



## Minutes of the IAHS Bureau Meeting

Held at Unesco, Paris, Room 9, Fontenoy Building, 6 and 7 June 1998

**Present:** JC Rodda, U Shamir, GJ Young, C Onstad, G Golubev, P Hubert, K Takeuchi, Z Kundzewicz, AI Johnson, A Gustard (ICSW), E Hoehn (ICGW), G Jones (ICSI), NE Peters (ICWQ), S Simonovic (ICWRS), A Rango (ICRS DT), K Jensen (ICASVR), A Dassargues (ICT), A Szöllösi-Nagy, M Bonell (UNESCO), D Kraemer (WMO), G Schultz.

Regrets: E Sudicky, B Hasholt, E Morris

### 1. Welcome

The President, John Rodda, welcomed all members of the Bureau and extended a particular welcome to Andras Szöllösi-Nagy, Mike Bonell (UNESCO), Dieter Kraemer (WMO) and Gert Schultz.

### 2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with minor changes in timing of some of the items to accommodate the particular schedules of individual members.

### 3. Adoption of minutes of the last Bureau meeting held at Rabat

The minutes of the Rabat meeting were adopted without changes.

### 4. Actions arising from Rabat Bureau meeting

The Secretary General noted that all action items had been dealt with and that many of the topics would again be taken up at this meeting.

### 5. Report of the President

The President presented his report, attached as Annex 1.

The President also noted the strong support which IAHS had received from the Institute of Hydrology; it was agreed that, once negotiations for a new contract with IH had been accomplished, a letter of appreciation should be sent.

**Action: Secretary General to send letter of appreciation.**

The President noted with sorrow that Tony Edwards (UN) and Ludo Molnar (Slovakia) had recently passed away.

### 6. Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General presented his report, attached as Annex 2.

### 7. Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer Presented his report, attached as Annex 3.

### 8. Report of the Editor and IAHS Press

The Editor presented the Report on the Hydrological Sciences Journal and presented the Report on behalf of IAHS Press. It is attached as Annex 4.

It was agreed that IAHS will not publish books at the request of other organizations.

It was also agreed that first rights of publication of proceedings from IAHS workshops and symposia should remain with IAHS; convenors of IAHS events should not enter into any agreement to publish proceedings elsewhere without first gaining consent from IAHS.

**Action: Secretary General to assure that IAHS has first rights to publication.**

Concern was expressed at the slow progress towards publishing the 1999 special issue of HSJ (to be handled by ICSI); ICWRS suggested that they had a proceedings which could be a candidate for the 1999 special issue;

**Action: ICSI to confirm, with urgency, its willingness to provide the content of the 1999 HSJ Special Issue or to withdraw immediately to allow an alternative publication.**

It was agreed that more advertizing of publications should be attempted through National Representatives.

#### **9. (a) Statement of the UNESCO representative**

Dr. A Szollosy-Nagy presented a comprehensive report on the activities of the International Hydrological Programme and the links between IHP and IAHS. He outlined progress in implementation of IHP V and development of themes for IHP VI, noting that C Vörösmarty has been actively involved in this process on behalf of IAHS.

It was noted that the Water Quality Initiative, being developed in close cooperation with Jake Peters of ICWQ, has been presented to the Commission on Sustainable Development. Input to this initiative is requested from other Commissions. It was suggested that a special workshop on this subject be convened at the IUGG Assembly in Birmingham.

**Action: Secretary General to aid in furthering necessary contacts between ICWQ and other Commissions.**

It was requested that the UNESCO-Cambridge University Press publications should be listed in the IAHS Catalogue;

**Action: Secretary General to request IAHS Press that this be effected.**

The formation of UNESCO centres for the Humid Tropics in Panama and Malaysia was noted and IAHS was encouraged to be in contact with these centres to promote studies in humid tropic hydrology.

The establishment and development of an internet-based virtual university was noted and it was suggested that IAHS Commissions should be interested in contributing to this endeavour.

It was suggested that consideration should be given to reconstituting the former Hydrology 2000 Working Group to reflect on the accuracy and relevance of their deliberations of more than a decade ago.

#### **(b) Statement of the WMO representative**

Mr Dieter Kraemer reported on developments in the Hydrology and Water Resources Department of WMO and on the activities of the Commission for Hydrology relevant to IAHS. It was noted that the Advisory Working Group on Hydrology had met in December 1997 and that that meeting had been preceded in November 1997 by meetings of the Working Groups on Basic Systems and Applications, at which Mr Alan Hall had represented IAHS. Areas had been identified in the work plans in which IAHS might collaborate, and that it was now necessary to match this wish list of the Chy working groups with IAHS interest and possibilities to participate in some of the task. It was agreed that Z Kundzewicz, currently on a consultancy assignment in WMO, would assist in preparing some specific proposals for IAHS participation to be then submitted to the Secretary General.

