



International Union of Geological Sciences International Geological Congress

Second Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council

Official Minutes

Held in conjunction with the 33rd IGC

Congress Center, Lillestrøm

August 6, 2008, 10:00 – 17:00 & August 10, 2008, 9:00 – 18:00



International Union of Geological Sciences International Geological Congress

Second Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council

1. OPENING AND WELCOME (*Chair: IUGS President*)

The President of the IUGS (2004-2008), Zhang Hongren, opened the meeting by welcoming all to the second Ordinary Session of the Joint Council of the IUGS and IGC. He informed all participants that the session would follow Robert's Rules of Order (as per ICSU protocol).

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (*Chair: IUGS Vice President*)

Eldridge Moores (IUGS Vice President) reviewed the procedures for Robert's Rules of Order and recommended proceeding through the agenda as rapidly as possible. Moores then called for a motion from the floor to adopt the agenda. Edmund Nickless (United Kingdom) proposed the motion accepting the agenda and Neil Williams (Australia) seconded.

Motion to approve Agenda

Passed unanimously

3. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (*Chair: IUGS Vice President*)

a) Order of Business

After some discussion regarding when to discuss the revised and streamlined Statutes and Byelaws (Item 15) led by Gian Battista Vai (Italy), Peter Bobrowsky (IUGS Secretary General), Arne Bjørlykke (IGC President) and Eldridge Moores, Edmund Nickless motioned to accept the order of business as presented but moving discussion of Agenda Item 15 before Item 12 (Elections); Neil Williams again seconded.

Motion to approve Order of Business

Passed unanimously

b) Approval of the Minutes

Eldridge Moores called for discussion and approval the Minutes for the Ordinary Session of Council, August 20, 2004, Florence, and the First Joint Session of IUGS-IGC Council August 24 and 25, 2004, Florence.

Motion to Approve Minutes

Approved as presented

c) Status of IUGS Membership/Affiliates and Ratification of New Members/Affiliates

Antonio Brambati (IUGS Treasurer) reviewed IUGS membership in the last four years, focusing on the recovery of inactive members, attraction of new countries, the geographic distribution and changes in membership levels and categories. Brambati especially thanked the Royal Society of London for helping cover the membership of some developing countries from Africa. The following countries upgraded their membership levels:

- Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia from 1 to 2
- Czech Republic and South Korea from 2 to 3
- Ireland from 2 to 4
- Denmark from 3 to 4
- Canada from 5 to 6
- UK from 7 to 8

Antonio Brambati requested Council to ratify the following new Members and Affiliates; Peter Bobrowsky asked for approval by a show of hands.

New Member: Lesotho, Department of Mines and Geology

Ratified unanimously

New Affiliates: 1) Geological Society of India (GSI); 2) Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP); 3) Société Géologique de France (SGF); and 4) Balkan Geophysical Society (BGS)

Ratified unanimously

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Zhang Hongren focused his report on geology and sustainable development. Demands of society have always been the driving force for science and technology, and earth sciences have not been an exception. The demand for mineral resources has been historically a principal driving force for geology. Zhang remarked that geology is the knowledge of the history of our planet Earth and should be the basis for, and provide powerful tools in solving environmental problems. Quoting Arne Bjørlykke: "historically the demand for mineral resources has been the main reason for the communication between earth scientists and society..."

In the late 20th Century, there was an increasing concern about sustainable development and a decrease in interest in mineral resources. The Oil Crisis of the 1970s and the development of information technology impelled nations to seek new ways for energy and raw material conservation. These events resulted in a slowing down in the demand for energy and minerals and subsequently, followed by a downturn in the level of geological exploration for mineral resources. By the 1980s, many economic geologists lost their jobs and transferred to hydrogeology, engineering geology, environmental geology and geological hazard mitigation. Even geology departments at

major universities faced problems of continued existence and many Geological Surveys were in financial difficulty.

In the last decade of the 20th century, the world geology community began seriously to react to the challenges faced by the world. In the IUGS Strategic Action Plan (2000) and IUGS Mid-Term Vision and Strategic Action Plan (2003), environmental geology, geological hazard mitigation and ground water were defined as new directions of IUGS.

The most important event at this time was the implementation of the UN International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). Eduardo de Mulder, the Past President of IUGS, originated the idea of IYPE in 2000. Four years ago, at the IGC in Florence, geoscientists from around the world adopted the IYPE Declaration. An Agreement concerning IYPE's operation was signed between IUGS and the IYPE Corporation. The Statutes of the Corporation were adopted to consolidate its organization and the effectiveness of its operation. More than 68 IYPE National Committees have been established around the world. The success of IYPE has been highly manifested by the many launch events that have taken place and are still scheduled to take place around the world.

Today, the strength of IUGS lies in its broad coverage of geoscience fields under one umbrella, and in its function as a forum for geoscientists to exchange ideas, develop scientific standards, and for the communication of geoscience information. IUGS also holds a unique position in representing the interests of the global geological community and connecting with UNESCO, ICSU, and as well with many earth science-related institutions in the world. IUGS's main problem remains its small operating budget and the lack of awareness of IUGS among some parts of the global Earth science community.

Being aware of the current situation and position of IUGS, the major effort should be to maximize the advantages and strengths of IUGS with its limited available resources and to concentrate its efforts on a limited number of priority areas. One of the priorities besides IYPE is the IGCP. Since 1972 it has operated in about 150 countries, involving several thousand scientists. It provides a multinational platform for Earth Scientists to collaborate on projects aimed at understanding the Earth, its Resources and their role in Society. After three decades of successful work, IGCP has made research results available to a large number of scientists around the world with more than 500 projects.

Almost four years ago, UNESCO underwent restructuring and the International Geosciences Program (IGCP) faced a substantial budget cut. The impact for IUGS has been unprecedented and the actual consequence may be even greater, considering the indirect impact through the International Council of Science. The focus of all IUGS efforts has been to preserve the program, and the Union has tripled its financial contribution to IGCP at the cost of freezing other IUGS projects. The International Geoscience Program has survived its financial crisis. IGCP has been reorganized to increase efficiency and to reduce the cost of operations. It has focused on the following topics of particular interest:

- Geoscience and the Water Cycle
- Geohazards and mitigation of risk
- Earth resources and sustainability
- Global change and the evolution of life
- Deep earth: How it controls our environment

Zhang Hongren then moved onto discuss the relationship between the IGC and IUGS. The International Geological Congress has a long and brilliant history; it is a precious heritage of the world geological community that should be cherished. The 21st International Geological Congress sponsored by Nordic countries 48 years ago played a decisive role in the establishment of IUGS. Prior to the 21st IGC, the Bureau of IGC proposed to the Council that an International Union of Geology be established. Its aims included: "to provide continuity in international cooperation in geology, and to assist the IGC, it being understood that the long established activities of the Congress shall be safeguarded".

The Florence Council meeting took two important steps forward at the 32nd IGC. Firstly, the Councils of IGC and IUGS were merged into one. Most people are comfortable with this change. Secondly, the IGC Committee replaced the IGC Steering Committee. However, the relationship between IUGS and IGC has not been completely resolved. The first Combined Council of IUGS and IGC instructed: "the new Executive Committee as an urgent matter, to look into ways of streamlining the Statutes, so that the new, merged Council becomes better and more efficient...The Council APPROVED unanimously the motion that the Statutes be revised and streamlined as an urgent matter". A joint Task Group was established to revise the IUGS and IGC Statutes and Byelaws. The revised and streamlined Statutes and Byelaws was prepared and distributed Council and awaits their decision (see Agenda Item 9).

Zhang next announced that the IUGS EC has approved, if necessary, to cover the limited expenses for the President, if from a "developing country", to travel to future Bureau and Executive Committee meetings.

He then noted that over the last four years, most major IUGS themes have not lost their importance. For example, the impact of Geohazards was dramatically illustrated by the Indian Ocean Tsunami and the Earthquake in Sichuan province of China. However, there are also many new trends of development demanding attention. There are new Oil and Food Crisis. The price of oil rose from about \$40 per barrel at the time of Florence Congress to about \$140 per barrel before the Oslo Congress. The high price of petroleum makes the use of biological fuel profitable. As a consequence, a food crisis suddenly appeared in the world without any drastic increase in an actual demand for feeding humans. The rapid growth of emerging economies has also increased the demand for mineral commodities and the mining industry booms again. According to the statistics of the US Department of Labour, from 2006 to 2016 the total employment of geoscientists will increase by 21.86 percent.

At the 2008 G8 Summit in Hokkaido, Japan, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reiterated his call for urgent action to tackle three key challenges with which the world is currently grappling. "The world faces three simultaneous crises: a food crisis, a climate crisis and a development crisis." A few weeks before the IGC, the G8 Finance Ministers announced a statement on Climate Investment Funds, including the Clean Technology Fund and the Strategic Climate Fund, to help developing countries address climate change. These are important potential financial sources for geosciences. The successful geological sequestration of CO₂ at Sleipner, Norway, is an excellent example of how geological knowledge can help humankind to solve one problem of Climate Change.

Finally, Zhang Hongren expressed his heartfelt gratitude to his colleagues of IUGS and the whole geological community for their generous and kind support, and the support rendered by the Norwegian government and Nordic geological institutions in hosting a most successful 33rd IGC.

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

Peter Bobrowsky reported on the administration of IUGS, opening by saying it was pleasure to work with colleagues of IUGS and the whole geological community over the last four years. Bobrowsky then acknowledged the help of individual members of the EC, Bureau and Permanent Secretariat. IUGS holds and covers expenses for one EC meeting a year (except for Bureau members): Bobrowsky ran through the meeting venues since the last IGC: Florence (2004), Vilnius (2005), Punta Arenas (2006), Nara (2007) and Marrakech (2008). Bureau Meeting and EC meeting costs are covered by the respective governments of the Bureau members (President-China, Treasurer-Italy and Secretary General-Canada).

Bobrowsky thanked all Adhering Bodies/Organizations: Membership is represented by two categories: Adhering Bodies and Affiliated Organizations. At the completion of the 32nd IGC in 2004 there were 116 Adhering Organizations recognized within the Union; as of August 2008 there are 119 Adhering Organizations. In 2004 in Florence there were 79 Active members within the Adhering Bodies compared to 93 members at the 33rd IGC in 2008. As of August 2008, a total of 9 member countries increased or asked to increase their membership category: Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, South Korea and the United Kingdom. There are also three new member countries: Latvia, Lesotho and Mozambique.

The total number of Affiliated Organizations now stands at 42 as compared to 38 in 2004 (+5 minus INQUA which became an ICSU recognized Union); and should grow to 46 after pending applications are ratified by Council. The four newly ratified members within the Union will be: 1) the Geological Society of India (GSI); 2) the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP); 3) Société Géologique de France (SGF); and 4) the Balkan Geophysical Society (BGS).

New Affiliates ratified by Council since 2004 are: European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage (ProGEO); National Ground Water Association (NGWA); Association of African Women Geoscientists (AAWG); International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) and Drilling, Observation and Sampling of the Earth's Continental Crust (DOSECC).

Active Committees in the past 4 years have been the Nominating Committee (NC), the Publications Committee (PC) and the Ad hoc Review Committees (ARC). Regarding the Nominating Committee, Antonio Brambati replaced Eduardo de Mulder (after his resignation) as Acting Chair of the NC. The remaining members of the NC were W. Eder (Germany), H. Gupta (India), E. Moores (USA), S. Muhongo (South Africa), J. Pereira (Malaysia) and V. Osipov (Russia).

Bobrowsky then reviewed IUGS publications. More than 20 E-Bulletins were produced by Sylvi Haldorsen (Vice President) since 2004 and distributed to ca. 10,000 recipients. Four Annual Reports compiled by David Huntley (Canada) were digitally published (2004 - 2007), with the 2007 report in hard copy. Four volumes of Episodes were produced (4 issues/year), managed and published under

the editorship of Zhenyu Zhang (China) and his team of associate editors. New brochures, flyers and Geoart cards were produced and widely distributed. IUGS poster displays for conference booths were regularly updated and displayed. In particular, the *Journal of International Geoscience, Episodes*, was congratulated for the significant rise in the SCI Impact Factor, which rose from 0.60 in 2004 to 2.35 in 2006.

Next covered were the Ad Hoc Review Committees (ARC) and Commissions. Several Ad hoc Review Committees (ARCs) provided timely and critical evaluation of IUGS funded activities. Commissions are the life blood of IUGS and the following were active over the last four years:

- Commission on Environmental Management (GEM)
- International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)
- Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)
- Commission on Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE)
- Commission Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI)

Three Commissions were closed: 1) the Commission on Fossil Fuels (CFF); 2) the Commission on Solid Earth Composition and Evolution (SECE); and 3) the Commission on Systematics in Petrology (CSP).

Additional topics reviewed included cooperative activities with Unions such as IUGG which co-sponsor the ILP as well as with UNESCO who co-sponsor IGCP and IYPE. Elaboration was given on all of these collaborative efforts.

Bobrowsky moved next to the International Council for Science (ICSU), reporting that IUGS represents one of 29 Union members within ICSU. Four IUGS Executive Committee members participated in the 2005 ICSU General Assembly in China. The next ICSU General Assembly will be in Mozambique in October 2008. ICSU has also changed operating currency from USD to Euro and a smaller version of ICSU grants program was reinstated. A working group on ICSU membership dues proposes that IUGS now pay 3,685 Euro per year as dues. The new Executive Director for ICSU will be Deliang Chen. The Geounions are:

- International Astronomical Union (IAU)
- International Geographical Union (IGU)
- International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA)
- International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)
- International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)
- International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)
- International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)
- Union Radio Scientifique Internationale (URSI)

In closing, Peter Bobrowsky acknowledged: the Governments of Canada, China and Italy for financially supporting the Bureau members' travel and time; the Government of Norway for supporting the Permanent Secretariat; Adhering Bodies (national members) and Affiliated Organizations, Geoscientists involved in IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, IGCP projects and Initiatives; and IUGS Executive Committee Members for helping him complete his duties.

