

Minutes of Meeting of the International Antarctic Institute Council

St. Petersburg, Russia

Sunday, July 6, 2008.

Delegates:

Dr Victor Fajardo, Rector, Universidad de Magallanes, Chile

Dr Alain Hubert, Chairman of the International Polar Foundation.

Ms Nighat.F.D. Johnson-Amin, International Polar Foundation, Bruxelles

Associate Professor Else Nost Hegseth- University of Tromso

Dr Mitsuo Fukuchi, National Institute for Polar Research, Japan

Dr Shigeru Aoki, Institute of Low Temperature Science, Hokkaido University, Japan

Professor Dr Wilhelm Hagen, Universität Bremen, Germany

Professor Diana Wall, Colorado State

Dr Azizan Abu Samah, University of Malaya

Sir Guy Green, IAI secretariat

Professor Andrew McMinn, IAI secretariat

Dr Patti Virtue, IAI secretariat

Dr Sandra Zicus, IAI secretariat

Jacob Virtue, University of Tasmania, student volunteer for IAI meeting

Apologies:

Dr Carlos Rios Cardoza, Universidad de Magallanes, Chile (visa problem-late)

Professor Bryan Storey, University of Canterbury, NZ (concurrent meetings)

Dr Philippe Pondaven, Universite de Bretagne Occidentale and European Institute for Marine Studies (visa problems)

Dr Eva Bucciarelli, Universite de Bretagne Occidentale and European Institute for Marine Studies

Professor Julian Dowdeswell -Scott Polar (concurrent meetings)

Professor Berry Lyons, Byrd Polar Institute, USA (concurrent meetings)

Professor Michael Stoddart- Australian Antarctic Division (concurrent meeting)

Professor Miquel Canals, Universitat de Barcelona (concurrent meetings)

Dr Phillippe Koubbi, Université Pierre et Marie Curie- Paris VI

Dr Yves Frenot, IPEV, French Polar Institute

Professor Eugene Domack, Hamilton College

Dr Nazalan Najimudin, Universiti Sains Malaysia

Dr Carlo Alberto Ricci, Universita' di Siena

1. Welcome by Chairman- Sir Guy Green

2. Patti delivered an address about the late Edith Fanta, an IAI council member. Edith was an active member of the Antarctic research community, the chair of the scientific committee of CCAMLR, on many Antarctic committees, and strong supporter of the IAI since inception. The IAI is endeavoring to find another Brazilian council member.

3. IAI Constitution

Motion was unanimously passed that the constitution be adopted (Azizan Adu Samah, Andrew McMinn).

4. Financial Sustainability

Presentation by Andrew re University of Tasmania's position to fund secretariat to 2010. Options after this date include:

- 1) Secretariat changes hands in 2010 (a call was made to members to put forward expressions of interest in the next 12 months if they are interested in running the IAI secretariat), and /or
- 2) Possible financial contribution from members to fund the secretariat in the form of a membership levy, and/or
- 3) External funding (see item 5)

5. IAI General Funding

- Patti presented ideas of possible funding avenues for IAI. Much discussion re funding sources such as various governmental agencies (eg EU), philanthropic and other foundations.
- The IAI prospectus was presented. The prospectus outlines the IAI's vision, mission and goals. It was developed with the purpose in mind to be used to solicit funding. Copies will be sent to all IAI partners (and additional copies are available upon request).
- Patti presented an example of a funding application made on behalf the IAI (between UTAS and Universidad de Magallanes) through an Australian - Latin American program designed improve and promote educational and research links.
- There was a general call for IAI members to explore available national (and international) funding programs and the IAI secretariat will facilitate the application process where ever possible.
- Discussion re the creation of an entity to hold funds for the IAI- Patti appointed as IAI trustee.

6. IAI Chairman

Sir Guy Green was nominated and elected as the IAI Chairman.

7. IAI activities

- Shigeru presented the IAI joint Hokkaido/UTAS Saroma Shiretoko sea ice course.
- Andrew presented the new MSc Antarctic Marine Science, an IAI- UTas program
- Carlos Rios presented (to Andrew and Patti after the meeting) the new MSc in Antarctic Sciences at the Universidad de Magallanes
- Patti and Andrew discussed the established UNESCO-Cousteau Chair under the IAI. It was pointed out that there may be possibilities to use this chair (and the UNESCO and Cousteau logos) to leverage funding for the IAI.
- Dr Sandy Zicus was introduced as she has recently joined the IAI secretariat. Sandy presented the new IAI web site and the IAI logo (thanks to Shigeru for logo design concepts). The new website is based on a Content Management System (CMS) which allows each of the partner institutions to maintain their own IAI-related webpage. The system is simple to use and partners can add information about courses, news items, photos and any other relevant information in their language of preference without having to go through the Secretariat. Once the

new website goes live, detailed instructions will be sent to partners regarding the creation and editing web content as desired.

8. Membership

Discussion re the need for members from Russia/China/Korea and possibly other national universities with Antarctic educational programs. Several contacts were suggested.

9. Course Accreditation

- Credit Equivalence formulas- discussion re establishing a common credit/degree transfer system.
- Develop an IAI credit (incorporating the European Credit transfer system, South America, Asia, USA, Japan Etc). Discussion re the Adoption of the European Credit transfer system?
- Discussion of ways to promote collaboration between partners- moving staff (rather than students), e-learning etc
- Shigeru Aoki presented Hokkaido's Diploma and MSc program and the credits associated with these courses.
- Discussion re the badging of an IAI associated unit/course.
- Out of these discussions the need arose to develop a working committee to both decide on an IAI credit transfer system and to investigate options of co badging units/courses. Members may volunteer to work on this committee (alternately members will be approached to gauge interest).

10. MSc structure (Geosciences, Life Sciences, Social Sciences, Physical Sciences)

It was decided that working groups would be established to address the MSc structure in the various disciplines. Members may volunteer to work together with others in their respective areas. Very shortly the secretariat will contact all members to determine interest in participating in discipline-based discussion groups. These groups will investigate coherent offerings in each major area and identify areas that are currently not being taught. It is likely that we will use SKYPE or a similar online discussion forum to facilitate these group discussions.