



IAHR Europe Regional Division

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Monday 21st March, 2011

09:30-11:00 CET

FINAL DRAFT

Agenda:

- Preparations for 2nd IAHR Europe Congress - Munich June 27-29th 2012
- Student Chapter Activities
- Newsflash Europe edition - Corrado Report
- Selection of venue for 3rd IAHR Europe Congress - 2014

Present:

(telephone conference call)

Aronne Armanini, Italy

Anton Schleiss, Switzerland (partial)

Corrado Gisonni, Italy

Gareth Pender, UK

Peter Rutschmann, Germany,

Francisco Pinto, Portugal

Silke Wieprecht, Germany

Mehmet Ali Kokpınar, Turkey

Pawel Rowinski, Poland

Christopher George IAHR (part)

Claudia Franch, IAHR

Prof. Armanini expresses solidarity of the IAHR members to Japanese colleagues, especially to IAHR President Prof. Tamai and Prof. Tanaka.

He wishes Estibaliz a speedy recovery, too.

Prof. Armanini suggests a change to the order of the agenda to take more advantage of the conference time. The attendees agree.

1. IAHR 2nd European Congress, Munich 2012.

Prof. Peter Rutschmann talks about the organisation of the congress. In particular, he expects to edit a written report of the final program to send to all committee members. In this way they will be able to give any feed-back and suggestions.

It is important to ensure a program that will be financially successful.



Several Committee Members ask for a PDF version to be circulated to the Committee: easier to disseminate to the committee members contacts.

It is necessary to strengthen the IAHR community to help promote the congress and one way to do this is through the Advisory Board: there should be at least one member per country involved and a balance of participants between every country.

It is important that the Committee Members are active in the preparation and conduct of the Congress; the LOC is expecting 400 participants since there is time enough to spread out the notice of the congress.

It is important to increase the participation of Eastern countries. Pawel Rowinski notes that a Symposium will take place in Poland in May 06 and that this can be used to promote Munich. ICS2011 is another event 06 in May in Poland 06 which could be used to promote the Munich event.

Corrado Gisonni suggests including news about the congress on Hydrolink and Newsflash. A picture of the next congress in Munich could be included in the news.

Christopher George ensures IAHR Secretariat will do as much publicity as it can and of course links will be posted on IAHR media.

The official congress website is already working 06 but will shortly be further developed.

The organization committee is working on the second version of the congress leaflet. Peter Rutschmann is waiting for the final list of advisory board names 06 which will include all the ERD Committee.

When it is ready it will be sent to all the committee members.

2. Student Chapter activities

The BW IAHR student chapter in Stuttgart is a very active community and the conference they organized in November 2010 went really well.

Prof. Silke Wieprecht co-ordinates this Student Chapter and lists the proposals of the students for the 2nd European IAHR congress:

1. pre-workshops for master classes, invite companies to meet the students and recruit new members for IAHR;
2. talk face-to-face with professionals and professors during the congress, during the pause and breaks, too;
3. prepare a discussion on a selected topic that could be decided online by students voting for one of 3-4 proposals;
4. open dialogue between students and IAHR professional members like they did in November, when it was really positive.

Young researchers could be the organizers of the students' activities.



To vote for the topic of the debate it would be better to have a dedicated section on the congress website (like a studentsøsection) or just post a link to another website, external of the official one. This will be discussed later.

Pawel Rowinski publicizes a biennial event organised in Poland which expressively is addressed to students and young researchers. ERD could take advantage of such an organization.

Peter Rutschmann remarks that there is a similar event involving Young Researchers from German-speaking countries. The combination of the events could help in involving more and more students within the IAHR activities.

Aronne Armanini proposes that IAHR should disseminate information about ðhow to set up a Student Chapterö, given that several colleagues are not aware about this issue.

What about a European Student Day?

3. Newsflash Europe edition

Prof. Corrado Gisonni observes that NewsFlash Europe is a strategic tool for involving more and more members in IAHR activities, as well as for spreading information towards practitioners. For this reason any kind of support from other members of the Committee is greatly appreciated.

Furthermore, NFE should involve more closely young members and researchers.

He proposes to start a new section in Newsflash on IAHR Student Chaptersøactivities.

Prof. Francisco Taveira Pinto notes that there are only 7 IAHR Student Chapters in Europe and that the new section on Newsflash could be useful to improve the activity of the students.

It is important to suggest to the academic world how to initiate a Student Chapter.

4. Location of the next IAHR Europe Congress (2014)

There are two candidates: Porto (Portugal) and Prague (Czech Republic).

Prof. Francisco Taveira Pinto briefly presents the conference area of Porto.

Prof. Mark Rieder was unable to attend the meeting and consequently cannot present the Prague area for the conference.

At this point Francisco Pinto is invited to leave the meeting.

Comments:

- Concerning the venues, both Prague and Port are historic, beautiful, and charming European cities, and both the bids are very interesting.
- Both the bidders have already presented a bid for the biannual General Congress
 - o Porto for the 2011 (Brisbane) and 2013 (Chengdu)



- Prague for the 2013 (Chengdu) and 2017 (den Haag/Delft)
- Other points to be considered are:
- the accessibility of the site.
 - There are not so many differences between the two bids in the accessibility of the site (maybe Prague offers more connections but Porto has more low cost connections; this is particularly important for the students and young researchers and attracting new young potential members is a precise policy of IAHR).
- Fees and costs
 - There is no difference between the two bids in the fee for the students and young researchers, while the difference in fee for IAHR and full delegates is small (25 Euro).
 - Prague is probably more convenient as regards the costs of lodging, but Porto compared to the European capitals, is cheap too.
- the reliability and the experience of the hosting Institution (and of the IAHR members involved), in particular, the commitment and involvement of the bidders in different IAHR initiatives:
 - The Portuguese group of IAHR members is very active inside the IAHR Organization.
 - The Portuguese have very good experience in organizing congresses; they are very active; the Portuguese group (Francisco Pinto, Antonio Cardoso, & Betamio de Almeida) has demonstrated a remarkable organizational capacity with RIVERFLOW 2006 in Lisbon. It was a very successful Congress, with an important participation also of the non-academic institutions and of young researchers and students.
 - This is very important for the future of the European Division, because the involvement of new generations and of the professionals and of the industry is one of our specific target.
 - The major point in favour of Prague is its proximity with the East Europe: this could be an investment of the EU Division because we have to increase the participation of the east European countries.
- Consider to have the 3rd conference in one of the two places and the 4th in the other, but the final decision on the 4th Europe Congress will be taken later;
- It is suggested that Mark Rieder (member of the Prague Committee) organize a topic event, a seminar or a conference about Hydrology in Prague;
- It is important to involve eastern Europe and this is the occasion to give a chance to be more involved and active;
- Ecology is a new important topic in IAHR but it is still not represented so this could be the occasion to do it;
- In Porto there are interesting hydraulic structures ongoing;
- Idea to test the capacity of East Europe to involve members and professional;
- Porto looks the best proposal, but the Prague proposal is really appreciated, the following conference could take place there;



Decision:

- The Committee decides by large majority that the 3rd IAHR Europe Congress will be in Porto in 2014.
- Concerning the 4th IAHR Europe Congress the Committee unanimously agrees to locate the Congress in an East Europe country and possibly in Prague. The final decision will be taken during the next Committee Meeting in Munich.

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