

# **Minutes of IAHS 2022 Bureau Meeting June 4<sup>th</sup> 2022**

## **Mercure Montpellier Centre, Antigone, Montpellier, France**

### **1. Overview of IAHS2022 Scientific Assembly**

CC Very successful in-person meeting with 630 confirmed attendees from 65 countries. There were 70 registrations from China, but all cancelled due to Covid travel restrictions in China. Further visa denials from various countries were disappointing and against the principle of academic freedom affected by geopolitics. IRD were able to help some registrants in Africa with their visa application.

#### Lessons learned:

Payment methods for the APC charge were an issue. Copernicus insisted it must be by credit card and though the LOC were informed this could be an issue, bank transfer was only an option for registrations. CC used his credit card to cover the APC charge for some registrants without access to credit card (where possible, authors with problems, were encouraged to enlist the help of their co-authors). 35 authors were directly helped by CC, but this involved a lot of time in completing the author and affiliation information on the platform.

In the initial Scientific Assembly bid (2017) the LOC included grants to participants in need, but this had to be removed due to concern over the budget after the 2021 cancellation. Thus, the only grants available at the Assembly were those by IAHS for SYSTA or direct IAHS travel grants to officers. The General Assembly (2023) bid from Berlin also included many grants, but budget constraints have now put this in jeopardy.

GB commented that the registration fee was too high for the IAHS2022 Scientific Assembly.

MS asked how many grants were promised.

CC responded that 30-50 grants is a reasonable number for an IAHS Scientific Assembly but there was no 'promised' number. Grants could be in a variety of forms, e.g. registration only, or registration and some travel.

DH Considering the unprecedented situation with Covid and higher inflation it was reasonable to have changes, but more transparency is needed as to how many registrants paid full registration fees and how many were helped by other organisations such as IRD and how the registration fee was set.

AA The contract must provide for suitable IT including laptops in the meeting rooms. These were not provided putting a huge and unnecessary burden on the session convenors. CC agreed that it needs to be in the contract.

CC A decision must be made going forward as to whether to accept an in-person only meeting or allow a hybrid mode for the 2025 IAHS Scientific Assembly.

GB pointed out that EGU was held recently in hybrid mode but the feedback he received was that the IAHS in-person meeting was much better. A hybrid mode is trickier but could be a fall-back position. DH pointed out that the cost of a good hybrid is high, a recent meeting in Birmingham for 900 people cost £200,000. BC confirmed a similar cost in Australia for a recent meeting and that an in-person meeting should be encouraged. AC suggested that if the meeting is held in a university, then it is possible that all lectures are set up to be hybrid so it could make for an easy fall-back position. MS suggested that the in-person balance is on networking, and this is where projects are made and asked if it is possible to have pre-recorded presentations from people unable to attend. Other points from the room were that hybrid causes two communities with lack of interaction between attendees online and those in the room, and the question was raised of live streaming with online chat. J-MK was concerned that the lack of connectivity in Africa meant that it was not always possible to follow a hybrid meeting due to low broadband width and time differences. The Assembly 2022 LOC should provide a comprehensive financial and narrative report to allow us to learn from the experience. CC confirmed that Eric Servat of the LOC was invited to the Bureau meeting but unable to attend and that a report will be produced by November/December when the budget is closed.

DR confirmed it was a great meeting and that the Commissions are the backbone of the Association but there were no open meetings where new people could see what is going on and then decide to be more involved. BA agreed that these should be in the timetable in future. CC pointed out that in the previous two assemblies only 1 or 2

commissions asked for a room and so he did not proactively promote it especially as the LOC was short on meeting rooms with only lunchtimes available. GB pointed out that it should be possible to hold three commission meetings in parallel. GU said that from an ECC perspective a poster session could be useful with each commission providing a poster on the motivation for the commission and its history and who to contact. He also pointed out that the ECC workshops were not included in the programme and CC confirmed that this is because the online programme is automatically generated by Copernicus from abstract submissions. A suggestion was made that the commission meetings could be less formal evening meetings with 2 or 3 meetings per evening allowing for networking. DH confirmed this would be more helpful for early career members and offered his thanks to CC for helping them. MS suggested that more use good be made of the icebreaker with Commission officers serving the drinks from tables to encourage discussion. MJP suggested that sessions could have commission labels and time be provided at the end of sessions for discussion.

