

## INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION

Executive Committee - 80th Meeting

April 18-20, 2005

INAF

Rome, Italy

MINUTES

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ronald D. Ekers	President
Catherine Cesarsky	President-Elect
Oddbjørn Engvold	General Secretary
Karel A. van der Hucht	Assistant General Secretary
Beatriz Barbuy	Vice-President
Chen Fang	Vice-President
Kenneth A. Pounds	Vice-President
Silvia Torres-Peimbert	Vice-President
Brian Warner	Vice-President
Robert E. Williams	Vice-President
Franco Pacini	Adviser
Hans Rickman	Adviser

## DIVISION PRESIDENTS:

Francesco Bertola	Division VIII
Jørgen Christensen-Dalsgaard	Division V
Dainis Dravins	Division IV
John E. Dyson	Division VI
Toshio Fukushima	Division I
Haruyuki Okuda	Division XI
Luis F. Rodriguez	Division X
Christiaan Leo Sterken	Division IX
Virginia Trimble	Division XII
David F. Webb	Division II
Patricia Ann Whitelock	Division VII
Iwan P. Williams	Division III

## INVITED:

Jan Palous	GA XXVI
Stepan Michalowski	OECD

## In attendance:

Monique Léger-Orine	Executive Assistant
Claire Vidonne	Administrative Assistant

## OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT

The Executive Committee (EC) is welcome by Prof Piero Benvenuti, President of the National Institute of Astrophysics. The IAU President, Ron D. Ekers, thanks Prof Piero Benvenuti and Prof. Franco Pacini for their kind invitation to hold the meeting at the historic venue of Monte Mario Observatory in Rome.

Ron Ekers welcomes the EC members and the Division Presidents.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

After some minor reshuffling, the agenda is approved.

## DISCUSSION ON IAU STRATEGY DIRECTIONS

Ron Ekers presented an overview of the IAU organizational structure and he stressed the role of each level of the Union. He emphasized that initiatives should come from the levels where the science is done, i.e. in Commissions, Working Groups and Program Groups. Also, in accordance with the new Statutes and Bye-Laws the Commissions and its WG shall be prepared to respond and adapt to new challenges and demands resulting from development in various fields. No Commissions are guaranteed a lifetime beyond two triennia, after which they will all be reviewed. The Divisions should be aware of this more dynamic operation of the Union. As an organization, the IAU shall be receptive and responding to rapidly developments and the changes in astronomy.

The President invited input and comments from the Division Presidents (DPs). A number of issues were brought up and several of these were concluded by votes of the EC members and the DPs. The following summarized the main points of this discussion:

1. Scientific meetings: Symposia and Regional Meetings are unique to the IAU, and should be given priority. Regional Meetings will continue to be important to developing countries and therefore important to the IAU. Financial support of Colloquia are highly worthwhile and serve a meaningful purpose, but the IAU cannot compete with smaller organizations in terms of organizational lead time. It was agreed that the IAU should discontinue its support of Colloquia and instead support up to nine Symposia every year. Also, special sessions for young astronomers are now planned to be part of the programme of the General Assemblies. It was unanimously accepted that the IAU would not endorse such as, f. inst. periodical meetings unless these meeting also are found worthy of financial support.
2. The present Working Rule that presently limits the number of Organizing Committee members up to 16, may be relaxed and enlarged some, in order to reflect all the fields covered by the Divisions.
3. Electronic voting: The IAU should allow for electronic voting on more general issues, since that would enable more of its Individual Members to vote and thereby strengthen the democratic aspects. It is at the same time recognized that many issues are too complex to be dealt with without a proper discussion and exchange of views in a plenum meeting.
4. The IAU Division XI covers a very broad range of scientific areas. In the forthcoming review of its Commission and Working Group structure, it should consider whether or not it will wish to cover both space and high energy. Should the IAU strengthen its involvement in technical issues? The involvement of astronomers and users of astronomical instrumentation in technological programs shall be encouraged, but one sees no need for a specific IAU Technical Division.

5. It is recognized that IAU Division III has notable "book keeping" responsibilities, i.e. naming of planet and solar system bodies and features, definition of planets, etc. It will be Division III's responsibility to set limits to how small bodies and features are significant enough to require specific names. Division III is encouraged to consider whether or not a new Commission on Exo-solar planet is due.
6. Membership within the IAU: Individual Members may presently be admitted by the Executive Committee upon the nomination from a President of a Division only, if the individual in question is not represented by a National Member. This clause was seen to be too strict since other cases may be foreseen where Division Presidents may nominate an individual. It was agreed to delete from Bye-Law Para. 4, the following sentence: "if the individual in question is not represented by a National Member" (Bye-Law 4). The category of IAU Consultant is discontinued. As these specialists are of importance for the IAU activities, it is proposed to have them incorporated as members of the IAU. This special category shall disappear.
7. Resolutions: Resolutions should be handled a lot more efficiently than what has been done in the past. It is important that all resolutions be carefully checked by those Divisions that may be concerned to ensure that they do not conflict with existing resolutions. All resolutions shall in addition be studied by the Executive Committee and by the Resolutions Committee before submitted for the General Assembly. Resolutions shall be presented by a representative of those who proposed it. Resolutions on scientific issues, which presently are being voted by National Members at General Assemblies, will in the future be voted by Individual Members.

