

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGISTS**Executive Committee Meeting: 16-18 July 1999**

held in 'Gloria' Hotel, Rio de Janeiro

MINUTES

Present: Olav Slaymaker (President), Mario Panizza (Vice-President), Piotr Migoñ (Secretary), Denise Reed (Treasurer), Christine Embleton-Hamann (Publication Officer), Albert Pissart, Ana Luiza Coelho Netto, Andrew Goudie, Ying Wang.

1. Welcome and approval of the agenda

The meeting began with welcome address from the President. Nelson Fernandes was thanked for his efforts to organise the IAG/AIG Regional Conference and for arranging the venue for the Executive meeting. Proposed alterations to the agenda included: (1) introduction of #8a 'Reports by other Committee members', under which Albert Pissart was to report about development in the Jan de Ploey Library initiative, (2) reports on the following items: Co-optations to Executive Committee, Senior Fellowships, and Organisational links, right after #8a. The revised agenda was approved by the Executive members.

2. Apologies for absence

RECEIVED: apologies from Richard Dikau, Bernard Dumas, Lawrence Jeje, Takasuke Suzuki and Paul Williams.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

3. 1. REPORTED: minutes of the Executive meeting in Lisbon (30 August 1998) were circulated to all Executive members in electronic or hard copy version. Uncertainties concerning details of the IAG/AIG post-Congress publication were the cause of some delay in distributing the minutes. Following the decision made at the previous meeting, minutes of the Executive Meeting held in Bologna on 2 September 1997 were reconstructed and sent to all Executive members.

3. 2. APPROVED: minutes of the Executive meeting held in Lisbon on 30 August 1998.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4. 1. NOTED (in relation to # 5.3-7. and # 17.4-8. in the Lisbon minutes): the replacement of Bernard Dumas as the Treasurer by Denise Reed was explained in the report published in the IAG/AIG Newsletter, and also in the annual report requested by IUGS. No objections were heard from anyone.

4. 2. NOTED (in relation to # 7.4. in the Lisbon minutes): following the IAG/AIG Constitution, the National Adhering Body established in Estonia (or any other new NAB) can only be approved by the next Council Meeting. Such a procedure may look like unnecessary bureaucracy and alternative proposals are to be discussed under # 10a (Constitutional Change).

4. 3. REPORTED (in relation to # 11.7-8. in the Lisbon minutes): the IAG/AIG Thematic Conference in Nanjing is scheduled for 25-29 August 2000, hence no overlap with the IGU

Congress in Seoul occurs. The conference is advertised in the IGU Congress circular.

4. 4. REPORTED (in relation to # 12.6. in the Lisbon minutes): following discussions between the President, Secretary, and Publication Officer, publication of a statement on IAG/AIG publication policy in the IAG/AIG Newsletter has been postponed. Publication of a statement should follow the approval of the report by the Sub-Committee on Publications, presented to this meeting.

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

5. President's report

5. 1. REPORTED: the President represented the IAG/AIG by invitation at the geomorphological conference in Taiwan in April 1999 and at the IAG/AIG co-sponsored conference in the honour of Asher Schick in Jerusalem in May 1999. Attendance in the IAG/AIG co-sponsored conference 'Soil, Remote Sensing and Geomorphology' in Nepal (August 1999) and in the field meeting in Abisko, Sweden (September 1999) is planned. In neither case were IAG/AIG resources used to attend the meetings.
5. 2. DISCUSSED: the meaning and conditions of the IAG/AIG co-sponsorship of a conference. In principle, it is the permission to use the IAG/AIG logo and no financial contribution towards organisational costs is implied. The need to associate with good conferences was emphasised.
5. 3. THANKED: Denise Reed for taking over duties of the Treasurer and her work towards improvement of the IAG/AIG financial situation.
5. 4. REPORTED: major issues to be discussed at this meeting. These are: (1) the Constitution and the need for its possible change, (2) publication policy, (3) finances. Agreement of guidelines for future actions is expected, which are to be adopted since the V International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo onwards.

