



## International Association of Geomorphologists

*Association Internationale des Géomorphologues*

**IAG/AIG Newsletter No. 24 (4/2008)**

**"Summary of the Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the IAG/AIG Executive Committee 2005 – 2009  
Transylvania University, Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering, Romania, Brasov,  
Monday, September 15, 2008**

The 4th Meeting of the IAG/AIG Executive Committee 2005 – 2009 was held on the eve of the Regional Conference on Geomorphology which was organized in Brasov, Romania, in the premises of the Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering of the Transylvania University. Present was the almost full EC: Franck AUDEMARD (Vice-President, Venezuela), Dan BALTEANU (Co-opted Member, Romania), Michael CROZIER (Vice-President, New Zealand), Morgan DE DAPPER (Secretary, Belgium), David HIGGITT (Public Relations Officer, Singapore), Monique FORT (Vice-President, France), Andrew GOUDIE (President, UK), Francisco GUTIERREZ (Treasurer, Spain), Mauro SOLDATI (Training Officer, Italy), Mohammed UMER (Co-opted Member, Ethiopia), Zbigniew ZWOLINSKI (Webmaster, Michael SLATTERY (Publications Officer, USA) and Ying WANG (Co-opted Member, China) could not attend the meeting and sent their apologies.

### ***Treasury***

A progressive decline in the IAG/AIG's finances has a substantial detrimental effect on our capability to support young geomorphologists, especially from developing countries, to nourish our growing number of Working Groups and to carry out the general activities of the IAG/AIG. The IAG/AIG-EC has sought, with some success, to raise income from publications and has reduced its number of meetings to just one a year, at the occasion of regional conferences.

However, in spite of these efforts, **our expenditure exceeds our income**. The main reason for this situation is that the annual dues, which are much lower than those of comparable scientific bodies, have not been modified since the creation of our association some two To tackle this problem three types of changes in the annual dues are proposed: (A) Raising the subscription fee to a higher band, (B) Increasing the current rate by 20%, (C) Assigning the lower fee to a few of the national members that had until now the only commitment to send annual reports, but which climbed in the meantime on the development ladder. The review of the annual fees will be based on the economic situation of the countries according to the World Bank ranking and the number of geomorphologists. A letter with proposals will be send to the National Scientific Members. The review of the annual dues is indispensable to maintain the present degree of activity of the IAG/AIG while keeping its finances in a sustainable balance.

**This alarming and urgent matter has to be treated and approved by the IAG/AIG Council at the 7th International Conference in Melbourne in 2009.**

An amount of 6,000 EUR per year is foreseen as support for young geomorphologists. However for 2009, the year of the International Conference, the sum will be raised to 10,000 EUR.

### ***Working Groups***

Working Groups are one of the core activities of the IAG/AIG. The EC is delighted to report that the level of activity within the 14 IAG/AIG Working Groups (ten of those groups are funded until 2009 and four are continuing, unfunded groups) is very high and satisfactory All of the ten funded groups have qualified for funding for 2008. In addition, at the 2007-Kota Kinabalu EC-meeting, exceptional

one-off grants of 500 EUR were approved for the *Large Rivers* and *Arid Zone* WG's to help with special projects.

Almost all fourteen WG's have sent annual reports. As is the policy of IAG/AIG, many of these groups are working on substantial publications, and all have held one or more meetings often in conjunction with major discipline conferences.

All Working Groups, apart from the *Carpatho-Balkan-Dinaric* group, are planning paper sessions for the 2009 - International Conference. Although the *Semi-arid/ Arid process Group* is not having a specific WG session, members are participating in the organisation of an 'Arid Zone' paper session at Melbourne. There is indication of interest for formation of new WG's for the 2009- 2013 period. These include:

- Uplifted Karst Regions (Indonesia)
- Preparation of Geomorphology Manuals – may include an international glossary of geomorphological terms (Brazil)
- South American Paleosurfaces of Merosur Region with special attention to Parana/Plato basin
- Coral Reefs

### ***Training of Young Geomorphologists***

The training of young geomorphologists is another core activity of IAG/AIG. It is confirmed or decided to sponsor with IAG/AIG grants the following training activities for 2008-2009:

1) IAG/AIG Training Workshop on Rock Coast Geomorphology: Techniques and Training (Hong Kong, July-December 2008 – period to be defined) *Support from IAG/AIG*: 2 grants of 500 EUR each, for young geomorphologists from Oceania.

