

EC93: Abbreviated Minutes

Note: The main decisions and actions decided have been described in detail in the Information Bulletin IB112, July 2013:

<http://www.iau.org/static/publications/IB112.pdf>

The Executive Committee meeting #93 (EC93) took place in Nara, Japan, May 9-11, 2013.

In addition to EC members¹, Division Presidents (DPs)² were invited to participate, mainly to report on the implementation of the new IAU Divisional structure (approved at the Beijing GA in 2012), and on the outlook for a reform of the Commissions. Both separate and joint sessions between EC members and DPs were organized.

- 1) The main item reported and discussed with the DPs was the result of the elections to the respective Division Steering Committees (DSC) of six at-large members, in addition to the relevant Commission Presidents, who are ex-officio members. With a participation reaching 30% for some Divisions, this election was considered a success and a strong indication of community support. At Nara, the Divisions were therefore all in "working order" and ready for the next step, i.e., the reform of Commissions, due for the next EC meeting (EC94). (A detailed report written after EC93 by D. Silva is given in IB112.)
- 2) The IAU Secretariat in Paris has undergone a complete overhaul. In addition to Muriel Besson (Head of Administration), the position of Database Manager-Assistant has been filled by Julia Nauer, from Switzerland, who replaced Jana Žilova in October 2012. Both Muriel and Julia organized the DSC elections. In the course of these elections, it was discovered that the IAU database was actually quite incomplete, with up to 10% of the e-mails (in some Divisions) bouncing or otherwise incorrect (i.e., almost 1,000 individual members unreachable). (See details in IB112.)
This prompted a major action on the Secretariat to improve the situation and hunt for missing or incorrect e-mails with the help of National Members, Division Presidents, or even Google. The results will be reported at EC94.
- 3) The budget and accounts for 2012 (after the Beijing GA) and 2013 were presented by M. Besson. The budget is balanced, with (as required by law) a full year of spending in advance, currently in an HSBC savings account. (Details in IB112.)
- 4) The selection of scientific meetings and Symposia for 2014 was reported by AGS P. Benvenuti. Twenty-one Symposia were proposed, which is a success

¹ All present, except Xiaowei Liu, excused, but who could follow part of the sessions by Skype telecon, and G. Miley, excused.

² All present, except Façoise Combes, President of Div.J, replaced by Jayant Murthy

considering that the proposals were just following the 2012 GA. (Details in IB112.)

- 5) TM reported on progress made on the collaboration between UNESCO and the IAU towards the "World Heritage in Astronomy" initiative. The previous MoU, signed by GS K. van der Hucht in 2008 and extended in 2010, was renewed for another five years (and was the subject of an IAU Press Release <http://www.iau.org/news/pressreleases/detail/iau1302/>). In parallel, an agreement is in progress between the ICOMOS (International Committee on Monuments and Sites) and the IAU to the effect that the IAU will be on the Scientific Committee of ICOMOS. This is an ongoing action; an update will be presented at EC94.
- 6) On the Strategic Development Plan, a report was presented in a Skype telecon by K. Govender, Director of the Office of Astronomy for Development (OAD) at SAAO in Cape Town. K. Govender reported on the first campaign for selection of projects according to the three "Task Forces" (TFs), in the fields of: Children and Schools, Universities and Research, and Public Outreach. About 200 proposals were received, representing a total funding request of about 1 MEUR, or 10 times the available IAU funding through the OAD. Interesting projects that could not be funded were put on a "wish list". Also, K. Govender reported on the hiring of a Project Officer, J.-C. Mauduit, from France, to help manage the proposals, their funding, and other tasks at the OAD. (Details on the OAD web site <http://www.astro4dev.org/>.)
- 7) The other "IAU Office", the "Office for Astronomy Outreach", had been set up at NOAJ in Tokyo, with Sarah Reed, from the UK, starting work at the Beijing GA. Unfortunately, due mainly to health problems, Sarah left NOAJ before EC93. The written report she sent gave an account of her activity to start the OAO, by starting a Newsletter, reviving the National Outreach Contacts (see <http://www.iau.org/public/noc/>), and astronomy club networks set up during IYA2009, helping in various outreach initiatives across the globe, etc. The EC agreed that NOAJ would issue a new Job offer to replace her.
- 8) The upcoming General Assemblies were discussed. A report about the preparations for the Honolulu GA (2015) was presented in writing and via telecon by Kevin Marvel, AAS Executive Director. The main actions were the contracts signed by the AAS for the Hawai'i Convention Center in Waikiki, and a booking in advance of 26,500 rooms/nights. According to K. Marvel, the expected attendance could reach 4,000 participants (more details in IB112). The following GA will take place in Vienna in 2018. At the time of EC93, two convention sites were being considered. Both were visited by TM and PB, and one was recommended to the Vienna LOC. (The LOC later followed this recommendation and signed the contract.)
- 9) About GA meetings, following a suggestion by TM, the EC decided to merge "Special Sessions" and "Joint Discussions", that had become essentially undistinguishable, into 1-3 day "Focus Meetings" –shorter than Symposia and more "focused" on a given topic. Also, it was agreed that there would be no

"demoting" of Symposia into Focus Meetings (as was the case in the past for Special Sessions).