6. Secretary report

6. 1. REPORTED: as requested, annual report of the IAG/AIG activity in 1998 has been sent to the Secretariat of the International Union of Geological Sciences. The report has been approved at the IUGS Executive Meeting in January 1999.
6. 2. REPORTED: National Delegates have changed in a number of countries. These include Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and USA. Some of the National Adhering Bodies do not inform the Secretary about changes in their executive committees.
6. 3. DISCUSSED: the most effective ways to communicate with National Adhering Bodies. So far, the correspondence is with individuals rather than with groups. Since chairpersons of National Adhering Bodies change every year in some countries, there might be a need to have a name of a National Delegate nominee for four-years inter-congress period, to whom all correspondence would be addressed.
6. 4. AGREED: there is urgent need to have an up-to-date list of National Adhering Bodies, including names of officers, terms of duty, permanent addresses, e-mail addresses etc.
6. 5. REPORTED: delay in arranging a new IAG/AIG letterhead is caused by the uncertainty concerning the status of GEOMORPHLIST-moderator in the IAG/AIG Executive. As this

issue is going to be discussed at this meeting, the problem will be resolved soon.

7. Treasurer's report

7. 1. REPORTED: the current state of the IAG/AIG accounts inherited from the former Treasurer, Victor Baker. Details of expenses, income and balance have been presented to the Executive. More than 90% of income comes from membership dues, and less than 10% from book royalties paid by John Wiley and Sons.
7. 2. REPORTED: the record of payment of membership dues in 1998 is very incomplete because of an effective one-year long break in managing the IAG/AIG account and a possibility exists that gaps in records may never be filled since some countries operate on yearly budgets. Therefore, the payment record for 1999-2001 will be essential.
7. 3. AGREED: National Adhering Bodies will be asked to clarify their financial situation and, where possible, to transfer their membership dues for 1998 to the Treasurer. Also, a reminder letter concerning 1999 dues will be sent out to all National Adhering Bodies.
7. 4. DISCUSSED: the level of membership dues and principles of establishing payment categories for each country. An even lower level, for instance \$25 per year, might be considered for countries with genuine financial difficulties.
7. 5. DISCUSSED: whether voting rights at the Council Meeting are tied to payment and whether a person from a country that does not pay its membership dues can stand for election.
7. 6. AGREED: voting rights at the Council Meeting in Tokyo in 2001 will not be tied to payment, since such a move might be considered unconstitutional. A new IAG/AIG Constitution ought to be precise in these matters and state clearly what is the relationship between a duty to pay membership fees and a right to vote.
7. 7. AGREED: to facilitate communication with National Adhering Bodies an updated database has to be created. In Autumn, the Treasurer will request the following information from each NAB: official name of national association and its English translation, permanent address of Secretariat (if present), current names of officers and terms of office, website address, the name of National Delegate for V International Conference on Geomorphology (if known), the name of person to whom invoices are to be sent, approximate number of geomorphologists in the national body. After receiving the requested information, invoices for 2000 and reminder for 1999 (if necessary) will be sent.

8. Publication Officer's report

8. 1. REPORTED: the Publication Officer is often approached because names of other Executive Officers are not known. These need to be published in the Newsletter.
8. 2. AGREED: the Newsletter will contain information about the Executive Committee. In each issue the names and addresses of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will appear. Once a year the full list of the Executive and the IAG/AIG banking account will be published.
8. 3. REPORTED: the Japanese Geomorphological Union has donated 250 copies of the TJGU on Landslide Management to IAG/AIG, which may be sold at a fixed price or distributed for free. 50 have already been shipped to Rio de Janeiro, for this conference, and the Japanese colleagues are expecting a decision concerning the rest.

