

# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGISTS

## Executive Committee Meeting: 30 August 1998

held at the University of Lisbon

### MINUTES

**Present:** Olav Slaymaker (President), Mario Panizza (Vice-President), Piotr Migoñ (Secretary), Bernard Dumas (Treasurer), Christine Embleton-Hamann (Publication Officer), Albert Pissart, Denise Reed, Richard Dikau, Andrew Goudie, Ole Humlum, Takasuke Suzuki, Ying Wang.

#### 1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

The meeting began with a welcome address from the President. Mario Panizza and Antonio de Brum Ferreira were thanked for arranging necessary facilities to convene the meeting. The agenda, supplemented by item 10a (progress report by Takasuke Suzuki), was adopted following a proposal by Denise Reed, seconded by Andrew Goudie.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

RECEIVED: apologies from Dietrich Barsch, Ana Luiza Coelho Netto, Paul Williams

#### 3. Minutes of the previous meetings

3. 1. REPORTED: minutes from three meetings held at the IV International Conference on Geomorphology, inherited from the former Secretary, Dr Robert Allison, have been circulated to all committee members in advance of this meeting. These include minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting (28 August 1997), Council Meeting (30 August 1997) and General Assembly (3 September 1997). No minutes have been taken during a rather informal meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee on 2 September 1997.
3. 2. AGREED: following a call from Mario Panizza that the minutes from the new Executive Committee on 2 September 1997 will be reconstructed by the Secretary as soon as possible.

#### 4. Matters arising from the minutes

##### *Executive Committee Meeting*

4. 1. NOTED (in relation to # 5.2. as in the minutes from Executive Committee Meeting in Bologna): alike pre-conference excursions, also post-conference trips were highly successful and Italian colleagues are once again to be highly congratulated.
4. 2. REPORTED (in relation to # 5.3. as in the minutes from Executive Committee Meeting in Bologna): meeting of the new Executive Committee was conducted in a rushed and incomplete fashion, with some elected members missing. Consequences were discussed under # 3 at this meeting.
4. 3. REPORTED (in relation to # 5.4. as in the minutes from Executive Committee Meeting in Bologna): major progress on publication has been achieved thanks to great efforts by Robert Allison. Almost 200 papers have been submitted, ranging from 2 to 25 from particular sessions/symposia. Conference outlets will include 2 books, 6 supplementary volumes of

*Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie* and 7 special issues in various journals supporting the IAG/AIG (*Earth Surface Processes and Landforms, Geografia Fisica & Dinamica Quaternaria, Geomorphology, Glacial Geology and Geomorphology, Permafrost and Periglacial Processes, Transactions of the Japanese Geomorphological Union*). Details of publication process have been made available in IAG/AIG Newsletter 15/2.

4. 4. REPORTED (in relation to # 6.9. as in the minutes from Executive Committee Meeting in Bologna): Albert Pissart agreed to follow up the initiative of Jan de Ploey Library.
4. 5. REPORTED (in relation to # 6.12. as in the minutes from Executive Committee Meeting in Bologna): Four IAG/AIG Working Groups have been established for 1997-2001 period. These are Geoarchaeology (M. De Dapper as chair), Volcanic Hazards (J. Nossin and J. Thouret as chairs), Environmental Management in Geomorphology (D. Reed and J. Harbor as chairs), Large Rivers (A. Gupta as chair). In addition, a joint IUCS/IDNDR/IAG/AIG project on Documentation of Mountain Disasters (DOMODIS) is chaired by H. Kienholz.
4. 6. NOTED (in relation to # 7.4 and 9.2 as in the minutes from Executive Committee Meeting in Bologna): IAG/AIG Executive is aware of genuine difficulties of some countries to pay their subscription fees to the IAG/AIG and unequal opportunities for geomorphologists coming from different countries to participate in IAG/AIG activities.  
REPORTED: Some initiatives that may assist to partially overcome the problem will be introduced by the Vice-President later during the meeting (# 6 and # 14).

### **Council Meeting**

4. 7. NOTED (in relation to the list of attendees): inaccuracies occur and names of some national delegates are missing.
4. 8. PROPOSED: it is easier to list countries represented at the Council Meeting rather than individuals, who belong to different categories (National Delegates, standing in for National Delegates, participating).

