



Minutes of the Twenty-First IPA Council Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST IPA COUNCIL MEETING, JUNE 14, 2010

The meeting convened at 19:00 p.m. and adjourned at 21:20 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten (P), Hanne Christiansen (VP), Antoni Lewkowicz (VP), Dmitriy Drozdov, Huijun Jin (replacing Ma Wei), Vladimir Romanovsky.
Secretariat: Hugues Lantuit

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Austria: Lothar Schrott

Canada: Sharon Smith, Christopher Burn

China: Huijun Jin

Denmark: Niels Foged

Finland: Miska Luoto

Germany: Lorenz King

Japan: Kazuyuki Saito

New Zealand: Megan Balks

Norway: Gisle Haland, Ole Humlum

Poland: Rajmund Przybylak

Portugal: Gonçalo Teles Vieira

Romania: Petru Urdea

Russia: Dmitriy Drozdov

Spain: Enrique Serrano

Sweden: Jonas Åkerman

Switzerland: Reynald Delaloye

USA: Frederick Nelson

Not represented: Argentina, Belgium, France, Iceland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, The Netherlands

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

Brazil: Ulisses Franz Bremer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Prof. Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten

Vice-Presidents:

Prof. Hanne H. Christiansen

Prof. Antoni G. Lewkowicz

Members:

Dr. Dmitriy S. Drozdov

Prof. Vladimir E. Romanovsky

Prof. Ma Wei

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Czech Republic: Kamil Laska
Denmark: Bo Elberling
USA: Jerry Brown

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11. WELCOME

President Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten officially opened the meeting and asked the three new attendees at the table to introduce themselves. Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten also welcomed the guests of the Council Meeting.

12. BUSINESS RAISED BY THE PRESIDENT

C. FOLLOW-UP TO THE DISCUSSION ON THE IPA STRATEGY PLAN

Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten asked Antoni Lewkowicz to give an overview on the state of discussions on the ICOP proceedings. Antoni Lewkowicz introduced the changes proposed by the Executive Committee and presented the pros and cons of the suggested changes as well as a summary of the discussions during the Twentieth Council Meeting. Antoni Lewkowicz proposed three options to the Council: 1. To keep Status Quo, 2. to produce peer-reviewed proceedings but to allow oral presentations even if an extended abstract rather than a paper was submitted by the author or 3. to follow the suggested change outlined in the Strategy Plan and to move fully to two page extended abstracts. Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten opened the floor for discussion.

Several Council Members expressed their interest for option 3, emphasizing the need for the association to evolve together with the general research development. They emphasized that scientific outcomes of the ICOP would be better represented in special issues in journals. They also mentioned that this is a general move exemplified by the nature of the extended abstracts submitted for the EUCOPs (Ole Humlum, Lorenz King).

Niels Foged reiterated concerns about the fact that having the proceedings on a USB stick would not be considered as a serious output, and that it might be a deterrent to many participants to participate. Hanne Christiansen explained to the Council, that despite the USB format chosen by the organizers, the EUCOP III conference had attracted a high number of participants, which clearly demonstrated the decoupling between the interest for the conference and the format of the submitted paper. She also mentioned that there seemed to be a difference between engineering and science in terms of the attitude towards proceedings publications. The latter comment was supported by Gisle Håland.

Fritz Nelson expressed his concern that the extended abstracts have no formal value and suggested to poll the individual members of the IPA to make a decision that reflects the opinion of the majority. Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten excluded the latter option, highlighting

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the need for a prompt decision to be made to allow the rapid organization of the process for the TICOP in 2012.

Chris Burn suggested an alternative solution, emphasizing the issue related to the word “Proceedings”. He proposed that the IPA take the initiative to keep the ICOP as a central and interdisciplinary forum by requesting that scientists and engineers invited to present plenary lectures at the International Conferences be required to prepare a paper to be published in a separate volume. Chris Burn suggested that this volume be called “Transactions of the International Permafrost Association.” This would be prepared by the IPA and it would be made up of no more than ten papers. The papers in the volume should be up to the equivalent of 10 pages long, to give the authors room to present an overview of recent developments in their special fields, integrating science and engineering aspects, prospects for fruitful future research, and examples from their own experience to illustrate these elements. A copy of the Transactions should be given to every registrant at the International Conference, and the cost of the publication should be included in the registration fee. The Transactions should be marketed to libraries as the IPA’s benchmark contribution. The Executive Committee and several members welcomed this initiative that could serve as a valuable instrument to overcome the potential disappearance of the proceedings and keep the identity of the IPA. Several members and the Secretariat requested that this plan be clarified to see how it is articulated in the series of commitments to regional, thematic and global reports such as The Arctic Council’s SWIPA assessment that the association is involved in (Lothar Schrott, Hugues Lantuit).

Antoni Lewkowicz suggested taking a straw vote to resolve the opinion of the Council on that overall issue, suggesting to vote for the three options he highlighted earlier, including Chris Burn’s proposal as a potential addition. In the straw vote, two adhering bodies were in favour of option 1, one or option 2, and 14 of option 3.

Acknowledging the difficulty in reaching a consensus on that issue Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten proposed to keep the proceedings but to allow authors to give oral presentations even if they had not submitted a proceedings paper but instead an extended abstract, and to hold a formal vote on this proposal. The Council voted favourably on that issue with 14 in favour and three abstentions (moved by Håland and seconded by Jin).

. Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten thanked the Council for its strong involvement in this debate and praised the new solution as a way to please most of the potential attendees to the conference and include also the latest research results.

12. TENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PERMAFROST

Dmitriy Drozdov presented the main features of the Tenth International Conference on Permafrost (TICOP), focusing on the excursions and on the themes proposed for the sessions. He also mentioned that the first circular for the conference was available at www.ticop2012.org. Huijun Jin asked Dmitriy Drozdov if an International Committee had been established. Dmitriy Drozdov and Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten answered that this committee was going to be formed in the near future. The Council welcomed the update of Dmitriy Drozdov.

13. BUDGET FOR THE 2010-2012 PERIOD

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Hugues Lantuit introduced the budget for the 2010-2012 period, showing the shift of expenses from the printing and distribution of *Frozen Ground* to Action Groups. Hugues Lantuit also showed the importance of the funds raised on the conference fees. The budget was unanimously approved by the Council (moved by Håland/Humlum and seconded by Vieira)

14. BUSINESS RAISED BY THE ADHERING BODIES AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Hanne Christiansen introduced Kamil Laska, guest during the Council Meeting and asked him to present the interest of the Czech Republic for a membership in the IPA. Kamil Laska indicated the growing involvement of the Czech Republic in permafrost research and emphasized the presence of the Czech researchers in both the Arctic and the Antarctic. Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten thanked the Kamil Laska for his short presentation and welcomed the intention of the Czech Republic to apply for membership. He requested the Secretariat to pursue this initiative with the Czech Republic.

15. OTHER INFORMATION

Antoni Lewkowicz informed the Council Members that a new constitution incorporating all the changes voted on by Council would be circulated after the meeting to codify the modifications.

Lothar Schrott indicated that it would be wise to task a group of several individuals to be in charge of the transactions of the International Permafrost Association proposed under item 11. Antoni Lewkowicz suggested to use the International Advisory Committee on ICOP to do so.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Hans-Wolfgang Hubberten thanked the Council Members for their participation and adjourned the Twenty-First Council meeting.

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