## **2. Overview of the SYSTA scheme**

KH 61 applications were received for SYSTA support to the Scientific Assembly – 15 were ineligible and 5 were received after the deadline. Eligible applications were from 14 countries in Africa plus one from Ecuador, two from India, four from Iran, one from Nepal and one from Tajikistan. 78% of eligible applicants were male and 22% were female. The most common eligible applicant first-authored papers submitted were from PIAHS (12), HSJ (3), Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies (2) and HESS (2).

Following evaluation by the SYSTA Committee, 27 awards were made to participate in the IAHS 2022 Scientific Assembly. Of the awardees, 19 were male (70%) and 8 female (30%); three were 20-<30 years of age, 22 were 30-<40 years of age and two were 40-<50 years of age at the time of application. The awardees come from 12 countries in Africa (Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia) plus one from Ecuador, two from India, three from Iran, one from Nepal and one from Tajikistan. Together with the six transferred SYSTA awards from 2020, 33 SYSTA awards were made to participate at the conference.

Unfortunately, five awardees were unable to attend due to visa issues, and one withdrew. The 27 attending awardees were accommodated together to enable them to support each other and encourage networking. The ECC were supportive of the awardees in advance and through the assembly with a WhatsApp group and direct contact. A SYSTA lunch was held on the Monday during the Assembly to get everyone together, set expectations and award certificates.

MD and BN gave their impressions of attending as SYSTA awardees at their first IAHS meeting and are now both ECC officers. They appreciated the help from IAHS and the ECC and will endeavour to help future SYSTA awardees.

MS asked if it is possible to get National Representatives to help in promoting the scheme and identify people to apply.

EL pointed out that currently the same people seem to be receiving multiple awards. KH confirmed that this is not the case for SYSTA as awardees are only supported to one intercontinental in-person conference and the applications go through a rigorous checking process. It was suggested that SYSTA awards could be prioritised for those who have not received conference participation support before, including other sources (e.g. EGU). A new section could be added to the SYSTA application to ask applicants if they have received conference participation grants before.

DR said that in some countries the National Reps are not very active and maybe this is an opportunity to have an online meeting with them and BA/CC to encourage them to interact more.

CC confirmed that SYSTA is funded by IAHS funds directly, but funding was also gained from WMO and this was used to support Commission officers to attend. CC indicated that funding from other sources may need to be sought to maintain the SYSTA scheme in the long-term.

GM for Africa the cost of registration is equivalent to approximately two months' salary. Asked if it is possible to use a different model to reduce the fees for financially disadvantaged countries such as used for the next Global FRIEND meeting in Dakar in 2023.

### **3. 2025 IAHS Scientific Assembly**

CC the next Scientific Assembly will be in 2025, and bids were expected two months ago. New bids have now been received, and which must be confirmed with CC by the end of September. The bids will be discussed in a remote Bureau meeting at the end of the year (November/December date to be confirmed). By 2025 the world will be different again and we are seen as having a huge carbon footprint on which we may be challenged future.

BA pointed out that scientists need to be creative together and online is not enough.

IP suggested local hubs such as Europe, Africa, Asia with synchronised events so a more distributed model but the local hub is in-person.

HK stated that inclusivity is a big topic, and we must ensure that meetings are not just for rich countries onsite, and others remotely so need to alternate between onsite and remote.

BA Commissions and Working Groups can solve specific questions in smaller groups with a targeted focus and agreed we need to consider inclusiveness.

CC in wrapping up, the bidders will be asked to submit a formal bid to CC by the end of September for a Bureau decision by the end of the year.

### **4. 2023 IUGG General Assembly in Berlin**

CC the joint symposia have been decided at a consolidation meeting with IUGG. Later in June 2022 we will learn about the grants and mechanism (IUGG grants are reimbursed after expenditure, unlike the SYSTA mechanism). Commissions work on standalone symposia is required by early summer.