Following the discussions, Robert Williams agreed to formulate a modified text of the IAU Statutes and Bye-Laws, in accordance with the decisions mentioned above, in consultation with the Working Rules Committee and the IAU Secretariat.

## DISCUSSION ON IAU POLICIES

### THE YEAR OF ASTRONOMY (YoA) 2009

It is decided that, a modest amount be made available for the Working Group in charge of coordinating the various 2009 Year of Astronomy activities. It is realized that local funding will have to be obtained in each country that shall be planning national arrangements as well and being partly integrated in the more global program. One will check with IUPAP how it contributed to the Year of Physics, financially and otherwise.

### IAU'S POLICY ON ASTRONOMICAL DATA

The EC is aware of the threats to open-access to astronomical data bases proposed by World Intellectual Property Organizations, the European Union and other bodies, and it expressed its appreciation for the invaluable efforts and work that is being done by ICSU's CODATA and IAU's Commission 5 to safeguard these rights in the very best interest to the astronomers world wide.

### NEWS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WORKING GROUPS

The EC took note of the IAU WG on "Future Large Scale Facilities" and the WG on "Women in Astronomy". It agreed that the latter WG should plan a luncheon at the GA in Prague similar the one arranged in Sydney.

## MATTERS CONCERNING DIVISIONS

The EC took note of the written reports from IAU Divisions I, II, III, VI and XII.

## PROCEDURES FOR SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION OF MEETING PROPOSALS

*(Notes from Division XII President, V. Trimble)*

### *Procedure*

- Simplify the number of deadlines and steps to just: Letter of Intent;
- Consultation with commissions & divisions informally; Final Proposal;
- Ranking by DPs; teleconference or email round-robin; final recommendation to EC;
- Decision by EC; notification.
- Final Proposal deadline around 15 January rather than 15 December.

### *Format of proposals*

- Aim for one file per proposal.
- Provide some guidance where proposers enter their material on desired length and content of proposal

### *"Negotiation" stage after letters of intent*

- Commission & Division Ps need to check more carefully for composition of SOC, preliminary list of speakers, suitability of editors, possible mergers

### *Final Proposals*

- include a check off box for gender of SOC members and a place to indicate previous experience/qualifications of editor(s)

### *Ranking stage - Criteria*

- importance and timeliness of science content
- quality of the proposal (does it have the necessary information, good explanation of significance of science etc?)
- distribution of subtopics and locations of symposia
- quality of SOCs and editors (but if stage C works, they should all be very good)
- "peripherals", for instance public talks, activities for local teachers, and for local young astronomers and students, associated with the symposium (SOC might include an "outreach coordinator")

### *Voting stage*

There are rather few ways that this can be made to show both priorities and strength of feelings without encouraging "strategic voting". A good one is called Borda voting, for a long-ago French academician who thought of it as a way to elect new academy members.

Each DP MUST rank every proposal in a given category, with numbers ranging from N down to zero (for a category with N+1 proposals). Ties can be indicated by assigning two proposals 3.5 (rather than 4 and 3), but it is not allowed to skip either proposals or numbers in the sequence down from N.

Ranking should be done twice by each DP - first for the proposals exactly as submitted, and again for the proposals as the DP thinks they should be modified.

A given topic might, for instance, rank higher for a JD than for a symposium or higher for a 3-day (non-GA) symposium than for a 5 day one, if the topics are quite specialized. Or a proposal might rank higher de-scoped if the topic was initially too broad.

Simple adding all 12 DP votes from the first ranking will then produce a prioritized list of numbers like 75, 69, 68, 45.5, 43.5, 27, 19, 3 (for instance) that make it rather easy to decide that one wants to give very serious consideration to the first three, the next two if possible, but probably not the last three.

Some discussion among the DPs is likely to be needed before deciding over the final ranked list to the EC to incorporate suggested changes, including possible mergers if these were not caught at the earlier "negotiation" stage.

#### PROCESS OF ELECTION OF DIVISION PRESIDENTS

The current Working Rules provide ample guidelines for preparation and conduction of the election of Division Presidents and Vice-Presidents.

#### MINUTES OF EC79

The minutes were approved.

