

Joint IAHR-IWA-IAHS Hydroinformatics Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 13/08/2009

Time: 4:05 pm

Venue: Cypress Room, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Attendees: 26 members (See Annex 1)

Minutes taken by Amin Elshorbagy, with minor edits by Yui Liong and Dragan Savic

- 1.** Welcome and opening remarks by Yui Liong, and approval of the meeting agenda. Hardcopies of proposed by-laws and HIC2010 Tianjin promotional brochures were made available.
- 2.** The minutes of the January meeting in Concepcion, Chile, were agreed.
- 3.** Structural Changes of IAHR
 - 3.1. Peter Goodwin, vice president of IAHR and in charge of HydroEnvironment Division briefed the Committee on the structural changes of IAHR, and highlighted the following main points:
 - The term Committee is now used instead of Section;
 - Open and transparent organization with more rooms & opportunities for young scientists;
 - More accountability through expected deliverables from the three divisions
 - 3.2. Peter Goodwin also emphasized the importance of coordinating specialty meetings or workshops with other sister organizations.
- 4.** Draft of Bye-Laws of IAHR-IWA-IAHS Hydroinformatics Joint Committee (See Annex 2 and Annex 3)
 - 4.1. Yui Liong first gave a summary of the proposed by-laws draft of the Joint Committee.
 - 4.2. Yui Liong also showed a name list of reviewers and supporters to the proposed by-laws. (See Annex 4)
 - 4.3. Yui Liong explained the immediate need of 2 working groups dedicated to Publication and Conference.

- 4.4. Dragan Savic made it clear that in this Committee meeting no voting from the members present in the meeting was to take place. However, views and suggestions were welcome. Views from parent organizations are solicited and to be mutually agreed by the three parent organizations.
- 4.5. Members discussed the possibility of increasing the size of the leadership team beyond the suggested six members.
- 4.6. Members discussed the definition of who could be considered as the Committee members (e.g., attending hydroinformatics conferences, publishing in the Journal, etc). Massimo Grecco and James Ball, suggested that there could be a wider membership of the committee, including all those from the three parent organization that express interest in joining it, but the voting rights should be restricted to those members that contribute to the activities of the committee. Suggestions were made that voting members are those who have attended at least one of the immediate past 2 Hydroinformatics Conferences, and/or published a paper in the Journal of Hydroinformatics in the past 2 years.
- 4.7. Philippe Gourbesville suggested the possibility of using the video-conferencing technology for the Committee meetings.
- 4.8. Arthur Mynett emphasized the importance of aligning the by-laws with the IAHR by-laws and also the need to get quick feedback on it from IWA and IAHS.
- 4.9. Nigel Wright raised a concern over a statement in the by-law that indicates that the Committee will operate “freely and independently of IAHR”. A response was given that “freely and independently” is with reference to scientific activities.
- 4.10. Massimo Grecco suggested that proposals for amendments should require support of 2/3 of votes received rather than 2/3 of all committee members. James Ball proposed to have an officer to manage the electronic voting system.
- 4.11. Dragan Savic encouraged James Ball and Arthur Mynett to discuss the by-laws in the next IAHS meeting during the upcoming Hyderabad Scientific Assembly (September 2009). He emphasised once again that the by-laws were drafted in consideration of all three parent organizations. The current document presents IAHR’s view and a starting point for discussion with the 2 parent organizations.

5. HIC2010 Tianjin

- 5.1. Jianhua Tao gave a presentation on the 9th International Conference on Hydroinformatics in Tianjin, China in 2010 (www.hic2010.org) and asked everybody in the Committee to promote the conference.
- 5.2. Arthur Mynett suggested extending the abstract submission deadline and shortening the abstract review time.

6. Candidatures of HIC2012

- 6.1. Dimitri Solomatine gave a short presentation promoting UNESCO-IHE to host the 10th Conference on Hydroinformatics in 2012
- 6.2. Erik Pasche then presented T.U. Hamburg-Harburg as a possible host for HIC2012.
- 6.3. Dragan Savic, on behalf of Belgrade, presented the University of Belgrade as a possible host of HIC2012.
- 6.4. Yui Liong mentioned that the Committee will soon come up with a questionnaire which all contenders have to complete. A working group for conferences will be set up to decide which candidate should hold HIC2012. The timeline for the decision is February 2010 at the latest. Arthur Mynett recommended appointing Yui Liong, Roger Falconer and Philippe Gourbesville to the working group on conferences.
- 6.5. Roger Falconer brought up the need, whenever possible, to consider a back-to-back (and the proximity of) conferences of HIC with other closely relevant conferences (e.g. eco-hydraulics). Falconer also brought to the members' attention the importance of the ICHE conference promoted by Prof. Sam Wang. Peter Goodwin mentioned a possible joint meeting organized in the same week; a positive willingness from both parts for a good management of the 2 events is very much welcome.

7. Journal of Hydroinformatics

- 7.1. Dragan Savic briefed the Committee about the J. Hydroinformatics (See Annex 5) and highlighted the following issues:
 - a. Three new Associate Editors (AEs) have been appointed since April 2009 and due to increased submissions and uneven loading of AEs due to their scientific background, it is envisaged that more AEs will be appointed in the near future.
 - b. Editorial aim is to continuously improve the quality of the Journal
 - c. He mentioned that the new policy is to use three reviewers for each manuscript;
 - d. The need for paying attention to citing papers from the journal of hydroinformatics when the paper warrants it;
 - e. The need for increasing practice oriented papers, technical notes, and discussion papers and the role of AEs in achieving that goal.
 - f. Possibility to increase the frequency of Journal from 4 – 6 issues annually in the near future.
 - g. Ensuring that the paper review period is limited to 3 months.
 - h. Electronic online publication before hardcopy publication.
- 7.2. Arthur Mynett noted that the impact factor of the Journal increased already and due credit should be given to the former Editor-in-Chief Vladan Babovic.

- 7.3. Dimitri Solomatine suggested soliciting practice oriented papers from industries.
- 7.4. Roger Falconer suggested encouraging IWA members to submit papers on water treatment to the Journal; this may also help increase the impact factor.
- 7.5. Dragan Savic concluded by thanking former Editor-in-Chief (V. Babovic) and former Associate Editor (L. Weber) for their contribution to the Journal. Thanks were also extended to Michael Dunn and Emma Gulseven of IWA.

8. Closing Remarks

- 8.1. Peter Goodwin made a general remark that having the previous conference in Chile has made an impact in terms of building institutional capacity in new places, and also promoted Hydroinformatics in Latin America.
- 8.2. Peter Goodwin also thanked the new Team for drafting excellent by-laws; the amended by-laws will soon be discussed among the office holders of the three parent organizations.
- 8.3. Yui Liong thanked all for their participation in the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.