### **General Assembly**

4. 9. REPORTED (in relation to # 4.5. as in the minutes from General Assembly in Bologna): formal proposal from Brazil to host a Regional Conference in 1999 has been received and will be presented for approval at this meeting (# 11). USA is not the possibility for 2000 anymore. Proposal from China to host a Regional Conference in 2000 has been received by the President and will be presented later at this meeting (# 11).
4. 10. NOTED (in relation to # 4.10. as in the minutes from General Assembly in Bologna): Firm position of the IAG/AIG Executive on the matter of publication policy is to be agreed at this meeting, following promise published in IAG/AIG Newsletter 15/1.

REPORTED: The issue of publication policy has been discussed among members of the Executive, two invited opinions have been published in IAG/AIG Newsletter 15/1, and a couple of opinions have been received by the President and the Publication Officer. Publication policy will be extensively discussed later at this meeting (# 12).

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

## **5. Report of the President**

5. 1. REPORTED: a report to the IGU Executive will be presented at the IGU Regional Conference

in Lisbon. Copy of the report has been made available to the IAG/AIG Executive.

5. 2. **EMPHASISED:** priority of the IAG/AIG must be to meet objectives stated in the Constitution. Two critical issues at the moment that may potentially undermine academic credibility of the IAG/AIG are its financial base and transparent publication policy. At this meeting decisions must be reached concerning the following: (1) treasury, (2) publication policy, (3) regional conference in Brazil in 1999, (4) regional conference in China in 2000, (5) official links with other scientific organisations, (6) possible need for constitutional change.
5. 3. **REPORTED:** financial base of the IAG/AIG is still unstable. Because no individual membership is possible at present, the IAG/AIG has to rely on rather modest subscription fees paid by national adhering bodies. During the last year, no fees have been received because no bank account could have been opened by the Treasurer and no invoices have been sent out. Because some national bodies operate financially on 12 months basis, the relevant fees are likely to be permanently lost and irreversible break in continuity of payment is expected.

At this point, the President asked Bernard Dumas (Treasurer) to report on his difficulties with managing the IAG/AIG bank account. His report, allocated in the agenda as # 8, is presented here.

5. 4. **REPORTED** by Bernard Dumas: two major difficulties are (1) inability to open bank account in France of an organisation without a registered office, (2) permanent health problems, including long hospital stays. Communication with the former Treasurer proved difficult to be established and no records of payment have been inherited. Willingness to continue with the post has been nevertheless expressed.
5. 5. **DISCUSSED:** best ways to overcome formal and personal problems involved.
5. 6. **AGREED:** full record of payment has to be extracted from the former Treasurer and invoices for 1998 and 1999 have to be sent in at most two months time.
5. 7. **PROPOSED:** to leave the IAG/AIG account in the USA, because of a few obvious advantages (tax exemption, good interest rate, charge free), and to ask Denise Reed to manage the account on behalf of Bernard Dumas, who will retain decision power.

At this point Albert Pissart proposed to move to the next point in the presidential report and to come back to the treasury matters later during the meeting, after some necessary discussions between Bernard Dumas, Denise Reed, and other Executive members. This item continues under # 17.

5. 8. **NOTED:** other urgent issues outlined above (# 5.2.) have all been allocated specific points in the agenda and will be covered there. The issue of possible constitutional change will be discussed under # 10, being raised by Albert Pissart.

## **6. Report of the Vice-President**

6. 1. **NOTED:** two major points of concern are (1) viable solutions for countries that cannot afford full participation in IAG/AIG activities, (2) opportunities for young geomorphologists, particularly from financially less fortunate countries. Some proposals concerning (2) will be outlined later at the meeting, under # 14.
6. 2. **AGREED:** some options available to the countries meant under 6.1.(1) above have to be discussed.

## 7. Report of the Secretary

7. 1. NOTED: written report by the Secretary has been circulated to all attendees at the meeting.
7. 2. REPORTED: all IAG/AIG records have been inherited from the former Secretary, Robert Allison at Durham University. Business travel to Durham was involved. IAG/AIG headed stationery was ordered in Poland at relatively low cost and each Executive member has been supplied with copies of the IAG/AIG letterhead. Delay in arrangements were caused by delays in money transfer from the treasurer.
7. 3. REPORTED: most correspondence with other IAG/AIG Executive members is being done using electronic mail, which helps to significantly reduce costs of running the office. At present, only D. Barsch, M. Benazzouz and L. Jeje are not linked to e-mail.
7. 4. REPORTED: A new National Adhering Body was established in Estonia, with Professor Arno Raukas as a chair.
7. 5. REPORTED: difficulties in getting right names of national delegates from particular member countries. At present, the list includes 58 names and addresses, but uncertainty exists concerning its accuracy. Only few updates to the list have been received in September 1997 - August 1998 period.
7. 6. REPORTED: as requested, reports of the IAG/AIG activity have been sent to the Secretariat of the International Union of Geological Sciences (annual report for 1997) and to the Editorial Office of the Yearbook of International Organisations in Brussel. The report to the IUGS was approved at the IUGS Executive Meeting in Vienna in January 1998.
7. 7. REPORTED: financial requests for support have been received from national groups to subsidise conferences and individuals to provide conference grants. Both were rejected but for the future there may be a need to come up with a clear statement outlining financial policy of the IAG/AIG.

