



Minutes of the IAHS Bureau Meeting

Held at the Conference Centre, Rabat, Morocco during the IAHS 5th Scientific Assembly, April 1997.

First meeting: 23 April (2-5pm)
Second meeting: 25 April (2-5pm)
Third meeting: 30 April (9-12am)

Present: JC Rodda, U Shamir, GJ Young, ME Moss, G Golubev, P Hubert, K Takeuchi, T O'Donnell, D Walling, AI Johnson, H Colenbrander, F Nobilis and L Kasperek (ICSW), E Sudicky (ICGW), C Onstad, B Hasholt and L Olive (ICCE), G Jones (ICSI), NE Peters (ICWQ), G Schultz, A Rango and J Ritchie (ICRSdT), J Kalma, K Jensen and C Vörösmarty (ICASVR), C Leibundgut, A Dassargues and A Coudrain-Ribstein (ICT), A Szöllösi-Nagy (UNESCO), D Kraemer and A Askew (WMO)

Invited Guests: P Wyllie (IUGG President), A Afouda (Association of African Hydrologists), B Wilkinson, M Hamlin, D Collins, JA Boswinkel, P Kisby

Regrets: S Gorelick, E Morris, S Simonovic

Note: Some of the participants attended only part(s) of the meetings.

1. Welcome

The President, John Rodda, welcomed all members of the Bureau and extended a particular welcome to Andras Szöllösi-Nagy (UNESCO), Dieter Kraemer (WMO), Peter Wyllie (IUGG) and to Brian Wilkinson, Mike Hamlin and David Collins (present to discuss arrangements for the IUGG Assembly in Birmingham, 1999), to J-A Boswinkel (present on behalf of the National Committee for The Netherlands), to Abel Afouda (Chairman, Association of African Hydrologists) and to all those attending a Bureau meeting for the first time.

John Rodda expressed a special thanks to Mr Mohammad Jellali, who, as host of the Assembly had kindly made arrangements for the meeting and for social events during the meeting.

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 Vienna

The minutes of the Vienna meeting were adopted without change.

4. Actions arising from Boulder 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. Update on arrangements for the Rabat Assembly

A brief review of the scientific and administrative arrangements for the Assembly was led by the Secretary General. It was noted that registration was higher than anticipated (the final totals were 455 participants from 53 countries). Participation from African countries was, as had been hoped, higher than normal at Scientific Assemblies. Once again, the exemplary efforts of the Moroccan hosts were noted and praised.

6. Report of the President

The President, John Rodda informed the Bureau of the many meetings in which he had participated on behalf of the Association. These included: the Executive meeting of IUGG, Copenhagen, June '96; the Interceltic Colloquium in Brittany, July '96; the meeting of the Intergovernmental Council for IHP at UNESCO, Paris, September '96; a meeting on the Global Observing Systems in Geneva, also in September '96.

A review was then given of the affairs of the Association, both internal and with other water- related bodies. Particular note was made of the need to rectify the parlous financial state of the Association, a subject which would be dealt with in much greater detail later in the discussions of the Bureau. In treating the external relations of the Association with other agencies and bodies, particular reference was made to our colleagues in UNESCO and WMO and the necessity of working in close cooperation with those agencies was reiterated. Special reference was made to the newly-created World Water Council and it was noted that important decisions would have to be made by the Bureau concerning the advisability of IAHS joining the WWC. Lastly, John Rodda noted that there would be several changes in the slate of officers of the Association during the Rabat assembly. He noted with gratitude the very important services which Terence O'Donnell as Editor and Marshall Moss as Treasurer had given to IAHS over many years. He welcomed Zbigniew Kundzewicz as the new Editor and Charles Onstad as the new Treasurer. He noted that the Editor is normally appointed by the Bureau and the Treasurer is normally elected during an assembly of IUGG; at this time both these appointments have been made by the President; the Editor would be appointed formally by the Bureau in 1999 and the Treasurer would be elected also in 1999. There would also be changes in the Presidencies of five of the Scientific Commissions/Committees: Steve Gorelick would be replaced by Ed Sudicky (ICGW); Charles Onstad by Bent Hasholt (ICCE); Gert Schultz by Al Rango (ICRSDT), J Kalma by Karsten Jensen (ICASVR) and Chris Leibundgut by Alain Dassargues (ICT). The five Past Presidents would remain on their respective Bureaux for the next two years. John Rodda expressed his thanks to the outgoing Presidents and his pleasure at working with them and looked forward to fruitful and friendly work with the incoming Presidents.

7. Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General, Gordon Young, listed meetings he had attended on behalf of the Association including: the Executive meeting of IUGG, Copenhagen, June '96; the meeting of CHy of WMO in Koblenz, December '96; the meeting of the World Water Council, Marrakesh, March '97.

It was noted that the process of re-registration of members, initiated at the time of distribution of the January 1997 Newsletter, is well under way. To date about 1000 replies (40% of the membership) had replied. The deadline for replying will be extended to the end of August 1997 to accommodate the slow postal services to several parts of the world. This process should eliminate from the membership files the many members who are no longer active in the Association, thus reducing distribution costs for newsletters etc. Of the members who have already re-registered, about half gave written responses to the question of introducing a fee for membership - 75% of those giving responses were in favour of a fee for membership.

A great deal of effort in the past year had gone into preparations for the Rabat Assembly; the Secretary General had visited Rabat 5 times since 1995. The process of preparations had gone quite smoothly, there being the inevitable mistakes and misunderstandings along the way. Once again, gratitude was expressed to all those involved in the process.

One issue of significance had recurred several times over the last few months - several organizations had requested from the secretariat lists of members' names and addresses so that those organizations could then distribute their own information more widely. After discussion on this issue the Bureau decided that such lists should not be made available externally, as this could lead to invasion of the privacy of members.

However, the Association could consider distributing information to IAHS members on behalf of other organizations (after verification that the information coincided with IAHS aims and principles) providing that this was cost effective (ie that appropriate charges would be made).

Lastly, Gordon Young noted the great efforts of the members of the IAHS Press team - Penny Kisby, Frances Watkins, Jill Gash and Gillian McGurran - and also the efforts of Ian Littlewood as IAHS Comptroller in Wallingford. Without the efforts of this team behind the scenes much of the IAHS output would be missing. Thanks was expressed to all.

8. Report of the Treasurer

A detailed report from the Treasurer, Marshall Moss, had been circulated prior to the meeting. The oral report was brief and to the point. The Association over the past three years has been incurring greater expenditures than incomes; this as a result of a combination of factors including lower than expected sales of Red Books and Journals and higher administrative costs of running the Press and Secretariat. Marshall Moss noted that, if the present budget trends were to continue into the future, the Association would become bankrupt around the turn of the century.

It was suggested that immediate actions were necessary to remedy this situation. These should be of several types. Regarding expenditures, consideration should be given to rationalizing the functioning of the Secretariat and Press activities; cutting back on expenditures related to the Task Force on Developing Countries and the Training Assistance Program (these are dealt with in more detail below); being more aggressive in seeking sponsoring agencies and other forms of generating income. Regarding income, more effective advertizing of our main products (symposia, the Journal and Red Books) should be undertaken and serious consideration should be given to a fee for membership (this item dealt with in more detail below). After considerable debate over these points, it was further suggested that an overall plan of action should be formulated by the Treasurer assisted by a small number of individuals with particular skills in finance and accounting.

Marshall Moss, retiring from the Treasurership in the very near future, expressed his satisfaction of having worked for six years in that position with colleagues in IAHS and looked forward to continued involvement in other capacities within the Association.

Action: The Treasurer, in consultation with appropriate individuals, to formulate a financial plan of action.

9. (a) Statement of the UNESCO representative

Andras Szöllösi-Nagy presented a comprehensive account of the status of IHP V. He noted the particular importance attached to groundwater issues and the emphasis within the program on urban water issues and arid zone concerns. He stressed the need for input from IAHS and its commissions and committees. He noted that contractual agreements with commissions would be considered and brought attention to the need to apply soon (within the next few months) for funding. He also noted that a major source of potential funding for IAHS was through the ICSU grants program. IAHS should be involved through IUGG with ICSU to pursue possibilities of funding through this source.

Action: Secretary General to liaise with UNESCO and with commissions on appropriate action.