6. VICE PRESIDENTS' AND COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Eldridge Moores attended all Bureau Meetings during the past four years (courtesy of US NSF) and all GeoUnion meetings 2005-2008 as an Observer and Rapporteur. Moores attended the 2006 ICSU General Assembly as observer and acted as IUGS liaison to Affiliated Organizations. He also attended meetings of selected Affiliates' and other organizations' Executive Committees of the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY), International Permafrost Association (IPA) and Geological Society of America (GSA).

Moores participated in meetings of the Commission on Geoscience Education and Technology Transfer, was a Member of the Statutes and Byelaws Revision Task Group and Nominating Committee, and chaired the 57th Executive Committee Meeting (2007) in absence of the President. On behalf of Executive Committee, he contacted a solicitor in Washington, D.C. for legal counsel regarding relations between the two US-registered non-profit organizations IUGS and IYPE. Moores also chaired the IUGS-UNESCO *ad hoc* committee to revise the scientific focus of the International Geoscience Program (IGCP).

Over all, Eldridge Moores found his term as Vice President a very interesting and rewarding experience. He ended with a few comments: The fate of humanity a century from now will be the result of decisions made now about climate change, water, resources and hazards (and their education). Geology underlies everything - landscape, location of cities, resources, water, hazards: there is a need for global unification and global awareness of geosciences.

Sylvi Haldorsen attended all EC meetings and one Bureau Meeting per year during the past four years. In addition, Haldorsen chaired the IUGS strategic meeting in Maputo; the Task Group on collaboration between IUGS-IGC-IYPE Affiliates; canvassed national members and tabled a report on how IUGS news is distributed in various countries. She was a member of the IUGS-UNESCO Task Group on revision of IGCP, and was responsible for relations between the IGCP Groundwater group and UNESCO Water Science Division. Haldorsen also completed a report on under-represented groups in IUGS (target groups: women, young scientists and under-represented countries), and compiled and edited IUGS E-Bulletins # 8-33.

To conclude, Haldorsen found the work in the IUGS EC has been very exciting, not least because of the International Year of Planet Earth. It was her hope that the new IUGS Executive Committee will experience the truth of Eldridge Moores' statement that "Geology underlies everything."

Gabi Schneider (IUGS Councillor) reported on behalf of all IUGS Councillors for the period 2004 – 2008:

- Jean Paul Cadet
- Alberto Riccardi
- Gabriele Schneider
- Ryo Matsumoto
- Marta Mantovani
- Mikhail Fedonkin

Although much of their work was completed by email, over the last four years, Councillors have attended EC meetings and occasional Bureau meetings; represented the IUGS at numerous GeoParks, UNESCO, ILP, OneGeology, IYPE and other events; functioned as Members of various

IUGS, IYPE and IGCP National Committees; and participated in, or chaired numerous Ad Hoc Review Committees. Councilors have also represented IUGS in various technical conferences, workshops and congresses. Other roles included Membership or Chairing of various IUGS Task Groups (e.g. Statutes and Bylaws); and contributing to, and publishing various IUGS related publications.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Antonio Brambati (IUGS Treasurer) began by cautioning that modern management of an organization such as IUGS should be transparent and based on three fundamental rules (all IUGS transactions are based on US\$): 1) increase of income; 2) maximum containment of management expenses; and 3) increasing long term investments in science.

Annual Income (US\$ 208,207) has been improved through the following:

- Outstanding recovered money from Adhering Organizations: US\$ 8,072
- New Adhering Organizations: US\$ 4,473
- Upgraded Adhering Organizations: US\$ 41,997
- Increase (virtual) of membership fees due to inflation: 2.63% average per year
- Interest of IUGS accounts over four years (2004-2008): US\$ 110,605
- Royalties from Geological Society of London Publication Special Volumes 32nd IGC: US\$ 13,060

During 2006, IUGS offered a ONE TIME OPPORTUNITY to waive the three years backlog penalty to INACTIVE Adhering Organizations. This recovered five members: Botswana, Cameroon, Congo, Jordan and Malawi. Three more Adhering Organizations became ACTIVE; with their fees paid through the courtesy of the Royal Society of London, UK, specifically the two inactive members: Ivory Coast and Senegal; and one new member, Lesotho. Upgraded members included:

- Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia from 1 to 2
- Czech Republic and South Korea from 2 to 3
- Ireland from 2 to 4
- Denmark from 3 to 4
- Canada from 5 to 6
- UK from 7 to 8

To stimulate Adhering Organizations to upgrade their categories, IUGS provided an analysis of the situation of all countries considering the following parameters: population, density (persons/km²), GDP per capita and total GDP in USD, Industry (% of GDP) and Literacy (%).

Bank Interest also contributed to income. In order to obtain the maximum benefit from the reserve, IUGS put US\$ 525,000 into a guaranteed deposit account (in Euro), with an annual income of about 4.25%. The new IUGS policy produced interest over 4 years in the amount of US\$ 110,605 similar to the optimistic prevision of US\$ 107,300 presented during the 32nd IGC in Florence.

Containment of management expenses was achieved through the significant decrease in administrative expenses. This reflects the policy carried out by IUGS favouring investments and planned a significant reduction in the expenses. Administrative expenses decreased from US\$ 174,539 (2004) to US\$ 113,250 (2008).

An increase of long term investments in science will be hopefully achieved by following the policy of investing larger funds in IGCP for a total amount of US\$ 216,500 (2004 – 2008), in response to the cut of US financial support to IGCP (US\$ 75,000/year). IUGS has supported IYPE for a total of US\$ 112,500 (2004 – 2008), in addition to the amount of US\$ 70,000 (2000 – 2004). IUGS has also invested a total amount of US\$ 503,175 in support of ILP, GARS, ICS, EPISODES, Affiliated Organizations and GeoParks.

Brambati next reviewed the financial situation and development over the period 2004-2008. According to IUGS budget policy, a rigorous balance of income and expense budgets was imposed, and the accounts were published in Episodes each year. The budget was more or less constant during the four years. The positive financial situation of 2007 and 2008 is due in part to the effect of the exchange rate of US Dollars in the guaranteed deposit account in Euro. The Hutchison Fund increased from US\$ 37,737 in 2004 to US\$ 46,640 in 2008.

