

INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL GLACIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

6 September 2007, in the main symposium lecture theatre in the building of the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

The President, Professor Atsumu Ohmura, was in the Chair.

66 persons from 17 countries were present of which 24 were IGS members.

1. The previous AGM's minutes

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, published in ICE, 2006, No 142, p. 9–12, were approved on a motion by T. Neumann, seconded by D.R. MacAyeal and signed by the President.

2. The President's report

The President gave the following report for 2006–2007:

Ladies and gentlemen,

The International Glaciological Society has completed its 71st year. It is my pleasure to report on a very happy one year since the Cambridge conference. The article contributions for Journal of Glaciology, the society's core production, are increasing. We published Annals Vol. 45 on Earth and Planetary Ice-Volcano Interactions, within one year after the symposium. In comparison with symposia organized by other academic societies and associations, it is rare to see proceedings published within a year. The main reason for the increasing publication activity is to great extent due to the speeding up in the editing process and early electronic posting of the accepted articles, and not to forget the prestige of the journal. These aspects are not doubt captured by potential authors. It is fortunate to see the production team at the society's office in Cambridge in a good spirit full with enthusiasm. The high publication activities are important for all scientists and also for the interest of the glaciological society. The speed for the publication can, however, be speeded up even faster. There are two processes that are still slow. These are return of the reviews and the return of the revised articles and proof readings. This means US. The electronic review process will be shortly introduced. We are, however, very careful not to increase the burden of reviewers with poorly programmed review softwares. This new path will not eliminate conventional review method. The new and traditional review returns will be used in parallel.

The society organized a conference on the cryospheric indicators of global climate change, and co-sponsored 13 symposia in the 24th IUGG General Assembly in Perugia, which will be published as Annals of Glaciology. The Moscow symposium again represents an increasing activity around the glaciological society.

Reading the articles published in recent journals, one sees a vast increase in our knowledge in glaciology. Contrary to a number of progresses happened in our field, we lack in fundamental knowledge in glaciology, for example the volume of glacier ice, both regional and global. The lack of the precise knowledge in the ice volume constantly plagued IPCC in estimating the ultimate potential sea-level rise. It is even more difficult to perceive what's happening in the ice volume change right now in the warming climate. There are mainly two reasons for this problem. One is the fact that we did not complete the World Glaciology Inventory, and the other is our incapability to be seriously engaged in mass balance monitoring. The table presents the present best estimate of glacier surface area and ice volume, together with the degree of the inventory completion. The two countries, ex-Soviet Union and China, despite a large number of glaciers,

completed the inventories. The present difficulty in estimating the global ice volume is due to great extent to the incompleteness of the inventory in the USA and Canada. The reason for the difficulty to make a progress in the glacier inventory is clear. It is not easy for young scientists to make a brilliant career by being engaged in an inventory work. However, our science reached the stage to require huge database to make a further progress. In many branches of science it is also difficult to make such database and even more to keep it updating. This is the case in astronomy, seismology, molecular biology and climatology just to mention a few. Glaciology is not alone in this problem. A big scale data gathering demands an enormous amount of work that requires professional experience and careful and dedicated attitude but is usually not rewarding. We cannot blame young scientists by avoiding this sort of work. Nobody has a right to ask them to sacrifice their career for the information that all others need. I am wondering if this is an ideal work for educated retired scientists to be engaged in as volunteers. In a rough estimation ten people can complete the glacier inventory in a comfortable pace based on the original detailed method in about three years. Using satellite data the work will no doubt be accelerated. If we don't take any action, this area will remain forever an unknown region of knowledge.

In the table **bold** figures are those in the completed regions and data are available at NSIDC and WGMS; the figures in *italics* also indicate completed regions, but not all data are available at the data centres; while the figures in plain black are those for the uncompleted or untouched regions. Satellite-based inventories should look at these regions with a priority.

Region and Country	No.Gls. invent.	Area in 1989 WGMS publication	Area in WGI km ²	Best area estimation km ²	Completion in decimal	No. of glaciers to deal with
South America						
Tierra del Fuego, PIF	244	21200	1221.7	21200	0.058	3990
Argentina north of 47.5 S	2350	1385	863.11	1385	0.623	1421
Chile north of 46 S	1050	743	756.8	756.8	1.000	0
Bolivia	1697	566	509.5	509.5	1.000	0
Peru	1679	1780	1131.1	1780	0.635	963
Equador	114	120	110.8	110.8	1.000	0
Columbia	106	111	18.61	111	0.168	526
Venezuela	7	3	2.51	2.51	1.000	0
Middle and North America						
Mexico		11		11	0.000	
USA (with Alaska)	2592	75283	12658	75283	0.168	12824
Canada	15054	200806	36405	200806	0.181	67982
Africa						
	60	10	10.85	10.85	1.000	0
Europe						
Iceland		<i>11260</i>	<i>11200</i>	<i>11200</i>	<i>1.000</i>	<i>0</i>
Svalbard	895	36612	33666	33666	1.000	0
Scandinavia with Jan Mayen	2410	3174	3058	3058	1.000	0
Alps	5426	2909	3059.71	3059.71	1.000	0
Pyrenees	108	12	11.43	11.43	1.000	0

Ex-USSR and Asia						
Ex-USSR	20908	77223	82128	82128	1.000	0
Afganistan, Iran, Turkey	610	4000	472	4000	0.118	4559
Pakistan, India	303	40000	1898.4	40000	0.047	6081
Nepal, Bhutan	226	7500	2983	7500	0.398	342
China	46377	56481	11049	59425	1.000	0
Indonesia		7		7	0.000	
Oceania						
New Zealand	3149	860	1157.9	1157.9	1.000	0
Subantarctic islands		7000		7000	0.000	
Total	105365	549056	204371.4	554179.5	0.369	180346

The Secretary General invited members to discuss the Presidents report.