(b) Statement of the WMO representative

Dieter Kraemer presented a series of documents covering recent developments within WMO. He particularly noted the importance and relevance to IAHS of the recent meeting of the WMO Commission for Hydrology (December 1996 in Koblenz). He noted that besides the Advisory Working Group, Working Groups on «Basic Systems» and on «Applications» had been established, each with a number of experts

appointed to coordinate particular aspects of the WG activities. There are considerable possibilities for cooperation with IAHS and its commissions and specific ways of cooperation should be discussed in the near future.

Action: Secretary General to liaise with WMO and with commissions on appropriate action.

10. International Hydrology Prize and Tison Award

John Rodda noted that during the past few months two nominations had been received for the 1997 International Hydrology Prize. With great pleasure he announced that the Nominations Panel had decided that the recipient would be Prof. Terence O'Donnell for distinction as a scientist and for his admirable efforts over many years as Editor of the Hydrological Sciences Journal.

Chuck Onstad, Chairman of the Nominations Committee for the Tison Award, noted that in 1996 no award had been made as neither of the papers nominated had been deemed sufficiently worthy. For 1997 he announced that the Award would be presented to Prof. Alexander Tskhai of Russia. It was noted that Professor Tskhai has made significant contributions to hydrological research over several years and that the award was made particularly for research reported in IAHS Publication No. 235, 1996 in a manuscript entitled «GIS 'Hydro-manager' and its application to water quality management in the Upper Ob River basin» authored by Professor Tskhai and co-authors Professors Konstantin Koshelev and Michail Leites. (The formal presentation of the awards was made during the Plenary session of the Association).

11. Report of the Honorary President

Ivan Johnson reported on his activities over the past year paying particular attention to his involvement in the Symposium on the Humid Tropics held in Jamaica and his efforts in promoting further symposia in Turkey and in The Netherlands. He submitted a brief report on his efforts in bringing together materials for production of a set of guidelines on preparations for meetings. These efforts had been severely hampered by illness in his family. On request from the President he agreed to hand over responsibility for further production of the Guidelines to the Secretary General and to make available to him such materials as had been collected to date. The President offered the sincere thanks of the Association to Ivan Johnson for his efforts in promoting IAHS over the years.

Action: Ivan Johnson to forward materials on Guidelines for Meetings to the Secretary General.

12. Report of IAHS Ltd

Des Walling, Chairman, recalled that the key purpose of IAHS Ltd is to avoid UK tax liabilities related to IAHS Press and associated activities based in the UK. The company, established three years ago currently has four Directors - Des Walling (Chair), Terence O'Donnell, John Rodda and Gordon Young, with secretarial services provided by Penny Kisby.

Details of the financial status of the company are effectively included in the Report and Accounts of the Treasurer. For 1995 the turnover was £113k, giving a loss of £11.6k. Such loss removes any tax liability. Some uncertainties regarding the status of IAHS and IAHS Ltd under UK tax law still exist. The trading loss removes tax liability at present but full charitable status is being sought. Chuck Onstad will join the Board on his appointment as Treasurer, to formalize links with the Treasurer's office.

13. Reports from Commissions and Committees

Written reports for Commissions and Committees were made available and were presented by F Nobilis (ICSW), E Sudicky (ICGW), C Onstad and B Hasholt (ICCE), G Jones (ICSI), NE Peters (ICWQ), Z Kundzewicz (ICWRS), G Schultz and A Rango (ICRSDT), J Kalma and K Jensen (ICASVR), C Leibundgut (ICT).

The reports covered activities undertaken by the Commissions over the past year, inputs to the Rabat Assembly, future initiatives planned, linkages with other organizations, particularly UNESCO and WMO and modes of communication such as the publication of Commission Newsletters.

14. Report of IAHS Press

A detailed and comprehensive report on the activities of the Press over the past year was presented by Terence O'Donnell. Regarding the Hydrological Sciences Journal, analyses were presented on papers submitted and on subscriptions; note was made of Special Issues of the Journal and of changes in the team of Associate Editors. Terence O'Donnell expressed his pleasure at having served as Editor for many years and offered his services over the next few months to help in the transition to the new editorship. A listing of Red Books recently published and scheduled to be published was presented; it was noted that there is a real need to obtain more sponsorships for publications. Note was made that Gillian McGurran had joined the Press team during the last year and that she had recently developed an initiative to promote the advertizing of IAHS products.