8. 4. DISCUSSED: effective ways to handle such a donation, without getting into too much trouble and bureaucracy that might be involved if the IAG/AIG decided to act as a bookseller.
8. 5. AGREED: a copy will be given to each Executive member (17) and to each National Adhering Body (60). 20 will go to the 'Book Aid International', with the intention to be sent to the Third World African countries. 50 are to be sold in Brazil and the remaining ones will be sent to Nanjing, to be offered to participants of the IAG/AIG Thematic Conference in August 2000.
8. 6. REPORTED: a cut in number of printed copies of the Newsletter has resulted in significant cost reduction, from \$577 to \$280 per issue, including postage.
8. 7. REPORTED: progress in publishing the IAG/AIG Newsletter in various journals. At present, *Geomorphologie* is the fastest outlet, followed closely by *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie* and *Transactions of the Japanese Geomorphological Union*. *Geomorphology* is slightly out of step, but good will has been expressed. In spite of promises to deal with the Newsletter more effectively, no improvement in *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* has been noted.
8. 8. DISCUSSED: possibilities to increase circulation of the Newsletter. National Bodies should be encouraged to translate and publish the Newsletter in their local geomorphological journals. No disadvantages of enlarging circulation at national level are foreseen. At the very least, it ought to be published in Italian, Spanish, Russian. In neither case, the IAG/AIG is expected to pay to have its Newsletter in any of the new outlets.
8. 9. REPORTED: complaints have been received from other international journals which are ready to publish the Newsletter but have not been considered by the IAG/AIG. These include *Catena*, *Basin Research*, *Physical Geography* and others.
8. 10. DISCUSSED: if any of the above named outlets covers other readership than the journals that publish the Newsletter already. Two major principles in selecting outlets for the Newsletter at the international level ought to be significant widening of access to it and association with high quality journals. Hence, the list of outlets could be enlarged but not very much.
8. 11. DISCUSSED: contents of future issues of the Newsletter. The possible items include reports from the Regional Conference and the Executive Meeting (Denes Loczy and Piotr Migon will be approached), final report on publication policy, update of the list of IAG/AIG publications.
8. 12. DISCUSSED: the role of the Newsletter in publishing obituaries of renowned geomorphologists.
8. 13. AGREED: it is only Senior Fellows and Executive members (past and present), whose full obituaries may be published. In case of other people, a brief note will be sufficient, possibly with a citation of full obituary if published elsewhere.
8. 14. AGREED: there was general appreciation of the quality and timeliness of the publications of *Geografia Fisica e Dinamica Quaternaria* (editor Dr. Federici) reflecting the commitment and excellence of the Italian organising committee of the Bologna meeting.

9. Matters raised by other Committee members

9. 1. REPORTED BY ALBERT PISSART: progress on the Jan de Ploey Library. A copy of the report has been given to each Executive member. The idea of individuals sending offprints to selected libraries of the Third World is better replaced by the idea of sending books to libraries/countries which require such. 'Book Aid International', a British non-profit organisation, has been contacted and is ready to distribute books to English-speaking African

countries if these are provided by the IAG/AIG. John Wiley & Sons have agreed to give two copies of each book published in the BGRG Series and IAG/AIG Series to 'Book Aid International'. Similar organisation has been found in France. To develop the idea further, help from National Adhering Bodies in other countries is required.

9. 2. EMPHASISED: access to sources of information is crucial for international community of geomorphologists. IAG/AIG website would provide enormous service.
9. 3. THANKED: to Albert Pissart for giving a new life to the dormant idea.

10. Co-optations to the Executive Committee

10. 1. DISCUSSED: the status of the current moderator of GEOMORPHLIST, William Locke, in the Executive Committee. The former one, Jeff Lee, was co-opted on the basis of his function and service to geomorphology, and W. Locke is his direct successor.
10. 2. DISCUSSED: given the importance of electronic means of communication, and enormous service an IAG/AIG website may provide, there might be a need to have another person, whose specific duty will be to establish, and manage the website, easily identified with the IAG/AIG. A possible candidate is Zbigniew Zwoliński (Poland), who administers the widely acclaimed website of the Polish Association of Geomorphologists.
10. 3. AGREED: William Locke will be co-opted to the Executive Committee as the GEOMORPHLIST moderator. The President will approach William Locke about his views about a separate person to establish an IAG/AIG website. IAG/AIG Webmaster, once nominated, will also be co-opted to the Executive.