## 8. Report of the Treasurer

This item is covered under # 5.4. above.

## 9. Report of the Publication Officer

9. 1. THANKED: to Olav Slaymaker and Piotr Migoñ for the help provided.
9. 2. NOTED: written report by the Publication Officer has been circulated to all attendees at the meeting.
9. 3. REPORTED: the IAG/AIG Newsletter is distributed in three ways. These include (1) publication in selected geomorphological journals, (2) electronic distribution via GEOMORPHOLIST, (3) hard copies to Executive members and 58 National Delegates for further distribution within countries. Costs of IAG/AIG Newsletter offprints (1000 in total) from *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie* are \$500 per issue.
9. 4. DISCUSSED: matter of long delays in publishing IAG/AIG Newsletter in some journals, particularly in *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, as potentially damaging for the IAG/AIG credibility.

9. 5. **AGREED:** *ESPL* Editor will be approached by the Publication Officer to re-consider conditions of publishing the Newsletter, with the possibility of its withdrawal from *ESPL*.
9. 6. **DISCUSSED:** possibilities to increase circulation of the Newsletter in international journals and via websites and newsletters of national geomorphological organisations. Options include *Catena*, *Permafrost and Periglacial Processes*, *Episodes* and national journals such as *Geografia Fisica & Dinamica Quaternaria*.
9. 7. **DISCUSSED:** ways to reduce costs of publishing the Newsletter. Amounts of copies sent to recipients should be re-considered.
9. 8. **AGREED:** the amount of copies received from *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie* needs to be substantially cut. 300 copies might be the sensible alternative.
9. 9. **DISCUSSED:** content of future issues of the Newsletter and its layout.
9. 10. **AGREED:** the IAG/AIG logo ought to be printed on the first page of the Newsletter. Possible items to include for the nearest issues are official statement concerning the IAG/AIG publication policy, details of the Regional Conference in Brazil, list of forthcoming meetings and conference reports.

## **10. Matters raised by other Committee members**

### ***Matters raised by Albert Pissart***

10. 1. **REPORTED:** Jan de Ploey Libraries. Letters have been sent to the libraries concerned, requesting information about facilities available to effectively manage the library, but no answers have been received so far. Doubts expressed if sending separate offprints is a good idea and perhaps the idea should be re-examined.
10. 2. **DISCUSSED:** actual benefits from sending copies of books and papers to just a few libraries. Access may be in fact extremely difficult. Subscription of databases, like GEOBASE, might be better option, but the issue of sponsorship becomes then critical.
10. 3. **AGREED:** alternative options will be investigated, but before any further action is undertaken, more information from countries willing to organise libraries is required.
10. 4. **PROPOSED:** some points in the IAG/AIG Constitution may need clarification and change.
10. 5. **AGREED:** three members of the Executive, Mario Panizza, Piotr Migoñ and Albert Pissart, will work on this issue as a Sub-Committee and will report to the Executive at the next meeting in Brazil in July 1999. Olav Slaymaker is to invite Albert Pissart to chair The Sub-Committee

## **10a. V International Conference on Geomorphology – Progress report**

Item introduced by Takasuke Suzuki

- 10a. 1. **NOTED:** conference details are available in the draft of the 1<sup>st</sup> circular presented at this meeting.
- 10a. 2. **DISCUSSED:** allocation of business meetings during the Conference, deadlines for registration and proposals for symposia themes, suggestions for plenary lectures, guidelines for financial support.

- 10a. 3. PROPOSED by Mario Panizza: two Council Meetings may be required.
- 10a. 4. AGREED: detailed schedule of the Conference will be agreed after correspondence between the Executive and local organisers.
- 10a. 5. PROPOSED by Ying Wang: emphasis on arc-island geomorphology in the conference programme.
- 10a. 6. AGREED: each Working Group has to have its special symposium during the Conference.
- 10a. 7. REPORTED: conference fee will be approximately \$280, with the student registration fee about 1/3 of the above.
- 10a. 8. AGREED: principle of partial subvention will be adopted in order to encourage individuals to actively seek for subvention and to provide support to as many participants as possible.
- 10a. 9. PROPOSED by Mario Panizza: to slightly increase the Conference fee in order to collect more funds available for provision of support, especially to young geomorphologists from financially less favourite countries.