15. Reports of Task Forces and Working Group

Task Force on Developing Countries and Training Assistance Program

Pierre Hubert as Chair of the TFDC and TAP presented a written report on activities. He noted with regret that, due to the financial situation of the Association, requests during the last year (with the exception of one request eventually funded through ODA) had had to be rejected and that in future no TAP requests can be accommodated. The Bureau very much regretted the frustration which Pierre Hubert had had to endure over the past year as a result of financial exigencies and expressed its thanks for the work done. It was agreed that the Training Assistance Program would be suspended until better financial days.

Regarding TFDC, Pierre Hubert noted that he now exercises more control over distribution of Red Book and HSJ publications to recipient institutions. He recommends a policy of requesting confirmation of receipt of materials before further materials are distributed and a review of those institutions eligible for inclusion in the program. In this way costs will be restrained while the important aim of making IAHS literature available to those in need is efficiently met.

Action: Pierre Hubert to continue directing the TFDC initiative.

Task Force on National Committees and Membership

This Task Force has been in operation over the past two years, Chaired by Kuniyoshi Takeuchi with the involvement of Marshall Moss, Henny Colenbrander and Laurie Olive. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi presented the recommendations of the Task Force.

It should be noted that, while the mandate of the Task Force was to consider the topics both of National Committees and of Membership, the report presented to the Bureau at this time considered only the topic of membership and was directed in particular to the need for consideration of a paid membership. Kuniyoshi Takeuchi presented the recommendations of the Task Force as outlined in his written report and, in agreement with the recommendations in the report of the Treasurer, suggested that immediate implementation of the recommendations was imperative as an important and effective way of helping resolve the financial predicament in which the Association finds itself. He noted that the Statutes and Bye-Laws of the Association would have to be modified and that this could not be effected until the IUGG Assembly of 1999. In the meantime a plan of action, involving a canvassing of the opinion of members and of National Representatives would be desirable. It was further noted that in introducing a fee for membership, the very varied abilities of members to pay (particularly members from economically disadvantaged countries and students) should be taken into account. It was also recognized that efficient means of administering a fee for membership would have to be carefully considered.

There was considerable discussion within the Bureau on this issue. It was noted that as a result of the

questionnaire sent out to all members, about 75% of those who had replied supported the introduction of a fee for membership. It was also noted that at a meeting of those National Representatives present at Rabat, held between the first and second sessions of the Bureau, some reservations about the wisdom of introducing a fee for membership had been raised.

John Rodda requested a straw vote on whether, in principle, Bureau members were willing to accept that a fee for membership should be introduced. The vote showed that there was unanimous agreement that it should be introduced. It was further agreed, with unanimous acceptance of members of the Bureau that a voluntary fee for membership should be introduced. After discussion on the administrative arrangements necessary it was suggested that the introduction of the voluntary fee for membership should be introduced early in 1998.

Action: Task Force on National Committees and Membership to follow-up on recommendations.

IAHS/WMO Working Group on GEWEX

Gert Schultz, the Working Group Chair, presented a detailed report on this very significant activity. His report included summaries of recent meetings of the WG, of the people involved in the numerous activities and of future proposed activities. He noted in particular that mega projects, including very significant hydrological components are becoming ever more important in the conduct of hydrological research. This is of very great concern as it impacts the way in which research is conceived and conducted. The activities of IAHS within GEWEX will continue to be important into the foreseeable future and the WG will have significant activities to perform. The President requested Gert Schultz to continue as Chair of the WG until the IUGG Assembly in 1999. This was agreed.

Action: Gert Schultz to continue as WG Chair.

16. Schedule for future Assemblies / Symposia / Workshops

Birmingham 1999

Brian Wilkinson presented a very comprehensive report, prepared over the last year in consultation with officers of Commissions and Committees. There was considerable discussion on each suggested symposium and workshop involving cooperation between commissions, overlap between suggested topics, possible involvement of other associations and symposia which might be considered suitable as inter-association symposia at Birmingham.

The following slate of symposia was agreed:

1. Hydrological Extremes: Understanding, Predicting, Mitigating
2. Interactions between the Cryosphere, Greenhouse Gases and Climate
3. Nutrient Loads from Diffuse Sources
4. Integrated Methods of Catchment Hydrology: Tracers and Remote Sensing
5. Impacts of Urban Growth on Surface and Groundwater

The issues to be covered and responsibilities for implementation will be developed as soon as possible.