#### REPORT ON OFFICER'S MEETING, 7-8 February 2005

The IAU President reported on the ongoing work of the Special Nomination Committee.

IAU Advisor, Franco Pacini, reported (via telephone) on the preparation for the '2009 Year of Astronomy'. Catherine Cesarsky and Ron Ekers will join the committee for '2009 Year of Astronomy.'

A proposal for organization of a session for Young Astronomers at GA26 was presented by Dr. Michelle Gerbaldi (elected Chair of OC for this session). Discussions resulted in a modified program.

Status of the GA XXVI planning were given by IAU Executive Assistant, IAU General Secretary, and NOC Chair, Dr. Jan Palous (on telephone).

The IAU GS will provide guidelines for prospective hosts of future IAU General Assemblies.

IAU Assistant General Secretary presented and reviewed the applications for scientific meetings in 2006. The number of proposals and their overall quality, gave hope for a strong and rich science program at the General Assembly in Prague.

The features and layout of new IAU web site were demonstrated by IAU Administrative Assistant, Claire Vidonne.

#### REPORT FROM SPECIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Assistant General Secretary/ General Secretary

What concerns the choice of Assistant General Secretary/ General Secretary, it seems to the SNC that given today's modern transportation, both Assistant General Secretary and General Secretary could be chosen from countries outside Europe, contrary to current tradition. Till now, the IAU has not paid salary to the General Secretary, neither to the Assistant General Secretary, who are supported by their home institute. This tends to become a problem, at a time of budgetary restrictions in many member countries and may have to be taken into account in future triennia. No names for the next Assistant General Secretary was yet available

## Vice-Presidents

The earlier proposal to replace IAU Vice-Presidents by Presidents of Divisions replace the Vice-Presidents was given up basically since it would jeopardize the balance of nationalities within the Executive Committee. The three outgoing Vice-Presidents are:

Kenneth A. Pounds	United Kingdom
Silvia Torres-Peimbert	Mexico
Robert E. Williams	USA

No new Vice-Presidents were yet nominated.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

### NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ARREARS

Chile, France and Sweden have not paid the fees for 2003 and 2004.

### WAIVER OF DUES

The EC agrees the waiver of the fees 2000-2003 (CHF 12575) of *Bulgaria*, provided the fees for 2004-2005 will be paid before the end of 2005.

### ACCOUNTS 2004

The General Secretary explains the high amount of "negative" interests, corresponding to a wrong imputation of a transfer for GA XXV by AMRO. He will take further steps to obtain from AMRO the reimbursement of the sums unduly charged.

### ACCOUNTS VERSUS BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 2000-2004

The expenditure is in line with the budget for the triennium and bring no special comment.

### DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2007-2009

The General Secretary is asked to make the following amendments to the proposed budget:

Due to the agreed need to strengthen the IAU Secretary some increase in salary and charges will be necessary. A modest, new funding of the IAU's planning and involvement of the "Year of Astronomy" was recommended. These increased budget items will be balanced by:

- Some reduction in the total amount for grants at GA;
- A minor decrease in the total amount for grants for Symposia;

### REPORT FROM THE AAS MEETING

Vice-President, Robert Williams, reported from recent discussions of the USNC at the occasion of the January meeting of the AAS. The main worry and concern are the US contribution to the IAU per Individual Member, which is close to half of the contribution from other major National Members. The USNC does not believe that it realistic to raise the contribution to the IAU which is paid mainly by funds from the NSF, via National Academy of Sciences. It is therefore considering to charge the individual members an extra amount of USD 25/year as a contribution to the US payment to the IAU. Concern were expressed among members of the EC that a such model might later also be copied by other National Member, with obvious overall negative effects. The USNC was not enthusiastic about this proposal either.

## CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MINOR PLANET CENTRE

The MPC Contract Committee (Hans Rickman, Mike A'Hearn, Steve Cheseley and Giovanni Valsecchi) who is charged with the task to negotiate new Terms of Reference (12.2) for an MPC under SAO, has progressed slowly under the new SAO director, Dr. Charles Alcock. The main reason for this is that Dr. Alcock is not prepared to make a final decision this spring, and he has asked for extra time. In consultation with the MPC Negotiation Committee, the IAU GS has agreed to accept a final answer from the SAO before September 1, 2005. In order to allow also the IAU to prepare for the event that that the IAU shall have to choose an alternative host for the MPC (12.1), the IAU GS has prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which will allow the IAU in the meantime to contact alternative, interested institutions. This MoU is currently being reviewed by the SAO Director.

## SELECTION OF THE 2006 SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM OF THE XXVITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### *Invited Discourses*

Four Invited Discourses have been selected:

- Jill Tarter on the evolution of life in the Universe
- