

Update: IAMAS Report on the XXIV IUGG General Assembly, Perugia, Italy

The XXIV General Assembly of the IUGG, along with the quadrennial General Assembly of the International Association for Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences was held in Perugia, Italy from 2-13 July 2007. Total attendance was about 4100 scientists (of which over 1300 were students from around the world); about 20% were affiliated with IAMAS. Roughly 220 symposia were held, many of which were inter-Association; almost a quarter organized at least in part by IAMAS, including special symposia on the IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report and on the possible effects of aerosol pollution on precipitation. While there were a few problems, mainly with the program arrangements prior to the meeting relating to their software for handling abstracts and sessions, Perugia is a wonderful, Italian hilltop city, and the LOC arranged a spectacular opening ceremony and very nice associated events.

Within IAMAS, the key administrative accomplishments included:

1. Electing the slate of candidates that had been offered by the Nominating Committee, which was very ably chaired by Dr. Huw Davies, past president of IAMAS. The following officers were elected:

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| President: | Professor Guoxiong Wu of China for a four-year term |
| Secretary-General: | Dr. Hans Volkert of Germany for an eight-year term |
| Vice-President (2) | Dr. Anne Thompson of the USA for a four-year term Dr. Maria Assuncao Faus da Silva Dias of Brazil for a four-year term |
| Members-at-Large (3) | Prof. Tatsuzo Yasunari of Japan for an eight-year term Dr. Vladimir Kattsov of Russia for an eight-year term Dr. Ernesto Hugo Berbery of Argentina for an eight-year term. |

Dr. John Turner of the British Antarctic Survey will continue as Deputy Secretary General; Prof. Sabina Stefan of Romania and Dr. Philippe Bougeault of France will serve four more years as Members-at-Large on the Executive Committee; and Dr. Michael MacCracken will serve as Past President for four years.
2. Planning began for the joint Scientific Assembly to be held in Montreal from 19-29 July 2009 under the sponsorship of IAMAS, IAPSO, and IACS (the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences, approved by the IUGG in Perugia). The meeting promises to be very interesting, coming as it does just at the end of IPY and bringing together the atmosphere, ocean, and cryosphere communities/associations.
3. Most of the ten IAMAS commissions held meetings and elected new officers (details at <http://www.iamas.org>). Among the ocean relevant results, the president and SG of the IAMAS International Commission on Climate met with the leaders of IAPSO to increase cooperation in planning of climate-related scientific symposia, given the ocean and atmosphere are so tightly coupled.
4. The financial affairs of IAMAS were audited by former SG Michael Kuhn and found to be in good order, ready for transfer to the new officers.

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5. IAMAS originated two resolutions, each of which was forwarded to and approved by IUGG:
 - a. The first resolution dealt with the urgency of the climate change issue, calling for actions by nations to reduce emissions, decision-makers to recognize that climate is changing, scientific associations to further research to reduce uncertainties, scientists to communicate about the issue, and IUGG to build up a communication and outreach effort regarding the issue. A copy of the resolution is appended, and worthy of consideration by SCOR.
 - b. The second dealt with the International Aerosol-Precipitation Scientific Assessment Group (IAPSAG), recognizing the completion of the joint report with WMO that was called for in 2003, and urging further studies of aerosol pollution effects on precipitation. The text of the report will be posted on the Web, and IAMAS and WMO are funding publication of a hard copy version (a copy of the resolution is posted at <http://www.iamas.org>).

At the IUGG level, a number of important things also happened:

1. New officers were elected, including:
 - President: Dr. Tom Beer (Australia)
 - Vice President: Dr. Harsh Gupta (India)
 - Secretary General: Dr. Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Germany/Russia)
 - Treasurer: Dr. Aksel Hansen (Denmark)
 - Bureau Members: Dr. Chen Yun-Yai (China), Dr. David Jackson (USA), Dr. Ali A. Tealeb (Egypt)

Dr. Uri Shamir concluded his term as president, though he will continue to press his efforts in support of his particular presidential initiative Geosciences in Africa. Dr. JoAnn Jocelyn of NOAA concluded her 8-year term as Secretary General.
2. The IUGG approved the formation, statutes, and initial set of officers for the new International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS). The initial set of officers will be:
 - President: Dr. Georg Kaser (Austria)
 - President-elect: Dr. Ian Allison (Australia)
 - Secretary General: Dr. Manfred Lange (Germany)

SCOR might want to consider developing a liaison with IACS as it has with IAPSO and IAMAS.
3. Each of the other Associations (in addition to IAMAS and IACS) elected new officers.
4. Agreed to hold IUGG's XXV General Assembly in Melbourne, Australia in July 2011.
5. Heard reports on its finances and elected new members of the Finance Committee. IUGG seems to be doing well.

Submitted: Michael MacCracken, Past President, IAMAS

IUGG Resolution: The Urgency of Addressing Climate Change**The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics,****Considering**

- the advances in scientific understanding of the Earth system generated by collaborative international, regional, and national observations and research programs, and
- the comprehensive and widely accepted and endorsed scientific assessments carried out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and regional and national bodies, which have firmly established, on the basis of scientific evidence, that human activities are the primary cause of recent climate change,

Realizing

- continuing reliance on combustion of fossil fuels as the world's primary source of energy will lead to much higher atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases, which will, in turn, cause significant increases in surface temperature, sea level, ocean acidification, and their related consequences to the environment and society,
- stabilization of climate to avoid "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system", as called for in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, will require significant cutbacks in greenhouse gas emissions during the 21st century, and
- mitigation of and adaptation to climate change can be made more effective by reducing uncertainties regarding feedbacks and the associated mechanisms,

Urges

- nations collectively to begin to reduce sharply global atmospheric emissions of greenhouse gases and absorbing aerosols, with the goal of urgently halting their accumulation in the atmosphere and holding atmospheric levels at their lowest practicable value,
- national and international agencies to adequately support comprehensive observation and research programs that can clarify the urgency and extent of needed mitigation and promote adaptation to the consequences of climate change,
- resource managers, planners, and leaders of public and private organizations to incorporate information on ongoing and projected changes in climate and its ramifications into their decision-making, with goals of limiting emissions, reducing the negative consequences of climate change, and enhancing adaptation, public well-being, safety, and economic vitality, and
- organizations around the world to join with IUGG and its member Associations to encourage scientists to communicate freely and widely with public and private decision-makers about the consequences and risks of on-going climate change and actions that can be taken to limit climate change and promote adaptation,

Resolves

- to act with its member Associations to develop and implement an integrated communication and outreach plan to increase public understanding of the nature and implications of human-induced impacts on the Earth system, with the aim of reducing detrimental consequences.