Brambati closed by reporting that the IUGS EC decided to start a Reserve Fund to support one EC officer from a “developing country”, and asked for Council’s approval. Representatives from Italy and Turkey questioned whether developing countries were so poor that they could not cover travel costs of EC, and asked whether IUGS would cover all expenses. Peter Bobrowsky, seconding, clarified that the support would be allowed to a maximum of US\$ 20,000 and restricted only for travel to EC and Bureau meetings. All other IUGS related travel would be at the expense of the candidate.

Motion to approve IUGS to support restricted travel for one EC officer from a developing country

Ratified, with one opposed

8. IUGS AWARDS PRESENTATIONS (*Chair: IUGS President*)

a) Presentations to outgoing IUGS Executive Committee members

The following out-going EC officers were presented with service awards: Eduardo de Mulder, Antonio Brambati, Sylvi Haldorsen, Eldridge Moores, Gabi Schneider and Ryo Matsumoto (Alberto Riccardi and Jean Paul Cadet had received their awards previously).

b) James M. Harrison Outstanding Achievement Award

Zhang Hongren presented the citation. The James M. Harrison Award for Outstanding Achievement was established by the IUGS in 2004 to honor those individuals who have served the Union in an extraordinary fashion and have done so without an official position in the IUGS. The award is bestowed on the occasion of the International Geological Congress.

For 2008, the Harrison Award was given to Dr. Wolfgang Eder, former Director of the UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences, long time supporter of IUGS efforts, and “Father of GeoParks”. Dr Eder has also had considerable involvement with the IUGS through his participation in the International

Geoscience Programme (IGCP), GeoHeritage issues, and many other activities. A full citation and response will be published in Episodes.

9. INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH (*Chair: IUGS President*)

IYPE is currently the most important event for IUGS. Eduardo de Mulder, the Past President of IUGS, originated the idea of IYPE four years ago, at the IGC in Florence. Since then geoscientists from around the world have adopted the IYPE Declaration. An Agreement concerning IYPE's operation was signed between IUGS and the IYPE Corporation. The Statutes of the Corporation were adopted to consolidate its organization and the effectiveness of its operation. More than 68 IYPE National Committees have been established around the world. The success of IYPE has been highly manifested by the many launch events that have taken place and are still scheduled to take place around the world.

Based upon the suggestion of IUGS, an IYPE Corporation was and an agreement concerning IYPE's operation signed between IUGS and the IYPE Corporation. The Statutes of the Corporation were adopted to consolidate its organization and the effectiveness of its operation. The success of IYPE has been highly manifested by the many launch events that have taken place and are still scheduled to take place around the world.

On the 6 August 2008 at the 33rd IGC the OneGeology project (<http://www.onegeology.org>) was officially launched and marks a new era for the global geoscience community. With the help of 79 participating nations OneGeology is creating a dynamic web-based global database of digital geological map data, combining existing data from each country. OneGeology represents a breakthrough for international cooperation within the geological survey community. Users will be able to access OneGeology using a browser and requesting data for an area of interest, much the same as with Google Earth. In addition, links to the owners of the data are available if more information is required.

10. ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, TASK GROUPS AND IUGS INITIATIVES (*Chair: IUGS Secretary General*)

Activities of Committees, Commissions, Task Groups and IUGS Initiatives were covered by Peter Bobrowsky in the Secretary General's report.

a) Publication Committee

The Publication Committee comprises Godfrey Nowlan (Canada, Chair), Fred Spilhaus (USA), Tim Partridge (South Africa), Susan Damborenea (Argentina) and Zhenyu Zhang (China). Bobrowsky reported that IUGS signed an MOU with the Geological Society of London. The aim of this agreement is to publish books generated directly by IUGS Commissions, Task Groups and Initiatives; from cooperative ventures such as all the projects in the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP); and sessions organized for the International Geological Congress (IGC). To date, over a dozen books are either published, in press, or have a signed contract in place as part of the above categories.

b) Ad hoc Review Committees

Several Ad hoc Review Committees (ARCs) provided timely and critical evaluation of IUGS funded activities. The 2004 ARC on Task Group on Geochronology proposed a new Task Group on Isotopes & Geochronology, co-funded with IUPAC. A 2005 ARC on the International Commission on Stratigraphy **concluded continuation** with changes to Terms of Reference. In 2006, ARCs on the Commission on Fossil Fuels (CFF) and Commission on Systematics in Petrology (CSP) **concluded termination**. A 2007 EC evaluation on the Commission on Solid Earth Chemistry and Evolution (SECE) **concluded termination**. Also in 2007, an ARC on the Task Group on Global Geochemical Baselines (TGGB) concluded **continuation and expansion**.

c) Task Groups and Initiatives

During the past four year term, the following Task Groups were active: Isotopes and Geochronology (TGIG); Global Geochemical Baselines (TGGB); and Tectonics and Structural Geology (TecTask). The Geoindicators and Medical Geology initiatives were closed, with the latter becoming an Affiliate Organization.

d) GeoHeritage

IUGS has minor cooperation with the the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (GGN), maintains a formal seat on the European Geopark Network (EGN), approved ProGEO as a new Affiliated Organization and still maintains strong links to the Geopark network in China where it has a GeoHeritage Office in Beijing.

e) Geoscience in Environmental Management (GEM)

This Commission is chaired by Joy Pereira and has 60 corresponding members from 31 countries. It has work groups in communicating environmental science, international borders and geoenvironmental concerns, urban geology, and geology and ecosystems. GEM is planning 13 new working groups. Outreach is achieved through a website, newsletters, and to date, 12 books. GEM ran 12 sessions at the 33rd IGC and is supporting IYPE.

f) History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

The Chairperson of INHIGEO is Philippe Taquet. The Commission has 210 members from 42 countries and 8 officers. Its primary activity is to support the history of geological disciplines. The major activity is annual publication of +100 page Newsletter and regular contributors to Episodes. INHIGEO was active at the 33rd IGC and is supporting IYPE.

g) International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)

The ICS consists of 15 active sub-commissions with specific, longer-term scientific tasks, each with its own website. Under Felix Gradstein, the ICS was recognized for a number of key achievements. The project "Geologic Time Scale 2004" was completed by an ICS team. Also some three-quarters of all international geological stages have been standardized with a Global Boundary Stratotype Section (GSSP). Annual support from IUGS ranged from US\$30,000 to \$50,000. ICS supported the 33rd IGC and is doing the same for IYPE.

h) Education, Training, and Technology Transfer (COGE)

COGE is chaired by Gary Lewis and consists of 6 officers whose primary function is to support the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO). It has undertaken an international survey of

geoscience education in schools and delivers outreach through its website. COGE was active at the 33rd IGC and supports IYPE.

i) Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI)

CGI is chaired by Kristine Asch and has 214 members in 62 countries. A number of working groups are active, looking at Interoperability, a Multilingual Thesaurus and issues for East and Southeast Asia. CGI has run workshops in Mozambique and Namibia and was active in the 33rd IGC. It is a major player in OneGeology and INSPIRE (European Commission Directive). CGI is also strong on collaboration (e.g., the International Association of Mathematical Geology).

j) Cooperative efforts (IGCP, ILP, GARS and IYPE)

Co-operation with UNESCO was another success. Peter Bobrowsky thanked Robert Missotten and Margarete Patzak for their hard work and great cooperation. The Mineral Resources Sustainability Program (MRSP) is now closed, but active joint activities include:

- International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)
- International Lithosphere Program (ILP)
- Geological Applications of Remote Sensing (GARS)
- International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE)

Over the last four years, the IGCP has redefined its structure, focus and program delivery with new socially relevant themes, and an expanded and modified Scientific Board. Annual funding to IGCP by IUGS has tripled to US\$ 60,000 since the support of US\$ 70,000 from the USA was terminated. Funding to GARS was sustained at several thousand dollars per annum.

