



International Association of Geomorphologists

Association Internationale des
Géomorphologues

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The Future of the IAG

Address by Andrew Goudie, President of the IAG, Zaragoza 2005

First of all let me say that over the last four years, and under the dedicated leadership of Mario Panizza (Italy), the IAG has undertaken some important activities which should continue. I particularly think of the splendid programme of grant provision to support young research workers, particularly from developing countries, to go to conferences and workshops, including this Congress. The role of Professor Mauro Soldati (Italy) in this has been crucial and I am delighted that he will continue in this role on the new Executive Committee. I also appreciate the importance of having an active and informative web site and a full list of the world's geomorphologists, and salute the work done on our behalf by Dr Zibi Zwolinski (Poland). He too is willing to continue this role over the next four years. In a similar vein, Carol Harden (USA) has done great work on producing the Newsletter with regularity and on time and I am delighted that Mike Slattery (USA) is willing to take on this role. I also remember with admiration the organization of the regional Conference that was run by Irasema Alcantara Ayala in Mexico City. The Committee, and especially Denes Loczy (Hungary), our most able outgoing Executive Secretary, has also been active in encouraging the establishment of active geomorphological bodies in many countries, particularly less favoured ones. Through the good offices of President Mario Panizza (Italy), the IAG had a major presence at the International Geological Congress in Florence in 2004, and this is another initiative that needs to be repeated in Oslo in 2008. We also had a major presence shortly before that at the International Geographical Congress in Glasgow. The last four years has also seen a substantial number of IAG publications produced, and I am particularly grateful to those colleagues who waived their royalties or fees so that the publisher of the Encyclopedia of Geomorphology (Messrs Routledge) could pay in around 32,000 Euros to IAG accounts. Our working parties have also been active, and over the next four years these will be coordinated by Mike Crozier (New Zealand).

With regard to the future, in addition to continuing the good work we are already doing, we need to take geomorphology forward in some new directions, and I have selected five collaborative research themes:

- 1) The landscape is one of God's greatest gifts to mankind, and landscape is the province of the geomorphologist. Landscape inspires the young and the public in general, but I believe also becoming increasingly important in policy terms at the national and international levels. Increasing levels of foreign travel are exposing more and more people to great landscapes. The IAG needs to recognise the importance of World Heritage Site designations, of geosites and geoparks and of new agreements such as the European Landscape Convention. The developing fields of Geodiversity and Geomorphological Integrity are ones that need to be

pursued. The IAG has been invited by IUCN to be involved in World Heritage Site selection, and we will be establishing a small ad hoc committee to take this forward, involving among others Denys Brunsten (Founding President, UK) and Piotr Migon (former Executive Secretary, Poland).

- 2) Geomorphology is useful, and we need to encourage the development of applied or engineering/environmental geomorphology through publications, setting appropriate standards of conduct, through developing our arsenal of techniques, and by transference of best practice. In the same vein, geomorphologists need to speak out more as geomorphologists and with alacrity when great natural disasters occur. Our web site could be developed to that end. We will establish a new working group on Geomorphological Hazards, under the leadership of Professors Irasema Alcantara Ayala (Mexico), Sunil De (India), and Mohamed Benazzouz (Algeria).
- 3) The world faces Global Change. The geomorphological community has not been sufficiently involved with the burgeoning global change agenda either in terms of the science, the policy or the management. Our input to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has, in comparison to that of life scientists and social scientists let alone climatologists, been modest, and it shows in IPCC reports. In sensitive areas, 'geomorphological hotspots', geomorphological changes may be enormous. I think of the recent paper in Nature by David Thomas and his colleagues, which suggests that by the end of the century almost the entire mega-Kalahari will become a reactivated aeolian landscape. Streamflow in many semi-arid areas will probably be reduced by 60% or more – what are the geomorphological implications? The IAG should produce, as a collaborative endeavour, a major statement on the geomorphological implications of future global change, and we will establish a new working group, chaired by Olav Slaymaker (Past President, Canada).
- 4) We need to reach out more than we have to the geophysical community, most especially in the USA, where the AGU is not affiliated to the IAG. The work that is being done on denudation rates and geochemical cycling in relation to tectonics and climate is hard science of great importance, and the IAG needs to engage with its practitioners. Related to this is the need to be engaged in Earth System Science, and Professor Lothar Schrott (Germany) will chair a new working group in this area, which I hope will build upon the meeting to be held in Loughborough, UK, in 2006.
- 5) Planetary scale studies are another other frontier for geomorphological research. The remote sensing images coming back from Mars, and the information that can be gained about the nature of our sea floor from side-scan sonar and 3D seismic studies, are staggering. The latter area is connected with the exploitation of the sea floor for hydrocarbon resources, and areas like the Congo Fan and the Nile fan have the most extraordinary mass movement, fluvial and salt tectonic features. I have also been struck by the increasing availability of free images of our own home planet - the NASA Zulu website of Landsat 7 images, the new Google Earth site, the University of Maryland site and MODIS images, enable us to recognise and map global distributions of phenomena, such as the world's great ergs, dust storm hotspots, the oriented lakes of the tundra, the worlds deflation depressions, and many others. Here is another clear area for international collaboration.

