

# Minutes: International Geological Congress Committee Meeting

Saturday 26 October 2013 at 13:30

**MEETING VENUE, Hyatt Regency Colorado Conference Centre, Mineral Hall E**

***Present:***

***Committee Members:*** Co-Chair, Roland Oberhansli (RO), Co-Chair: Neil Williams (NW), Secretary-General: Danie Barnardo (DB), Members: Richard Viljoen (RV), Ian Lambert (IL), Arne Bjorlykke (AB), Dong Shuwen (DS)

***Observers:*** A.K Singvi (AS), S.K. Wadhawan (SW), D.S. Mishra (DM), Anne Liinamaa-Dehls (AL)

***Apologies:*** Mxolisi Kota

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome and introductions (NW, 10 mins)
  2. Approval of the agenda (NW, 5 mins)
  3. Statements by new co-chairs (15 mins total)
  4. Consideration of implications of Statutes decision (co-chairs 20 mins)
  5. Consideration of recommendations of Statutes working group (attached, 20 mins)
  6. Issues arising from 35<sup>th</sup> IGC Organising Committee (RV, DB 40 mins)
    - a. Progress against important deadlines (compared to IGC33 & 34 experience)
    - b. Abstract submission and processing system
    - c. Geohost programme
    - d. Other issues
  7. 36<sup>th</sup> IGC report-back (Indian Delegation, 15 mins)
    - a. Meeting in India
  8. Time, place and priorities for next IGCC meeting (NW, 15 mins)
  9. Close
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## **PROCEEDINGS**

### **Item 1**

After a brief welcome by NW all present introduced themselves.

### **Item 2**

The proposed agenda was approved and an item “*Approval of the previous minutes*” was included between item 2 and item 3.

#### **Approval of previous minutes**

The previous minutes was accepted as a true reflection of the proceedings at the meeting of 4 August 2012.

### **Item 3**

RO stated that closer co-operation between the IUGS and IUGG was discussed at a recent meeting between these two bodies and that a joint IUGS-IUGG scientific meeting was a goal for the future.

NW endorsed this view, given the need to integrate geology and geophysics, as he will be emphasising in the paper he will be delivering a paper during the GSA meeting. He stressed that the purpose of the IGCC is to assist future IGC hosting nations to host good IGCs.

### **Item 4**

The new Statutes were accepted at the meeting of 4 August 2012 and the composition of the current Committee conforms to the new Statutes. The Statutes make it clear that the main purpose of the IGCC is to provide advice to forthcoming IGC-hosting nations and to vet bids for future IGCs.

### **Item 5**

AB also urged that there should be closer co-operation between the IUGS and the IUGG in the organizing of meetings.

AS remarked that an IUGG member should be invited to attend the next meeting of the IUGS Executive Committee, which will be held in Goa, India in February 2014.

IL noted that an IUGS-endorsed meeting will be held between future IGCs and the first of these will be held in 2018 in Vancouver. He further noted that these meetings would be programmed such that they would in no way detract from, or compete with IGC's. He noted in this regard that the proposed meeting in Vancouver would be strongly focussed on Canadian resources, and that it could involve sessions by other GeoUnions, including IUGG and ISPRS.

### **Item 6**

DB presented the report of the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC. The following discussion followed:

- IL noted that the release of the main elements of the Scientific Program should be in place about 3 years in advance of the IGC and that it should be a priority of the South African LOC to get this in place as soon as possible. The program is also needed to

approach champions for sessions. It was remarked that the sessions bring the delegates and that keynote speakers should be identified as early as possible and be published by the Scientific Committee as part of the Scientific Program. The program should include effectively all of the topics from previous IGC programs, but each IGC should include a flavour of the host region – in the case of the 34<sup>th</sup> IGC, some 40% of the program was on mineral and energy resources. There are different ways in which the program can be set out, with the 34<sup>th</sup> IGC finding it most convenient to define the major themes first and then develop specific Symposia under each of these.

- Both AB and IL commented that the finances of the IGC should be controlled by a Finance Committee on which the PCO is represented, and that the Congress account should be set up by the PCO. IL noted that a pre-Congress account was operated initially for the 34<sup>th</sup> IGC, but this was merged into the Congress budget over a year before the event. He also emphasised the need to budget on the basis of a “bare bones” IGC, breaking even at the minimum possible number of registrants – for 34<sup>th</sup> IGC, this was 3000 paying delegates. Basing a budget on a prediction of the actual number of delegates that will attend is not advisable.
- AB commented that field trips should be self-funded and should not be included in the budget. IL stated that a minimum number of participants per field trip should be determined and field trips not achieving the minimum number should be cancelled at an advertised date about 3 months in advance of the congress. He also noted that about 10% of delegates are likely to participate in field trips, so it is advisable to limit the trips on offer to a realistic number (just over forty in the case of the 34<sup>th</sup> IGC).
- AB remarked that the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC LOC should consider shortening the event to 5 days.
- IL stated that an abstract-submission date deadline should be determined adhered to; it should be well ahead of the end of Early Bird registration, when papers should be cut if the presenters have not registered. The format and processing of abstracts are important.
- The question of posters vs. papers were discussed and it was remarked that some institutions regarded papers to be of more value than posters and will only fund delegates who delivered papers. It was suggested that electronic posters and an appropriate format be given a title reflecting “oral” presentation status.
- The question of paper vs digital programs was discussed and it was mentioned that about 50% of delegates will request paper programs and that provision for this should be made. Printed abstract volumes could be offered in addition to usb/CDs [NOTE this was not done at 34<sup>th</sup> IGC], but delegates who request the printed option should pay for this in addition to the delegate fees.
- The first circular should be prepared and distributed as soon as possible and the IUGS Secretariat (through AL) will supply a list for circulation. The IGCC commented that it should be a high priority matter to get the initial information on the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC out.

- An invitation to host business meetings and organise scientific sessions should be compiled and circulated to IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives and Joint Programs. AL will supply a list to the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC LOC.
- RO remarked that, while Geoheritage and Geoparks are important aspects of the Congress, they should not be given undue prominence to the detriment of other aspects of the congress program.

#### **Item 7**

SW and AS presented on the progress by the 36<sup>th</sup> IGC. It was reported that India expects about 10,000 delegates to attend.

- The Indian delegation explained that due to the availability of the designated venue, viz India Expo Mart Ltd. in National Capital Region (NCR), the 36<sup>th</sup> IGC had to be rescheduled from those earlier advised to 2-8 March, 2020. This change of dates was agreed to by all members, who noted that the clashes with university teaching periods both in India and elsewhere, which would be expected to have an adverse impact on the number of attendees. The proposed reduction of the duration of the Congress from 7 to 5 days will be considered by the Indian delegation.

#### **Item 8**

The venue and time for the next meeting will be communicated to the members in due course.

#### **Item 9**

NW thanked all for their participation and closed the meeting at 15:45.