



International Association of Geomorphologists

Newsletter No. 21 (1/2004)

IAG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Mexico City, 26 and 30 October 2003

Members present: M. Panizza (President), A. Goudie (Vice-President), D. Lóczy (Secretary), A. Ozer (Treasurer), I. Alcántara-Ayala, M. Gutiérrez-Elorza, C. Harden, E.M. Latrubesse, J. Lugo-Hubp, M. Soldati, Z. Zwolinski. **Apologies for absence:** M.T. Benazzouz, V. Ch. Jha, A. Pérez-Gonzalez.

1. News from the President (M. Panizza)

- *Welcome* to all the participants and, in particular, to Carol Harden, new Publication Officer.
- *Thanks* to Irasema Alcántara-Ayala and her collaborators for the organization of the IAG Regional Conference in Mexico City.
- *Conference to celebrate O. Slaymaker's life-work* (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, 27-30 June, 2004): supported by IAG.
- *Commemorative conference* in Longarone (Italy) on the 40th anniversary of the Vaiont landslide: supported by the IAG.
- *International Conference on Periglacial Geomorphology* (Clermont-Ferrand, France, 20-22 January, 2005): call for papers circulated.
- *ICSU grants program 2005*: information received from Secretary General.
- *7th International Conference on Geomorphology, 2009*: Australia-New Zealand Geomorphological Group has expressed its interest to prepare a proposal.

2. News from EC members

- E.M. Latrubesse: Information on IAG National Scientific Members in South America:
 - 1) Argentina: organizing a conference in La Plata for 2005,
 - 2) Venezuela: meeting with representatives of the geomorphological community,
 - 3) Bolivia: the national group will be organized at La Paz University in November 2003,
 - 4) Brazil: meeting with representatives of Uruguay and Argentina.
- M. Soldati: INQUA Congress, Reno, 24 July, 2003; poster session organized by the IAG.
- D. Lóczy: IUGS Annual Report for 2001 was published.
- A. Ozer: Met with Moroccan geomorphologists; reorganization of national group is underway.

3. Mexico Regional Conference program

I. Alcántara-Ayala reported on Conference program, which will include ca. 100 participants outside Mexico from more than 20 countries, 160 oral papers, and 70 posters.

4. Minutes of Modena EC meeting

The members of the IAG Executive Committee officially approved the Minutes.

5. Report of the President's activity, new proposals, discussion

Reports on meetings in which the President participated.

- San Giorgio Canavese (Torino, Italy), April 2002: WG “Terroirs viticoles”;
- Santander (Spain), March 2003: University Session in honor of Antonio Cendrero;
- Ljubljana (Slovenia), July 2003: Academic Symposium in honor of Ivan Gams;
- Camerino and Modena Apennines (Italy), July 2003: IAG Meeting and Workshop;
- Cagliari (Italy), October 2003: WG “Geomorphological sites”;
- Athens (Greece), October 2003: WG “ Geoarchaeology”.

Progress in the three main fields of intervention presented at Tokyo Conference: 1) more committed participation of all geomorphologists in the IAG activities; 2) more official enrollment in the IAG of those countries which are less favored owing to economic reasons; 3) more information, updating and training opportunities for young researchers, especially those belonging to less favored countries.

Proposal from Leo de Graaff of a one-week intensive course for postgraduates in 2004 and 2005 in Vorarlberg, Austria: EC decided to support the initiative giving the aegis.

IAG became a member of the International Consortium on Landslides. A new journal (*Landslides*) will be launched by ICL. M. Panizza will be a member of the steering committee and the EC proposed that I. Alcántara-Ayala serve on the editorial panel of the journal *Landslides*. M. Panizza and E.M. Latrubesse will contact the Geological Survey of Peru for Macchu Picchu Program.

6. Memberships

D. Lóczy reported on new requests for National Scientific Members. The application of Macedonia was approved. Categories of fees were established. Countries without fees but with responsibility to present an annual report are: Albania, Cameroon, Egypt, Macedonia, Madagascar, Pacific Islands, Vietnam.

In addition to the list of National Delegates it is necessary to compile a list of individual geomorphologists all around the world. The EC asked Z. Zwolinski to collect national lists from national representatives.

7. Financial situation

A. Ozer presented the financial balance of the IAG. The balance was positive but some members had not paid their membership fees for the year 2003. It was emphasized that only those countries that have paid membership fees for the period 2001 to 2005 by that time will have a voting right in Zaragoza.

8. Publication activity, Newsletters etc.

- E.M. Latrubesse asked if the *Revista Brasileira de Geomorfologia* could also publish the Newsletter in the future: the EC approved.
- C. Harden was asked to prepare a list of all recent IAG-related publications.
- A. Goudie: *The Encyclopedia of Geomorphology* was expected to appear in January, 2004. Contacts with John Wiley should be maintained and a new volume published on a comprehensive topic. A glossary of geomorphology should be produced for the web site. O. Slaymaker, A. Pissart and M. Sala will be asked to coordinate this task.
- M. Soldati reported on the proposal of Elsevier to publish some of the Florence symposia volumes.
- I. Alcántara-Ayala announced that the Proceedings of the Mexico Regional Conference would be published as special volumes of *Catena* and *Geomorphology*.