So then, I have highlighted five main areas for development: landscape conservation; the application of geomorphology; the geomorphological implications of global change; the role of geomorphological processes in Earth System Science; and the development of planetary scale

studies of Mars, our ocean floors, and our land surface using the new technologies associated with remote sensing.

We need to get the message across that geomorphology is an important and active discipline, and I am pleased to say that Professor David Higgitt (Singapore) will be our first Communications Officer.

However, I am very worried by the financial viability of the IAG. I believe that we need to continue to increase the financial resources of the IAG, which are still modest. Publications can do this, and I welcome the decision to produce a Handbook of Geomorphology under the chief editorship of Basil Gomez (USA), royalties from which will come to the IAG. How about a manual of applied geomorphology? How about a guide to the world's most spectacular landform sites? We should also consider a legacy programme and approaches to foundations and major corporations. It may also be that national subscriptions should be increased, at least in line with inflation but also to bring them more in line with comparable bodies such as INQUA. That will be something for Council to consider at its next meeting. André Ozer (Belgium) has been an excellent Treasurer over the last four years and will be handing over to Francisco Gutiérrez (Spain)

I am thrilled to have been given the honour to be President of the IAG, and I hope that you will all feel that you can approach me with ideas for taking the discipline forward between now and the next congress in Melbourne (Australia) in July 2009. We have a very full series of regional meetings scheduled for the next four years and will have 12 working groups operating over that period as well. Finally, may I pay a tribute to Mateo Gutiérrez-Elorza (Spain) and his colleagues for running such a splendid congress in Zaragoza? They will be a hard act to follow.

IAG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Zaragoza, Congress Hall, 8 September 2005

The President, Andrew GOUDIE, opens the meeting at 09:00 am and welcomes the participants. Are present: Franck AUDEMARD (Vice-President, Venezuela), Michael CROZIER (Vice-President, New Zealand), Morgan DE DAPPER (Secretary, Belgium), Andrew GOUDIE (President, UK), Francisco GUTTIEREZ (Treasurer, Spain), Michael SLATTERY (Publications Officer, USA).

Are present from point 3 on: David HIGGIT, Mauro SOLDATI, Zbigniew ZWOLINSKI

Are excused from point 3 on: Dan BALTEANU, Monique FORT, Ying WANG

1. Agenda

The agenda proposed by the President is approved.

2. The future of the IAG – strategic overview

The President outlines his view of the future of the IAG, (to be presented at the second General Assembly), stressing the need to expand the number of working parties so that they cover major, active and developing themes in Geomorphology.

3. Cooptation of EC members

Following EC members are coopted: Dan BALTEANU (Romania), Monique FORT (France), David HIGGIT (Singapore), Mauro SOLDATI (Italy), Ying WANG (China), Zbigniew ZWOLINSKI (Poland). An effort will be done to coopt a member from Africa, south of the Sahara. A possible candidate is Mohammed UMER from Addis Abeba University, Ethiopia. The Secretary will further enquire.