IAHS officer elections will take place in the administrative plenary in Berlin as per the statutes <https://iahs.info/About-IAHS/Statutes---En.do>. Officers can be from any country, apart from the President who must be from a country paying IUGG membership fees. Voting rights belong to the National Representatives of IUGG member countries but some only pay the dues at the last minute so it is difficult to know until late as to who can vote. The Assembly starts on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and nominations need to be in 6-months in advance, so the deadline for nominations is 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023. We must advertise 9 months before so the call for nominations will be in September 2022. Candidates can be nominated by the National Representative of any country, the IAHS Bureau and the Scientific Commissions (except for President).

AA the challenge in the whole process is when the National Representative is not responding so is there a way around it?

CC It is possible to ask any National Representative. Their details are on the IAHS website <https://iahs.info/About-IAHS/National-Reps/A-Z-of-country-reps.do>

HK said transparency is important - can we do more to achieve a more gender/regional representation in the nominations?

BA We need to ask for balance and encourage more people from southern countries and more young people to apply.

There were several comments about how to encourage more people by direct approaches and be more open and inviting with open meetings and open fora. Suggestions were also made for the commissions to go through the presentations made during the Assembly and encourage people with potential to stand – similar to how AGU/EGU Presidents encourage people to nominate. CC pointed out that it is possible to send out eNews to subsets of the IAHS membership based on the Commission interest. ECC pointed out that their new committee was setup from application rather than nomination but still only two female applications were received (one spontaneous and one

encouraged) and can only elect from nominations. Many National Reps are not active, do not come to meetings but cannot be replaced. BA suggested that online meetings of the National Representatives (e.g. annually) a meeting may be necessary to get them more involved. CC impressed that if there is a desire to change from nomination to application for IAHS officers then this must be made in Berlin by voting on a change in the statutes.

## **5. ECC**

CC pointed out that the first ECC term ended at the 2022 Assembly and the second term started. Two first term ECC officers were present (GU and KB) and two new ECC (BN and MD). The first term started in Montreal in 2019 and should have ended at the Assembly in 2021 but was extended to the rescheduled assembly, so the term was longer than the two years envisaged. The second term will now end at the Scientific Assembly in 2025. After that, assuming we are back to biennial assemblies, the term will be two years.

An expression of thanks was given to all ECC officers.

## **6. Bureau**

DR pointed out that the Bureau meetings are too long partly due to the reports from Commissions and suggested that instead of reports being presented only questions on reports should be sought. This was seconded.

BA suggested preparing a template for Commission and Working Group reports to Bureau emphasising community activities.

J-MK It would be more useful to have look at the process upstream. Each Commission should produce a workplan and then the report should be the actions against that workplan.

BA Again this should be about promoting and initiating to show how each Commission contributes to the overall goals of the Association.

HK It is important that we remain informed as not everyone reads the reports. The template should focus on highlights then could maybe select 5 commissions to present.

It was agreed that CC and BA would prepare a report template for the November Bureau meeting.

CC agreed with a format and template then the in-person meeting will be less boring.

## **7. Forum feedback**

BA showed a slide with links to 4 documents: Montpellier Declaration; Equality Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Statement; IAHS Culture; and Additional Input.

The Montpellier Declaration provides three perspectives on how to progress on water related security and draws on the Prague Declaration in 2015. It needs to be based on bullet points with an introductory paragraph and be on the IAHS website as well as media release. Need to develop a communication strategy to plan and ascertain the goals of what to achieve. It must relate to the three communities: international scientific; governing authorities and research funding agencies.

EDI statement was worked on during the week with Stacey Archfield and Tarryn Payne online. Stacey is working on the comments from the meeting and then we will put the short statement online with a taskforce working on the plan.

IAHS Culture we need to be more transparent, inform better about our culture, values, mission and how we are organised and how to engage. Need to improve the website on core values with the SDGs at the basis of the communication strategy. Need a taskforce on science communication.

Need to separate into strategy and action plans to move towards a more bottom-up inclusive, open association.

The working group on science communication can wait until the IUGG General Assembly in Berlin in July 2023 to find people. The task force needs to be inclusive geographically and with regards to gender. Need worldwide focus to represent communication at different levels.