9. Working Group (WG) activities

Detailed reports were received from WG chairmen and evaluated and approved by the Executive Committee. A. Pérez-Gonzalez was asked to write letters to WG leaders asking for an annual report, the listing of their expenses of operation, and information on the workshops to be organized by the

WG at the International Conference in Zaragoza. A proposal has been made by the President to establish horizontal-regional Working Groups as well as already existing vertical-thematic Working Groups. The EC approved.

10. Training activity

M. Soldati updated the plan of training activities for 2003, showed in detail the plan for 2004 and 2005, and made proposals about grants to be awarded for future IAG sponsored activities (see point 11 for details about grants).

11. Grants for young geomorphologists

M. Soldati reported on IAG grants already awarded, emphasizing that in jointly sponsored activities the number of grants offered has often been doubled thanks to the funds provided by organizing institutions (e.g. UNESCO, Italian Association of Physical Geography and Geomorphology, Mexican Geomorphological Society).

IAG Grants will be awarded within the following initiatives: 1) BGRG Windsor Course – UK, December 2003; 2) IAG Symposium and International Workshop on Landslides – India, February 2004; 3) Field Course in Tierra del Fuego – Argentina, March 2004; 4) International Geological Congress – Florence, Italy, August 2004, for which it was proposed to provide grants for the Intensive Course “Geomorphology and Engineering Geology applied to Landslide Risk Mitigation;” 5) Santander short course, “Global change, natural processes and sustainability – strategies and tools for managing environmental risks” – Spain, summer 2004 (the course is not confirmed yet); and 6) AGU Chapman Conference “Salt Marsh Geomorphology” in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, October, 2004; and 7) Conference in Brazil, second half of 2004.

With respect to the year 2005, it was decided that most of the funds should be allocated to the IAG Zaragoza Conference.

12. Reports of EC Members other activities, new proposals, discussion

De Ploey Library. During the Council Meeting it was proposed to establish a Commission to manage the J. De Ploey Library. The EC decided the Members of this Commission to be M. De Dapper, A. Ozer and J. Poesen.

E. M. Latrubesse presented a proposal for an international field course in the Pantanal, Brazil, second half of 2004, concerning fluvial systems.

M. Panizza mentioned that 2004 will be the IUGS-UNESCO Year of the Planet.

Z. Zwolinski mentioned that 2007/8 will be International Polar Year: the EC proposed a regional conference for that occasion.

India Regional Conference (Calcutta, 2004) – S.K. De sent a report on preparations. The EC approved changing the name of the meeting to IAG Symposium. Two grants will be awarded by IAG.

IGU International Conference (Glasgow, 2004) – A. Goudie mentioned that geomorphology is the focus of numerous sessions. The IAG President and Vice-President will present plenary lectures. IAG Executive Committee members are encouraged to participate individually.

IUGS International Congress (Florence, 2004) – M. Panizza informed the IAG EC that the 2nd Circular has been delivered. There will be various symposia (Cultural Heritage, International Geoscience Project, Year of the Planet etc.) and thematic sessions where the IAG is directly involved.

IAG 6th International Conference on Geomorphology (Zaragoza, 2005) – M. Gutiérrez-Elorza presented the 1st Circular and statistics about preliminary registration (351 people from all continents) and announced oral and poster presentations (ca 400 altogether). The registration fee is comparable to that of previous conferences.

Contributions to the project “Dark Nature – Rapid Natural Changes and Human Responses” – The grant application to ICSU under the heading “Dark Nature – Rapid Natural Changes and Human Responses” (Coordinator I. Stewart, University of Glasgow, Scotland) has been approved and funded. M. Panizza underlined that the participation of IAG in this project will enhance the IAG policy of scientific support to less favoured countries.

13. Budget for 2004 and 2005

A. Ozer presented the financial balance. The EC approved.

14. Next EC meetings

An administrative meeting is to be held in Zaragoza, 26-28 March, 2004.

15. Other matters

- The EC made decisions about the Council meeting, the General Assembly and the Closing Ceremony of the Mexico Regional Conference.
- The standard format for Working Groups designed by A. Pérez-Gonzalez was accepted. Links are proposed to web-sites with more detailed information on each WG.
- It was decided that M. Panizza and I. Alcántara-Ayala would summarize the outcomes of the Mexico Regional Conference for the Newsletter and the web site.

Pécs-Modena, 18 February, 2004

*Mario Panizza
IAG President*

*Dénes Lóczy
IAG Secretary*

Editor’s Note

The success of the IAG 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 Publications Officer:

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