4. Duties of EC members

Franck AUDEMARD: Vice-President, Latin-America
Dan BALTEANU: Central Europe
Michael CROZIER: Vice-President, Australia, New-Zealand, Oceania, Working Groups
Morgan DE DAPPER: Secretary
Monique FORT: Western Europe (especially those countries with roman language expression), Middle East, India
Andrew GOUDIE: President
Francisco GUTTIEREZ: Treasurer
Michael SLATTERY: Publications Officer, USA
David HIGGIT: Public Relations Officer; South-east Asia
Mauro SOLDATI: Training Officer
Ying WANG: China
Zbigniew ZWOLINSKI: Webmaster

Gaps: German-speaking countries of Western Europe (filled by Lothar SCHROTT, Germany, cf. 11.WG Earth Systems), Northern Europe (filled by Achim BEYLICH, Norway,cf. 11. WG SEDIBUD), North Africa (filled by Mohamed T.BENAZZOUZ, Algeria, cf. 11. WG Geomorphological Hazards), Africa south of the Sahara (cf. 2.), Indian subcontinent (filled by Sunil Kumar DE, India, cf. 11. WG Geomorphological Hazards), Meso-America (filled by Irasema ALCANTARA-AYALA, Mexico, cf. 11. WG Geomorphological Hazards)

5. Financial policy

It was reported that there was currently 62,000 Euro in the account of the IAG, but the President pointed out that c 32,000 Euros had come from royalties associated with the Encyclopedia of Geomorphology, and this was a once and for all contribution. He pointed out that the IAG had substantial expenditure on Working Groups, Training Courses, and EC meetings. He suggested that the IAG should improve its income from publications, and noted that the Handbook of Geomorphology (edited by Basil Gomez and others) might bring in c. 9000 Euros. In addition he suggested that there should be a Legacy programme, that the fee paid to the International Council on Landslides (US\$ 2,000) should be cancelled, that the question of personal subscriptions should be revisited, that commercial sponsorship should be explored, that a proposal to increase the subscriptions for National Bodies should be brought forward to the next meeting of Council, and that the organizers of the Melbourne Conference and other meetings should be encouraged to make sure that a sufficient profit was made to make a substantial contribution to the IAG's overall budget.

The proposal to cancel the subscription to the ICL was approved.

It was noted that the Past Treasurer (A. Ozer) would hand over the finances to the New Treasurer (F. Gutierrez) in January 2006.

6. Website

Zbigniew ZWOLINSKI, Past and new Webmaster, reports:

The membership database is ongoing but the response is low and slow. A new call will be launched.

For the website news more feedback is needed. David HIGGIT proposes to respond quickly to major news-breaking “geomorphological” events (flooding, landslides, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, hurricanes).

7. Training of young geomorphologists

Mauro SOLDATI, Past and new Training Officer, reports:

During the past quadriennium young geomorphologists (mostly from less favoured countries) were supported, enabling them to take part in training courses, symposia and regional/international conferences. The EC unanimously agrees to continue this effort.

During the next years more requests for funding are likely to be expected. The question is how to deal with this situation. The President suggests continuation of support for activities that were successful (e.g. Tierra del Fuego, Windsor). It is decided that a minimum budget will be defined in order to properly manage the proposals received. At the next EC meeting a decision will be taken concerning the budget for the first two years. In the meantime, it is decided to support the following activities for the first year:

- BGRG Post-graduate Training Course, Windsor, UK, December 2006: 2 grants for PhD students from Eastern Europe (evaluating commission: GOUDIE, SOLDATI, ZWOLINSKI);
- CONICET IV Post-graduate Field Course in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, November 2006: 2 grants for young geomorphologists from Latin America;
- IAG Regional Conference, Brasil, September 2006: grants (number to be defined) for young geomorphologists from less favoured countries (except Latin America).

It is agreed that the EC will have to encourage the organisers of Regional Conferences to devote part of the budget to grants for young geomorphologists.

8. Publications

Publications are very important for the IAG. Wiley’ contribution is declining, but the Cambridge University Press is keen to expand. The following suggestions were made:

- WG on Global Change, edited by Olav SLAYMAKER
- WG on Hazards, edited by Irasema ALCANTARA-AYALA
- Handbook/Recipe on ‘Applied Geomorphology’ including legal issues
- Glossary of Geomorphology for students, hardcopy, multilingual (English, French, Spanish)
- Biographies (cf. Dorothy SACK’s ‘History of Geomorphology’), Andrew GOUDIE’s extensive archive of photographs could be included
- A book of major world landform sites, edited by Piotr MIGON.

