography, University of Wrocław. Although no extra space could have been provided for running the IAG/AIG business, the existing facilities are adequate to the current amount of work. IAG/AIG Secretariat is kept well informed about the current activities of the IUGS. Minutes from IUGS Executive Committee Meetings, *Episodes* journal and bulletin of CoGeoEnvironment are received regularly.
7. 2. REPORTED: The new fully bilingual IAG/AIG Stationery has been ordered after William Locke and Zbigniew Zwolinski had been confirmed as co-opted members of the Executive. It will be sent to the Executive members for use in September. Disc file can be provided on request.
7. 3. REPORTED: Most correspondence related to IAG/AIG activity is being done using electronic mail which significantly reduces costs of administration.
7. 4. REPORTED: List of National Representatives has recently been updated by Denise Reed, who deserves most sincere thanks. The list is available on request and can be

seen on the IAG/AIG website.

7. 5. REPORTED: A new National Adhering Body has been established in Yugoslavia earlier this year. The necessary documents have been forwarded to the Secretary.

APPROVED: the Executive provisionally approves the Yugoslav Association of Geomorphologists as the national member of the IAG/AIG. Confirmation from the Council is expected at the V International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo next year.

7. 6. REPORTED: Following the request, an annual report outlining the IAG/AIG activity in 1999 has been sent to the Secretariat of the International Union of Geological Sciences. The response to the IUGS questionnaire about the future of IUGS was delivered to the Secretariat and its receipt acknowledged by the relevant IUGS Committee. Nonetheless, for unknown reasons, IAG/AIG is not named among the organisations which responded in the published IUGS Strategy.

7. 7. REPORTED: nomination for the Executive post in the period 2001-2005 has been received from the Hungarian Association of Geomorphologists. The person nominated to stand for election is Professor Denes Loczy.

7. 8. REPORTED: All costs involved in running the IAG/AIG business are covered from a special operational account to which funds are transferred from the Treasurer, and relevant receipts are presented to the Treasurer, thus allowing for maximum flexibility and no extra costs. Expenditures in the last year amount to 1382,32 USD and include costs of travel, correspondence and stationery. Detailed report has been forwarded to the Treasurer.

7. 9. REPORTED: Letter of support has been sent to the Dorset County Council, to be included in the nomination document proposing the Dorset and East Devon Coast as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This follows the initiative of Denys Brunsden, past President of the IAG/AIG. Extract from the letter has been published in the nomination document, received in July.

PROPOSED: given the outstanding quality of the nomination document and importance of geomorphology the Dorset County Council will be approached by Piotr if they can provide copies for each elected Executive member. If this is not possible, and permission is given, black-and-white copies will be made by the Secretary.

7. 10. DISCUSSED: the nomination procedure for the election to the next Executive Committee, to be held in Tokyo in August 2001.

7. 11. AGREED: although it might be desirable to have a Nomination Committee, it is too late to set up one, especially because some National Adhering Bodies are now following the existing guidelines. However, National Adhering Bodies considering to present a candidate should actively seek support from other countries.

7. 12. AGREED: the Secretary to send a letter to all National Adhering Bodies clarifying the nomination and election procedures. In particular it needs to clarify the

idea of having two separate Council Meetings, the necessity to provide and display CVs of the nominees and to outline the format of requested oral presentation of candidates by National Representatives. These letters have to be sent out not later than on 15 October.

7. 13. AGREED: to avoid unnecessary confusion during the Council Meeting, in the same letter (see 7.12.) the Secretary shall request the name of the national delegate for the conference in Tokyo in 2001.

8. **Treasurer's Report**

8. 1. REPORTED: IAG/AIG budget is in healthy state and difficulties experienced by the IAG/AIG concerning its finances in 1998 have now been overcome. The balances for 25 August 2000 include \$12,308.80 on checking account and \$38,015.19 on savings account. The IAG/AIG can now use its resources more actively than before to support various research activities, including – according to agreed guidelines – sponsorship towards attendance of major IAG/AIG conferences.

8. 2. PRESENTED: the list of dues paid by the National Adhering Bodies as of July 2000.

8. 3. REPORTED: following the discussion at the last Executive meeting and the decision at the Mini-Executive Meeting in San Francisco in June 2000 the conference fees of the IAG/AIG officers to attend the conferences at which the Executive Meeting is scheduled are paid by the Association. This rule is effected from this conference in Nanjing and will remain unchanged in Tokyo. However, IAG/AIG officers are requested to register for Tokyo according to the deadlines proposed by the Treasurer.

