

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

&

INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

MINUTES

OF

1st ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMBINED COUNCIL

AUGUST 25-26, 2004

FLORENCE, ITALY

International Union of Geological Sciences
&
International Geological Congress

1st ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMBINED COUNCIL

August 25-26, 2004

Florence, Italy

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PRESENT AT

THE 1st ORDINARY SESSION OF THE COMBINED COUNCIL

A. Accredited representatives of 57 active IUGS adhering organisations:

Albania	Defrim Shkupi	Japan	Youshiyuki Tatsumi
	Jonas Satkunas		Inouchi Yoshio
Argentina	Victor A. Ramos		Ryuichi Tsuchi
	Miguel J. Haller		Yoshiki Saito
Australia	Neil Williams		Takagi Hideo
	Ian Lambert	Kazakhstan Republic of	Ginayat R. Bekzhanov
Austria	Friedrich Koller		Aitmukhamed Abdulin
Bangladesh	Afia Akhtar		Bulat Uzhkenov
Belgium	Léon Dejonghe	Kenya	John Kagasi
	Peirre Bultynck		James Odhiambo Ochieng
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hazim Hrvatovic	Lithuania	Algimantas Grigelis
	Mirza Basagic	Malaysia	Yunus Abdul Razak
Botswana	Tafilani P. Machacha		Joy Pereira
	Pelotshweu Phofuetsile	Namibia	Gabi Schneider
Brazil	Agamenon Dantas		Karl-Heinz Hoffma
	Edison José Milani	Netherlands	Salomon B. Kroonenberg
	Antonio C. Pedrosa Soares	New Zealand	Ian Graham
	Reinhardt Adolfo Fuck		Desmond Darby
Canada	Irwin Itzkovitch	Nigeria	E.C. Ashano
	Bryan Schreiner	Norway	Richard Sinding-Larsen
	Jim Teller		Anders Elverhøi
	Murray Duke	Peru	José Macharé
China	Chen Yuchuan	Poland	Andrzej Zelazniewi
	Zhijian Li		Nestor Oszczyk
	Shuwen Dong	Portugal	Rogério Bordalo da Rocha
	Wang Bingchen	Romania	Mircea Sandulescu
	Ding Zhongli	Russia	Nikolay Dobrezov
	Wu Ganguo		Mikhail A. Fedonkin
	Zhang Hongren		Nikolay Bortnikov
Croatia	Vladmir Bermanec		Eugene Rogozhin
Czech Republic	Vladislav Babuska		Nikolay V. Miletenko
	Veronika Stedra		Victor Osipov
Denmark	Erik Nygaard		Dmitry Yu. Pushcharovsky
Egypt	Mohamed Y. El-Sharkawi	Saudi Arabia	Hussein Sabir
	Mohamed Y. Zein El-Din		Abdullah M. Al-Attas
Estonia	Rein Raudsep	Serbia and Montenegro	Mileva Sladic-Trifunovic
	Dimitri Kaljo	Slovak Republic	Jozef Michalík
Finland	Reijo Salminen	Slovenia	Simon Pirc
	Elias Ekdahl	South Africa	Cornelis Frick
	Matti Rasanen		Laurence J. Robb
France	Jacques Charvet		S.A. De Waal
	Phillipe Rossi		S. Masters
	Marie-Thérèse Venec-Peyre	Spain	J. Pedro Calvo Sorando
	Patrick Wever		Andrés Pérez Estaún
	Jean Dercourt		Ángel García Cortés
Germany	Friedrich Wellmer	Surinam	Glenn Gemerts
	Michael Schmidt-Thomé		Preciosa Simons
	Thilo Bechstaedt	Sweden	Karin Eriksson
	Michael Schmidt-Thomé		Lars Persson
	Rolf Emmermann	Switzerland	Holger Stunitz
	Jochen Hoefs	Taipei, China	Sheng-Rong Song
	Bettina Reichenbacher	Turkey	Aral Okay
	Peter Neumann-Mahlkau	United Kingdom	Peter Styles
	Michael Schmidt-Thomé		Edmund Nickless
Hungary	Károly Brezsnyanszky	US of America	Grant Heiken
	Tamás Weiszbürg		Elaine Lawson
Iceland	Sveinn Peter Jakobsson		Suzanne Kay Mahlburg
India	Ashok Singhvi		Susan Landon

Indonesia	Sudipta Sengupta		Patrick Leahy
Ireland	Ariadi Soebandrijo		Larry Woodfork
Israel	Peadar Mcardle		Eldridge Moores
Italy	Zvi Ben-Avraham		Farouk El-Baz
	Gian Battista Vai	Uzbekistan	N. A. Akhmedov
	Forese Caro Wezel		Bakhtiar Nurtaev
	Claudio Mazzoli	Yemen	Abdul Sattar Othman Nani
	Gian Gabriele Ori		Ismail N. Al-Ganad
		Zambia	Imasiku Nyambe

B. Accredited representatives of 11 inactive IUGS adhering organisations:

Bulgaria	Ivan Zagorchev	Lebanon	Mustapha Mroueh
Congo DR	B. T. Rumvegeri	Morocco	Bahi Lahlen
Cuba	Manuel A. Iturralde-Vinent		Mohamed Mortaji
Greece	Konstantinos Perissoratis	Philippines	Mario Juan A. Aurelio
	Irini Theodossiu-Drandaki	Syria	Moutaz Dalati
Iraq	Wissam S. Al-hashimi	Ukraine	Mykola A. Yakymchuk
Jordan	Khaled Shawabkeh		Miroslav Pavlyuk
Korea, S.	Byung-Joo Lee	Vietnam	Nguyen Linh Ngoc
	Chang-Sik Cheong		

C. Accredited representatives of 2 non-IUGS-member countries

Armenia	Albert Harutyunyan for A. Saghatelyan
Ethiopia	Teklemariam Naseret

D. IUGS Executive Committee Members

Eduardo F. J. de Mulder, President (The Netherlands). Werner R. Janoschek, Secretary-General (Austria); Antonio Brambati, Treasurer (Italy); Vice-Presidents Tadashi Sato (Japan), Peter Bobrowsky (Canada); Councillors Alberto C. Riccardi (Argentina), Jean-Paul Cadet (France), Harsh K. Gupta (Italy), Jane Plant (UK).

E. IGC Committee Members

Attilio C. Boriani, IGC President (Italy), Ernesto Abbate, IGC Secretary General (Italy), Carlos Oiti Berbert (Italy)

F. Observers

IUGS Permanent Secretariat: Hanne Refsdal (Norway)

IUGS Commission representatives: Giuliano Bellieni (Chairman, CSP), Ian Campbell (Member, SECE), Stuart Marsh (Chairman, GARS), Robert Missotten (Secretary, GARS), David R. Oldroyd (Chairman, INHIGEO), Colin J. Simpson (Chairman, COGEOENVIRONMENT), Joy Pereira (Secretary, COGEOENVIRONMENT), Jonas Satkunas (Co-Director, GEOIN), Olle Selinus (Chairman, MGI), Richard Sinding-Larsen (Chairman, TGFF), Jane Plant (Co-Leader, TGGGB).

International Year of Planet Earth representatives: Henk Schalke (Project Leader), Ted Nield (Outreach Committee)

Affiliated Organisation representatives: Susan Landon, AAPG; Edward C. Roy, AGI; Fred Spilhaus, AGU; Wissam S. Al-Hashimi, AGA; Dr. A. J. Reedman, AGID; Jean-Paul Cadet, CGMW; Jean Decourt, CGMW; Imasiku A. Nyambe, GSaf; Suzanne Mahlburg Kay, GSA; Wolfgang Franke, GV; Mario Panizza, IAG; Reimar Seltmann, IAGOD; Russell Harmon, IAGC; Ken Howard, IAH; J. Pedro Calvo Sorando, IAS; K. Sassa, ICL; Hiroshi Fukuoka (ICL); Adalberto Vallega, IGU; Maryse Ohnenstetter, IMA; Jerry Brown, IPA; J. Pasava, SGA.

Other Observers: John Aaron, IUGS Webmaster; Motamed Ahmed (Iran); Nelson Angeli (Brazil); Mahfood Ali Ba-Bttat (Kuwait); Reginald Domoney (South Africa); F. Wolfgang Eder, UNESCO Earth Sciences Division; Massimo Gasparov (Australia); Jim Gehling (Australia, IGCP); Alexander V. Grachev (Ministry of Natural Resources of Russian Federation); Charles Groat (U.S.A., Director of USGS); A.Y. Karofi (Nigeria); Philip Oluyide (Nigeria); Dimitrios Papanikolaou (Mediterranean Consortium member, Greece); Nasr Shawki Mohamed; Sue Turner (Australia, IGCP); Pat Vickers-Rich (Australia, IGCP); Vladimir Zebek (Croatia); Zhang Hongren, Editor, *Episodes*;

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1st ORDINARY SESSION OF THE JOINT COUNCIL

AUGUST 25-26, 2004
FLORENCE, ITALY

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chairman, E. DE MULDER, opened the Council meeting at 11.00 a.m. on August 25, 2004, by welcoming all the national delegates and representatives of the various other bodies attending the meeting. De Mulder said that those present at the meeting were witnessing an historic event: The 1st Ordinary Session of the Combined Council of the International Union of Geological Sciences and the International Geological Congress.

De Mulder said that with a presence of 57 representatives of the 73 active Adhering Organisations, the quorum for IUGS, defined as one-third of the active Adhering Organisations, had been exceeded.

To highlight the importance of this event, the leaders of our sister unions under the ICSU umbrella, the IGU, IUSS and IUGG, together with the leader of UNESCO's Earth Science Division have been invited to give introductory speeches.

W. EDER (Earth Sciences Division, UNESCO). Mr President, Mr Secretary General, Distinguished members of the IUGS family; It is my great pleasure to welcome you today on behalf of UNESCO, and notably its Division of Earth Sciences. Taking into account UNESCO's overall political and ethical mandate, I would like to highlight that the Science Programmes, including those of the geosciences, and their activities serving humankind are of utmost interest to UNESCO. The Earth Sciences deal with our Planet's fundamental support systems – air, water, seas and land. We all know that this 'System Earth' is under threat, particularly with respect to its 'wise' use as resources in the context of sustainable development for present and future generations. We are therefore supporting the recent initiatives to spread out the systemized knowledge of the solid earth and the fluids within and around it in the best manner, and would like to commend in this context the joint IUGS-UNESCO initiative to launch an UN-wide "International Year of Planet Earth". Recalling (and quoting from the brochure 'Planet Earth in our hands – Earth sciences for society') that "Earth science now not only seeks to explain the Earth's past, but also helps predict and manage its future", UNESCO offers its partnership in this challenge. I would like to highlight at this occasion the excellent cooperation and partnership between IUGS and UNESCO in programmes like IGCP, GARS, MRSP (former DMP) and '*Episodes*'. In view of the "International Year of Planet Earth", joint activities should be designed as important components to UNESCO's 'Education for All' programme, notably the youth, as well as to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005 – 2014). Too easy we forget that the geological history of the Earth, its rocks, minerals, resources, fossils and landforms are not only an integral part of our natural world, but are intrinsically linked to the evolution of life, cultural development itself and the ascent of humanity. As a fundamental part of the natural world, geology and landscapes have had a profound influence on society,

civilization, and cultural diversity, not only regarding the formation and location of mineral and energy resources, without which modern societies could not function. Our use of land for agriculture, forestry, mining, quarrying and for building homes and cities or centres for tourism is intimately related to the underlying rocks, soils and landforms. UNESCO enjoys the unique position of being the only agency within the United Nations system to have a specific programme on earth sciences and capacity-building in geosphere-related areas. Its Division of Earth Sciences - in cooperation with IUGS - is committed to impact on 'Earth sciences for society', and that includes issues like the before-mentioned 'Education in ... and Popularisation of Earth sciences', 'Natural Disaster Reduction' and 'Global Earth Observation'. As we all know, the scientific understanding of our Planet Earth is a prerequisite for good management and sound political decision-making. Let us – Non-governmental and Governmental organizations, as well as UN bodies – join in the endeavour to receive the political backing for comprehensive, sustained and perfectly co-ordinated Earth observation from the ground and from space. Thank you for your kind attention.