2) BSG Postgraduate Training Course (Windsor, UK, December 2008) *Support from IAG/AIG*: 2 grants of 500 EUR each, for a PhD student in Geomorphology from Europe (except UK).

3) IAG/AIG International Conference on Geomorphology (Melbourne, Australia, 6-11 July 2009) *Support from IAG/AIG*: 10-15 grants for young geomorphologists from less favoured countries worldwide and from south-east Asia and Oceania (funds allocated: 12,500 EUR). In addition, the French Geomorphology Group will offer 1000 EUR (the Jean Tricart Award) to a young geomorphologist from Latin America, Africa or Asia (see further).

4) III AIGeo National Conference “The role of geomorphology in land management” – in honour of Past IAG/AIG-President, Prof. Mario Panizza (Modena and Dolomites, Italy, 13-18 September 2009). *Support from IAG/AIG*: 1 grant of 500 EUR, for a young geomorphologist from Mediterranean countries (except Italy).

It is emphasized once more that the organizers of the above mentioned events are supposed to waive the registration fees to the granted young geomorphologists. The budget outlined at the 2006-EC meeting in Oxford (around 28,000 EUR for 2005 - 2009), considering the expenses foreseen, will not be exceeded. The following procedure for collecting the requests for grants is confirmed: the IAG/AIG Training Officer is responsible for collecting the candidatures, for despatching the files to the members of the selection committees and for informing the candidates about the outcome. A series of initiatives for Young Geomorphologists will be organized at the Melbourne Conference.

### ***National Scientific Members***

In order to join efforts individual countries can combine in a regional consortium. However, each individual country will have to pay the national membership fee or present an activity report.

Regional consortiums are in the making for **East Africa** and **South-East Asia**.

### ***Tricart Award***

In order to honour the achievements and spirit of the late French Geomorphologist Jean Tricart, the **French Geomorphology Group** (Groupe Français de Géomorphologie – GFG) has created the **Jean Tricart Award**. This award of 1000 EUR will be given to an outstanding young (<35 years) Geomorphologist from a developing country, in particular from those countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa which Jean Tricart was particularly involved with. This will be awarded every four years, at the occasion of the International Conference on Geomorphology. The selection committee

will include 2 members of the IAG/AIG Executive Committee and, in case no GFG-member makes part of the EC, an additional member of the French Geomorphology Group. The first award will be made at the 2009- Melbourne-IAG/AIG- International Conference.

#### ***IAG/AIG-Website***

Geomorphologists are advised to visit the IAG/AIG-Website (<http://www.geomorph.org>) regularly. National Scientific Members and Working Groups are urged to feed the website with information in due time.

#### **IAG/AIG-Council Meeting during 2009-Melbourne-IAG/AIG-International Conference**

The attention of the offices of the **National Scientific Members** is drawn to the following.

As stipulated by the **IAG/AIG-Constitution** (to be consulted on the IAG/AIG-website) the **Council** consists of the voting representative of each **National Scientific Member** (or their authorized deputies) plus the members of the IAG/AIG Executive Committee. The Council elects the new Executive Committee, determines the annual subscription fee, approves standing and new Working Groups, decides on the host country for the next International Conference on Geomorphology and the Regional Geomorphology Conferences in between. The Council shall meet every four years during the International Conference on Geomorphology. **The next Council Meeting will be held in Melbourne in the period 6th - 11th July 2009.**

The **Executive Committee** consists of **elected** and co-opted **members**. The elected members are: a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Publications Officer. Nominees for presidency shall have served as elected members of the Executive Committee in the term immediately preceding their nomination. Elected members shall serve a maximum of four years in any post. All elected members are to be from different countries. The Executive Committee may co-opt members at anytime necessary to maintain the aims of IAG/AIG. The Office of the current Executive Committee expires with the next Council Meeting, so an **election** has to take place in **2009** in Melbourne. National Scientific Members are invited to **submit** to the **Secretary** ([morgan.dedapper@UGent.be](mailto:morgan.dedapper@UGent.be)) **names for the positions of Vice- President, Secretary, Treasurer and Publications Officer** not later than three months before the election: i.e. **not later than the 6th of April 2009**. Evidence must be provided to show that each would be **willing to serve if elected**.