**Action: Secretary General to initiate involvement of Commissions in the planned activities.**

It was noted that the Commission for Hydrology would be presenting a draft resolution to the WMO Congress on the free exchange of hydrological data. The forthcoming fifteenth session of WMO's Executive Council would again consider this issue, prior to the next session of WMO's Congress, which is expected to consider this draft resolution for possible adoption.

The importance of the upcoming Conference on Climate and Water (August 1998, Finland) was noted.

It was noted that the WHYCOS initiative is growing very fast and that IAHS will be invited to participate in a major WHYCOS meeting once per year.

## 10. Links with other organizations

### *World Water Council*

Uri Shamir reported on the complex developments of WWC, its relationships with the Global Water Partnership and the initiation of the «Vision» Process leading to the Second Global Water Forum to be held in The Hague, March 2000. Great concern was expressed on the status of the WWC Secretariat; it was decided that IAHS would not pay its annual fees to WWC for 1998 until an acceptable report on the current status of the organization has been received from WWC. Furthermore it was decided to send a letter from IAHS to Dr Abu Zeid, President, WWC expressing the strong concerns of IAHS and requesting a speedy response.

**Action: Uri Shamir to send letter to Dr Abu Zeid** (Note this letter was prepared during the Bureau meeting and subsequently delivered to Dr Abu Zeid).

### *UN bodies*

Dieter Kraemer reported on the meetings within the Commission for Sustainable Development. The process had begun with the meeting of the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources in Vienna, 1-3 October 1997; it had continued with the UN Expert Group meeting in Harare, 27-30 January 1998; followed by the «Chirac Water Summit» in Paris in March; culminating in the CSD meeting in New York in late April 1998. Freshwater issues have been raised to top priority for 1998 within CSD.

### *ICSU/IUGG; SCOWAR/IWALC*

Uri Shamir reported on developments within IUGG, mostly concerning the lead-up to the Birmingham Assembly in 1999. There will be elections of new officers to IUGG at Birmingham, including the post of Secretary General. It was recommended that IAHS be active in the nominations process.

It was reported that SCOWAR has now completed its mandate and is being disbanded. It is, however being replaced by a new Working Group on Water Research which, over the next few years, is tasked with addressing the issue of: Freshwater and environmental change: the ecological consequences of altered hydrological regimes; the working group will be headed by Dr R Naiman.

The Secretary General reported that IWALC had met informally in Harare and in the previous week at UNESCO; the exchange of general information between associations is most useful; the main item for discussion has been the status of the World Water Council - this takes much time for all associations and is a source of much concern and debate. IWALC had drafted a letter to Dr Abu Zeid expressing concern over the situation within WWC; however, this letter was not deemed strong enough by the Bureau of IAHS (see WWC above) and will not be sent.

## 11. Reports from Commissions and Committees

Reports of Commissions and Committees are attached as Annex 5.

After considerable discussion regarding the concerns of individual commissions and committees the following decisions were taken:

*ICRS*: This Committee will seek to change its status to Commission and change its name to the International Commission on Remote Sensing (ICRS); its statutes will be amended, effective immediately, to allow its Vice Presidents to be elected to a second term of office; revised statutes are found attached as Annex 6.

*ICASVR*: This Committee will seek to change its status to Commission; it will, in consultation with the Secretary General, produce a set of Statutes, similar to those of the ICRS, to be ratified by the IAHS Plenary in Birmingham; its President will remain in office until 2001; its current Vice Presidents may be elected to a

second term in office in Birmingham.

*ICWRS:* This Commission wishes to change its statutes to allow Vice Presidents to be elected to a second term in office; it was agreed that this proposal would have to be taken to the first Plenary session of the Commission in Birmingham - if accepted, Vice Presidents could then be elected to a second term in office (this will necessitate the Nominations Panel drawing up two alternative sets of candidates for office within this Commission).

*ICT:* This Committee will seek to change its status to Commission.

*Note:* As a result of these decisions, there will no longer be Committees within the IAHS structure; effective at the Birmingham Assembly and subject to approval by the IAHS Plenary session, there will be nine Commissions.

## 12. Nomination procedures

The procedures for nominations of officers of the Association and its Commissions at the IUGG General Assembly was described by the Secretary General; a summary is given in Annex 7.

Note: these procedures will now have to be modified in accordance with the decisions made under item 11, above.