R. BRETT (UNESCO). As the representative of ICSU at this meeting, I am happy to welcome you all here and to inform you that nothing has changed at ICSU, which continues to function in its normal manner.

A. VALLEGA (President, International Geographical Union). Thank you very much for the invitation to say a few words; it is a pleasure and an honour. IGU had its meeting last week, in Glasgow, Scotland, at which there was an expanding awareness of the importance of collaboration between IGU and IUGS. This was perceived at the General Assembly and at the meeting of the chairpersons of IGU's bodies. The existing links can be enlarged in two ways. First, through research, where experts should be encouraged to expand their levels of cooperative projects. This can include areas such as floods, landslides and megacities. Joint Union initiatives can be established in these fields. Second, industry needs to be brought into the collaborative work. IGU is well equipped in this field and IUGS is increasingly aware of the importance of these issues.

H. GUPTA (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics). Although a member of IUGS' Executive Committee, I am also a life member of IUGG, and it is from the President of that body that I bring good wishes for the future of the merged IUGS and IGC. IUGG is a full member of the International Year of Planet Earth, which it considers to be very important for the future of the geosciences and their role in society. IUGG is also in the 4-Unions consortium (IUGS, IUGG, IGU and IUSS) which met for the first time in February, 2004. It is becoming more and more important to increase the role of the sciences in human affairs in the 21st Century. Thus we must all pressurize the politicians, decision makers and planners at every opportunity about the very real significance of the Earth sciences in safeguarding modern society.

A. BORIANI (President, IGC). Welcome, friends, to the first Joint Meeting of the Councils of IGC and IUGS. This is the result of long and hard work over the last four years, since the Rio de Janeiro Council meeting. The work was hard because the two bodies are quite different – IGC is old, being founded in 1876, whilst IUGS is young, starting in 1961. The statutes of both bodies were modified and we have tried to build new statutes. These keep the two bodies separate, but under the same Council. As you will see today, the combination we have come up with is not perfect. The two statutes should again be reviewed, to make the joint meeting more profitable. Nevertheless, we have contributed to the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan, decided on at Rio de Janeiro. I urge you to be patient - this is the first joint meeting and it probably will not go smoothly.

VAI (Italy) then said that as head of the Italian delegation to the Congress and as the Italian representative to IUGS, he was very happy to welcome everyone to the first joint IGC-IUGS Council meeting. The Italian National Committee has favoured the integration of functions and activities between IGC and IUGS since it was first proposed, and also the merger of some of their organs, such as the two Councils. However, the Committee believes that a better integration will succeed if the two bodies are autonomous and independent.

De MULDER introduced the President of the International Geological Congress, A. BORIANI and the members of the IUGS Executive Committee W. JANOSCHEK (Secretary-General), A. BRAMBATI (Treasurer), T. SATO (Vice-President), P. BOBROWSKY (Vice-President), J.-P. CADET (Councillor), H. GUPTA (Councillor), A. RICCARDI (Councillor) and J. PLANT (Councillor) to the Joint Council.

H. RICE (Assistant to the IUGS Secretary-General), took the Minutes.

DE MULDER then stated that voting was complex because of the merger of the Councils of IUGS and IGC, but would follow the new Statutes adopted.

For IUGS the quorum is defined as one-third of the active Adhering Members. De MULDER noted that this had been achieved.

2. MERGER OF THE COUNCILS OF IUGS AND OF THE IGC

De MULDER noted that the IUGS and IGC Councils dissolved themselves on August 20, to give way for the emergence of the new, combined Council today. De MULDER reiterated that this is an historic event, especially for the IGC Council which ended its life at the age of 126 years. According to the new statutes, this new Council is chaired by the President of IUGS and the President of IGC, Prof. BORIANI; the latter will chair the meeting when it turns to IGC matters.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

DE MULDER noted that the Agenda was large and that a timetable had been developed, to ensure that all matters were addressed.

SINGHVI (India) said that it was very confusing to discuss the rotation of IGC before the voting of the venues for the IGC in 2008 and 2012. The rotation should be discussed after the bidding/voting. CHARVET (France) agreed. In reply, BORIANI said that a reason for this order would be given when the Council comes to these matters. It can be changed then, if the Council wishes. Essentially, the IGC Committee thought that the Council should decide the order of these two matters. SINDING-LARSEN (Norway) supported India and France and expressed disapproval of the lack of detail in the agenda. The agenda should be clear from the start of the meeting.

DE MULDER said that the Agenda can be approved as it is, or approved except for Item 9.

The Agenda except for Item 9 was APPROVED unanimously.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a) Order of Business

JANOSCHEK said that, in collaboration with the IGC Committee, the amount of time required for each item had been considered. This was given in the Order of Business.

b) Approval of Minutes of the 11th Ordinary Session of IUGS Council

DE MULDER noted that there had been two Council meetings in Rio de Janeiro, in 2000, so as to allow the changes in the Statutes to come into force immediately.

The Minutes were APPROVED unanimously.

c) Approval of Minutes of the Extraordinary Session of IUGS Council, 11 and 14 August 2000

The Minutes were APPROVED unanimously.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

DE MULDER said that the most important activities of the past Executive Committee were related to the implementation of the 32 recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee, set up by BRETT and endorsed by the Council at Rio de Janeiro, in 2000. The result of this was the booklet, the *Strategic Action Plan and Mid-Term Vision for the IUGS*, indicating how the recommendations were to be put into effect. The Vision indicates how the Executive Committee feels IUGS should look in 2011, on its 50th birthday.

As a result of the SPC/SAP, IUGS changed considerably. A Committee for Research Directions was set up, to search for new directions in the geosciences that IUGS should follow. A positive attempt was made to increase the visibility of the Union, by publishing Annual Reports for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003. A Brochure and a Flier have been printed, and an electronic bulletin with up-to-date news of the Union's activities is distributed to over 200 addresses. The logo has been modernised, a specialised booth for use at congresses was bought and several promotional items were produced. The non-serial publications have been out-sourced to the Geological Society of London and *Episodes*, under the care of ZHANG HONGREN, has improved, so that its citation index has risen from 0.194 to >1.00. The number of affiliated organisations has risen to 38 and a strong cooperation between the four Earth science unions in ICSU has been instigated in several areas of mutual interest. Collaboration with UNESCO, through IGCP, GARS, MRSP and GEOSEE, has improved and UNESCO is a major sponsor of the International Year of Planet Earth.

To summarise, the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee have been carried out in the way proposed by the Strategic Action Plan, greatly enhancing IUGS. The geosciences, after a long period in the doldrums, are on the way back up again. This should be reflected in rising student numbers, as people once again become aware of the important role of the geoscience in life.

6. SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION

JANOSCHEK said that the Secretary General must report to the Council in a written document, which you have all received. This 11 page document is also available on the IUGS homepage. Over the past four year, there were 7 EC meetings and 23 Bureau meetings.

The high number of EC meetings stems from extraordinary meetings being held in China (2001), in connection with the Strategic Action Plan, and in Bologna, just prior to this meeting. The high number of Bureau meeting, shows how closely the Bureau members interacted and this resulted in an increased output and greater efficiency.

Interaction with the Council needs to be increased. The electronic voting method was used several times during the past 4 year, but more contact and interaction is required. Information

is sent more regularly to the Council members through the e-bulletins, developed by BOBROWSKY and sent out now to over 2,000 addresses, and the Annual Reports (two published, one .pdf). In future, the Annual Report will only be produced in hard copy for IGC years.

There are now 116 Adhering Members – four new ones since the Rio de Janeiro meeting. These are Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia and Peru. The membership fee now stands at US \$ 460 per unit. Several countries became inactive, but several became active again – some paying their fees here.

The IUGS Commissions, Task Groups and Initiatives continued to do excellent work; this will be reported in detail later. Note that the old IUGS Working Groups are now called Task Groups, to avoid confusion with the Working Groups within Commissions. The Initiatives are a new, rather informal, type of body; at this level, they can make plans for their future – to either become independent (affiliated organisations) or to become a Task Group or Commission.

Excellent collaboration continued with UNESCO, especially in IGCP. A Grants Proposal Policy has been instituted by IUGS, whereby special projects can be funded with relatively large sum. The first project was funded this year.

This is the end of my term; I will be Past-Secretary-General for one year. It has been a fascinating job. I would like to thank all of the EC for their support, especially the Bureau members and Boriani, with whom contact was maintained due to the IUGS-IGC merger. I must especially thank the Permanent Secretariat for their support and to the Geological Survey of Austria, for its support.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

BRAMBATI noted that he had been Treasurer for only the past year. The report given covers the past four year – the financial policy and the income/expenses. Three items are of financial importance for IUGS; increasing the long-term investment in science development, decreasing the administrative costs and obtaining an overall increase in income.

The figures show a drop in income last year compared to previous years (US \$ 201,353 and US \$ 271,984), but this is due to a delay in many of the payments this year and a drop in the bank interest rates over the past few years. Interest has dropped from US \$ 48,000 to US \$ 9,000; this represents a substantial loss of income. The EC has decided to partially remedy this by placing a large sum of money (US \$ 400,000) into a short term deposit account (4.20% per year), giving a relatively high interest rate.

Much of IUGS' income is through-flow income; it comes in from, say, UNESCO, but is already earmarked for a project. Thus although it appears on IUGS balance sheet, it does not increase IUGS' own spending power.

Investment in new science has been a major expense for the Union; much if this over the past two years has been for the International Year of Planet Earth (US \$ 68,000). In contrast, the administrative expenses have remained relatively constant at around US \$ 50,000 – this is about 10% of all the expenses, which is a good figure.

Note, finally, that IUGS has a large 'hidden' income, due to the support of the Norwegian Government of the IUGS Permanent Secretariat (US \$ 150,000) and the support of *Episodes* by the Peoples Republic of China (US \$ 30,000). Further, the support provided by the

countries sponsoring the Bureau members runs into several hundreds of thousand dollars, over the whole 4-year term of office.

8. INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC), chaired by the President of the 32nd IGC

BORIANI stated that for IGC, the quorum is the attendance of one half of the delegates registered at the Congress. This had been reached.

BORIANI noted that the proposed change in the Agenda must be decided on. The IGC proposal was to discuss (a) The principle of the rotation of the IGC venues first, and (b) select the venues for the coming IGCs.

SINGHVI (India) said that the rotation is a new concept whilst (b) is here and ready. It will create confusion if it is not changed around. VAI (Italy) said that the matter of rotation had been discussed at the last conference. The idea was to make smooth the transition. The Statutes say that rotation may be used – at the suggestion of the Council. The rotation should be discussed first – it is a procedural matter. Does the Council want to apply the concept of rotation to the 33rd and 34th IGCs? Item (a) defines how the Council should proceed. STUNITZ (Switzerland) said the venues are concrete proposals on the table. Theoretical proposals cannot be discussed with the concrete proposals in the back of the mind. Al Hashimi (Iraq) said that no-one objects to rotation in principle, but to implement it now, when we have bids – which have taken time, money and a lot of work to prepare – is both unfair and unreasonable. Rotation can only be applied to 2016, at the earliest.

ITZKOVITCH (Canada) noted that placing this item suddenly on the agenda is not reasonable and proposed a five-minute adjournment so that a caucus can be held in the national committees to discuss the matter. HEIKEN (USA) seconded the motion.

The Council voted in FAVOUR of a five minute adjournment.

After the adjournment, Boriani asked for a show of hands for those who wished to discuss item (a) first and those who wished to do item (b) first.

The Council voted FAVOUR of the proposal to select the sites for the 33rd and 34th IGCs first.

a) Merger/Integration of IUGS and IGC

BORIANI noted that this item had already been discussed.

b) 32nd IGC in Florence, 2004

ABBATE (Secretary of the IGC Organising Committee) reported that by August 24, 7,493 people had registered for the Congress. Of these, 483 are guests, complimentary attendees or exhibitors at the Geoexpo. This leaves 7010 people attending the meeting of which 4,494 are Congress members, 1,236 are students and 680 are Geohost participants. As such, it is the largest IGC to date. The remaining 600 attendees are accompanying persons. The same figures can be broken down to show that there are only 1,446 Italian scientists registered, with 5,564 non-Italian attendees; again this is a record level (79%) of non-home grown attendees. In fact, scientists from more countries are attending this IGC than any previous Congress. Of the non-Italian scientists, some 675 come from the USA, 537 from Russia, 486 from China and 346 from Japan. On a regional basis, 45% of attendees are European, which is not surprising, 25% are Asian, 15% are North/Central American and 5% S. American, Oceanic and African. 870 persons are participating in the field trip programme. The organisers of the

Congress are extremely happy with these figures, which reflect the growing popularity and relevance of IGC in the Earth-sciences community.

1) Hutchison Young Scientist Award

DE MULDER noted that IUGS has a fund, named after the first IUGS President, for sponsoring young scientists who wish to attend the IGC. Each year IUGS adds some money to this fund, which is also increased by private subscription; the interest accrued on this fund is used to sponsor the students. This year, seven students, all under 35 years of age, have been invited; Mr Shamik Bose (USA); Mr Iman Monsef (Iran); Olga Yatsenko (Ukraine); Mr Soumyajit Mukherjee (India); Ms Silvana Riffel (Brazil); Mr Roman Veselovskiy (Russia) and Ms Natalie Sinclair (Australia).

2) GeoHost

Nothing was discussed under this item here.

9. FUTURE IGC VENUES, chaired by the President of the 32nd IGC

b) Selection of the venues of the 33rd IGC in 2008 and of the 34th IGC in 2012

BORIANI opened the discussion by noting that there was only one bid, from Norway; Egypt had withdrawn its bid due to organisational problems. BORIANI invited SINDING-LARSEN, Chairman of the Norwegian IGC Bidding Committee to present the Norwegian proposal.

SINDING-LARSEN thanked Boriani for the opportunity to outline the Norwegian bid for the 33rd IGC. If the Norwegian bid is accepted, IGC will move from the Mediterranean to the Arctic – this will focus the community on a quarter of the globe and the complete geological time-scale.

The bid is a joint Nordic Countries bid, with Norway acting this time as the lead country; Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, the Faeroes and Greenland are all involved. There is strong support from the Prime Minister of Norway and also from the Mayor of Oslo. Many other sponsors have been found – and more will certainly be found.

The bid process started at Rio de Janeiro, in 2000. A Steering Committee was formed in 2002 and in 2004 the IUGS Executive committee made a site inspection of the Conference Centre, which is new, located some 11 minutes from Oslo centre by high speed train (and connecting to the airport).

The Congress will be organised along traditional lines – with General Sessions, Special Symposia and Topical Symposia for special groups, such as ILP, the International Year of Planet Earth etc. The Special Symposia will focus on major themes affecting Nordic countries and the Arctic region. The themes for the Symposia will be elaborate don by the Arctic Consortium. Excursions will be to the Nordic area and also to related areas such as the UK, Russia and the Baltic States. There will be one-day trips and also longer trips. One trip will be in the coastal steamer, along the Norwegian coast. Input from the Council is requested for the themes and for the field trips.

A full social programme is envisaged for participants and accompanying persons.

A professional congress organiser has already been involved in the planning and will become more involved as the time of the Congress draws nearer.

Welcome to Oslo in 2008.

BORIANI thanked SINDING-LARSEN for his presentation and invited MOHAMED Y. EL-SHARKAWI to make a short statement on behalf of the Egyptian National Committee.

MOHAMED Y. EL-SHARKAWI (Egypt) said that the Egypt bid was seen as a chance to expose the world to a fascinating area and to bring Africa more into the world geosciences community; Africa must be given a chance to host the IGC.

A Steering Committee was formed in Egypt and began preparations for the bid. However, many things hindered the completion of this and as a result the bid was withdrawn. As the representative of Egypt, I wish Norway the very best and I hope that all goes well for them and the 33rd IGC, in 2008.

Boriani noted that as Oslo was the only offer on the table, the Council could vote by a show of hands.

The Council voted in FAVOUR of holding the 33rd IGC in Norway by acclamation.

BORIANI then passed on to the matter of the 34th IGC, by asking the Moroccan Minister for Mines and Energy, to present the Moroccan bid for the IGC in 2012.

The MINISTER (Morocco). Mr President, Chairman, dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would first like to congratulate Norway and its bidding committee on their success. The object of this presentation is to try to give a message about the importance of the IGC to both Morocco and Africa; it would help enormously to develop the geosciences in the country and, perhaps more important, in the whole continent. Why Africa especially? The last and only time that the IGC was in Africa was in S. Africa, in 1952. Now, more than ever, there is a need to work together in this continent and to promote joint ventures through the geosciences. The IGC, together with IUGS, the geological surveys and other organisations would strongly promote growth and give the region a chance to develop its potential. Why Morocco? The country is seeking to develop N-S, S-S (that is, in the Saharan region) and E-W partnerships. All the neighbouring countries, including Tunisia, Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal have given their support, as have many other organisations. Spain and Portugal, too, are only a few kilometres away and have indicated their support.

Morocco lies on the border of the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions; it is thus culturally and climatically diverse. The geology is equally diverse, with three main regions – the Riff domain, the Atlas & Meseta domain and the Sahara & Anti-Atlas domain. The region is a paradise for geologists; scientists come from all over the world to study the area.

The Geological Survey of Morocco is involved in developing the infrastructure of the country, through investigations for roads, dams and health issues. It is, of course, also involved in mining investigations and geological mapping. Map coverage is rapidly increasing, using new methods, based on the National Plan for Geological Cartography (1995). Geological, geophysical and geochemical maps are being produced, although there is still a lot of work to do.

Morocco is fully able to organise the IGC. The meeting would be held in Marrakech, an internationally know city, with a very wide range of geology within 100 to 200 km. Many congresses with up to 10,000 participants have been held in the city before. The city is easy to reach by air and has good connections to the rest of the country. There is plenty of excellent and low-cost hotel accommodation. Student participants can stay in the University accommodation, which is cheap.

The King of Morocco, King Mohammed VI, has given his patronage to the meeting. Sponsorship by the government, public funds, and mineral and energy companies as well as transport companies has been secured.

Human development needs more involvement of the developed countries. The geoscience community is always amongst the leaders of sustainable development. With these points in mind, I invite the developed countries to become involved in promoting Africa, by voting for the Morocco bid for the 33rd IGC, in 2012.

BORIANI thanked the MINISTER for his presentation and invited WILLIAMS (Australia) to outline the Australian bid.

WILLIAMS (Australia). Mr President, members of the IGC Steering Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would also like to start by congratulating the Nordic countries on their successful bid for the 2008 IGC. I would also like to congratulate both India and Morocco for the high quality of their bids for the 2012 IGC.

This is an Oceania proposal, based in Brisbane. Our bid for the 2012 IGC is truly regional and has the support of the Prime Ministers of both New Zealand and Australia. Oceania includes these countries and also the S. Pacific Islands. The scientific community in these regions is dedicated to the bid. There are also plans to involve Malaysia and Indonesia.

Brisbane is an ideal host city. It has a wide range of cultures and is safe and welcoming place. It provides an affordable. There is a wide range of interesting geology nearby.

The bid at Brisbane will build on IUGS' core interest - the International Year of Planet Earth and all organisations associated with IUGS will be invited to contribute. There are major societal issues in the Oceania are – plate boundary hazards, volcanic hazards, landslide and tsunami hazards. Also a slow danger of damage due to rising sea level threatens Oceania. Help from the world community is needed to solve these difficulties. Rising soil losses and salinity contributing to soil degradation are also major problems. Waste disposal, including CO₂ sequestration will be included in the programme. Oceania is a major source of minerals; the role of the geological community in mining and exploration will be examined, as will the critical role of the exploration for new mineral resources.

The field trips in Australia can cover almost the whole geological record; the oldest mineral and the oldest fossils are present, and the recent plate margins of New Zealand and the Pacific Island, with recent coral reefs, represents geology at its youngest. The area is one of great history and beauty, with an important historical significance.

The meeting will have all the features of a great IGC – a big Geohost exposition, capitation for IUGS, Funding for the Steering Committee 2009-2012 is secure if the bid is successful.

Brisbane, which is the capital of Queensland, is a safe city with great weather at the congress time – 20-25°C and low humidity. There is good international access and easy access to Oceania and the Great Barrier Reef. The city has a major international congress centre, ranked 3rd in the world. This is centrally located in the city and near the hotels. Hotels range from low cost to quality accommodation – but all are low cost.

There is a strong organising team in the Australian Geosciences Committee (picked body from 7,000 geoscientists). The IGC Committee is in place already; Lambert is the Secretary-General. The Federal Government supports the meeting, as does the Prime-Minister, SOPAC

and the leading geoscientists in Oceania. Professional congress organisers will be included in the team closer to the event.

