

# **REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH IPA COUNCIL MEETING**

## **SEVENTEENTH COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 15, 2005**

The meeting convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 5 p.m.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Jerry Brown (P), Charles Harris (VP), Georgy Perlshstein (VP), Don Hayley, Hans-H. Hubberten. EC member not present: Zhu Yuanlin  
Secretariat: Hanne H. Christiansen, Angélique Prick

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS**

Argentina: Dario Trombotto  
Austria: Andreas Kellerer-Pirklbauer  
Belgium: Irénée Heyse  
Canada: Brian Moorman, Margo Burgess  
China: Huijin Jin  
Denmark: Niels Foged, Ole Humlum (proxy)  
France: Brigitte Van Vliet-Lanoë  
Germany: Lorenz King  
Japan: Koichiro Harada  
Netherlands: Jef Vandenberghe  
New Zealand: Ian Campbell  
Norway: Ole Humlum  
Poland: Kazimierz Pekala  
Portugal (Associate Member): Gonçalo Teles Vieira  
Russia: Vladimir P. Melnikov  
South Africa: Jan Boelhouwers (proxy)  
Spain: Enrique Serrano  
Sweden: Margareta Johansson  
Switzerland: Daniel Vonder Mühl  
United Kingdom: Michael C.R. Davies, Julian Murton  
USA: Vladimir Romanovsky, Frederick Nelson  
Adhering Bodies not represented: Finland, Iceland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mongolia

### **CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, TASK FORCES AND OBSERVERS**

Canada: Antoni Lewkowicz, Sharon Smith  
Germany: Martin Gude  
Korea: Uk Han  
Switzerland: Andy Käab, Stephan Gruber

#### **1. WELCOME**

President Jerry Brown opened the meeting and welcomed the Council members and members of the Executive Committee. He announced that the IPA Secretariat received since the Sixteenth Council meeting the Belgium membership dues for 2004 and 2005 and thanked Belgium for its support to the IPA. Brown reminded the Council members that the deadline

for submission of reports to *Frozen Ground* 29 is September 12, 2005. He indicated a draft of the IPY “Permafrost Observatory Project: A Contribution to the Thermal State of Permafrost (TSP-125)” proposed by the IPA will be circulated and invited for comments.

## 2. ATTENDANCE AND ROLL-CALL

An official roll call verified that, at the opening of the Council Meeting, 20 Members were present from a total of 25 voting Members.

## 3. CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Boelhouwers, following email consultation with Ian Meiklejohn, requested formally a change of membership status for Southern Africa from Adhering Body to Associate Member. This Associate Membership under the name of *South Africa* (not *Southern Africa* as previously) was approved by 18 votes in favour (moved by King and seconded by Moorman).

## 4. INVOLVEMENT OF KOREA IN PERMAFROST RESEARCH

Uk Han (member of the Council for Arctic and Antarctic Research in South Korea) presented a brief report on the increasing involvement of South Korea in permafrost research. South Korea has a scientific station on Svalbard. Han is personally involved in a ten-year program on polar research. As permafrost is a part of the growing interest of Korea for polar research, Han expressed his wishes for an involvement of his country in IPA activities, with Korea ultimately becoming an IPA member.

King expressed concerns about the membership status of other countries, like Mongolia. Brown confirmed that Mongolia will remain an Adhering Body and explained that the current difficulties encountered for paying dues are linked to the transitional period of the Mongolian Adhering Body within the Academy of Sciences. King asked about Finland situation. Brown answered that Finland has currently problems in paying its dues but is working on a solution.

