

Minutes of the Business Meeting of IAGA WG V-OBS

Cape Town, South Africa, August 29, 2017

Agenda

1. Welcome and Agenda Approval
2. Report from WG Chair & Co-Chair
3. Report on the XVIIth Observatory Workshop held in Dourbes, Belgium, in September 2016
4. Information about the XVIIIth Observatory Workshop to be held at the Conrad Observatory near Vienna, Austria, in June 2018
5. Information and Vote about the XIXth Observatory Workshop
6. Situation of the USGS Geomagnetism Program
7. Resolution Proposals
8. Sessions Proposals for IUGG 2019, Montreal, Canada
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1. Welcome and Agenda Approval

WG Co-Chair Jürgen Matzka welcomed the participants and presented the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Report from WG Chair and Co-Chair

Main activities since the 2015 Business Meeting (BM) in Prague:

- The XVIIth IAGA Workshop on Geomagnetic Observatory Instruments, Data Acquisition and Processing was successfully held in Dourbes in September 2016; see below and IAGA News No. 53 (December 2016, page 9).
- A call for proposals to host the XVIIIth workshop was issued in July 2016. An ad hoc committee composed of IAGA officers (Monika Korte, Alan Thomson, Aude Chambodut, Kusumita Arora, Arnaud Chulliat, Jürgen Matzka) selected the proposal submitted by the Conrad Observatory, Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik, Austria (see below).
- A call for proposals to host the XIXth workshop was issued in April 2017, with the intention that the winning bid be selected by the participants of this BM. A proposal by the Kazan Federal University was submitted in July 2017 (see below).
- The list of observatories and IAGA codes (available as a Google Fusion Table on the WG website, <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/iaga/vobs/>) was updated following a “observatory list - please check your observatory” email in September 2016 that generated 33 responses. Thanks to all the respondents! An “altitude” field was added to the table, and more than one institution can now be listed in the “responsible institute” field, as recommended by the WG at the Prague BM. We thank the British Geological Survey for their continuous support of the WG website, and Susan Macmillan for her help in updating the Fusion Table. Similar “please check your observatory” emails will be regularly (e.g. annually) sent in the future.
 - *87 observatories have “Uncertain” status; please let us know if you have information on them.*
- Status of observatories - new IAGA codes:
 - Alexandrovka, ALX (status preliminary, code obtained November 2016)
 - Cheongyang-Gun, CYG (status open, IMO)
 - Icheon, ICH (status preliminary, code obtained August 2015)
 - Lonjsko Polje, LON (status open, IMO, code obtained July 2015)
 - Saint Petersburg, SPG (status open, IMO)

- *11 observatories have “Preliminary” status since before the last BM in 2015. Please consider submitting your data to a WDC and/or applying for INTERMAGNET membership, so that observatory status can be changed to “Open”.*
- News from INTERMAGNET (S. Flower, new Chair of Operations Committee)
 - Plans to further increase communication with community
 - A new metadata system for geomagnetic observatories is under development that will also service EPOS
 - The continuation of the DVD with annual definitive INTERMAGNET data is in discussion, it might be replaced by other means of data distribution
 - Introduction of DOIs is discussed
 - Latency of data availability to users shall be decreased
 - INTERMAGNET software repository can be found on intermagnet.org/publication-software/software-eng.php. For contributions, please mail to Flower, Simon M. smf@bgs.ac.uk

3. Report on the XVIIth Observatory Workshop held in Dourbes, Belgium, in September 2016

Jean Rasson reported on the workshop, which was attended by 87 participants from 37 countries (21 out of Europe). Fifty instruments were brought for comparison, and results were presented at the BM. Workshop proceedings will be published in a peer-reviewed inter-journal special issue, “The Earth’s magnetic field: measurements, data, and applications from ground observations”, of *Geoscientific Instrumentation, Methods and Data Systems (GI)* and *Annales Geophysicae (ANGEO)*. A more detailed report is available at http://www.iaga-aiga.org/data/uploads/pdf/newsletter/iaganews_53.pdf

4. Information about the XVIIIth Observatory Workshop to be held at the Conrad Observatory near Vienna, Austria, in June 2018

Barbara Leichter provided the following information about the upcoming workshop:

- The workshop website is now online, www.iaga-workshop.org, and the first circular was released in July.
- The workshop will be held from June 24th to 29th, 2018, at the observatory site, and will be preceded by a summer school on June 21st to 24th.
- Pillars for variometer and DI-flux intercomparison are in the observatory tunnel (6° C).
- There will be oral and poster presentations.
- MagNetE meeting and INTERMAGNET meeting will be co-hosted.

5. Information and Vote about the XIXth Observatory Workshop

A proposal to host the workshop by the Kazan Federal University was presented by Anatoly Soloviev (Geophysical Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences). The following information was provided:

- Kazan geomagnetic observatory (founded in 1827) located within Volga-Kama State Natural Reserve, 30 km north-west of Kazan
- Four pillars exist in the absolute house as well as four pillars in an additional pavilion
- Conference halls and meeting rooms are available at Kazan Federal University
- Transport from Moscow by 90 minutes flights or 12 h train
- Preferable date is beginning of June, other possibilities in July or September 2020
- Registration fee (except accommodation) approx. 500 EUR

The Kazan proposal was selected by unanimous vote.

6. Situation of the USGS Geomagnetism Program

- Presidential budget proposal suggested complete budget cut
- House of Representatives has restored budget
- Senate has made no decision yet and both must agree; President has to sign final budget
- All observatories operational at the moment
- This causes uncertainties for the long-term budget and operations of the observatories and accompanying science program

7. Resolution Proposals

The following resolution was proposed and discussed during the BM:

- IAGA, **considering** the value of continuity in high-quality, ground-based magnetic observations to increase our knowledge of Earth dynamics and space weather, **considering** the importance of such observations and related research in monitoring, modeling and forecasting extreme space weather events that could potentially disrupt the world economy and cost billions of dollars, **considering** the critical importance of such observations in developing global reference models such as the International Geomagnetic Reference Field, used in navigation (airborne, marine), satellite orientation, directional drilling and numerous other applications, **noting** that the United States presidential budget for Fiscal Year 2018 has proposed to eliminate the USGS Geomagnetism program, **noting** that most countries with advanced economies support an observational, research-based geomagnetism program, **urges** the United States government to continue funding permanent, ground-based magnetic observations in the United States and its territories, as well as observation-based research in geomagnetism.

The resolution was unanimously agreed by the BM participants and was passed to the Chair of Division V for further consideration.

Note added after the meeting: a slightly modified version of this resolution was eventually adopted by the IAGA Executive Committee and published on the IAGA website (<http://www.iaga-aiga.org>).

8. Session Proposals for IUGG 2019, Montreal, Canada

- Geomagnetic observatories: Current developments and integration into multidisciplinary Earth observation networks (A. Morschhauser, A. Gonsette, NN)
- Observation and interpretation of rapid secular variation fluctuations (with V-MOD, Div. I) (V. Lesur, I. Wardinski, NN)
- Geomagnetic observations for space science and space weather applications (with V-DAT and/or Div. IV and Div. V and IAGA Interdivisional Commission on Space Weather and/or WG VI) (E. Clarke, NN)

9. AOB

- Delegates were informed that the next IAGA-IASPE meeting will be held in Lisbon or in Hyderabad.

Jürgen Matzka thanked the participants for attending.