The International Lithosphere Program (ILP), which is co-sponsored with the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), is financially very successful (resulting in reduced cost to IUGS). New ILP Bureau members recently elected with IUGS representation are Jean-Paul Cadet, Yoshiyuki Tatsumi and Alan Green (shared position with IUGG). Leadership is shared between Sierd Cloetingh (Netherlands) and Jörg Negendank (Germany).

Bobrowsky briefly commented on IYPE, noting that it was an IUGS-UNESCO initiative, that IUGS has a seat on the IYPE Board, and that the Union has provided direct financial support of US\$ 200,000.

k) Proposals for new IUGS Commissions

For the future, Peter Bobrowsky recommended upgrading the status of TecTask, and stressed the need for new Commissions on climate change, hazards, energy and sustainability, the GeoParks Initiative, and the importance of the 50th Anniversary of IUGS in 2011.

11. PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND TENTATIVE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR 2008-2012 (*Chair: IUGS Vice President*)

Chairing, Eldridge Moores invited Antonio Brambati (IUGS Treasurer) to share some ideas for future program priorities and tentative budget allocations for the next EC. In the IUGS Strategic Action Plan (2000) and IUGS Mid-Term Vision and Strategic Action Plan (2003), environmental geology, geological hazard mitigation and groundwater were defined as new directions for IUGS. The most important

strategies to achieve these goals were, are and should be the implementation of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) and to support the joint endeavors of UNESCO and IUGS, and IGCP Projects.

After the USA rejoined UNESCO in 2005, it cut direct financial support to the IGCP. In the event that UNESCO also reduces its support for IGCP, a priority action for the future EC should be to revisit this issue through consultation with Council. In view of the current situation, IUGS should concentrate its efforts on a limited number of priority areas. As far as investments in science are concerned, the criteria to be taken into account when choosing the targets should be the following: a) highly innovative research topics; and b) scientific areas not covered by particular associations at an international level.

Some topics of potential interest for the new EC include:

1. Education and training in developing countries
2. Sustainability
3. Natural hazards
4. Polar geosciences
5. Marine geological sciences
6. Geology and climate change
7. Geology and energy
8. Geoparks

Another IUGS priority is to create more opportunities for developing countries to participate in the management of the Union. As a first step, IUGS will cover, if necessary under restricted limitations, the travel expenses for the IUGS President from a “developing country” to attend Bureau and Executive Committee meetings.

Regarding tentative budget allocations for 2008-2012, two of the most fundamental commitments of the IUGS budget are to: a) ensure the correct balance between income and expenses; and b) maintain a strong income, or even to identify strategies to increase the income. IUGS has chosen to simplify the budget prevision at the expiration of the four-year period. This has been done in order to formulate the overall final goal, rather than to evaluate annual steps, which are less easy to quantify. Brambati urged special attention to continue to reduce administrative expenses in favor of those investments that improve science. Financial scenarios for 2012 are presented in the following table:

Scenarios	INCOME (US \$)	EXPENSES (US \$)
Optimistic	509,210	427,500
Pessimistic	329,830	320,500

In conclusion, Brambati said it can be assumed that, during the next four years, and under the most favorable conditions (optimistic outlook):

- Income should increase from US\$ 388,011 (2008) to US\$ 509,210
- Administrative expenses should decrease from US\$ 107,250 (2008) to US\$ 99,500
- Scientific expenses should increase from US\$ 261,400 (2008) to US\$ 328,000

- Reserves should increase thus adding US\$ 30,000 – 60,000 to the existing US\$ 758,210

12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS (*Chair: IUGS Secretary General*)

a) Nominating Committee Report

Antonio Brambati reported on the composition and activities of the Nominating Committee. Brambati replaced Eduardo de Mulder when the latter resigned to take over IYPE. Evaluating criteria were established (e.g., willingness to pursue IUGS mission, gender balance, global representation, and experience in administration), curriculum vitae and proposals were evaluated by discussion at the Committee meeting on February 14th, 2008 at the UNESCO headquarters.

Following the rules of the original Statutes and Byelaws, one candidate was selected for each position. In addition to the candidate for President recommended by the Nominating Committee (Alberto Riccardi of Argentina), the UK Adhering Body nominated Sadrack Félix Toteu of Cameroon. Edmund Nickless, Gian Battista Vai and others commented on apparent lack of transparency in the selection process and felt the need for debate on the results of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee was seen as exceeding its operating authority. Eldridge Moores pointed out that the Nominating Committee felt constrained by the existing Statutes and Byelaws. Dissension by Council members on the apparently biased process was clear and their insistence that in the future names of all nominated candidates be openly shared with and voted upon by Council was approved. Peter Bobrowsky ensured that these changes in operation would be included in the revised Statutes and Byelaws.

POSITION	NOMINATING COMMITTEE	UK ADHERING BODY
President (2008 – 2012)	Alberto Riccardi (<i>Argentina</i>)	Sadrack Félix Toteu (<i>Cameroon</i>)
Secretary-General (2008 – 2012)	Peter Bobrowsky (<i>Canada</i>)	-
Treasurer (2008 – 2012)	William Cavazza (<i>Italy</i>)	-
Vice-Presidents (2008 – 2012)	Jacques Charvet (<i>France</i>) Ochir Gerel (<i>Mongolia</i>)	-
Councillors (2008-2012)	Colin Simpson (<i>Australia</i>) Ezzoura Errami (<i>Morocco</i>)	-
Councillors (2010-2014)	Wesley Hill (<i>USA</i>) Sampat Kumar Tandor (<i>India</i>)	-

Councillors were instructed to vote for one of the two candidates for President; Secretary General, Treasurer, Vice-Presidents and Councillors were voted in by acclamation. Only active delegates were entitled to vote. Rognvald Boyd (Head), Ioanna Protopsalti and David Huntley were approved as scrutineers for the voting process counts. Presidential candidates were then given the floor for 20 minutes and invited to address the Council.

b) Candidates address the Council

Félix Toteu

Felix Toteu is from Cameroon with a French-speaking background. Toteu has been working for the Institute for Geological and Mining Research in Cameroon for 26 years, but is presently on sabbatical

leave at the University of Botswana. As a last minute candidate, he was sensitive to the point that our voting procedures should evolve and be fair. Although regulations allow such late nominations, Toteu suggested avoiding a systematic use of this procedure in the future by requesting the Nominating Committee to offer a full choice of candidates and to leave with the Council the prerogative of making the final decision.