## 5. PRO-RATED IPA CONFERENCE FEE

Brown reopened the discussion on pro-rated conference fees as a source of financing for the IPA. Campbell is opposed to it. Davies repeated that such a fee should be fixed on a percentage basis; he proposed 4 % (of the total registration fee forwarded to the IPA) for ICOP, 3 % for RCOP and a smaller percentage for other conferences using the IPA logo. Brown expressed wishes for some flexibility at the beginning, i.e. for the 9<sup>th</sup> ICOP organization. He asked whether this system could apply to the Regional Conference in China in 2006; Huijun Jin answered that it was feasible. Harris asked whether this pro-rated fee would apply to small meetings; Brown answered that it would apply only to international conferences with registration fees. Hayley insisted that this rate should be negotiated before each conference; Davies agreed. Foged considered that this implies extensive discussions for very small amounts of money. Vandenberghe is opposed to increasing registration fees and putting more financial pressure on participants; IPA budget could be improved more efficiently by increasing membership dues; moreover, decreasing registration dues for student is a voluntary decision for conference organizers, not an obligation.

Davies proposed as a motion that: Conferences organizers should take a percentage of the registration fees from all participants as a contribution to the IPA; this fee should follow a regressive rate, from ICOP to smaller conferences; it would be decided by negotiation between the organizers and the IPA and would not apply to student registration fees. Vonder Mühl seconded this motion; it was approved by 17 votes in favour.

## 6. FURTHER CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Hayley presented the suggested changes to the IPA constitution that were discussed at the June 12 Council meeting and reformulated by the appointed group. The key elements of these constitutional changes are:

(1) ICOP will be held on a four years cycle;

(2) Changes to the EC membership: EC Members are elected for four years (no restriction on being re-elected); President serves a four-year term from ICOP to ICOP; roughly half of EC Members are replaced every two years; a Senior Vice-President is selected by the EC two years before the end of the President's term; Senior Vice-President becomes President at the next ICOP; EC will select another Vice-President from their members; EC can appoint (by unanimous consent) a seventh EC member to provide regional or disciplinary balance to the EC, or to ensure there is a member from country hosting ICOP; appointed EC member's term is until the next election;

(3) Changes to the Nominating Committee (NC): EC selects a NC one year before the ICOP; NC serves for a four-year term to provide continuity for the interim election; NC solicits nominations from the Adhering Bodies of full members; Adhering Bodies can propose up to two candidates (own nationals); NC screens all nominations for a list of proposed candidates and can add candidates in addition to those proposed by the Adhering Bodies.

Hayley detailed the implementation schedule: the draft constitution is revised at the current Council meeting; written comments from the Council are expected by end of October 2005; the EC will meet before end of 2005 to finalize; a mail ballot will then be sent to Council members; results of the ballot are expected by April 2006; a new nominating Committee is set up in June 2006 or 2007; the new structure would be in full effect at ICOP 2008.

Lewkowicz indicated he would prefer a President mandate limited to a two-year period; he repeated that the IPA needs a higher degree of interchange between the EC and the Council. Hayley answered that it could then become problematic to get enough proper candidates for Presidency, considering the function requirements (networking, financial support for travel; time availability). Burgess agreed and stressed that the EC meets so rarely (once a year) that a President could not get much accomplished in a two-year period.

Vonder Mühl asked whether the new proposed constitution would be available online. Hayley answered that it would be distributed by email to national contacts, EC members and any other person interested in this matter.

Brown expressed concern about the nomination of candidates (only nationals) to be announced to the NC; he would prefer a larger base for selection. Harris agreed; selecting candidates among its own national is overly restrictive, particularly for small Adhering Bodies. Campbell and Hayley agreed and the candidates to be proposed by an Adhering Bodies to the NC is chosen to be left free.

#### 7. IPA LONG-TERM PLAN (2005-2013)

Brown reminded the Council that the Long-term Plan that was sent to Members on March, 8 2005. It will have to be modified to reflect the new constitutional changes.

Harris would like to see the gender issue addressed in this document; the language should reflect the fact that EC members can be male or female.

#### 8. NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN SWEDISH IPA GROUP

Margareta Johansson announced that a formal Swedish IPA group will be instituted and an interim committee has been established. A website will function as a communication portal with a list of research projects, contact details, bibliography and photo archive.