11. Nominees for Senior Fellowships in Tokyo

11. 1. REMINDED: Jean Tricart and Eiju Yatsu have been approached before the Fourth Conference on Geomorphology in Bologna in 1997 and refused to accept the nomination.
11. 2. PROPOSED: the name of Stanley A. Schumm, by the Japanese Geomorphological Union.
11. 3. DISCUSSED: the need to increase linguistic circle of Senior Fellows. Possible candidates include Wan Dai-Shan (China), Velichko and Timofeev (Russia), Verstappen (the Netherlands), Starkel (Poland), Schick (Israel), Barsch (Germany). No firm decision has been made and four is a maximum number of new Senior/Honorary Fellows of the IAG/AIG.

12. Organisational Links

12. 1. REPORTED: Ole Humlum is the official liason person in contacts with International Permafrost Association; no success concerning links with INQUA (no answer to letters – reported by P. Migoñ) and IAHS (no enthusiasm – reported by Olav Slaymaker); no news concerning International Union of Speleology have been received from Paul Williams.

13. Vice-President's report

13. 1. NOTED: the involvement of National Delegates, and national organisations in general, in the IAG/AIG activity is insufficient. They are provided with the same information as the rest of the world. The only difference is that such information is directed straight to them.
13. 2. DISCUSSED: ways to encourage more committed participation in the IAG/AIG activities and ensure wider circulation of information.

13. 3. **PROPOSED:** the IAG/AIG website is the right place to make various reports available. It should play vital role in the communication between the Executive and National Adhering Bodies. The need to have a website becomes even more pronounced.
13. 4. **AGREED:** minutes from Executive Meetings will be circulated to all National Delegates. Special reports for the Executive will be made available on request.

14. Working Groups reports

14. 1. **REPORTED:** the Working Group on Large Rivers, chaired by Avijit Gupta, is active and two field meetings, in China and Brazil, are scheduled for late 1999. Another meeting on Mekong is planned for 2000 and further possibilities are considered.
14. 2. **REPORTED:** DOMODIS Group organised two successful meetings, in Switzerland and Spain, and another one is planned in Romania.
14. 3. **REPORTED:** no written reports have been received from other Working Groups.
14. 4. **NOTED:** the Working Group on Environmental Management in Geomorphology is probably dormant, after Denise Reed stepped down from the position of its co-chair because of taking over Treasurer duties.
14. 5. **DISCUSSED:** financial side of Working Groups activity.
14. 6. **AGREED:** Working Groups are entitled to receive financial support up to \$2000 per four years. Chairs will be reminded of this possibility and urged to ask Treasurer about details.
14. 7. **PROPOSED:** the Executive itself should develop ideas what Working Groups would be most needed for another inter-congress period, to cover current issues in geomorphology. Working Groups may be focused either on specific subjects, having a world-wide coverage, or on regionally important issues, providing the region is large enough to have geomorphologists from different countries involved. Aims and general terms of activity of IAG/AIG Working Groups ought to be specified in the IAG/AIG Constitution.
14. 8. **NOTED:** at the Fifth International Conference on Geomorphology each Working Group ought to have time slot for a session/symposium to present results of its activity.

15. Sub-Committees reports

15a. Constitutional Change

- 15a. 1. **REPORTED BY ALBERT PISSART:** proposals of amendments/changes to the Constitution have been discussed by the Sub-Committee at its meeting in Liege, 28-29 June 1999, attended by Albert Pissart (chair), Mario Panizza, and Piotr Migoñ. There is a number of issues in the existing Constitution that may require clarification, and other ones are not yet considered adequately, although they are vital for the future of the IAG/AIG. The draft of altered constitution has been presented to the attendees of this meeting.
- 15a. 2. **DISCUSSED:** the ways to proceed with Constitutional Change, given the fact that according to the existing Constitution it is only National Adhering Bodies that have a right to propose changes.
- 15a. 3. **AGREED:** the draft of the new Constitution will be formally presented to the Executive by one

of the National Adhering Bodies. Then it will be circulated to all National Delegates by the end of 1999, who will be asked for reaction. Their reply will be expected until the end of May 2000, with no reply being considered as an approval to the proposed changes. If the majority of reactions is positive, formal postal ballot will be taking place in June 2000. If otherwise is the case, another meeting of the Sub-Committee will be arranged, modifications presented and discussed at the Executive Meeting in Nanjing in August 2000 and then the procedure of approaching National Delegates repeated.