One symposium on Sea Level Change will be suggested as an IUGG symposium.

In addition five workshops were proposed to be convened by IAHS; the exact titles, purposes, convenors etc will be developed in the near future.

A plea for changing the nature of Workshops was expressed. The current style of many workshops as simply mini symposia was not considered acceptable. The Bureau agreed that convenors of workshops be encouraged to adopt true workshop formats for these events; a number of formats would be acceptable ranging from a few invited speakers followed by discussion; to debate on an issue between a panel of experts; the format of many short presentations with little chance for discussion should be discouraged.

The President proposed that a debate on a selected topic will be held during the Assembly and this was accepted by the Bureau. He offered to organize this event and this was also accepted.

Action: Secretary General to be in contact with all concerned to complete the process of definition of topics and modes of implementation.

6th IAHS Scientific Assembly

Mr J-A Boswinkel addressed the Bureau and presented a formal invitation from the Netherlands that the next IAHS Scientific Assembly be held in Maastricht in late July 2001. The President expressed his delight that this invitation had been given. The

Bureau gratefully accepted this invitation.

It was noted in discussion related to the location of future assemblies that IAHS has some obligation to consider holding assemblies more often in lesser developed countries. This suggestion was noted positively by the Bureau and attempts will be made to involve more less developed countries in the future.

Other Symposia / Workshops

Many other symposia and workshops are scheduled over the next few years, as listed within the reports of Commissions and Committees and within the calendar of events in the HSJ and the Newsletters. Many of these will result in IAHS publications.

17. Links with other organizations

World Water Council

The Secretary General briefly informed the Bureau about the formation of the World Water Council and its first major meeting, the World Water Forum held in Marrakesh in March 1997. He pointed out that IAHS had to make a decision on whether or not to formally join the Council. After this brief introduction, more detailed explanations of the events leading up to the formation of the Council and its mandates, policies and strategies for future action were given by A Szöllösi-Nagy, D Kraemer, G Schulz and U Shamir. After considerable discussion, it was agreed unanimously that IAHS should join the Council. It was further agreed that Uri Shamir would represent IAHS at Council meetings, the first being in Montreal in September 1997.

Action: Secretary General to take the necessary steps to effect IAHS membership in WWC.

ICSU / IUGG

John Rodda expressed his pleasure that Peter Wyllie, President, IUGG, could attend the entire IAHS assembly, including the Bureau meetings. Peter Wyllie was particularly interested in the process of discussion and decision making leading up to the IUGG Assembly in Birmingham.

SCOWAR / IWALC

SCOWAR met in the two days prior to the Assembly, in Rabat. A report on the accomplishments of the committee were provided to the Bureau by Henny Colenbrander who attended the meeting.

IWALC met in March 1997 in Marrakesh at the time of the World Water Forum. It was reported by the Secretary General (Chair of IWALC) that the major topics of discussion had been: the need for IWALC member associations to have more input to the Committee on Sustainable Development; the possibility that IWALC, as a group, could give scientific input to the newly formed World Water Council; and that, through the Internet, IWALC associations should become more linked together and be better advertized world-wide.

18. Newsletters and other forms of communication

It was decided that all three Newsletters per year should be distributed to all members. Although this means additional expense in printing and postage, it was argued that it is imperative that members receive more than one newsletter per year. Further efforts will be undertaken to publicise the activities of the Association through the Internet, to develop more commission homepages and to link with other water-related organizations world-wide.

19. Status of Guidelines for Symposium Convenors and Editors of Proceedings

As noted under the report of the Honorary President, responsibility for completion of these Guidelines has been handed over to the Secretary General for his Action.

20. Other business

The process for nomination and election of officers to posts in the Association and its Commissions prior to and during IUGG Assemblies was discussed at some length. Henny Colenbrander presented a listing of the components of the process for nominations and Mike Hamlin commented on his experiences he had had in the process leading up to the 1995 Assembly. It was agreed that there needs to be some fine tuning of the processes.

Action: Secretary General to be in further contact with Henny Colenbrander and Mike Hamlin to review the processes.

21. Venue for next meeting

It was decided that the next Bureau meeting should be at UNESCO, Paris in conjunction with the next Intergovernmental Council Meeting of IHP, in early June 1998.

22. Closure

The Bureau meetings were closed at 12.00, 30th April.