- 10) A discussion was held about possible actions to bring the IAU on a more "offensive" line for the public naming of exoplanets, after the Uwingu campaign targeting the closest exoplanet, Alpha Cen Bb. A press release had been issued in Spring, to make clear to the public that the process wouldn't be recognized by the IAU (see <http://www.iau.org/news/pressreleases/detail/iau1301/>). It was agreed that the IAU should define its own rules for accepting to sanction names proposed as a result of public naming campaigns by organizations. (These rules were made public on Aug. 14, 2013, see http://www.iau.org/public/themes/naming_exoplanets/)
- 11) The results of the 2013 TGF Fellowship were presented. Some concern was expressed by TM, because only two applications were received. These were judged equally excellent, but the selection went to the youngest candidate, an "extremely promising" young PhD student from Taiwan (going to UC Santa Cruz). TM indicated that putting a priority on PhD students might be a way to set the TGF Fellowship apart and attract more excellent candidates in the future.
- 12) To conclude the EC, the date and place of the next EC meeting (EC94) were agreed. At the invitation of M. Colless, the meeting would take place in Canberra, Australia, Apr.29-May 2, 2014.

FOR EC94: LIST OF ACTION ITEMS EC93						
	Reference	Actions	Who?	Status	Comments:	
EC93	A 3.1 Draft minutes EC92	Translation (French) of resolutions and publication on iau.org	TM	Done		
EC93	B 3.2 Minutes OM-2013	Crossed Division memberships ? Enquiry in database	JN/PB	ESO		
EC93	C 4.2 Progress report from Divisions	Database Clean-up	JN/PB/MA (ESO)	In progress	Report by MSS	
EC93	D 5.3 Contract with CUP	CUP contract has to be signed	TM/PB	Done		
EC93	E 7.1 ICOMOS-IAU Science Committee	Create a Commission on World Heritage and Astronomy?	TM (Clive Ruggles)	Not done	Wait for Commission reform	
EC93	F 9.2 Communication with the public new initiative	Work out new job description for OAO	NK/TM/KS/MKH	Done	Sze-leung Cheung hired (2014)	
EC93	G 10.1 XXIX GA in Honolulu	RAA: GA special issue?	TM	No		
EC93	G 10.1 XXIX GA in Honolulu	Provide participants with a simple device would be recommended (application/smartphone issue?)	MB	pending	Report by K. Marvel	
EC93	H 10.2 XXX GA (2018) in Vienna	The definite site for GA 2018 in Vienna must be chosen (2 options)	PB	June 2013	Venue chosen, agreement signed	
EC93	I 10.3 XXXI GA (2021): potential candidates	Find booklet with details on hosting a GA (see with JP or KVH if necessary) and publish online)	MB/JN	Non-existent		
EC93	J 11:3 Issue of "Associate members"	A text that is added to the website where the forms of memberships are listed	TM	Done	Sent to DPs also	
EC93	K 12.1 Report from DP discussions	Ask for help by the Natioan Memebers in order to find the missing e-mail addresses	JN --> MSS	Done		
EC93	K 12.1 Report from DP discussions	Which database management software?	PB	In progress	Discussions with ESO	
EC93	K 12.1 Report from DP discussions	Collect action items from DP (Evd)	JN	Done		
EC93	L 12.3 Action items & further implementation	Provide the next IB112 with a progress report / update of the first actions of the new Divisions	DPs	Done	IB112	
EC93	L 12.3 Action items & further implementation	World Heritage of Astronomy (UNESCO)	TM	Done		
EC93	L 12.3 Action items & further implementation	Report on OAO	From SR	Done	IB112	
EC93	L 12.3 Action items & further implementation	Updates on DSCs	MBB	Done	IB112	
EC93	L 12.3 Action items & further implementation	Short summary on digitizing the IAU archives	TM	Done	IB112	
EC93	L 12.3 Action items & further implementation	Info on the missing / bouncing e-mail addresses	MB	Done		
EC93	L 12.3 Action items & further implementation	Info on "Associates"	TM	In progress	After redefinition of Associates	
EC93	L 12.3 Action items & further implementation	Report on scientific meetings submitted for the GA	TM	Done	Selection by PB and EC	
EC93	M 20 EC95: 2015	Inform the DPs of the date: 30 April to 2 May	TM	Done	EC94	