J. Schweitzer proposed, and D. Issler seconded, that the President's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

3. **The Treasurer's report**

The Secretary General, on behalf of the treasurer Dr. I.C. Willis, presented the following reported with the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2006.

The state of the Society's finances is best summarised by considering the changes from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006, as shown on page 7 of the accounts. In the table, the Accumulated Fund refers largely to costs associated with running the Journal, the Designated Fund refers to costs associated with running Symposia and the Annals, and the Restricted Fund is money earmarked specifically for costs associated with the Seligman Crystal.

Restricted Fund: increased very slightly from £7907 to £7945 as a consequence of accrued interest of £265;

Designated Fund: decreased slightly by £1,946 from £176,134 to £174,188 due largely increase in production and printing costs associated with publication of Annals 43-44.

Accumulated Fund: increased by £31,707 from £354,912 to £386,619 due mostly to a decrease in printing costs of the *Journal* and *Annals* and a small profit of £2846 in the value of investments due to an adjustment to market value (note 8, page 15).

Total: Society made a net profit of £26,799 in 2006 compared to a net loss of £18,229 in 2005.

In more detail, income itemised in note 2, page 12 and expenditure listed in notes 3 & 4, page 13 of the auditors report.

Income:

Income from membership dues was unchanged and Journal sales were up by £15,753. Sales of Journal reprints by authors not paying page charges continued to fall, this year by £165. Page charge income rose by £28,675 compare to £25,533 last year so we managed to continue the

trend. (N.B.1 authors paying page charges receive 100 reprints automatically for no extra charge. N.B.2 Discounts and refunds at bottom of page 12 refer to 10% discount given to agents selling *Journal and Annals* to libraries.)

Expenditure:

Large expenditure is associated with printing and publishing the *Journal and Annals*. But we managed a decrease of £12,269 compared to an increase of £107,739 last year.

This reflects a stabilization of production; we have caught up with both the *Journal* and the *Annals*. Other major expenditure comes from the costs of supporting the *Journal and Annals*. The IGS Office published 4 *Journal* issues and three *Annals* volumes and worked on two more *Journal* issues and two *Annals* volumes. Salaries and NI contributions appear to have risen slightly by £5,233 c.f. 2005, in line with inflation, and telephone, postage and stationery costs appear to have increased by £3,873. Computer costs increased by £8,481 to reflect the intent to gradually update the IT equipment and we have also entered into a maintenance contract.

Journal and Annals

In 2006, the Society published 807 pages in the *Journal of Glaciology* and 1319 pages in the *Annals of Glaciology*. In 2005 the figures were 808 for the *Journal* and 1019 for the *Annals*.

This continues to reflect the reorganization of the production procedures, which have considerably improved the efficiency of the production process so that the Society has been able to catch up on its backlog of printing as well as reduce the time lag between submission and publication. This continues to be a major priority for the IGS Office. As of this week we have already published about 600 pages of the *Journal* this year and we are expecting to send out the last issue of 2007 by the end of November. In addition we have already published almost 1200 pages of the *Annals* and are planning to publish another 300 pages this year.

Summary

The Society's finances are in fairly good shape but we shouldn't be complacent. We ran at a profit this year (~3.5% of total funds) c.f. a slight loss last year (~3% of total funds). It is important for us to maintain our inputs as well as operate carefully and efficiently to minimise our costs.

On the inputs side, we are particularly grateful to all those authors who have been both able and willing to support the Society by the provision of page charges. If you can, please build page charges into your grants in order to support the Society. Also, I would also make a plea to members of the Society to do all in their power to increase the membership. Although we are continuing to receive new members these are now beginning to fall behind those who are retiring or moving to other fields. Our target is a base of at least 1000 and there is still some way to go. Please encourage your colleagues and students to join. I believe they will find it is extremely good value for money. Also, please ensure that libraries in any institutions over which you have influence either maintain their subscriptions or take one out.

On the outputs side, I believe that we continue to increase the efficiency of the IGS office and the IGS staff deserves our help, encouragement and support for what they are doing on our behalf. Under Magnus's management, we have now caught up with the publication of the *Journal of Glaciology* and the *Annals of Glaciology*.

Ian C. Willis, Treasurer

T. Neumann asked what the membership of the IGS was to which the SG responded that it was difficult to estimate as the IGS office was behind in processing some membership renewals/applications but an estimate based on the average membership for the last 3 years suggests about 700 members. This number is down from what the membership was at its maximum in 2001 or 835. This emphasizes that the IGS must concentrate on increasing its membership in the near future and do so, by giving members value for money.

J. Schweitzer asked how income is balanced against expenditure. SG replied that during the past year, the IGS had an excess of £26,799 as is reflected in the Treasurer's report.

T. Neumann proposed, and J. Schweitzer seconded, that the Treasurer's report be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

4. Election of auditors for 2007 accounts.

On a motion from the Secretary General, D.R. MacAyeal proposed, and D. Issler seconded, that Messrs Peters Elworthy and Moore of Cambridge be elected auditors for the 2007 accounts. This was carried unanimously.

5. Elections to Council.

After circulation to members of the Society of the Council's suggested list of nominees for 2007–2010, no further nominations were received, and the following members were therefore elected unanimously.

Elective Members (4): Ninglian WANG (China)
Olivier GAGLIARDINI (France)
Francisco NAVARRO (Spain)
Christine HVIDBERG (Denmark)

These appointments were unanimously approved by the AGM.

6. Other business

No other business was motioned

The AGM was adjourned on a motion from P. Bartelt, seconded by D.R. MacAyeal.