Australia hopes to welcome the geoscience community in 2012 for the 34th IGC. Thank you for your attention.

BORIANI thanked WILLIAMS for his presentation and called on SINGHVI to present the bid for Hyderabad, India.

SINGHVI (India). President of IGC, Members of the IGC Steering Committee, ladies and gentlemen, I too would like to begin by congratulating Norway on getting the 33rd IGC in Oslo in 2008 and by inviting everyone here to come to India, if Hyderabad get the vote for the subsequent IGC. I am making this presentation on behalf of the Indian National Sciences Academy and the National Geophysical Research Institute of India, at Hyderabad. There are strong reasons for India bidding for the IGC. The survey, at 150 years of age, is one of the oldest in the world. 50,000 geoscientists work in India – may in the 120 universities and 50 other research institutes. India is part of SE Asia and has strong cooperative interests in the region, which will naturally be strengthened by the award of the IGC.

India is a fascinating place – culturally diverse, with a billion people and over eighty languages, although English is spoken everywhere. It is the land of the Taj Mahal, tigers and classical Indian dance. Travel connections are good to Hyderabad.

IGC was last held in India in 1964, in Delhi. This time, if the bid is successful, it will be held at the National Geophysical Research Laboratory, in Hyderabad. This has a very attractive 200 acre campus, where several large international congresses have already been held. It is only 10 km from the international airport, at the city boundary. The city is some 400 years old and although it is fully modernised, it has retained a rich heritage. Hotels are cheap, ranging from 5-star to student type hostels. The climate in July is pleasant, with temperatures around 20-29°C.

The Congress will have a registration fee of ~ €500, including lunches, bags, tea/coffee etc. The overall theme will be *Geosciences for Sustainability*; although all themes within the geosciences will be covered – including climate, biogeochemistry, hazards, marine geology etc. A huge range of geology is available for field trips, with the oldest rocks being of 3.6 Ga age. In the north are the Himalayas, further south, the Deccan traps.

India extends a welcome to everyone and invites you to select Hyderabad for the 34th IGC.

BORIANI thanked SINGHVI for his presentation and invited MCARDLE to speak to the Council.

MCARDLE (Ireland) thanked Boriani and said that the bid for Ireland for 2012 had been officially withdrawn. On behalf of the Irish National Committee, he wished Norway all the best for the IGC in 2008 and also the winner of the bid for 2012.

BORIANI thanked MCARDLE and then stated that the Statutes say that the venue for the next IGC (2008) must be chosen, as has been already been done, and may be chosen for the subsequent one (2012). CHARVET (France) asked if the vote on whether to select the IGC venue for 2012 should be secret. NICKLESS (UK) said this can be done by a show of hands, although the vote for the venue must be secret. NICKLESS asked if the vote can be split, if a country has more than 1 vote. BORIANI replied that countries with more than 1 vote were allowed to split them amongst the candidates as they wished; the vote was secret. Boriani called for a show of hands of those in favour of selecting the venue for the 2012 IGC now.

A majority of the Council voted in FAVOUR of selecting the 34th IGC venue at the present Council meeting.

CHARVET (France) stated that although the vote was secret, there was nothing in the Statutes that said a country could not declare its decision if it wished to. France would be voting for Morocco. CORTÉS (Spain) said that Spain would also vote for Morocco.

ITZKOVITCH (Canada) proposed a motion that forbade countries to declare their intentions. Heiken (USA) seconded this.

A majority of the Council voted in FAVOUR of forbidding delegates from declaring their bidding intentions.

After the votes had been collected and scrutinized, Boriani announced that Australia had received more than 50% of the votes. This made further voting unnecessary. BORIANI congratulated the Australian bidding committee on their success. WILLIAMS thanked the Council for its confidence in the Australian bid and hoped to see the delegates in eight years, in Brisbane.

a) Regional Rotational System

BORIANI said that the system was first proposed at the Council meeting in Rio de Janeiro, in 2000, and is now in the Statutes.

The current IGC Organising Committee felt that it would be better if some guidelines were provided in this matter. The new IGC Committee can establish a special sub-committee to look into the proposal and make some recommendations, to be presented at the next Council meeting, in 2008.

The Council voted in FAVOUR of the IGC Committee preparing some recommendations for the 2008 IGC.

10. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

a) Relationships with Affiliated Organizations

DE MULDER stated that the affiliated organisations are a fundamental part of the Union, as are the adhering members. They provide the scientific base of the Union without which it would be irrelevant.

In 1984, there were 24 affiliated organisations, in 2000, there were 35 and currently there are 38 such bodies. The increasing number strengthens the Union, by widening its indirect membership. Altogether, this membership reflects about 240,000 persons; some will of course have double memberships, but it is thought to reflect more than half of the world's geoscientific community.

The affiliated organisations get free visibility from the Union, especially through the Annual Report, of which more than a third is dedicated to them, and through Episodes, to which the hey have been invited to submit short articles outlining their activities and philosophies.

During the term of office of the current EC, the leaderships of more than 30 of these organisations were met. A major meeting was held at the EGS-AGU-EGI Joint meeting in Nice, 2002 and another during this Congress. At both, matters of mutual interest were discussed.

b) Ratification of Applications for Affiliation to the Union

DE MULDER started by stating that the International Association of Structural and Tectonic Geologists had disbanded voluntarily and was therefore de facto no longer an affiliated organisation of IUGS. The Association very kindly donated its surplus funds (~US \$ 5,000) to IUGS to be used in promoting structural geology.

Three new bodies have applied for affiliated status. These are the International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO), the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) and the Geologische Vereinigung (GV). IGEO is a new, rapidly growing body, collaborating with IUGS in its new Commission on Geological Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGEOETT), ICL is an international body which has rapidly grown to a very large size from an IGCP project and the GV is a German based association with a wide scientific membership.

ITZKOVITCH (Canada) proposed a motion ratifying IGEO, ICL and GV as Affiliated Organisations.

The Council voted unanimously in FAVOUR of ratification of the International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO), the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) and the Geologische Vereinigung as IUGS Affiliated Organisations.

ITZKOVITCH (Canada) asked why the Association for Women Geoscientists had not been taken on as an Affiliated Organisation. JANOSCHEK answered that the Association had made an informal request, but affiliates must be scientific bodies and the AWG is a political body rather than a scientific body. This has been discussed with officers of the Association and they have been assured that they are wanted within IUGS; the aim is to involve them in a body concerned with under-represented groups within the geoscientific community. Although the present EC tried to establish such a body, it did not succeed. When such a body is formed by the next EC, the AWG will certainly be involved.

HEIKEN (USA) said that IGEO is also not a scientific body – it is an educational body – but it has just been ratified as an Affiliated Organisation. TURNER (Australia) added that she had been a member of AWG at one time. She had not been aware that AWG had applied for affiliated status; they are involved in science and should be taken in as an Affiliated Organisation.

JANOSCHEK replied that he had met the President of AWG and had a long and open discussion. He felt that AWG were happy with the situation and with integrating with IUGS in the body on underrepresented groups. However, no official application has so far been received from AWG; if they wish to apply, they may do so, of course.

11. RELATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

DE MULDER said that IUGS cannot operate alone; it is in a field of other major international organisations. Of these, UNESCO, ICSU and the other four geo-Unions are the most important.

a) UNESCO

JANOSCHEK said that he was pleased to report about IUGS's relationship with UNESCO. As has always been the case, it is very good. UNESCO collaborates with IUGS in IGCP; GARS, MRSP and, starting recently, Geoparks. IGCP is the flagship research programme of both IUGS and UNESCO – it is now called the International Geoscience Programme – the name was changed after a long discussion; it went through the General Assembly of UNESCO.

Currently, there are between 30 to 35 projects running annually, each lasting for four years, with a possible unfunded fifth year. Each project gets between US \$ 5,000 and US \$ 11,000. This is not much but it acts as a seed money which UNESCO thinks multiples by 200 times in all. This gives IGCP a huge total spending power.

The budget of IGCP is based on an income of ~US \$ 180,000 to US \$ 190,000 from UNESCO, US \$ 20,000 from IUGS and 75,000 from the USA (via the NSF). This latter was paid during the time when the USA was not a member of UNESCO. Since they rejoined, two years ago, IUGS has been expecting this funding to be cut and not replaced by UNESCO. However, so far the USA has very generously continued to contribute this sum; there is a strong chance that they will continue with it in 2005. IUGS thanks the USA very much for this.

Although IUGS contributes only a small sum of money, it is active in safeguarding the quality of the projects, through the IGCP Board. In 2004, this was enlarged to include a fifth group, specialising in hydrogeology. This new group will be funded by the Water Division of UNESCO, so there will be no drop in funding for the other groups.

b) ICSU

BRETT said that IUGS is the official sponsor of the IGC – it is one of many Unions, covering the whole field of the sciences. IUGS, IUGG, IGU and IUSS are the four ‘geo’-Unions within ICSU. Funding for ICSU, which is run by a board of 12 persons, comes from National Academies, but despite this, many geoscientists are unaware of ICSU’s existence and role. ICSU operates in five areas:

- (1) Standing Committees of cross-Union nature – they promote multi-disciplinary science – in oceans and Polar regions. ILP is such a body, but may be going back to IUGS and IUGG.
- (2) Ensures freedom of access of all scientists to meetings, workshops etc. This is essential for education; one can only hope that it becomes easier.
- (3) ICSU works in the education field.
- (4) ICSU provides position statements on critical or controversial subjects.
- (5) It runs a small but useful cross-disciplinary grants programme. IUGS got such a grant (US \$ 100,000) last year.
- (6) ICSU partners UNESCO at major meetings trying to increase importance of sciences on the press and thus public and politicians.

ICSU has found a useful niche in the post-cold war period and looks in good condition for the future.

The role IUGS played in creating the 4-Unions consortium (IUGG, IGU, IUSS) has been seen as a promising new endeavour in ICSU and is likely to become a role-model for other Unions.

c) Other Unions

DE MULDER said he would focus on the geo-unions in ICSU. As BRETT mentioned, IUGS has forged excellent relationships with IUGG, IGU and IUSS. These relationships are of long-standing; a very constructive meeting was held with IGU in Rome, in 2002.

IUGS had the idea of holding a combined meeting of all the ICSU geo-science Unions. This was held in Paris, in February 2004. At this meeting, areas of common interest were defined. As a result, five Task Groups, each comprising one representative of each Union, were set up. These cover the Groundwater, Health, Catastrophic Hazards, Megacities and Desertification themes. IUGS leads the team on Health, through Selinus, one of the leaders of the IUGS

Medical Geology Initiative. The Task Groups will be writing position statements and because they represent four Unions, they form a strong, powerful body.

The Task Group topics also link well with the science topics in the International Year of Planet Earth; some of the leaders are the same.

The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing are a new Union and want to join the 4-Union group. The whole inter-Union collaboration could develop well; it accords with the aims outlined in the *Mid-Term Vision*.

12. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH

DE MULDER stated that he Management Team for the International Year of Planet Earth (hereafter abbreviated as the YEAR), comprised Derbyshire (Chairman, Science Committee), Nield (Chairman, Outreach Committee), Janoschek, Eder and Zhang Hongren. DE MULDER added that he had taken over as Chairman due to the illness of Schalke.

The logo of the YEAR was kindly donated by the German National Committee. The colours represent the atmosphere, the biosphere, the hydrosphere and the geosphere. This is the Earth System. However, the YEAR cannot cover all of these, so it concentrates on the geosphere. The tag-line is *Earth Science for Society* – this is important as it indicates the relationship of the geosciences to society.

The YEAR should be announced late in 2005 and run to 2007, with 2006 as the actual YEAR. The aim of the YEAR is to demonstrate to society – both the general public and the politicians/decision makers – the huge potential the Earth sciences have to contribute to the building of a safer and sustainable society on Earth.

Several parts to the project – the Science Programme
– the Outreach Programme
– the involvement of the UN in 2006

The Science Programme was developed by the Science Planning Committee, based on criteria set by the Management Team. The Committee met several times and identified 22 themes that were compatible with the Management Team's recommendations. These were then given to the Management Team and the IUGS Executive Committee, which selected eight proposals for further development (*Groundwater, Hazards, Earth & Health, Climate, Resources, Megacities, Deep Earth and Oceans*). These were described in Brochure 1, sent to the Council. With the advent of IUSS into the YEAR, a 9th topic has been introduced, *Soils*. Nine Key Text Teams (4 to 10 persons) were then created to write brochures for the 9 topics, to identify possible sponsor sources and to get scientists to start developing scientific projects within the themes. This is the initiation of the “bottom-up” part of the YEAR.

The submitted proposals will be evaluated by the Science Implementation Teams – derived from the Key Text Teams – and to award funding. The basic characters required in projects is that they should be:

- soundly based in geosciences.
- holistic.
- have a human impact.
- global in scale.
- involve the developing countries.

The nine project titles cover the relationships between the geosciences and society. The Key Text Teams comprise good people with a spread of countries. So far, brochures for four topics have been produced; two more should become available before the end of this Congress.

The Outreach programme, headed by Nield, has three aims:

- to generate “sympathy” for the geosciences in the public.
- to increase the component of geosciences in the national education programmes.
- to increase the understanding by politicians and planners about the potential of the geosciences for society.

The general outreach criteria are those used to define the science programme plus:

- it must build on existing funding – a lot of this is the same as for the science programme.
- must be essentially bottom-up - individuals can propose ideas
- multi-lingual – several languages already in use in the YEAR website.
- application process is continuous – there will be no “rounds” of evaluation.

Proposals deemed to not be relevant now, or for which there is not enough money at present, could be funded later.

Outreach will be done in cooperation with the Affiliated Organisations of IUGS. An aim will be to support scientists from countries with weak economies and to try and involve the general public to some degree in research.

So far, a draft of the outreach plan is available and the first sponsors have been identified. The YEAR will be linked to the other international events at that time (IPY, IGY+50). Hopefully, there will be a rising awareness from now up to the next IGC, in 2008.

The application to the UN is being done through several routes. Support has been collected from National Committees – they should back the idea. Those not already on the list giving support should do so as soon as possible. This will show the politicians that it is a world-wide proposal. The national Committees should then approach the Minister (of Mines/resources/Science) and convince him to support it. The Minister should then go to the Foreign Office and convince the minister there to support it via the UN representatives. So far, eight countries, covering most of the world’s population (China, India, Russia, Brazil) have given support

To go to the UN, three stages are involved. The first is to get the approval of the Council today. Second, to go, via the People’s Republic of China, to the Board of Directors of UNESCO, to get their approval. This should happen in the second week of October, this year. Finally, with the approval of UNESCO, to approach the UN General Assembly with a motion, to be proposed by, again, the People’s Republic of China.

Thus, the Executive Committee and the YEAR Management Team request from the Council:

- approval of what has been done so far towards establishing the YEAR,
- approval that IUGS should continue with pushing the YEAR,
- approval of the detailed outline for the YEAR, as given above.

VAI (Italy) said that Italy supported the YEAR at level 3 (National Committee support), but before support at a higher level can be sought, the role of the USA must be clarified. Italy shares the concerns expressed by the USA National Committee, in the document now with the IUGS’ new Executive Committee. Without the full support and involvement of the USA, the YEAR cannot succeed. DE MULDER thanked VAI for his comments and asked which parts of

the USA document particularly concerned the Italian National Committee. VAI replied that this had been the apparent lack of a bottom-up approach in the science aspects. However, this does seem to have been addressed recently. DE MULDER said that the YEAR had always wanted to include a bottom up approach in the science and asked if there were more concerns. VAI said that there were none.

DE MULDER said that the support of the USA was indeed critically important. Long discussions have been held with the National Committee. DE MULDER invited the USA representative to address the Council. HEIKEN (USA) said that, as de Mulder had noted, lengthy discussions had been held between the Management Team of the Year of the USA National Committee. The issue of bottom-up proposals has been addressed, amongst other topics. Not all the concerns of the USA have been fully resolved, however. Very strong communications network is needed. We could support the bid better if the bidding system was better understood. The outreach proposals, under the guidance of Nield, are very good, but there needs to be a greater science component in the outreach. There is a very wide range of cultures and geodisciplines to be covered. The whole programme needs to be very flexible – think globally; act locally. If the YEAR can get half the attendees at this Council seriously attracted to the programme then the YEAR will be great.

DE MULDER thanked HEIKEN for his comments and agreed that exposure to the geoscientific community has to increase rapidly from now on. VAI said he was happy with the comments of HEIKEN; communications are vital.

KAMPUNZU (Congo) said the YEAR can help Africa to move forwards. But this itself is also a great challenge for the YEAR to do this. In 1987, during the planning of the CGMW Tectonic Map of Africa, it was said that we, Black Africa, should not be at the table together with the then apartheid S. Africa. I argued that one must live with the times so far as science is concerned; I discussed this with Fric, in S. Africa. A few months later, the map was published and is still available. Now we have a similar situation. Twenty percent of the world lives in Africa, yet only one percent of the attendees at this congress are from Africa. Somehow, the Management Team must involve the African countries and African scientists in the YEAR. The important people in the continent must be pushed into supporting and giving support to the YEAR. DE MULDER thanked KUMPUNZU for his comments and agreed that getting Africa, and indeed all the developing world involved in the YEAR was a major aim of the Management Team. It is an important part of the philosophy of the YEAR.

DERCOURT (France) said that France approves all the points requested by the Management Team. However, France is concerned with the nine topics identified by the Science Planning Committee. One important topic is missing – that of biodiversity. Science and geology are important – the past is the key to the future. This challenge is critical – we need to know how our community is affected by biodiversity and how changes in the diversity will affect mankind. Although biodiversity links with climate and soils, France feels that this is not enough. The Science Planning Committee should seriously consider adding biodiversity to the list, as a tenth theme.

The Council APPLAUDED the comments of Dercourt.

DE MULDER thanked DERCOURT for his comments and agreed that biodiversity is very important. However, the Council should realise that the Science Planning Committee had to make some hard decisions; it had to draw a line somewhere. However, if enough funding comes through, biodiversity can be added to the list.

KROONENBERG (The Netherlands) said that he strongly supported the comments of DERCOURT. Oxygen is a product of life and so biodiversity is critical. DERBYSHIRE (YEAR Management Team, Chairman Science Planning Committee) said that he would like to reassure DERCOURT that the Science Planning Committee evolved 23 potential themes – all of which were socially relevant. Within this list was a project on biodiversity. However, advice – including advice from government agencies – all indicated that the list of topics must be short *at this stage*. If there are too many themes, sponsors are put off by. As the science process will be bottom-up, there is every possibility to develop a biodiversity project. The Science Planning Committee is fully aware of the critical role of biodiversity and confidently expect material on this, once the YEAR is up and running. KROONENBERG said that he accepted the comments of DERBYSHIRE, but was not fully satisfied.

Xxx (China) said that the Ministry of Land and Resources of the Peoples Republic of China had been supportive of the International Year of Planet Earth since it was first proposed by IUGS. Currently, China is now preparing to put the bid to UNESCO's Board of Directors and then it will be put to the UN Council. China strongly hopes that more member Countries of UNESCO and the UN will come forward and give their formal support, especially those countries with a strong geoscience community. With Zhang Hongren as the new President of IUGS, we can move forward with confidence towards the announcement of the International Year of Planet Earth at the UN.

DE MULDER then asked the Council to approve a document circulated earlier in the meeting.

The Council APPROVED unanimously the wording of the document.

DE MULDER thanked the Council.

13. STRATEGIC PLAN, VISION AND ROAD MAP

DE MULDER said that the bulk of the work in this area had been undertaken by GUPTA, who he invited to make a short presentation.

GUPTA said that in considering that in the last four decades there has been a complete revolution in the Earth sciences, in which the Union played an important role, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) for IUGS developed a mission that IUGS should seek to unite the global geological community in:

Promoting the development of the geosciences through the support of broad-based scientific studies relevant to the entire Earth system; and in

Applying the results of these and other studies to preserve the Earth's natural environment, using all natural resources wisely, and to improve the prosperity of the nations and the quality of human life.

The SPC also formulated specific goals for IUGS, consistent with the above stated mission. Addressing these has been a major part of the work of the outgoing Executive Committee.

As IUGS approaches its 50th Anniversary, in 2011, a Mid-Term Vision has been developed by the Executive Committee to outline the long-term ambitions and goals of the Union. This states that:

The IUGS is widely acknowledged as the most prestigious international geo-scientific organisation, uniting the world's geoscientists and supporting the development of the

geosciences for the sustainable development and management of all parts of Planet Earth.

Realizing the blurring of the distinction between geology and geophysics with the passage of time, it is important that all Earth and ocean related geological and geophysical Unions within ICSU work in tandem and in a consortium approach is adopted to address global issues. The other important Unions are the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, the International Geographical Union and the International Union of Soil Sciences and the ICSU Scientific Committee on the Lithosphere (SCL-ILP). This consortium approach shall provide a powerful voice to the public and policy makers about geoscientific issues. A lot of progress in this direction has been made already; IUGG, IUSS, IGU and ILP are all full partners in the International Year of Planet Earth. Further, groundwater, megacities, catastrophic hazards, geology & health and desertification are topics on which these four Unions are now working in combination.

With the growth of the world's population, urbanization concentrates people into smaller parts of the Earth's surface. The sustainable use of the Earth's resources becomes ever a more important issue.

Activities from the Mid-Term Vision already in progress are:

- IUGS participation in big new science (urban underground, oceans – 40 % of people live in coastal areas).
- International Year of Planet Earth.
- merger of IGC and IUGS Councils – done to make a better, more powerful geosciences body.
- focus on developing countries – this is a main aim of the International Year of Planet Earth.
- increasing involvement of the Affiliated Organisations into the affairs of IUGS.
- increasing income.