15b. *Publication Policy*

- 15b. 1. REPORTED BY ANDREW GOUDIE: publication policy should serve the objectives of the IAG/AIG, chiefly development, promotion and dissemination of knowledge of geomorphology. Many of these objectives will be best served by an official IAG/AIG website, which will ensure immediate dissemination of information, its constant update and on-line publication of materials which might be difficult to publish otherwise or not easy to access (papers not accepted to post-conference volumes, of local interest, abstract collections, descriptions of 'world-class' landforms etc.). As far as book production is concerned, there is a great number of opportunities for the IAG/AIG to be involved, including books on 'global geomorphology', technical handbooks, dictionaries, thematic volumes etc. A launch of a new journal, which would be a 'flagship' IAG/AIG journal, is not desirable, as it is unlikely to achieve a commercial success and may undermine our relations with existing geomorphology journals. No automatic publication of any paper submitted to any of the IAG/AIG associated journal issues or books will be granted.
- 15b. 2. DISCUSSED: the fate of papers submitted to IAG/AIG publications which do not meet quality standards, because of either too local interest or inadequate quality of research. Fairly often, these papers come from countries outside North America, Western Europe and Japan, and their rejection deepens the gap between geomorphologists from the 'First', and 'Second' and 'Third' World. Again, a website might be a good place to make such contributions available to wider readership.
- 15b. 3. AGREED: final version of the report on IAG/AIG Publication Policy will be prepared as soon as possible and presented to the Executive for approval.
- 15b. 4. DISCUSSED: best ways to handle publications arising from the IAG/AIG Conference in Tokyo in 2001, including quality control, selection of outlets etc.
- 15b. 5. AGREED: IAG/AIG-related journals will be approached by the Publication Officer and asked how many special issues could they produce as post-conference publications. Chairs of Working Groups will have to approach publishing houses concerning publication of thematic volumes as separate books. Local organiser will be asked for additional ideas. Publication of abstract book and field trip guide-books remains the sole responsibility of local organisers

15c. *Finances*

- 15c. 1. REPORTED BY DENISE REED: two issues of major concern are (1) how to ensure a stable financial basis of the IAG/AIG and (2) how the money is going to be spent. Current expenses include support of various business operations (stationery, travels, postage etc.), Newsletter production, support of Working Groups, social events associated with major IAG/AIG meetings. Approximate yearly expenses amount to \$4100. Likely expenses in the future will include costs involved in managing the website and production of special brochure that will outline aims and objectives of the IAG/AIG.
- 15c. 2. DISCUSSED: extent of possible support for individuals to attend Executive meetings and

IAG/AIG conferences.

- 15c. 3. **AGREED:** registration fees to attend major IAG/AIG conferences (one per year) by members of the Executive Committee will be reimbursed upon request from the IAG/AIG budget, after presenting relevant receipt. This regulation will be in effect in Nanjing and Tokyo. Financial assistance will be provided for limited number of young geomorphologists attending the International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo in 2001.

15d. *Support for Young Geomorphologists*

- 15d. 1. **REPORTED BY MARIO PANIZZA:** two workshops focused on natural disasters, including various geomorphological phenomena, have been successfully organised in Italy in 1996 and 1998, funded by the European Commission. There is a scope for further initiatives of this kind, with likely support from the EU. Short-term courses for people from non-EU countries might be organised every two years and various travel and accommodation grants would allow interested people to come. The IAG/AIG would be responsible for scientific co-ordination of such courses.
- 15d. 2. **AGREED:** Mario Panizza will be the person in the Executive responsible for further actions directed at training young geomorphologists from various parts of the world.