The Bureau agreed that Henny Colenbrander would be the Chair of the overall Nominations Panel; a slate of eight additional names was proposed from which five will eventually be chosen, on a priority basis agreed upon by the Bureau; the President will canvass potential Panel members for their agreement to serve and the Nominations Panel will be constituted within the next two months.

**Action: President to canvass potential Panel members and to decide on final composition of the Panel.**  
**Action: Secretary General to be in contact with Henny Colenbrander regarding activities of the Nominations Panel.**

## 13. Update on future meetings

*IUGG Assembly at Birmingham, 1999.* The Secretary General noted the good progress that had been made in putting in place the overall scientific program and the specific IAHS program. It was noted that a professional organizer has been appointed to take charge of the local organizing procedures which had been hampered by the unfortunate illness of the main local organizer.

*IAHS Scientific Assembly, Maastricht, 2001.* The Secretary General noted that excellent progress has been made in reserving good accommodation for the Assembly by the local organizer, Mr Jan-anne Boswinkel and his team. The Bureau then confirmed that Dr Reinder Feddes would Chair the Scientific Organizing Committee for the Assembly. Dr de Vries of the Free University of Amsterdam was appointed to the Committee and it was agreed that each Commission would provide one member of the SOC (to be the Commission President or an alternative to be designated by the Commission President).

**Action: Secretary General to contact Reinder Feddes to initiate activities of the SOC.**

## 14. International Hydrology Prize and Tison Award

The President announced that Dr Malin Falkenmark had been chosen as the recipient of the 1998 International Hydrology Prize; the general announcement of the award will take place later; the award will be made during the Conference on Climate and Water in Finland on 17 August 1998.

Jake Peters reported, as Chair of the Awards Committee for the Tison Award, that the award had successfully been presented to three young scientists during the UNESCO Conference on «Water, a Looming Crisis?» on 6 June 1998. The citation for the award is attached as Annex 8.

It was agreed that for the 1999 Tison Award, Slobodan Simonovic would be Chair of the Awards Committee.

**Action: S Simonovic to take appropriate action for Tison Award 1999.**

It was agreed that there should be a better system of identifying candidates for the Tison Award. A short announcement to be included in advertizing literature for Symposia and HSJ should be prepared and disseminated.

**Action: Jake Peters in consultation with the Secretary General to take appropriate action.**

**15. Reports of Task Forces and Working Group**

*Task Force on Developing Countries and Training Assistance Program*

Pierre Hubert, Chair of the Task Force, presented his report, attached as Annex 9.

*Task Force on National Committees and Membership*

Kuniyoshi Takeuchi, Chair of the Task Force, presented his report as part of the discussion on the future of the Association. It is attached as Annex 10.

*IAHS/WMO Working Group on GEWEX*

Gert Schultz, Chair of the Working Group, presented his report, attached as Annex 11.

**16. Report of IAHS Ltd**

The report was presented by the President who, in cooperation with the Chair of IAHS Ltd, has been working on ensuring that the Association receives charitable status. The report is attached as Annex 12.

**17. Report of Honorary President**

Mr Ivan Johnson presented his report. It is attached as Annex 13.

**18. Outline by President of major items for discussion during the remainder of the meeting**

The president outlined how he wished the discussion on the future of the Association to be handled.

**19. The future of IAHS**

Extensive discussion, taking several hours, took place on the future of the Association. The discussion was structured under the following headings:

*Scientific direction*

Each Commission had been invited to submit a position paper on its own scientific direction and that of the Association. All position papers received are attached as Annex 14. They provided the basis of a very lively discussion in which the present Commission structure was questioned. After much discussion, it was agreed that a proposition to abandon the present structure in favour of a much more flexible and dynamic structure based on hot topics of the moment should not be accepted. Instead the status quo was accepted (ie no changes in the present committee structures and basic mandates). However, it was recognized that there is a strong need to identify emerging and new scientific issues and techniques and to make sure that these are addressed. This will necessitate more collaboration between Commissions in identifying and addressing new issues and, where appropriate, more collaboration between IAHS and other associations and bodies having overlapping mandates and interests. It was recognized that AGU and EGS do overlap IAHS in interests and it was recognized that IAHS should emulate the very effective model of AGU in having workshops which effectively address hot topics of current interest (this is already partially being done); however it was also recognized that IAHS, especially in its outreach to and inclusion of the needs of

developing countries, has a mandate separate from AGU and EGS; this unique mandate should be reinforced in the future by better inclusion of scientists from developing countries.