Brown congratulated Sweden on this positive development and encouraged all countries to have an IPA national website. Hubberten asked whether this group will integrate scientists

carrying out research correlated to permafrost but not yet involved in the IPA. Johansson and Boelhouwers answered that it was the case, as the aim of this group is to increase interaction between scientists at the national point of view and encourage permafrost research.

#### 9. IUGG COMMISSION ON CRYOSPHERE SCIENCES

Kääb, co-chair of the IPA WG on Glaciers and Permafrost Hazards in High Mountain, is representing the new IUGG Commission on Cryospheric Sciences. Kääb discussed the links between this Commission and the IPA; Brown agreed and indicated there are many contacts between the permafrost community and the snow and ice researchers. Brown proposed Harris asks the International Glaciological Society (IGS) to advertise for Permafrost Conferences in their newsletter ICE. Vonder Mühl underlined that some IPA members should attend the August 2006 International joint CliC/IGS/ICSI Symposium on Cryospheric Indicators of Global Climate Change, in Cambridge; Kääb agreed and plans to attend; a session is organised on glaciers and permafrost. Hubberten was concerned that some glaciologists might dominate permafrost research, and that could be dangerous for the IPA. When a glaciology conference has permafrost among its topics like the Cambridge Symposium, the IPA should get involved. Romanovsky agreed. Kääb answered that some links exist, but that the IPA should get formally involved in such conferences. Brown said that it is still possible for the IPA to be formally involved in this Cambridge Symposium, but IPA members must then attend. Brown underlined that the IPY will help interdisciplinary interactions for permafrost researchers; for example between social and natural sciences, Perlshtein added that it was already the case at the 2005 Pushchino conference with some themes linked to medical and social sciences.

Vonder Mühl announced that Switzerland is trying to establish a Glaciology Commission within the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

#### 10. AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION (IGU) AND THE IPA

The IGU and the IPA agreed to renew their 1996 commitment of cooperation. The agreement provides for the IPA to be an affiliate of the IGU. During the International Geographical Congress in Glasgow in August 2004, the IGU renewed its focus on periglacial topics by approving the new Commission on Cold Region Environments. This Commission Steering Committee consists of: Martin Gude (Chair, Germany), Christer Jonasson (Co-chair, Sweden), Nancy Doubleday (Canada), Ole Humlum (Norway), Norikazu Matsuoka (Japan), Julian Murton (UK), Frederick E. Nelson (USA), Dario Trombotto (Argentina), Jef Vandenberghe (Netherlands), Tatiana Vlassova (Russia), and Xiaoping Yang (China).

The EC of IGU designated a contact person who will be a *ex officio* member of the IPA WG on Periglacial Processes and Climate. The IPA EC will designate a contact person who will be an *ex officio* member of the IGU Commission on Cold Region Environments (Vandenberghe). Gude explained the common interest between activities of this IPA WG and the new IGU Commission; the scope of the IGU Commission is broader than permafrost; social, economic and environmental aspects, natural hazards are also taken into account. Brown explained that some conference sessions can be co-sponsored by both groups (as it is the case for session 9 at EUCOP II: "Permafrost engineering, land use planning, hazard and risk assessment in the context of global change"); we will invite IGU to co-sponsor the RCOP 2006 in China.

#### 11. IPA CAPP PROJECT: CARBON POOLS IN PERMAFROST REGIONS

Brown summarized to the Council members a position paper (24 March 2005) that they received about the new IPA CAPP project. He invited them to see further information on the

CAPP web page. There were no objections to CAPP being an IPA project, particularly as part of the IPY.

## 12. ADJOURNEMENT

Brown congratulated the present members of New Zealand, Portugal and South Africa for their new status within the IPA. He thanked Christiansen and Prick for IPA Secretariat support in the Council meetings organisation. Käab made the motion to adjourn and Boelhouwers seconded; approved unanimously.