9. **Publication Officer's Report**

9. 1. REPORTED: the decision of the Executive to have the Newsletter available in different languages has been successfully enforced. The Newsletter is now published in three languages other than English, in French in *Geomorphologie* in France, in Italian in *Geografia Fisica e Dinamica Quaternaria*, and in Spanish in *Investigaciones Geográficas* in Mexico. Translations are provided by the respective editors who are thanked for undertaking this extra work.

9. 2. REPORTED: the Newsletter can be found in seven journals. *ESPL* is now publishing the Newsletter without delays, so things have radically improved. Unfortunately, *Geomorphology* is now a problem as it has not published the March and June issues yet. In general, however, dissemination of news via journals tends to be slow and the turn around time is minimum two months, increasing to five or six months. Consequently, many announcements are out of date by the day of publication and this undermines the credibility of the Association and may make people thinking about the Newsletter as useless.

This problem of delayed dissemination is best resolved by making the Newsletter available on the IAG/AIG website. The website will also be an excellent means for assuring access to the Newsletter for almost everybody and for optimising circulation. It seems that access to internet is much more common among geomorphologists than

access to journals, especially in the developing world.

9. 3. RECOMMENDED: not to increase the number of journals publishing the Newsletter. The optimal strategy to have a Russian version of the Newsletter, considered at the last Executive Meeting, is to find a volunteer to translate it into Russian and to publish it electronically.
9. 4. NOTED: Ying Wang will ensure that the Chinese version is distributed electronically in China.
9. 5. DISCUSSED: the contents of future issues of the Newsletter. They will include the report from the Executive meeting (Piotr Migon), from the conference in Nanjing (Jess Walker) and associated field trips (David Price, Olav Slaymaker), and the abridged version of the IAG/AIG publication policy (Andrew Goudie). The deadline for the next issue is November 5.
9. 6. REPORTED: difficulties in optimising the mailing list of the Newsletter. The mailing list compiled by Denise Reed and Albert Pissart contains addresses of secretaries and is perfect for invoices, but not necessarily for further dissemination of the Newsletter which is better sent to the National Representatives to keep them committed to the IAG/AIG. However, these function change every year in some countries and most countries do not report about the changes to the Executive.
9. 7. REPORTED: about the IAG/AIG Publication List. The updated version has been published in the March 2000 issue of the Newsletter.

DISCUSSED: ways to avoid difficulties in overseeing publication activity after the V International Conference in Geomorphology in Tokyo. There are two crucial issues: (1) careful planning of publication activity before the event and, even more important, (2) to have all symposium convenors (that is potential volume editors) co-operating with the Publication Officers after, especially informing about any changes in publication plans for individual volumes.

9. 8. REPORTED: about post-conference volumes from the IV International Conference in Geomorphology in Bologna. 60% of the originally planned volumes have already been published. A book edited by Robert Allison, that contains papers from three different sessions, is hopefully to appear soon, after a few 'bridge chapters' are written to ensure the coherence of the volume.
- Thematic volumes on 'Arid and Sub-Arid Geomorphology' and 'Theoretical Geomorphology' have been cancelled because the number of papers suitable for publication was too low. Selected papers are however published in regular issues of other journals.
- No news from Hugh French are available concerning the volume on periglacial geomorphology, scheduled for *Permafrost and Periglacial Processes*.

REMARKED: by Albert Pissart who will approach Hugh French.

9. 9. DISCUSSED: publications arising from the Regional Conference in Brazil in 1999. No news have been heard from Nelson Fernandes after his message dated 27 December

1999 and there is perhaps little chance that any of the planned volumes will be published.

AGREED: Christine Embleton-Hamann will contact Nelson Fernandes again asking for his clear position on this matter.

10. Matters raised by other Committee members.

10. 1. REPORTED: by Ying Wang that special proceedings volume following the Thematic Conference in Nanjing will be published in English, edited jointly by Ying Wang and Olav Slaymaker.

11. Report from the Mini-Executive Meeting in San Francisco

Report provided by Olav Slaymaker

11. 1. AGREED: to co-opt Zbigniew Zwolinski and William Locke to the Executive Committee, to act as the Webmaster and the GEOMORPHLIST moderator, respectively.

11. 2. PROPOSED: to arrange distinctive walking sticks and plaques to be given to the new Senior Fellows of the IAG/AIG.

AGREED: Olav Slaymaker will arrange the sticks and Piotr Migon will arrange the plaques.

11. 3. DISCUSSED: the best publication policy for and after the V International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo in 2001.