## **8. Next IAHS Scientific Decade**

BA need to kickstart deciding on the next scientific decade via a forum on the IAHS website. The forum should contain a high-level concept note and invite contributions of a title for the decade and a short motivation for it. Will have a workshop in January 2023 to consolidate ideas and circulate for a decision in Berlin in July 2023.

KH If the decision is to be in Berlin, then will need title, workplan etc so decisions about the topics needs to be earlier.

GB impressed that this must be a Bureau decision.

CC agreed that it can be part of the November/December 2022 Bureau meeting and then the workshop will cascade into a plan.

Discussion followed about where the workshop should be. AA suggested that he could host in California and MJP also suggested that she could host in Cordoba.

BA May need a plan B for March/April 2023 in case of winter Covid travel restrictions in which case it would align with EGU and GB could host in Vienna.

## **9. Digital Water Globe**

BA displayed a prototype version of the platform with an emphasis on case studies. Keywords are a list defined by the Task Force. Data time series – the upload function is not yet available. Aim is to have links to data rather than to host datasets and give them a DOI. Each case study/data set/publication can be tagged with a maximum of 5 locations.

If work on a flat map can use more plug-in software already developed. Compromise could be to start with the globe and then move to flat map when you zoom in.

Feedback from task force members contributing case studies so far is that the case study template is too onerous to fill in, so proposed to reduce the number of mandatory items. BA stated that images should be mandatory for case studies.

Feedback was that the platform is difficult to use on a phone (photos did not appear), but aim is that it should be accessible on all platforms.

GB will prepare a strategic plan for the Digital Water Globe and KH/BA will work on a management plan.

## **10. New IAHS medal**

BA Currently we have a bias of medal recipients as male northern hemisphere. Would like to instigate a new medal named Malin Falkenmark (MF) based on the best PhD thesis. There was discussion about how to level the field as PhDs can be written in the local language. It was suggested that submissions not in English would be allowed, to help widen the diversity, and that Bureau members with different language expertise might need to be drawn upon for the evaluation. BA will write a short description (and obtain permission from MF) to present at the Bureau meeting in November/December 2022. The first medal award is intended to be at the IUGG General Assembly in Berlin in July 2023.

## **11. Closure**

CML 18/08/22

## Attendees

				voting rights	
<b>IAHS</b>	PP	Günter Blöschl	Austria	1	GB
	P	Berit Arheimer	Sweden	1	BA
	SG	Christophe Cudennec	France	1	CC
	T	Kate Heal	UK	1	KH
	HSJ E	Attilio Castellarin	Italy	1	AC
	H VP	Dan Rosbjerg	Denmark		DR
<b>IAHS Office</b>	ES	Claire Lupton	UK		CL
<b>ICCE</b>		none			
<b>ICCLAS</b>		none			
<b>ICGW</b>		none			
<b>ICRS</b>	P	Amir AghaKouchak	Iran / USA	1	AA
	VP	Maria Jose Polo Gomez	Spain		MJP
	S	Gillet Boulet	France		
	ECC	Kartic Bera	India		
<b>ICSH</b>	VP	Chris Kochanek	Poland		
	S	Ilaria Prosdocimi	Belgium		IP
<b>ICSIH</b>	P	Melody Sandells	UK	1	MS
<b>ICSW</b>	PP	Gil Mahé	France		GM
	P	David Hannah	UK	1	DH
	3 VPs	Ernest Amoussou	Bénin		
		Alain Dezetter	France		
	ECC	Moctar Dembélé	Burkina Faso		MD
<b>ICT</b>		none			
<b>ICWQ</b>	Co-P	Elango Lakshmanan	India	1	EL
	VP	Alena Bartosova	Sweden		
	ECC	Bertil Nlend	Cameroon		BN
<b>ICWRS</b>	P	Barry Croke	Australia	1	BC
	VP	Jean-Marie Kileshye	Congo / Zimbabwe		J-MK
	S	Alberto Viglione	Italy		
	Former ECC	Gokcen Uysal	Turkey		GU
<b>Panta Rhei ECC</b>		Heidi Kreibich	Germany		HK
		In Commissions			

<b>MOXXI</b>	none
<b>CandHy</b>	none
<b>Guests</b>	none