Currently, IUGS is on track to fulfil the aims of the Mid-Term Vision.

DE MULDER thanked GUPTA and asked if the Council approved the report.

The Council unanimously APPROVED the report.

14. IUGS GRANTS POLICY

JANOSCHEK said that this came from a suggestion by one of the Task Groups set up through the Strategic Action Plan. The idea is that IUGS should have a larger sum of money available to award to a major project. The criteria for selection are a multidisciplinary approach, preferably with the involvement of scientists from developing countries, to a topic consistent with IUGS' goals and relevant to society. Within this frame work, all geoscience related topics are suitable. Original research will not be supported; the aim is to provide money for workshops and meetings.

All IUGS bodies can apply; Affiliated Organisations may also be strongly involved in projects, in collaboration with an IUGS body. Funding will usually be in the range of US \$ 5,000 – 15,000 p.a. to each project, allowing three or perhaps four projects to be running at the same time. Project lengths of one to three years are suitable. Projects may be either bottom-up or top-down by being related to a topic suggested by the Committee for Research Directions.

The first stage in applying for money is the submission of an Expression of Interest, a 3-4 pages long document. This is sent to a review committee comprising two EC members and three from the CRD/IGCP Board. The reviews are then discussed by the EC, which chooses which (if any) projects should be invited to submit a full proposal. The full proposals are then reviewed and grants awarded to successful applicants.

IUGS places US \$ 50,000 per year into the fund; as the project may run over three years, a fraction of the sum available is dedicated in advance. Projects will be reviewed each year before money is disbursed, to ensure that the project is on track. Money not used will be retained in the Grants Proposals account, increasing the sum available for future years. The system was set in motion last year, and six proposals were submitted, autumn 2003; the first grant was awarded this year.

The text of the policy document is available from the Permanent Secretariat and is on the IUGS website, as are application forms.

DE MULDER thanked JANOSCHEK for the report and asked if the Council approved it.

The Council unanimously APPROVED the report.

15. ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, TASK GROUPS AND IUGS INITIATIVES

De Mulder said that the science aspects of the IUGS bodies are on the web page and in the IUGS Annual Reports. There have been many meetings at the Congress organised by the bodies where the science aspect could be heard. Hence, this report will cover the administrative aspects of the bodies.

a) Committees

Committee on Research Directions (CRD). De Mulder said that this a new Committee, formed in response to the Strategic Planning Committees suggestions. Currently, the Committee is led by Edward Derbyshire. The leaders of the five IGCP Working Groups are automatically members of the CRD, together with several other experts.

The Committee's brief is to inform the EC about new science directions that IUGS should be involved in or aware of and to review proposals stemming from these recommendations via the Grants Proposals scheme. The CRD has met twice (Paris, February) and proposed a project on Geological Processes and Human Evolution. However, no Expressions of Interest were received for this. Nevertheless, the CRD will continue with this role. If a proposal comes in, it is sent for review and possible funding via the Grants Proposals scheme.

The CRD will be taking over and reviewing the projects formulated by the Science Planning Committee of the International Year of Planet Earth which were not adopted as one of the major themes for the Year. The latter committee is now redundant.

No comments were made by the Council on this report.

Publications Committee and IUGS Publication Policy. DE MULDER said that this was another important Committee, chaired by Anthony Berger since 2002. The Committee approached six publishing houses concerning the publishing of the IUGS Special Publications series. From these, the offer by the Geological Society of London was accepted and a contract was signed in April 2002. IUGS bodies, including IGCP Projects, must submit any work they want to have published to the Geological Society of London. If GSL feels a particular work is not suited to its Special Publication Series, then the body can publish it elsewhere, so long as the

IUGS logo is displayed. Royalties will be paid when possible to the body which submits the work to GSL.

The Website, run by John Aaron, has been completely redesigned since the adoption of the new logo. The site is regularly and widely consulted. More information is being added all the time, increasing its relevance to the community.

Two Memorandums of Understanding have been signed by IUGS with the Chinese authorities, concerning the publication of Episodes, the IUGS journal. The first covered the last four years and the second, signed in the last few months, covers the next four years. Under the direction of the Chinese office, the Science Citation Index has risen to 1.02, which is very good for this type of mixed science/news journal. IUGS pays the Chinese authorities US \$ 23,000 to produce Episodes; thus the bulk of the costs is borne by the Peoples Republic of China.

No comments were made by the Council on this report.

Finance Committee. De Mulder noted that this committee was currently dormant. A Task Group set up as a result of the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee decided that IUGS must have some deliverables before the Committee can start to find extra financial support for the Union. In the last few years, several deliverables have come on line – especially the Annual Report, the Brochure and the International Year of Planet Earth.

Due to the agreement reached between IUGS and the IGC Steering Committee, US \$ 20 per registrant at the IGC is reserved for IUGS. With 4,500 attendees, this gives IUGS an income of US \$ 90,000.

b) Commissions

DE MULDER outlined the status of the Commissions within IUGS:

Commissions continuing in the present format:

International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)

Commission on Systematics in Petrology (CSP)

International Commission for the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

Commissions reformulated with new orientations and directions:

Commission on the Management and Application of Geoscience Information has been re-invigorated with a new acronym (CGI) rather than (COGEOINFO). This is doing very well and the Executive Committee is happy with it.

Commission on Physics and Chemistry of the Solid Earth (COPSCE) has been reformulated as the *Commission on Solid Earth Chemistry and Evolution (SECE)*. The new group is young and the Executive Committee has high hopes for it.

New Commissions:

Commission for Geological Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGEOETT). This Commission has been formed, with a leader appointed. The first meeting, at which other officers will be elected, is planned for this Autumn. Members of the IUGS Executive Committee will be in the Commission leadership.

Commissions dissolved:

Commission for Tectonics (COMTEC)

Commission for Global Sedimentary Geology (CGSG)

DE MULDER said that both these Commissions had become essentially inactive and so had been reviewed. A replacement task group on tectonics and structural geology had been founded. Attempts to develop a new body in the field of sedimentology had not met with success.

DE MULDER asked for comments. VAI (Italy) said that the Italian National Committee was strongly concerned about the future of stratigraphy and its nomenclature. The International Committee on Stratigraphy (ICS) has taken some actions on delicate matters in open contradiction to principles and procedures consolidated in the 126 year history of IGC. The ICS bureau has strengthened a 'top-down' oligarchic approach that contrasts with the continuing attitude of open information and involvement of all parties. Such an attitude has reopened old controversies and initiated new ones and has thus weakened that authority of ICS and hence IUGS. For this reason, the Italian National Committee cannot endorse the report submitted by ICS and strongly suggests that it is reviewed by IUGS.

De Mulder added that the Executive Committee has a very positive impression of the International Committee on Stratigraphy, which is older than IUGS. It has always reported well and has, especially in the last few years, finalised many GSSPs and the majority of the rest are on target to be finished by 2008. The International Committee on Stratigraphy has not yet been reviewed, but this will be done arranged by the next Executive Committee. Janoschek added that the International Committee on Stratigraphy is definitely one of the most important and productive Commissions in IUGS. The Executive Committee tried to increase internal communications within ICS and this led to a meeting of the heads of all the ICS Subcommissions at Urbino, in 2002. This meeting, which will be repeated regularly, was a great success. ICS had a meeting at the present IGC; did ICS have the document of Vai during their meeting? Vai said that the document was known by the ICS leadership; it is this type of closed meeting that leads to the top-down approach. It is heavy handed; there is a lack of democracy. The Italian National Committee is against these Urbino type meetings unless they are open to all; previously, such meetings were held at the IGC. De Mulder said that the Executive Committee of IUGS disagreed completely. It was more than happy that ICS did not wait two years to hold an important meeting on its structure and future role.

Lamberts (Australia) moved a motion that ICS be reviewed by the next IUGS Executive Committee. This was seconded.

The Council unanimously requested the Executive Committee to review ICS.

DERCOURT (France) noted that INQUA, the International Union for Quaternary Research has tried many times to become a full member of the International Council for Science (ICSU), but has always been rejected. Now that the Quaternary has been dropped from the Timescale, by ICS, INQUA will press more strongly and with a better case. Can IUGS rethink the decision to drop the Quaternary? DE MULDER replied that the Council Meeting is not the place for such a discussion, which is scientific in nature. However, this is a matter of concern to the Executive Committee and contact has been made with both ICS and INQUA about it. Essentially, the Executive Committee should be asked to ratify such changes to the Timescale, and it was not.

De Mulder added that when he was Treasurer of INQUA, he was unhappy that IUGS blocked full membership of ICSU for INQUA - currently, INQUA is an Associate Member of ICSU. However, there are reasons from IUGS' side. INQUA covers only part of the stratigraphic column - if INQUA becomes a full ICSU member, one could argue for Union status for all parts of the column - a Palaeozoic Union, for example. Further, not all of INQUA wants to become a member, although the new President of INQUA started discussions with IUGS two

months ago. The EC have said that it is not in principle against INQUA being a full member. Also, INQUA did not realise that full membership costs US \$ 9,700, per year, and INQUA has financial problems. However, full membership may increase INQUA's income, since countries tend to pay membership only to full Unions. If INQUA becomes a full member, this would increase the number of Earth-science Unions – but would reduce the amount of money available to each Union.

OLDROYD said that the Statutes of INHIGEO has a *numerus clausus*, which allows only a fixed number of Members per country. In some cases, these Members forget to resign when they become elderly and this omission results in problems within the Commission. To alleviate this problem, INHIGEO asks the Council to ratify a modification of INHIGEO's Statutes. The new Statutes say that Members over 70 years of age remain as Members, but that they are no longer counted in the *Numerus Clausus*.

The Council unanimously APPROVED the modification to the Statutes of INHIGEO.

c) Task Groups

Task Groups continuing in the present format:

Task Group on Global Geochemical Baselines (TGGGB). This is doing excellent work but they do not want to upgrade to a Commission

Task Group on Fossil Fuels (TGFF). This is also doing excellent work and want to expand into a Commission. This body will be reviewed soon, before being upgraded.

Task Group on Public Affairs. This was reviewed shortly before the IGC.

New Task Groups:

Task Group on tectonics and Structural Geology (TecTask). This is a new body, replacing the defunct COMTEC. It specialises in tectonics and structure, with the database from the closed IASTG as a member list. It will be paying more attention to young people, the role of field work and standardisation in rheology experiments.

Task Groups dissolved:

Task Group on Geosites. This was closed after a review, since there had been no activities and no communication from the leadership. It has been replaced by GEOSEE, an IUGS Initiative (see below).

Task Groups concluded:

Task Group on Geochronological Decay Constants. As planned, this Task Group has concluded its work and has therefore closed itself down. The results have been presented at this meeting and will be published in *Episodes*.

Council made no comments on the activities of the IUGS Task Groups.

d) Initiatives

De Mulder said that Initiatives are a new and informal type of IUGS body; there were none four years ago. They were developed as a result of the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendations that there be a less formal type of body within IUGS. These have the backing of IUGS, but are relatively independent and give much visibility to IUGS.