Since the last IGC in Florence, the world has witnessed some major tragic events, which have reminded us of the importance of the geosciences in managing and making our Planet Earth a better place to live. An important part of the world population is still suffering from the Tsunami of December 2004, from the Hurricane Katrina in September 2005, and from the last earthquake in China, to name just a few. In response to these and other similar tragedies, and to the challenges of a changing world, including its climate, geoscientists are conveying through the IYPE a message of hope and optimism about our Planet. The big challenge for IUGS and the various stakeholders is to see beyond the triennium and demonstrate that the IYPE is not just an isolated event like many others, but is a real and long lasting awareness on how wealthy and generous our Planet Earth is.

OneGeology is part of this global strategy of bringing geology to all. We are also expecting the forthcoming launch of the African-European Georesources Observation System. Many other initiatives are in gestation or in progress and the support of IUGS to these various endeavours are crucial to making more visible the impact of geosciences in our everyday life.

Despite the progress and achievements of IUGS to date, almost half of the nations, mostly from the developing world, are still outside our Union. Improving membership should be one of the priorities for the next few years. In this regard, IUGS should develop new strategies to approach different geological surveys around the world. Toteu thanked the Royal Society of London for taking actions to improve the membership of some developing countries of the ICSU union.

The important economic growth recorded in many countries has led to a drastic increase in demand by industry for mineral and energy resources. Is the IUGS prepared to face these sudden worldwide flourishing mining activities? It is the responsibility of IUGS to interact with governments and decision makers to raise their awareness of how important geological maps are. Toteu believes IUGS should set up a Commission to concentrate on this, and that the time to do so is now appropriate.

- The time is appropriate because politicians in the developing world are showing increasing interest in the applications of the geosciences in the development of their countries.
- Many universities in developing countries are recording an increasing number of students registered for geology courses. With the favourable echo from the IYPE activities, we are expecting this tendency to grow.

Toteu acknowledges the recent efforts of both UNESCO and IUGS to operate a successful transition to the present form of the IGCP. Since 1974, more than 60% of the IGCP projects carried out have been devoted to research on global issues compared to regional problems. The recently instituted Young IGCP Projects scheme has not yet attracted the expected interest but Toteu is convinced it is the right thing to do. IUGS should work to promote it.

The activities within our Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives and Affiliated Organizations witness the vitality of the Union. The strong support they receive from IUGS is an acknowledgement of their contribution to achieving its goals and to making IUGS more visible to the global society. Toteu feels IUGS has the ambition to reinforce the educational and outreach components of its Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives and Affiliated Organizations and welcomes the up-coming project of the Commission for Management and Application of Geoscience Information to organise an outreach workshop to promote geoscience information in Namibia.

The Statutes and Byelaws should allow a smooth and flexible interaction between the IUGS and the Congress.

To summarize, Felix Toteu emphasized:

- We should work to consolidate our achievements of the past few years
- We should work to improve our election procedures
- We should work to ensure a long lasting legacy to the IYPE
- We should create more Commissions for more geology

And above all

- We should work to preserve all that makes both IUGS and IGC stronger, and provide them with a smooth and efficient synergy

Toteu ended by inviting the Norwegian National Committee for IUGS to convey to the Government of Norway his sincere gratitude for its strong and constant support to our Secretariat.

Alberto Riccardi

Alberto Riccardi of Argentina followed, first noting that this is the first election of IUGS officers in which two candidates are exposing their views on IUGS before voting, and the first time that there are two candidates to the Presidency of IUGS that are coming from Africa and Latin America, and hoping that these small changes are not cosmetic and will lead to many others to come that will result in a better future for IUGS. Next Riccardi followed reviewing his career in academia and professional organizations. On his involvement with IUGS Riccardi has been active in IUGS since 1991 as Chair of the Argentine National Committee, as a Councillor from 2002-2006, and in various task groups and other positions. Building on the Strategic Action Plan (2000), Riccardi discussed some personal ideas on:

- IUGS Planning in the 21st Century
- Financial Resources including source of IGCP and IUGS funds
- IUGS external scenarios reinforcing relations with UNESCO, ICSU, etc.
- IUGS internal scenarios involving strategies for National Committees, Inactive Countries, unpaid fees, Inactive Adhering Members, IUGS executive organization, Commissions and Task Groups
- IUGS and IGC relations,

- International Year of Planet Earth and beyond

Riccardi noticed that in the IUGS the promotion of interdisciplinary studies and applied earth sciences has been focused on scientific issues which have been carried out mainly through different IUGS Commissions and some programs organized with some international partners, as it is the case of UNESCO for the International Geosciences Program (IGCP). However, throughout the years it has become evident that the ability to maintain and expand these activities is strongly limited by the available funds. Thus, the number of Commissions, Task Groups and Joint Programmes has remained quite stable through the years, whilst the IGCP, for many years a flagship of IUGS, has faced a decline in resources, despite an increase in IUGS' contribution.

He mentioned that most of IUGS resources come from the fees paid by the member countries, an amount that has remained almost constant for the last ten years, except for a slight adjustment, related to the inflation rate. Furthermore, possibilities for new money sources are limited, and it would be wishful thinking to expect in the next few years a major raise in revenues that IUGS could use to increase substantially its direct support for world wide scientific activities. Thus, he considered that IUGS should reinforce indirect actions, in such a way that scientific contributions will result from national and international "grassroots" actions within the framework provided by the goals, strategies and priorities shared by International organizations such as IUGS, UNESCO, and the International Council for Science (ICSU). These indirect avenues should be developed in well studied external and internal scenarios.

Riccardi mentioned that in the External Scenario IUGS actions have been mostly restricted to the above mentioned cooperation with UNESCO or to some programs promoted with other organizations within the ICSU, as exemplified by the International Program on the Lithosphere. Although there are a number of other activities and bodies, within and outside UNESCO, offering possibilities, besides the existing ones for stronger interaction. In his view these include UNESCO activities on education, water and associated ecosystems, and world heritage, and ICSU activities on environment in relation to sustainable development, scientific data and information, and capacity building in science.

On IUGS Internal Scenario Riccardi stressed that the main issue to be considered is the interaction with the National Committees which represent the 120 member countries, where communication has mostly been from IUGS to the National Committees, whilst feedback and interaction has been almost non existent. He considered that this situation implies a lack of information about the specific circumstances that geological communities of some countries or regions are facing and a

corresponding lack of involvement of IUGS in their activities and problems. In his view this situation needs to be changed: if IUGS is to promote activities that bring together members on common ground, it is necessary to study in depth what they are doing, in order to foster collaboration among them, with Affiliate Organizations, and with National Committees of other international organizations, such as those of UNESCO and ICSU. Different missions should be defined for each country and region in the light of their utterly different problems and needs and, in relation to inactive countries, IUGS should explore in detail the reasons behind that inactivity and look for possible solutions.