#### *Involvement of IAHS outside the «purely scientific» realm*

The question as to what extent IAHS should be involved with such organizations as the World Water Council, the UN-Commission on Sustainable Development and other water organizations was discussed at length. It was agreed that close links, approximately along the lines already in place, should be maintained. While cooperation with other water NGOs should be pursued, any formal mergers should not be attempted at the present time.

#### *The Press office*

The question of publications and communications in the changing world of electronic communication was hotly debated. Of particular concern was whether (or to what extent) the Association should go towards a policy of publishing the HSJ and Red Books in electronic form (either through the Internet or as CDs). A distinction was drawn between, on the one hand, publishing entire papers, issues of the journal or books electronically and, on the other hand, advertizing our publications through electronic media while retaining our present modes of production. The experiences of other associations and assumed costs of alternative methods were discussed.

It was decided that, in the near future, IAHS would not publish full papers through the Internet. However, it was also decided to upgrade our Homepage and the Homepages of Commissions in order to publicize our products more effectively and to generate more interest in the activities of the Association. In particular descriptions of contents of HSJ and Red Books should be pursued vigorously.

**Action: Secretaries of Commissions to create (where not already in place), and regularly update Commission Homepages.**

**Action: Secretary General to pursue better advertizing of IAHS publications through the Homepage and by other appropriate means.**

The status of the IAHS Press office and staff was reported by the Secretary General and the Treasurer. The Secretary General noted that at the present time the membership database is maintained in the office of the SG; in future it would be more logical and more economical to have the database maintained at the Press office. It was noted that a new agreement between IAHS and the Institute of Hydrology is being negotiated at the present time; which agreement will likely meet all the needs of our production team and be slightly better financially for IAHS.

#### *Finances:*

The budget was presented by the Treasurer and was discussed at length by the Bureau. It was noted that, up to 1996 the balance had fluctuated, but with a mean of about \$300,000; after 1996 the mean balance had dropped to about \$200,000. A mean balance of \$200,000 was deemed acceptable if fluctuations were not too large and if the mean balance dropped no further. A major effort was thought necessary to curb unnecessary expenditures and, simultaneously, to increase income. The following measures to increase income were agreed:

1. Surcharges on IAHS symposia: A surcharge, to be included in the registration fee for IAHS symposia and conferences is to be instituted immediately.

**Action: The Treasurer and Secretary General to decide on the way in which the surcharge is to be calculated.**

2. Sponsorships for symposia to be more actively sought.

3. Alan Gustard noted that the Department for International Development (DFID) in UK might be

approached to fund various IAHS projects; all Bureau members are encouraged to approach their own governments for similar support. National Representatives might also be requested to approach their own governments for support to IAHS.

**Action: All Bureau members to approach their own governments for support to IAHS.**

4. The UNESCO Participation Program might be more actively approached to support IAHS projects.

#### *The fee for membership option*

Having discussed the general direction and activities the Association is to take in the future, having identified ways in which to make the Association more financially viable and having decided not to venture into extensive electronic publishing, the Bureau then discussed the need to implement a fee for membership.

It was noted that officially the «members» of IAHS are countries themselves; individuals are designated as «Corresponding members» within the Bye laws of the Association, but might better be termed «affiliates». Having taken into account the proposals put forward by Kuniyoshi Takeuchi on behalf of the Task Force on Membership, and having had extensive discussions on the merits and problems of a fee for affiliates, it was decided not to introduce any fee for affiliates at the Birmingham Assembly. It was, however, decided to consider a fee for services; ie a fee for receipt of a hard copy the Newsletter and a fee which would permit a reduction for HSJ subscriptions and purchase of Red Books. A Task Force to look into these possibilities was set up to report to the bureau in Birmingham; members of the Task Force to be: Pierre Hubert, Kuniyoshi Takeuchi and Chuck Onstad. The possibility of instituting a voluntary fee for affiliates should still remain open.

**Action: Task Force to make recommendations at the latest by the IUGG Assembly in 1999.**

#### *The role of the Secretary General*

The Secretary General indicated concern over the extent (and ever growing extent) and costs of his duties. He also expressed concern over the fact that, while there are provisions for replacement of the President as a result of illness or incapacity, there is no such provision for the SG.

However, as many of the uncertainties concerning the future mandate and operation of the Association had been discussed and largely resolved at the present meeting, he felt more comfortable in undertaking the SG duties for the next year.

## **20. Other business**

No other business was discussed.

## **21. Venue for next meeting**

It was decided that the next Bureau meeting should be at Birmingham during the IUGG General Assembly

## **22. Closure**

The Bureau meetings were closed at 4.30pm.

---

This version includes comments / modification suggested by Rodda, Shamir, Takeuchi, Peters, Kraemer.