The first two Initiatives, the Initiative on Medical Geology and the Geoinformatics Initiative, are both outgrowths of COGEOENVIRONMENT. As Working Groups, they got bigger and bigger and were using up the resources of their host Commission. Thus they were hived off as separate bodies, with their own finances and external network.

Medical Geology, which started life as an IGCP project some eight years ago, is now a major international science group, heading one of the newest and most dynamic areas of growth in the Earth sciences. It is about to become an international association, affiliated to IUGS. It is regularly asked to host sessions at Earth sciences and also medical congresses. Funding is widely available. The Geoindicators Initiative is not such a large body and it will not become independent, although with its disaster reducing and environmental aspects it is very important.

As a replacement of the Task Group on Geosites, IUGS is a founding organisation of GEOSEE (A **GEO**parcs approach – science, heritage, **Socio-Economics** and **E**ducation), a joint venture with IGU and UNESCO. In the last four years, geoparks activity has increased rapidly, worldwide. UNESCO and the European Geoparks Network (EGN) formed the first park in 2000. IUGS stood aside at first, but the idea developed and has become an important source of visibility for the Earth sciences and also the Union. Last November, IUGS hosted a meeting at Utrecht where many of the interested parties were brought together; this led to an informal GEOSEE group. At the end of June (2004), at the First International Geoparks Meeting, in China, the group was formally established and is now writing terms of reference etc. All four ICSU Earth sciences Unions, together with UNESCO, EGN, the Chinese Geoparks, the European Council, and other bodies are within the group, which aims to help bodies with an interest in this direction exchange information. It is not planned to become a ‘governing body’.

16. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, APPOINTMENTS

a) Election of New Officers of the Executive Committee

DE MULDER stated that BRETT had been elected as chairman of the Nominating Committee in 2000 and was thus responsible for the elections since then.

BRETT said he was pleased to make a report; the Committee, which had been very busy, also included Caldwell, Al Hashimi, Mantovani, Nyang Diop, Zhang Hongren, Schmidt-Thomé. In 2001, Boriani resigned as Secretary-General of IUGS; Janoschek (then Treasurer) was appointed as the new Secretary-General in 2002, at the same time resigning as Treasurer. In 2003, Brambati was appointed as the new Treasurer.

In January of this year, the Committee met in Paris to discuss the nominations for the new EC. The discussions were long and thorough. Zhang Hongren and Mantovani left the room when the discussions turned to the positions for which they had been nominated. The criteria for selection were discussed and a set of guiding principles was formulated at the start. Two came from the IUGS Statutes and By-laws and one from the Strategic Planning Committee:

Nominations should cover the world geographically.

Nominations should cover the range of geological disciplines.

Consideration was given to the representation of women.

As no nominations were received from the Arab/Middle East or Oceania parts of the world and very few from the Central and South American and African parts. Thus the first guideline could not be properly fulfilled.

A source of concern is that there is only one name put forward by the Committee for each position. Ironically, I suggested in Rio de Janeiro that there should be at least two names for each position. However, this is easier said than done; all the suitable candidates left over were from Europe or the USA – but we did not want two members from one country or continent. Thus having more than one candidate could create a serious imbalance, which would be criticised by the Council

Thus we could only propose one person. The Committee is chagrined at doing this. The solution is to get a wider range of nominations, but that is up to the adhering members.

There is also some ambiguity in the Statutes concerning the re-election of officers. A Vice-president can be elected to Secretary-General/Treasurer or President, giving 12 active years in IUGS. Re-election of Councillors is not mentioned; they could be re-elected as a Vice-president, giving a total term of 16 years in IUGS. However, the Strategic Action Plan suggests that Councillors should serve only a single four-year term, to get a more rapid turnover of persons – a greater national representation in the Executive Committee, over the years. This needs to be clarified by the next Executive Committee.

A further problem is that getting nominations for the Bureau offices is becoming very difficult. They, especially the Secretary-General, needs secretarial assistance, which the home institutes have to pay for. Most countries are becoming very reluctant to finance these positions. An alternative is that IUGS should contribute towards these costs, but that would significantly decrease the funds available for scientific activities. This will be discussed later.

De Mulder then noted that the Nominating Committee lies under the authority of the Council, not the EC. He added that an alternative slate was submitted by the UK, supported by Canada, Denmark, France, India, and Norway, prior to the deadline (19 July).

Slates of Candidates for the new Executive Committee:

	Nominating Committee	UK Committee
President	C. Fric (S. Africa)	Zhang Hongren (China)
Secretary General	P. Bobrowsky (Canada)	-
Treasurer	A. Brambati (Italy)	-
Vice-President	Zhang Hongren (China)	H. Gupta (India)
Vice-President	E. Moores (USA)	S. Haldorsen (Norway)
Councillor 2004-2008	R. Matsumota (Japan)	-
Councillor 2004-2008	G. Schneider (Namibia)	-
Councillor 2006-2010	M. Mantovani (Brazil)	-
Councillor 2006-2010	M. Fedonkin (Russia)	-

STYLES (UK) congratulated the Nominating Committee on producing an excellent slate of fine scientists. However, the proposals submitted in the alternate slate are thought to better reflect the needs of IUGS over the next 4 years.

Two scrutinisers were appointed; A. RICCARDI (Argentina) and J.-P. CADET (France). The elections for officers were carried out according to the Statutes.

After the scrutinisers had counted the votes, DE MULDER announced the results of the elections and gave the composition of the new Executive Committee of IUGS: Zhang Hongren (China) as President; P. Bobrowsky (Canada) as Secretary-General; A. Brambati (Italy) as Treasurer; E. Moores (USA) and S. Haldorsen (Norway) as Vice-Presidents; A. Riccardi (Argentina) and J.-P. Cadet (France) as Councillors 2002-2006 (continuing their present term); R. Matsumota (Japan) and G. Schneider (Namibia) as Councillors for 2004-2008; M. Mantovani (Brazil) and M. Fedonkin (Russia) Councillors 2006-2010.

The Council voted in FAVOUR of the Executive Committee as listed above.

DE MULDER congratulated the members of the new Executive Committee on their election and, on behalf of the outgoing EC, wished them well for the future.

ZHANG HONGREN (China) thanked the Council for their confidence in him, by electing him as the next president of the Union and expressed his pleasure at having the chance to serve IUGS. The future of IUGS depends very much on the support of the members; without this, the Union will fail. Four years is a relatively short time for major undertakings, but we can build on the work of the previous Executive Committee and start new programmes that will be continued by our successors. The major task of the incoming Committee is to support and develop the International Year of Planet Earth, to create a better environment for the forthcoming years. In this, IUGS has the full support of the Chinese Ministry of Land and Resources.

b) Appointment of the Nominating Committee

DE MULDER thanked the outgoing Nominating Committee for their work over the past four years, which had been unusually busy. DE MULDER then proposed a slate of 7 names for the new Nominating Committee; he added that the outgoing President of IUGS is statutorily a member of the Committee and that the Committee may have up to three active members of the IUGS Executive Committee in it.

The slate proposed by DE MULDER comprised; W. Eder (Germany; UNESCO); H. Gupta (India; ex IUGS Councillor, IUGG life-member); H. Kampunzu (Botswana); E. Moores (USA, IUGS Vice-President); V. Osipov (Russia); J. Pereira (Malaysia).

DE MULDER invited the Council to propose alternative names, if they so wished. None were forthcoming.

The Council voted in FAVOUR of the Executive Committee as listed above.

JANOSCHEK proposed the motion that De Mulder be elected as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded.

The Council voted in FAVOUR of De Mulder being the Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

c) Ratification of Elections of Officers of Commissions

DE MULDER informed the Council of the new officers approved by the Executive Committee for IUGS' Commissions and asked for their ratification.

Commission on the Management & Application of Geoscience Information (CGI).

Chairman	Dr. Kristine Asch
Secretary-General	Dr. Ian Jackson
Treasurer	Dr. Max Fernandez

The Council unanimously RATIFIED these appointments.

Commission on Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGEOETTT)

Chairman	Dr. Gary Lewis
Secretary-General	<i>to be announced</i>
Treasurer	<i>to be announced</i>

The Council unanimously RATIFIED this appointment.

Commission on Systematics in Petrology (CSP)

Chairman	Prof. Guilano Bellieni
Secretary-General	Dr. Raffaele Sassi
Vice-Chairman	Prof. Jörg Keller

The Council unanimously RATIFIED these appointments.

Geoscience for Environmental Management (GEM)

Chairman	Dr. Joy Pereira
Secretary-General	Dr. Jonas Satkunas
Treasurer	Dr. Kevin Telmer
Vice-Chairman	Dr. Imasiku A. Nyambe

The Council unanimously RATIFIED these appointments.

International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)

Chairman	Dr. Felix Gradstein
Secretary-General	Prof. James Ogg
Vice-Chairman	Dr. Stanley Finney

A majority of the Council RATIFIED these appointments.

International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

President	Prof. Philippe R. Taquet
Secretary-General	Prof. Kennard B. Bork
Vice-President, North America	Dr. Ursula B. Marvin
Vice-President, Latin America	Dr. Pedro Goncalves
Vice-President, Asia	Prof. Kanenori Suwa
Vice-President, Europe	Prof. Nicoletta Morello
Vice-President, Oceania	Prof. David R. Oldroyd

The Council unanimously RATIFIED these appointments.

Commission on Solid Earth Chemistry and Evolution (SECE)

Chair	Dr. Yaoling Niu
Secretary-General	<i>to be announced</i>
Treasurer	Dr. Andrew C. Kerr

A majority of the Council RATIFIED these appointments.

JANOSCHEK noted that officers were usually only allowed to remain in office for eight years; after that time, there is a danger that they loose interest.

17. PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND TENTATIVE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR 2005-2008

Brambati said that information about the budgets of the past four years had been given earlier. Here, a general proposed budget for the next four years is outlined. Essentially, this compares what IUGS has now with what it might have in 2008, from an optimistic and pessimistic viewpoint. Overall, the situation looks rosy and IUGS should be optimistic.

The Council should recall that IUGS will have a very large indirect income, from the countries sponsoring the Bureau positions and the Norwegian Government, which finances

the Permanent Secretariat. The Bureau costs will come to around US \$ 300,000 in total for the four year EC-term, whilst the Permanent Secretariat receives US \$ 150,000 p.a. Further, China will be inputting US \$ 30,000 p.a. into *Episodes*, more than the IUGS contribution of US \$ 23,000 p.a.

The Executive Committee is concerned to keep administrative costs as low as possible, to free up more money for science.

The Executive Committee have decided that a large sum of money (~US \$ 400,000) should be placed into a long-term high interest account. This will yield between US \$ 100,000 and US \$ 40,000 in interest over the next four years, considerably more interest than could be realised through the existing current account.

Looking now to the total regular income, this could range from US \$ 632,000 p.a. down to US \$ 353,000 p.a., with between US \$ 90,000 and US \$ 80,000 more coming from the one-off payment from attendees at the 2008 IGC. This IGC contribution depends on the number of attendees and the amount each pays, which is not yet fixed. When combined with the interest from the long-term deposit account, these figures indicate that by 2008, IUGS could have US slightly more than \$ 1 million in its bank accounts.