Riccardi remarked that another important item in IUGS internal scenario is the interaction with the 46 IUGS Affiliated organizations, which are quite different in scope and size. He mentioned that here communication works both ways, but it is mainly restricted on one side to IUGS general circulars and on the other to the reports submitted annually by the affiliated organizations. He said that this situation needs improvement, and that representatives of IUGS EC together with representatives of the affiliate organizations should discuss in which they may interact among them and with National and Regional geological communities and International Organizations.

In the IUGS executive organization, Riccardi remarked that the Executive Committee is too small to act directly and simultaneously on all IUGS external and internal issues, and therefore it might help to have a number of advisory committees as appropriate. He saw the need for: 1) an Advisory Strategic Planning Committee to advise on general strategies and specific missions to reach IUGS goals; 2) and Advisory Committee for Finance to advise the Executive Committee to allocate IUGS funds in relation to priorities on strategies and missions; and 3) new Advisory Committees to deal with matters related to National Committees and Affiliate Organizations.

Riccardi reinforced that Commissions and Task Groups, mainly respond to specific needs of the international geological community with regard to establishment and source of information on international standards for the Geological Sciences. He mentioned that this goal is one of the most important as it can not be performed by other bodies and that this activity, as well as those on capacity building and management and application of Geoscience's information should be maintained and reinforced by IUGS.

On the relationship between the International Geological Congress and IUGS, Riccardi remarked that the IGC was born in 1878 to provide an international forum to the world geological community for reaching consensus on matters related to geological standards, whilst IUGS was born in 1961 in order to bridge the IGC inability to act between Congresses. Thus, he concluded that IGC and IUGS are

supplementary and should work together as both serve as forums to the activities of the world geological community. So, for the next IGC (Australia, 2012) he thought that it would be important to work with the Australian Local Organizing Committee, building up a relationship between IUGS and IGC to be the best ever.

With regard to communications and publications, Riccardi noticed that the Strategic Action Plan has clearly stated that improving IUGS' communications and visibility is essential if the Union is to fulfil its mission, meets its goals, and have any impact whatsoever in the geoscience's community and in society at large. He mentioned that for that reason in the year 2001 the IUGS EC launched the initiative of the International Year of the Planet Earth, which has been successfully proclaimed by the United Nations, and gradually has taken on a life of its own, becoming almost a parallel organization to IUGS.

Riccardi considered that IUGS must work now to promote ways to supplement the IYPE actions in order to disseminate the idea that geosciences are indispensable for a sound development of our planet. It should also plan beyond 2010 (IYPE wind-up), to capitalize and to further the project results.

In connection with policies on communication the IUGS Web Site must be substantially improved in its outlook, it must be linked to the websites – to be established- of National Committees, and used as a meeting ground for the different bodies of the IUGS.

Alberto Riccardi concluded that his motivation to serve as IUGS President is his belief that his experience places him in an excellent position to represent the diverse constituency of IUGS, and to help to develop policies that will serve all of the members, not just some particular ideas, countries or groups.

c) Election of New Officers of the Executive Committee

The following IUGS Executive Committee members were voted into the Union by acclamation:

Treasurer – William Cavazza (Italy)
Secretary General – Peter Bobrowsky (Canada)
Vice President – Jacques Charvet (France)
Vice President – Ochir Gerel (Mongolia)
Councillor – Colin Simpson (Australia) 2008-2012
Councillor – Ezzoura Errami (Morocco) 2008-2012
Councillor – Wesley Hill (USA) 2010-2014
Councillor – Sampat Kumar Tandon (India) 2010-2014

Vote for IUGS President

Total votes = 59; Sadrack Félix Toteu (Cameroon) = 20; Alberto Riccardi (Argentina) = 37; Abstain = 2

Alberto Riccardi is voted in as IUGS President (2008-2012)

Felix Toteu congratulated Alberto Riccardi and all others for working together for a common purpose. Alberto Riccardi thanked him and all the Council members.

d) Appointment of the Nominating Committee

The following candidates were appointed by acclamation to serve the Nominating Committee (2008 – 2012)

- Zhang Hongren (China - ASIA)
- Ryo Matsumoto (Japan – SE ASIA)
- Elena Centeno-Garcia (Mexico – L. AMERICA)
- Peadar McArde (Ireland - EUROPE)
- Jonas Satkunas (Lithuania – EUROPE)
- Felix Toteu (Cameroon - AFRICA)
- Marita Bradshaw (Australia - OCEANIA)

e) Ratification of Elections of Officers of Commissions

The following Officers of Commission (2008-2012) were ratified by acclamation:

- 1) Commission on the Management & Application of Geoscience Information** Chairperson – Kristine Asch; Treasurer – Ian Jackson; Secretary General – Francois Robida
- 2) Commission on Education, Training and Technology Transfer** Chairperson – Gary Lewis; Secretary – Wesley Hill (until 2010)
- 3) Commission on Geoscience in Environmental Management** Chairperson – Kevin Telmer; Secretary General – Roma Kanopiene; Vice-Chair – Qingcheng He
- 4) International Commission on Stratigraphy** Chairperson – Stanley Finney; Secretary General – to be appointed by Chair; Vice-Chair – Sanchi Peng
- 5) International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences** President – Silvia Figueiroa; Secretary General – Barry Cooper; Vice President N. America – Greg Good; Vice President L. America – Gerardo Soto; Vice President Asia – Zhang Jiuchen; Vice President Europe – Martina Kolbl-Ebert; Vice President Australasia – David Oldroyd

13. INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC) (Chair: *President of the IGC Committee*)

Arne Bjørlykke (President, 33rd IGC) and Zhang Hongren (IUGS President) opened with some procedural comments about Agenda Item 11 (deciding on the order of presentations for bids to host the 2016 IGC), before moving to report on the IGC Geohost Program.

a. IGC GEOHOST Program

Richard Sinding-Larsen (Norway) reported that a significant GeoHost stipend programme was established to help deserving young scientists to attend the 33rd IGC. The Geohost Stipend Programme gave priority to young scientists with academic Earth Science qualifications. In total there

were 577 stipends allocated, 351 to men and 226 to women from 71 countries. This represented 61 percent of the total number of applications. All 577 were granted a waiver of the registration fee, whereas 469 received free accommodation in Oslo for the duration of their stay at the Congress. Sinding-Larsen acknowledged the support of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Finnish and Swedish International Development Agencies, the EU and Euro GeoUnions.

b. Report from the Chairs of the IGC Committee

Arne Bjørlykke reviewed the history of the IGCC, noting that it replaced the old Steering Committee, and now, in composition, comprises an IGCC-IUGS committee. The changes simplified the structure, and the new committee acts as a bridge between congresses, gives advice, and receives bids for future congresses. Activity in the period 2004-2008 was intense, with both physical meetings and communication by email. The streamlining of the Statutes and Byelaws may create a new relationship between the IGC and IUGS. The IGC Council abolished the General Assembly of IGC in Florence. Ending, Bjørlykke thanked Attilio Boriani for his contributions to the IGC and IUGS, and for his support from beginning to end.