AGREED: three levels of activity are envisaged: Japanese Geomorphological Union will be responsible for the abstract volume, field trip guides and summary proceedings volume. IAG/AIG related journals will be guaranteed a minimum of one Symposium volume. Symposium volume editors will be free to approach other international journals to publish conference papers with the proviso that the IAG/AIG logo and acknowledgement of the IAG/AIG conference is included.

The deadline for manuscript submission will be December 1, 2001 and the manuscripts will be reviewed and revised by the authors by December 1, 2002.

11. 4. AGREED: the Organising Committee in Japan will be responsible for grants for Third World participants and the IAG/AIG will provide support for selected Young Geomorphologists (less than 30 years old). A figure of \$10,000 has been set aside for the latter.

12. Sub-Committees reports

12a. Constitutional Change

- 12a. 1. REPORTED BY ALBERT PISSART: the proposal of the new IAG/AIG Constitution has been distributed to the National Adhering Bodies in Autumn last year. Two

responses containing objections have been received, from Japan and from the Geological Society of China in Taipei. The former includes the proposal that more than one Vice-President is elected and the next President is elected from among them, to clarify eligibility to vote, the necessity of having a financial report distributed to the national delegates. The latter points out confusion in the understanding of the term 'Adhering National Bodies' and suggests to replace it with 'National Scientific Member', as defined in the ICSU Statute. In the meantime Mario Panizza prepared proposals of alternative models of the Executive structure and these are presented for further discussion.

- 12a. 2. DISCUSSED: the ways to incorporate the proposals and the best strategy of continuation the procedure of constitutional change.
- 12a. 3. AGREED: soundness of the objections from the Geological Society of China in Taipei. The term 'National Scientific Member' will replace 'Adhering National Bodies' in the proposal of the new constitution.
Beside the existing post of the Vice-President, two non-portfolio members will also be named Vice-Presidents and allocated specific tasks, outlined in the Bylaws to the Constitution. The new President will be elected from among all six elected members of the Executive.
- 12a. 4. AGREED: Piotr Migon will update the proposal of the new IAG/AIG Constitution and, after consultations with the President and Vice-President, will send the new version to Albert Pissart to distribute it to the national organisations.
- 12a. 5. AGREED: to allow the newly elected Executive Committee to act according to the revised Constitution, if this is approved by the Council, an amendment to the existing Constitution will be proposed at the first Council Meeting in Tokyo. It will contain the proposal to resign from the automatic succession of the Vice-President to the President.

12b. *Publication Policy*

- 12b. 1. REPORTED BY ANDREW GOUDIE (in absentio): following the discussion in Rio de Janeiro the final version of the statement on the IAG/AIG Publication Policy has been prepared by the Sub-Committee in September 1999 and is now presented for approval.
- 12b. 2. APPROVED: the statement prepared by the Sub-Committee which from now on is the official guideline how to handle the publication matters within the IAG/AIG.
- 12b. 3. AGREED: full version of the statement to be placed on the website and the abridged version to be published in the Newsletter.

12c. *Finances*

- 12c. 1. DISCUSSED: the issue of individual membership of the IAG/AIG and its consequences. Any action in this direction is postponed until after the V International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo.

12d. *Support for Young Geomorphologists*

- 12d. 1. **AGREED:** the IAG/AIG will provide \$10,000 to support the participation of outstanding young geomorphologists in the V International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo (see #11.4.). Candidates will be judged according to their curriculum vitae and quality of abstracts submitted, and the principle 'quality over need' will be adopted. The age limit is set as 30 years at the time of the conference, but some degree of flexibility is at the discretion of the Grant Committee. Deadline for applications is November 15, and the decision is to be made by January 1. Letters of confirmation will be sent by the President.
- 12d. 2. **AGREED:** Mario Panizza and Denise Reed to act as the Grant Committee.
- 12d. 3. **NOTED:** grants provided by the Japanese Geomorphological Union are parallel to the grants provided by the IAG/AIG, the former being specifically addressed to geomorphologists from Third World countries.

13. V International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo – Progress Report

13. 1. **REPORTED BY TAKASUKE SUZUKI:** financial basis of the conference is 400 full fare participants. 560 preliminary registration forms have been received from outside Japan. The number of registrations from Japan is now 53 but is likely to eventually come up to 200.
Except 1, all registration forms have been delivered electronically, and only 10% of registrants did not give their e-mail addresses.
Third circular will be distributed in written and electronic form early next year.
13. 2. **DISCUSSED:** proposals for plenary lectures. Following the discussion in San Francisco, there are eight proposals: A. Pissart (Belgium), A. Cendrero (Spain), J. Clague (Canada, INQUA Vice-President), ? Anderson (USA), L. Jeje (Nigeria), D. Lilienberg (Russia), and two lectures delivered by Japanese geomorphologists, one about general landscape of Japan, and one about geomorphic impact of tsunamis.