16. Progress reports on IAG/AIG Conferences in 2000 and 2001

Fifth International Conference on Geomorphology in Tokyo, 2001

16. 1. **REPORTED BY TAKASUKE SUZUKI** (written communication given *in absentia*): more than 5500 copies of first circular were distributed; about 370 forms from 53 countries have been returned (except Japan). The probable number of participants from Japan is estimated to be around 200. The detailed programme of the Conference is being constructed.
16. 2. **DISCUSSED:** possible financial support to assist in participation in the Conference, financial matters involved in the organisation of the 5th ICG, including revenues for the IAG/AIG, and post-conference publications.
16. 3. **AGREED:** limited number of travel grants (5) and accommodation grants (10) should be offered by the organisers. Costs of participation of invited speakers ought to be covered. In addition, the IAG/AIG will offer limited number of scholarships to meet costs of travel or registration fee to young geomorphologists. The review committee will consist of Denise Reed, Mario Panizza and Piotr Migoñ, and will be working in close association with the local organisers.
16. 4. **AGREED:** Denise Reed is the person with whom the local organisers need to be in contact regarding all financial matters, whilst Olav Slaymaker and Christine Embleton-Hamann are to be contacted concerning publications. A meeting involving O. Slaymaker, D. Reed and T. Suzuki is desirable.

IAG/AIG Thematic Conference in Nanjing, 2000

16. 5. **REPORTED BY YING WANG:** dates of 25-29 August 2000 have been selected for the conference as not to overlap with the IGU Congress in Seoul, South Korea, earlier this month. Almost 1500 copies of the 1st circular have been distributed and the conference has also been advertised through internet and various newsletters. Themes of sessions and provisional destinations of field trips have been proposed. The 2nd circular will be distributed in Autumn

1999.

16. 6. **THANKED:** to Ying Wang for her splendid efforts and efficient actions towards organisation of the thematic conference in Nanjing.

17. IUGS grants and questionnaire

17. 1. **REPORTED BY THE SECRETARY:** a questionnaire concerning the future of the IUGS has been distributed to all affiliated organisations. Although the deadline for replies has been passed by the time of this meeting, the IUGS Secretariat agreed to wait until after the Executive Meeting. The questionnaire has been sent out to all Executive members for possible input.
17. 2. **DISCUSSED:** ways the IAG/AIG can support the IUGS.
17. 3. **AGREED:** the Secretary will provide the answer to the questionnaire emphasising the importance of our affiliation to the IUGS as soon as possible.
17. 4. **NOTED:** each year IUGS offers financial support to its commissions and affiliated organisations. This might be considered as a possible source to fund IAG/AIG activities, particularly that of Working Groups. There was enthusiasm for the idea of proposing a research initiative to IUGS for financial support. Perhaps the linking of one or more of the Working Groups with the Support for Young Geomorphologists initiative of Mario Panizza should be pursued directly with the Chair(s) of Working Group(s).

18. Geoparks

18. 1. **REPORTED:** an idea of establishing 'Geoparks' has been introduced by UNESCO. Nominations may be submitted at any time of the year. Details may be obtained from the Secretary.

19. Any other items

19. 1. **NOTED:** the IAG/AIG will be involved in the organisation of 'Sediment Budgets' symposium at the 31st IGC in Seoul in 2000. People in charge are Richard Dikau, Olav Slaymaker, and Maria Sala.
19. 2. **NOTED:** written proposal to host the 6th International Conference on Geomorphology in 2005 has been received from Poland. Verbal proposals have been received from (a) Spain to host the IAG/AIG Regional Conference in 2003 and (b) United Kingdom to host an IAG/AIG Thematic Conference in 2004 (in conjunction with the 32nd IGC in Glasgow)

20. Date and place of the next meeting

20. 1. **AGREED:** the next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for 25 August 2000 in Nanjing, and will be held in conjunction with the IAG/AIG Thematic Conference in Nanjing, 25-29 August 2000.

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

Close window