Expenses, from all sources, in this period are expected to range between US \$ 463,000 and US \$ 591,000. This figures suggest that the expenses will be either slight more than or unavoidably slightly less than the income. As the term progresses, the Executive Committee will be taking great care that expenses do not rise too much above income, should the latter possibility seem likely.

HEIKEN (USA) asked if these figures could be sent to the National Committees, if they were not to be given in the Minutes. BRAMBATI replied that they would be in the Minutes of the meeting.

SATO (Japan) noted that the fee paid by the adhering members varies considerably when compared with the GDP of the countries. There are only three countries are in Category 8 (USA, Russia, Japan), with China and several European countries in Category 7 and Australia in Category 6.

Further, many relatively well-off countries do not pay much, even though they could, and several of these countries are actually inactive, having not paid at all for the last two years. In the Statutes, the Category of membership is determined by the member country itself. Thus, countries down-grade their membership fees when they wish, but only Japan and Australia have upgraded their category. I propose that the next EC is asked to study this problem in detail and to make some specific recommendations – to obtain a fair division of the costs.

JANOSCHEK added that in many other Unions, a country suggests a Category, but the Union itself decides whether this is suitable and can raise the level. This problem should be addressed in the Statutes revisions to be discussed later; the status of both new and existing members should be reviewed.

NICKLESS (UK) said that it was good that the figures will be in the Minutes, but to have a sensible, informed discussion of the finances, the report and figures should be circulated in advance. DE MULDER agreed that this would be better.^

18. STATUTES

DE MULDER noted that the Statutes adopted at this meeting, which enabled the merger of IGC and IUGS, need to be further revised and simplified, now that the merger has been accomplished. The Council can here instruct the new Executive Committee to look into this matter; revisions can be submitted to the National Committees and approved by electronic means.

NICKLESS (UK) said that the meeting has shown that the merger is successful. However, greater efficiency would be generated if the Executive Committees of IUGS and IGC were also merged. This proposal should be seriously considered by the Statutes Committee.

CHARVET (France) said two points were important. First, the President of the new IGC Committee should be the leader of the upcoming IGC, not, as is currently the situation, the leader of the past IGC. Second, do few countries have had members in the IUGS Bureau – they need support of their countries. This is poor for IUGS. DE MULDER said in reply that currently, the Statutes state that Boriani, as the President of IGC, is Chairman of the IGC Committee. However, it is clear that Sinding-Larsen, as leader of Norway's successful bid, has much more interest in the Committee. This needs to be addressed by the Statutes Committee also. Concerning the Bureau positions, the Statutes have an 'unwritten' rule that Bureau members must be fully supported financially by their home countries. The Executive Committee have thought about this problem and estimated that only 15 countries world-wide are capable or willing to support a Bureau position. The Executive Committee also agrees that this is not healthy for IUGS. Although IUGS wants to actively include the Vice-Presidents and Councillors in the running of the Union, it can only afford to pay for one trip to a Bureau meeting per Vice-President per year. If the Union has to pay for the Bureau members, it will be very expensive. The Executive Committee have had discussions on how to improve the situation, but no agreement was made – except that it will be very expensive to do. It would be good if Council requested the new Executive Committee to look further into this problem as well.

SINDING-LARSEN (Norway) asked who had the power to make the leader of the incoming IGC, the Chairman of the IGC Committee. JANOSCHEK replied that this is in the Statutes. The IGC Steering Committee has been replaced by the IGC Committee, in the new Statutes. However, the old IGC Statutes apply to the new IGC, with only some modifications made to enable the merger to go thorough. The Council can request the new Executive Committee instruct the Statutes Committee rewrite and simplify the Statutes. The voting system, which was seen yesterday to be very complicated, could be simplified at this stage. SINGHVI (India) agreed that the voting should be simplified – with each country having only one vote.

De Mulder said that the voting for the IGC had revealed that the voting system is sensitive and suggested not changing this yet.

The majority AGREED to not change the voting system.

Larsen then moved that the Council instructs the new Executive Committee to look into ways of streamlining the Statutes, so that the new, merged Council becomes better and more efficient. The motion was seconded by VAI (Italy).

The Council APPROVED unanimously the motion that the Statutes be revised.

19. JAMES HARRISON AWARD

De Mulder said that previously IUGS had had no awards. The Executive Committee, however, considered it important that the Union recognised and honoured people who had

served the Union in an extraordinary way, but who have no recognised position as an officer in the Union. The award instituted by the Executive Committee to fulfil this function is the *James Harrison Outstanding Achievement Award*, named after the late James Harrison, a Canadian who served as the IUGS' first President, from 1961-1965. He may truly be called the father of IUGS.

Laudatio Hanne Refsdal

Before the IUGS Secretariat was made permanent in 1989, it had moved every time a new Secretary-General was elected. Thus, when Richard Sinding-Larsen was appointed as Secretary-General of IUGS in 1984, the Secretariat was moved from Paris to Trondheim and Hanne Refsdal was invited to assist him in establishing the new Secretariat.

By 1984, Hanne Refsdal would never have believed that the next twenty years of her life would be dominated by the Union. Last month, her husband told me that he would have been very happy if he had got 10% of the attention Hanne has given to IUGS.

Twenty years of daily service to IUGS is unprecedented in its 43 years history and will most probably never be beaten. During this time, Hanne has seen the Secretariat grow to become the professional Permanent Secretariat which it now is and where she works together with her fine colleague Anne Dehls. Very few Unions have such a treat and many of our colleagues envy IUGS, particularly because this permanent secretariat has been financed by the Norwegian Government through its National Committee. A rough calculation shows that the Norwegians have in this way supported the Union with about US \$ 2 million, for which IUGS is enormously grateful.

Although Hanne is not a geologist, she knows more about the Union than anyone here. With her excellent memory, she is the best informed person in the IUGS family. I recommend the next EC to consult her as much as possible, both on the activities of past commissions, current affiliated bodies and particularly of individuals. She has served 5 Executive Committees, did the minutes of some 20 EC and of about 100 Bureau meetings, in every corner of the world. And she made hundreds of friends in the Union. Her real background and profession is architecture and this is reflected by the excellent lay-out of the many IUGS products that have been produced under her guidance.

IUGS' Permanent Secretariat has a wide variety of tasks. One of these is filing and storing documents and publications. So much paper has piled up in the Secretariat that there hardly any room left for the people working there. To solve this problem, they found a typical Norwegian solution: the non-critical parts of the files have been stored in an abandoned mine, outside of Trondheim.

I am extremely happy to present the *James Harrison Outstanding Achievement Award* to Hanne Refsdal, the mother of IUGS.

Laudatio John Aaron

John Aaron has served IUGS for nearly twenty years, almost as long as Hanne Refsdal. He hardly knew of IUGS when he took over the Chairmanship of the Advisory Board on Publications in February, 1985, and there were no Executive Committee members on the Board because the Board was supposed to advise the Executive Committee. The Board had the same problems as today – the relevance and visibility of IUGS and its publications. John's chairing this Board was the first step of his seduction by IUGS.

At that time, the Geological Survey of Canada was publishing *Episodes*, the IUGS journal, but when it decided that it could no longer afford to do so, in 1989, John decided that the US

Geological Survey would take over. At that time, John was in charge of the Survey's large publications empire and all of its libraries. He volunteered the Survey's resources, but his work as Editor was undertaken in his own spare time. John inspired extreme loyalty from his staff, but worried about his and his staff's dual obligation to the IUGS and USGS. As an important figure to the USGS management, this caused him many sleepless nights. He obviously had to serve both, which was most wearing. John and his dedicated secretary, Priscilla Utterback, were usually in the office by 5:00 a.m. and left at 7:00 p.m. What a life, and what dedication to IUGS! In 1993 the USGS could no longer divert the staff required to publish *Episodes*, so it went to the British Geological Survey.

After 34 years with the USGS, John retired and decided to give something back to the geological community, which had given him so much, by creating a website for IUGS, even though he had no experience in building one. In 1996, the site was launched and it is now one of the most useful sites in the geological sciences. The site continues to grow in scope and popularity. Eight years later, John is still the Webmaster. The site serves scientists in more than 90 countries of the world.

In 1999, John agreed to be rapporteur for the Strategic Planning Committee. He participated fully in the discussion, and contributed many useful ideas. Most of the final writing in the report is his. John's work has, therefore, made a large contribution to the future of IUGS.

John has done as much for IUGS as anyone and like everything in his life, he is passionate about it. He has also gained in areas not immediately obvious; through travelling to Executive Committee meetings, he has seen more birds than he ever dreamed of and he also refined his knowledge of wine.

I am very happy to present the *James Harrison Outstanding Achievement Award* to John Aaron.

20. OTHER BUSINESS

VAI (Italy) said that according to the new rules of IGC, money flows from IGC to IUGS; US \$ 20 of the registration fee is collected on behalf of IUGS. Although this is not much individually, it comes to a major increase in IUGS' income.

National Committees at the Council are the power; they elect the IUGS officers. However, the Italian National Committee thinks that the increased interaction between IUGS and the National Committees indicates that the Committees should have more power. The Italian National Committee suggests that the National Committees should have some right to decide where the extra income accruing to IUGS from the IGC is spent. This will make the National Committees more active.

DE MULDER replied that, first, the National Committees are the bosses of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is very aware of this; we have your confidence to act for the Union. The Executive Committee has the work whilst the National Committees have absolute power. Second, the 3rd IGC Circular says clearly that US \$ 20 is paid to IUGS. The circular does not say that this is a matter for the IGC. Third, the National Committees already have a vote in the budgetary allocations made and proposed by the Executive Committee. If you do not agree with these allocations, tell us now.

VAI replied that the Italian National Committee has no problems with the budget proposed by the Executive Committee. But although we, the National Committees, have the power, it is clear to see that not many of them are here today to exercise this power. There is no

suggestion of touching the responsibilities of the Executive Committee, but the National Committees should have some right to give advice on how the money is spent.

DE MULDER replied that National Committees are welcome to give such advice if they wish. However, to ask the Executive Committee to consult formally with the National Committees about this particular sum, when the Executive Committee does not have to consult about the much larger sum it receives from the annual membership fees seems illogical and will result in a vast increase in bureaucracy for the Executive Committee. Payments will be delayed whilst approval is sought for the proposed budget.

NICKLESS (UK) suggested that if the Italian National Committee wants to become more involved, it can be, but, in that case, the individual members must be prepared to take on much more work. Essentially, any country can be more involved; it simply means doing more work. However, the EC is elected by the National Committees specifically to do the work on their behalf.

DE MULDER thanked NICKLESS for this clarification.

21. PLACE, DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY SESSION OF COMBINED COUNCIL

DE MULDER said that the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Combined Council will be held in Oslo, 2008. The precise date is not yet known.

22. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

DE MULDER then closed the 1st Combined Council Meeting, thanking all those attending for their contribution to an important and historic event.