## **11. Regional Conferences in 1999 and 2000**

### ***Regional Conference in Brazil in 1999***

11. 1. REPORTED: official invitation from Brazil to host the Regional Conference on 17-21 July 1999 has been received just before the meeting. Each meeting attendee has been provided with the copy of the proposal.
11. 2. DISCUSSED: principles of financial support to attend the Conference and proposal of unequal fees for Brazilian and foreign participants.
11. 3. AGREED: the President will negotiate with the organisers the possibility of levelling fees for all attendees and/or supporting wider representation of South American geomorphologists.
11. 4. ACCEPTED: unanimously the Brazilian invitation to host the IAG/AIG Regional Conference in 1999.
11. 5. THANKED: to Brazilian colleagues for their efforts to organise the conference.

### ***Regional Conference in China in 2000***

11. 6. REPORTED: official invitation from China to host the Regional Conference in August 2000 has been received. Each meeting attendee has been provided with the copy of the proposal.
11. 7. DISCUSSED: likely overlaps with the IGU Congress in South Korea to be held in August 2000 and possibilities of co-operative work with the IGU.
11. 8. AGREED: the President will approach the Chinese organising committee and the IGU Executive to explore possibilities of closer co-operation and attachment of the IAG/AIG conference in China to the IGU Congress.
11. 9. THANKED: Ying Wang for her long-lasting commitment and support to the IAG/AIG and ongoing efforts to develop geomorphology in China.

## 12. Publication Policy

12. 1. REPORTED: two invited statements on publication policy, by Hanna Bremer and Michael Thomas, have been published in the IAG/AIG Newsletter 15/1. Some response from groups and individuals has been received. Critical issues are selection of outlets publishing under the IAG/AIG logo, control of quality, recognition to the IAG/AIG, book royalties and equal opportunities for all geomorphologists.
12. 2. DISCUSSED: all critical issues outlined above, under # 12.1.
12. 3. PROPOSED: three major types of IAG/AIG publications may be defined. These include (1) thematic volumes originating from IAG/AIG Working Groups activities, published preferably in a book series format, (2) collection of papers presented during thematic sessions IAG/AIG conferences, published preferably in special issues of journals, (3) books independent of conferences. The (3) is a rather unexplored and might be good means of raising money for the IAG/AIG.
12. 3. AGREED: the principle of flexibility should be adopted while seeking for possible outlets for IAG/AIG publications, but prospective editors have to ensure that proper recognition (journals and books) and royalties (books) go to the IAG/AIG.
12. 4. AGREED: the idea of establishing an IAG/AIG book series is worth exploration. Three Executive members, Andrew Goudie, Piotr Migoñ and Christine Embleton-Hamann, will be working as a Task Force on this specific subject. The President is to invite Andrew Goudie to chair the Task Force.
12. 5. AGREED: list of IAG/AIG publications has to be updated. Olav Slaymaker will do this.
12. 6. AGREED: statement on the IAG/AIG publication policy will be published in the IAG/AIG Newsletter 15/4. First draft will be prepared by the Secretary, then circulated for comments and adjustments, and after approval delivered to the Publication Officer before 8 November 1998.

## 13. Working Group progress reports

13. 1. NOTED: progress reports of three Working Groups are to be published in the IAG/AIG Newsletter 15/3. Current activity of the DOMODIS group has been outlined in the IAG/AIG Newsletter 15/2. No report has been received from the Working Group on Environmental Management in Geomorphology.
13. 2. REPORTED: no significant progress has been achieved so far, but communication links between potential participants seem to be well established and meeting plans have been drawn up. It is recognised that unclear financial situation of the IAG/AIG in 1998 and lack of direct support may have significantly hamper progress.

## 14. International School on Geomorphological Hazards

14. 1. REPORTED by Mario Panizza: the second course on natural hazards will be held in Italy in September 1998, with many geomorphologists involved and with co-sponsorship of the IAG/AIG. Funding is provided by the European Union and will enable 45 students and young researchers to enroll on the course.
14. 2. PROPOSED: possibilities for further co-operation between IAG/AIG and EU should be

researched, specifically aimed at training young geomorphologists from non-European countries. A Task Force will explore the subject. The President is to invite Mario Panizza to chair the Task Force which otherwise will consist of representatives from Eastern Europe (I. Mac), Africa (name to be decided), Latin America (name to be decided), Asia (name to be decided), Brian Whalley and Mauro Soldati. Course materials would be published under the IAG/AIG logo.

