

Minutes of the Business Meeting of IAGA WG V-OBS

Lisbon, Portugal, 2 September, 2025

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Agenda Approval**
- 2. Report on the XXth Observatory Workshop held at Vassouras, Brazil**
- 3. Information about the XXIst Observatory Workshop Kakioka, Japan, in 2026**
- 4. Proposals for the XXIIInd Observatory Workshop in 2028**
- 5. News from INTERMAGNET**
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- 7. Proposal for systematic assignment of 3-letter code to variometer stations**
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- 9. Session proposals for the IUGG Assembly 2027 in Incheon, South Korea**
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1. Welcome and Agenda Approval

Working Group (WG) Chair Seiki Asari and Co-Chair Jürgen Matzka welcomed the participants to the business meeting and presented the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Report on the XXth Observatory Workshop held in Vassouras, Brazil

Marcos Vinicius Da Silva presented a report during the meeting on the last Workshop

- ✧ Dates: 31 October – 6 November 2024
- ✧ Location: Vassouras Magnetic Observatory, Brazil
- ✧ Participants: 92 attendees from 35 countries including 42 attendees who joined the Workshop Summer School.
- ✧ DI-Measurement Session: 116 measurements performed over five days using 24 instruments on four pillars, mostly excellent
- ✧ Further report: <https://iaga-aiga.blogspot.com/2024/11/xxth-iaga-workshop.html>

3. Information about the XXIst Observatory Workshop Kakioka, Japan, in 2026

Seiki Asari presented an update on the preparations for the upcoming IAGA Workshop (25 to 30 October 2026).

- ✧ Venues in Ishioka City: Kakioka Magnetic Observatory (for DI measurement sessions) and Himawari-no-Yakata Hall (for scientific sessions)
- ✧ Timeline leading up to the workshop and schedule during the workshop
- ✧ Representative members of the LOC (Chair: Masahito Nosé)
- ✧ Preliminary estimates of the participation fee, and sponsorship program

4. Proposals for the XXIIInd Observatory Workshop in 2028

Andrew Lewis proposed hosting the Oct 2028 IAGA Workshop in Canberra.

- ✧ Hosting institution: Geoscience Australia

- ✧ Venues: Canberra Observatory (for DI measurement sessions) and Geoscience Australia headquarters (for scientific sessions)

The proposal was unanimously approved, officially confirming Canberra as the host city for the 2028 Workshop.

5. News from INTERMAGNET

Jürgen Matzka reported on recent activities of INTERMAGNET:

- ✧ General introduction to INTERMAGNET
- ✧ OPSCOM more open for new members to join
- ✧ 2026 meeting to take place in Kyoto on 21 to 23 Oct before Kakioka workshop
- ✧ New manual version 5.2.0

6. Report from WG Chair & Co-Chair

Seiki Asari and Jürgen Matzka provided an update on recent activities of the WG:

- ✧ The mailing list server (listserv.dfn.de), currently managed by Jürgen Matzka for the “worldobs” group, may not reliably deliver emails. A community-supported alternative server is being sought.
- ✧ New IAGA station codes have been assigned:
 - JEJ - Jeju, South Korea
 - PIF - Pituffik, Denmark
 - JYP - Jayapura, Indonesia
 - SRG - Serang, Indonesia
 - MHV - Mikhnevo, Russia
- ✧ Reviewing process continues on publishing the Joint Special Issue covering the XIXth and XXth workshops.
- ✧ The official WG homepage has a new URL: <https://iaga-vobs.org/>
- ✧ The situation in Apia remains challenging (as shared by Tanja Petersen).

7. Proposal for systematic assignment of 3-letter code to variometer stations

Vincent Lesur proposed systematically assigning 3-letter codes to variometer stations, similar to the observatory codes used in the V-OBS list. The general idea was positively received.

- ✧ Issues raised: Technical and logistic difficulties, who would manage and develop the platform?
- ✧ Alternative suggestion: Use of 4-letter codes to avoid potential confusion with existing observatory codes.

8. Proposals for resolution

There was a proposal of resolution from Division V. Gauthier Hulot briefly introduced its idea and asked for opinions for improvement.

9. Session proposals for the IUGG meeting 2027 in Incheon, Republic of Korea

In response to IAGA’s request, a single broad session was proposed:

- ✧ Developments in geomagnetic observatories, measurements and instrumentation

Conveners were to be appointed in Division V meeting on the following day.

10. Information of WG election 2027 in Incheon

The current Chair and Co-Chair will serve until the IUGG meeting in 2027 (Incheon). As Jürgen Matzka will have served 12 years (beyond the originally intended 8-year term), a replacement will be needed. Participants were asked to consider potential candidates. Seiki Asari will continue as either Chair or Co-Chair.

11. AOB

The delegates thanked Seiki Asari and Jürgen Matzka for their service as Chair and Co-Chair, respectively. Seiki Asari thanked the participants for attending.