NOTED: Not all the people mentioned have yet been approached or agreed.

APPROVED: the list of lecturers for plenary lectures.

13. 3. **THANKED:** Takasuke Suzuki for the efforts of the entire Japanese team towards organising the conference.

14. Working Groups

14. 1. **DISCUSSED:** the co-operation between the Executive and Working Groups has not been entirely satisfactory. While some Working Groups show high level of activity and regularly report to the Executive (Large Rivers WG and DOMODIS), little information is available about the activity of the others. This is best seen as a fault of both the Executive Committee and the respective Working Group chairs.

14. 2. **AGREED:** there is an urgent need for the next Executive to establish operational guidelines how to organise, run and oversee Working Groups within the IAG/AIG.
14. 3. **AGREED:** Working Groups chairs have to be reminded that they have to organise a symposium or session during the V International Conference on Geomorphology. The relevant letter will be sent by the Secretary to those chairs who have not yet approached the organisers.
14. 4. **AGREED:** Adhering National Bodies will be encouraged to propose new Working Groups for the period 2001-2005. They will have to be established according to the proposal of the new IAG/AIG Constitution and details of this will be explained by the Secretary in a letter directed to National Representatives.

15. IAG/AIG Website

15. 1. **REPORTED BY PIOTR MIGON ON BEHALF OF ZBIGNIEW ZWOLINSKI:** the work under the IAG/AIG website is in progress and it is hoped the website will soon be officially launched. The agreed address www.geomorph.org has been purchased from the provider, at the cost of \$35 per year. The website is based at the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland.
Executive members were consulted as to the layout of the site and its scope and the current version incorporates the suggestions of all four Executive members who responded.

15. 2. **DISCUSSED:** the contents of the website. Items considered include information about Executive members, links to Adhering National Bodies, news from the IAG/AIG, including the Newsletter, information about past and forthcoming IAG/AIG events, conference reports and abstracts, list of IAG/AIG publications, description of 'classic' landforms etc.

EMPHASISED: to make the website successful, all Executive members have to co-operate with the webmaster and supply materials, also providing linguistic assistance when necessary. As the website develops, individuals may have to be identified to assume responsibility for particular topics and to ensure that materials put on the web are of appropriate quality.

15. 3. **AGREED:** all Executive members will be asked to provide a short bibliographic note about themselves to be put on the web. Extra topic to include might be the Dorset and East Devon Coast as the possible UNESCO World Heritage site.

16. Nominees for Senior Fellowships in Tokyo

16. 1. **REPORTED:** Eiju Yatsu has been approached but again refused to accept the honour. Another suitable candidate from Japan might be Torao Yoshikawa.

16. 2. **REMARKED BY TAKASUKE SUZUKI:** Stanley Schumm is continuously strongly supported by the Japanese Geomorphological Union.

16. 3. **AGREED:** the number of new Senior Fellows should be limited to two people. At

the same time it is important that both attend the meeting at which the awards are presented.

16. 4. **AGREED:** the President will consider all the names suggested and will make final recommendation to the Executive, to be then presented to the General Assembly.

16. 5. **DISCUSSED:** the need of having the Award Committee during the term of the next Executive.

17. Any other items

17. 1. **REPORTED:** Norbert Psuty reported to the President about excellent papers on coastal geomorphology presented at the 31 IGC in Seoul. He indicates the possibility to combine those papers with selected papers from this meeting to be published as a special volume of *Journal of Coastal Research*. Estimated cost is \$12,000 and the contribution of the IAG/AIG would amount to \$3-4,000.

AGREED: the Executive welcomes the initiative and is ready to support the volume assigning up to \$4,000.

17. 2. **AGREED:** publication of post-conference proceedings in *Chinese Science Bulletin* will be supported by the IAG/AIG, up to \$2,000.

17. 3. **REPORTED BY ANDREW GOUDIE (in absentio):** about progress in organising Jan de Ploey Library. A few shipments have been arranged and Book Aid International are in contact with 17 universities in 11 African countries (Cameroon, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe).

18. Date and place of the next meeting

18. 1. **AGREED:** the next meeting of the Executive will be held in Tokyo, just before the V International Conference on Geomorphology. The exact date and location will be provided later.

At this point, being no other business, the President thanked all present Executive members for their commitment and active participation, and closed the meeting.

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