14. 3. NOTED: the initiative would be one of the ways towards levelling unequal opportunities for geomorphologists from different countries and is in perfect accordance with the objectives of the IAG/AIG.

14. 4. AGREED: The President is to invite Mario Panizza to chair the Task Force on behalf of the IAG/AIG Executive which otherwise will consist of representatives from Eastern Europe (I. Mac), Africa (name to be decided), Latin America (name to be decided), Asia (name to be decided), Brian Whalley and Mauro Soldati.

## **15. Proposals for fund raising**

15. 1. REPORTED: a discussion document has been received from Tom Spencer, Cambridge, outlining possibilities of securing financial base of the IAG/AIG, including individual membership and launch of a new journal.

15. 2. NOTED: each meeting attendee has received copy of Spencer's discussion paper.

15. 3. DISCUSSED: conditions under which individual memberships might be possible and necessary incentives, advantages and disadvantages of having a permanent staffed office and market chances of a new IAG/AIG journal. The ideas of establishing office and creating a journal have been met with reservations, as the costs involved are potentially much higher than prospective benefits (office) and circulation of yet another journal is not likely to be very massive and the number of subscription might be insufficient.

15. 4. AGREED: a group consisting of Andrew Goudie, Richard Dikau, Denise Reed and Tom Spencer will explore the subject of increasing financial base of the IAG/AIG. The President is to invite Denise Reed to chair the Task Force.

## **16. World Geomorphological Map**

16. 1. REPORTED by Mario Panizza: proposal from Russia to publish a World Geomorphological Map using IAG/AIG resources. The map would be the English edition of a Russian version published in the eighties.

16. 2. DISCUSSED: necessity and scientific value to publish geomorphological maps. In addition, it was pointed out that the IAG/AIG logo should not appear on any printed materials, whose scientific content has not been approved by the IAG/AIG Executive or referees acting on its behalf.

16. 3. AGREED: the IAG/AIG is not able to sponsor an English edition of the World Geomorphological Map. The Secretary will approach eminent representatives of Russian geomorphology, Professors Timofeev and Ufimtsev to ask for their opinion about the proposal and will discuss ways of meeting printing expenses.

## **17. Any other business**

### ***Responsibilities for collaboration with other organisations***



17. 1. REPORTED: list of forthcoming conferences in the period 1998-2001, where official representation of the IAG/AIG is desirable. Some members of the IAG/AIG Executive have already been invited to these conferences and will act as the IAG/AIG representatives.
17. 2. DISCUSSED: necessity of closer links with INQUA, International Union for Speleology, International Permafrost Association and International Associations of Hydrological Sciences.
17. 3. AGREED: the following individuals will approach Executive Committees of the above organisations: Piotr Migoñ (INQUA), Paul Williams (IUS), Ole Humlum (IPA) and Olav Slaymaker (IAHS).

At this point the President proposed to come back to the issue of the treasury, discussed earlier under # 5.

17. 4. PROPOSED by Mario Panizza: Bernard Dumas and Denise Reed will change their roles in the Executive Committee in that D. Reed will become the treasurer and Bernard Dumas will become non-portfolio member. The necessity of such move is conditioned by extremely slight chances for Bernard Dumas to overcome formal obstacles in setting the IAG/AIG bank account in France (as outlined under # 5.4.), his continuing health problems and possible difficulties in managing bank account in the USA from France.
17. 5. DISCUSSED: if such a decision is allowed by the IAG/AIG Constitution.
17. 6. AGREED: given utmost importance of the issue and the urgent need to start with fee collection, the principle of flexibility should prevail. In addition, it was emphasised that both B. Dumas and D. Reed are elected members of the IAG/AIG Executive. Therefore, the IAG/AIG Executive unanimously decided to appoint Denise Reed as a Treasurer to replace Bernard Dumas and Bernard Dumas as a non-portfolio member.
17. 7. AGREED: the President will send letters of explanation of the above situation to all National Adhering Bodies and the relevant note will be included into IAG/AIG Newsletter. The Secretary will arrange a new IAG/AIG headed stationery.
17. 8. NOTED: the IAG/AIG Directory being extremely useful and the first commercial sale, to the ITC in the Netherlands, has been reported by Robert Allison. R. Allison continues working on updating the directory.

## 18. Date and time of next meeting

18. 1. AGREED: the next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 16-17 July 1999, in conjunction with the IAG/AIG Regional Conference in Brazil.

There being no other business the President closed the meeting and invited all attended Executive members to the dinner.

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