Neil Williams reported on preparations for the 34th IGC in Brisbane, Australia, August 2nd to 10th, 2012. He thanked Arne Bjørlykke and Attilio Boriani for his inclusion as an observer and had learned much from this opportunity. Activities have begun in earnest and everything is currently on schedule. Oceania's bid was supported by ICSU and is being handled by the Australian Geoscience Council. The venue in Brisbane is a very large convention centre in the city centre. The Organizing Committee is in place, and a professional conference organizer has been hired to take care of the Congress matters. Promotion is ramping up, including a symposium on Oceania and a video show (featuring by the Australian Prime Minister) to be shown at the closing ceremony of the 33rd IGC. Geosciences Australia, as well as the New Zealand and Australian State Geological Surveys are also supporting the event.

14. SELECTION OF THE VENUE OF THE 35TH IGC IN 2016 (Chair: *President of the IGC Committee*)

The three bidding countries were India (August, Hyderabad); Morocco (March-April, Marrakech) and South Africa (August, Cape Town). Arne Bjørlykke outlined the agenda, beginning with the ratification of scrutineers (Colin Simpson, Ester Sztein and David Huntley). Each host candidate was then invited to present their bid (20 minutes each) and answer questions from the floor.

The South African delegation presented first. Questions arising concerned the cost of accommodation from Japanese delegates: hotel costs expected to range from 700-1000 Rand. Norwegian delegates asked about the convention centre: it was noteworthy that the proposed venue was very large and could be sub-divided. Also, hotels surrounding the convention centre have the capability to hold sessions.

Morocco followed. Questions from the floor concerned whether the size of the venue could accommodate the scale of the congress: amphitheatres and meeting rooms were expected to accommodate up to 4000.

India (and SE Asia) concluded the 3 presentations. The Japanese delegation asked whether Visas would be an issue and about access to money: neither was seen to be a problem. Registration was expected to be around EU600, including lunches. The Norwegian delegates noted that the convention centre was 10-15 km from the hotels and wondered about access.

Before voting proceeded, there was general discussion on Statutes, the rotation system and global aims of IGCs. Criteria and guidelines must be considered in a bid. Arne Bjørlykke noted that a site inspection was useful before a decision is made, and if the new Statutes and Byelaws are eventually accepted, then the IUGS-IGC covers the expense and not the hosting country.

Sospeter Muhongo stressed that the rotation system was vital: Europe has hosted the last two; and that Africa is ready to host. Sylvi Haldorsen asked whether there was any consideration of collaboration between the two African bids (i.e., a pan-African IGC), and wondered how soft-rock geology is to be accommodated in the African bids.

It was emphasized that in the voting process, each delegation was to vote according to its Category of Membership in IUGS (except Inactive and Non-Members who were entitled to one vote per delegation).

Round 1 Vote

Total votes = 199; Morocco = 52; India = 56; South Africa = 91; no abstaining votes

Round 2 Vote

Total votes = 198; India = 72; South Africa = 115; Abstain = 10; Spoiled = 1

Cape Town, South Africa was selected as the venue for the 35th IGC in 2016

The Ambassador of South Africa made a short speech accepting the approved nomination and congratulating the unsuccessful bidding countries on their efforts.

15. STATUTES AND BYE LAWS (*Chair: President of the IGCC and President of the IUGS*)

Eldridge Moores and Arne Bjørlykke (President, 33rd IGC) began by recounting a brief history of the streamlining of the Statutes and Byelaws. The Task Group came up with a draft for the Punta Arenas EC meeting following the request by the IGCC to separate documents for the IGC and IUGS. Two separate documents were presented and approved in principle at the Nara EC meeting.

Attilio Boriani explained why he was against the merger of the two Statutes. In Florence the IGC Council decided to ask an ad hoc task group to streamline the IGC Statutes after the changes approved in Florence, not to merge the two Statutes. During the IGC Committee meeting held in Oslo in 2006 a proposal of merging the two Statutes was rejected and it was decided that the two Statutes should remain separate. The merger of the Statutes would imply the loss of independence of the IGC, a much older organization strictly related to IUGS, but with its own specific aims and traditions.

All the revised documents by the Statutes and Byelaws Task Group, together with proposed modifications by Council or members of the IUGS EC were submitted to Council in a timely manner before June. The revised document was presented to Council for approval.

After considerable discussion led primarily by Gian Battista Vai (Italy), Edmund Nickless (United Kingdom) and others on the details, a motion to accept the revised and merged streamlined Statutes and Byelaws was tabled. To pass, a clear two thirds majority as per existing Statutes and Byelaws from Council was required.

Motion to accept revised and merged streamlined Statutes and Byelaws

Total votes = 192; Yes = 111; No = 72; Abstain = 9

Motion rejected

Council clearly instructed that the IUGS EC and the IGCC to work on revising the two separate Statute and Bylaw documents over the next four years and to present these revisions at the next Council Meeting in Brisbane, 2012.

16. OTHER BUSINESS (Chair: IUGS Secretary General)

Tajikistan was ratified by Council to become an Adhering Organization, bringing the total number to 120 members. On the topic of *Episodes*, Peter Bobrowsky noted that after 12 years, the MoU with China is coming to an end, and that offers to take over the running of the journal were invited and two positive replies have come from the USA and GSI. Council members stressed the transition of Episodes should be an EC high priority. Edmund Nickless (United Kingdom), Arne Bjørlykke (Norway) and others encouraged the EC to bring forward as an immediate priority a recommendation to see revised drafts of the Statutes and Byelaws for both the IUGS and the IGC, discuss changes on advisement, and approval by electronic voting. Representatives from Greece suggested forming a Commission on Minerals; names and emails of interested parties to be sent to the Secretary General. Jean-Paul Cadet (France) saw Marine Geology as a niche yet to be properly realized in IUGS as a Commission.

17. PLACE, DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY SESSION OF COUNCIL (Chair: IUGS Secretary General)

Peter Bobrowsky announced that the place and date of the next Ordinary Session of Council will be in Brisbane, August 2012.

18. CLOSING OF THE MEETING (Chair: IUGS Outgoing President)

Eldridge Moores introduced Zhang Hongren as the representative of the outgoing EC. Zhang thanked all for support over the last four years and wished the new EC well before closing the 2nd Ordinary Session of the Joint Council of IGC and IUGS.