9. Newsletter

A more efficient way of diffusion is necessary. Michael SLATTERY will consult the Past Publication Officer Carol HARDEN.

10. Scientific Meetings

- 2006, Mongolia. A Joint International Meeting on ‘Environmental Changes and Earth Surface Processes in Semi-arid and Temperate Areas’ will be organised in Mongolia from June 9th to 15th by the Institute of Geography of the Mongolian Academy of Science, the Japanese Geomorphological Union, the International Geographical Union (GC21) and Kanazawa University. The organisers ask the official support of the IAG. The EC unanimously agrees as long as there are no financial implications. The decision will be communicated by the Secretary.
- IAG Regional Conferences:
 - 2006, September, Goiânia, Brazil: Franck AUDEMARD will attend.
 - 2007, June, East Malaysia
 - 2007, July, Svalbard Archipelago, Spitsbergen, Norway
 - 2008, April, Israel
 - 2008, September, Braşov, Romania
- 2008, International Geological Conference, August 5th-14th, Oslo, Norway. It is proposed that Monique FORT prepares a programme with session.
- 2008, UNESCO & IUGS, International Year of Planet Earth
- 2009, IAG International Conference, Melbourne, Australia

11. Working Groups

- Continuing WG's:
 - Geoarcheology: Eric FOUACHE (France)
 - Large Rivers: Avijit GUPTA (UK)
 - Geomorphological Sites: Emmanuel REYNARD (Switzerland)
 - Arid Regions: Yang XIAOPING (China)
- New WG's:
 - SEDIBUD, Sediment Budgets in Cold Environments: Achim BEYLICH (Norway)
 - Rocky Coasts Geomorphology: Wayne STEPHENSON (Australia)
 - Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric Regional Working Group: not yet defined
 - Human Impact on the Landscape: Dénes LÓCZY (Hungary)
 - Small Catchments: Andrzej KOSTRZEWSKI (Poland)
 - Earth Systems: Lothar SCHROTT (Germany)
 - Geomorphological Hazards: Irasema ALCANTARA-AYALA (Mexico), Sunil Kumar DE (India), Mohamed T.BENAZZOUZ (Algeria)
 - Global Change and Geomorphology : Olav SLAYMAKER (Canada)

A budget has to be foreseen for the 8 new WG's. A decision as to the amount has to be taken during the next EC-Meeting. WG's must formulate a strategy and must have a tangible output (training manuals, international meetings and publications).

12. World Heritage Sites

The IAG will cooperate with The World Conservation Union (IUCN, www.iucn.org) on this. An ad hoc commission (a call for active members has to be launched; Denys BRUNSDEN (UK), Piotr MIGON (Poland), Michael CROZIER (New-Zealand), Andrew GOUDIE (UK) are ready to take part) will formulate a Top-20 of landscapes to be protected.

13. Any Other Business

New stationary will be prepared by the Secretary

Michael SLATTERY will formulate a statement concerning the organisation of the important group of US-geomorphologists which is at the present day diluted over different organisations: American Geophysical Union (AGU), Geological Society of America (GSA), Geomorphology Special Group of the Association of American Geographers (AAG).

14. Next EC Meeting

Andrew GOUDIE will convene the next EC Meeting in Oxford – UK.

Date: 31st March and 1st April 2006

Programme: informal dinner on the Friday evening, intensive all day (9 am – 5 pm) committee meeting on the Saturday. The IAG will pay for accommodation and food. It is hoped that at least a portion of the travel costs could be provided by the institutions or national bodies of those attending.

The meeting is closed at 11 am.

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Young Geomorphologists

IAG Grants for the "Post-graduate Research Training Workshop", Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park (UK), 18-21 December 2005

The selection procedure of the six PhD students in Geomorphology from Eastern Europe who submitted a request for an IAG grant has been completed upon examination of the candidates' CVs and PhD research project abstract.

IAG Grants have been awarded to:
Marek Ewertowski (Poland) and Luminita Preoteasa (Romania).

Editor's Note

The success of the IAG/AIG Newsletter depends upon the contributions that we receive. Please assist by sending commentaries, reviews of regional or national meetings and field trips, summaries of issues pertinent to geomorphology, and announcements of future meetings and workshops. Your contributions should be forwarded to the IAG/AIG Publications Officer:

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