Offers to act as **host** for the next **International Conference on Geomorphology** shall be received by the **Secretary** ([morgan.dedapper@UGent.be](mailto:morgan.dedapper@UGent.be)) at least three months in advance of the preceding International Conference: i.e. **not later than the 6th of April 2009**. The elections, preceded by the presentation of the candidacies by National Delegates (or people acting on their behalf), will be carried out according to the **agreed voting procedures** of the IAG/AIG:

- A **quorum** for the Council Meeting will be a **simple majority** (more than 50%) of the National Scientific Members.
- Any member country that will not be present for a vote may submit its views and vote in advance by mail to the Secretary. In this case that member country will be regarded as being present for the purposes of the quorum for the vote.
- The National Scientific Member shall **inform** the Secretary about the **voting representative**.
- Where applicable **continuous record of payment of membership fees or delivery of a yearly report** is necessary to acquire **full voting rights**.
- Each National Scientific Member shall only have **one vote**.
- Voting shall be by **secret ballot**.
- In the event of an equal decision of votes, the President or acting President shall cast the deciding vote.

#### ***Forthcoming EC-Meeting***

An EC Meeting will be convened in **Melbourne** on Monday **6th July 2009** at the occasion of the **IAG/AIG-International Conference**

**A.O.B.**

The **French Geomorphology Group (Groupe Français de Géomorphologie – GFG)** confirms its intention of submitting the candidacy of **Paris** as the host city for the 8<sup>th</sup> **International Conference of Geomorphology** to be held in **2013**. The organizing committee is already set up, and the nomination of the Scientific Committee is under progress. The Conference venue will be located in the very centre of Paris, near the House of Parliament. Contacts have been taken with an agency that will provide help with advertising, accommodation, exhibitions etc. The support of the Paris Municipality is already acquired, and further supports from the Regional Council and other private companies are also expected. A number of proposals for pre-conference and post-conference field trips have already been received from various French research groups, including some trips that will be co-organized with geomorphologists from neighbouring countries (Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, England). The community of French geomorphologists is fully involved in the preparation of this challenging project.

**The President,**  
**Andrew GOUDIE**

**The Secretary,**  
**Morgan DE DAPPER”**

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IAG/AIG Executive Committee, E-mail:[iag@geomorph.org](mailto:iag@geomorph.org)

### International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG/AIG)

**President**

Andrew Goudie  
School of Geography  
And the Environment  
University of Oxford  
Mansfield Road  
Oxford OX1 3TB, UK  
Ph.: +44 1865 271921  
Fax: +44 1865 271940  
[andrew.goudie@stx.ox.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.goudie@stx.ox.ac.uk)

**Vice-Presidents**

Franck Audemard  
Venezuelan Foundation for  
Seismological Research  
Apdo.Postal 76880  
CARACAS 1070-A  
Venezuela  
Ph : 58 (0)212 2575153  
[faudemard@funvisis.gob.ve](mailto:faudemard@funvisis.gob.ve)

Michael Crozier  
Victoria University of  
Wellington  
Institute of Geography  
Wellington, New Zealand  
Ph: +64 (0)4 463 5279  
[Michael.Crozier@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Michael.Crozier@vuw.ac.nz)

Monique Fort  
Université Paris7-Denis Diderot  
Géographie, Histoire, Sciences de la Société  
UFR GHSS, Case 7001  
2, Place Jussieu  
F-75 251 PARIS Cedex 05  
France, EU  
[fort@univ-paris-diderot.fr](mailto:fort@univ-paris-diderot.fr)  
Phone : + 33 (0)1 44 277669

IAG Account number: 068-2376668-01 - DEXIA Banque  
Av. Centenaire, 42 - B-4102 Ougrée, Belgium  
Account IBAN: BE 43-0682-3766-6801  
SWIFT: GKCCBEBB

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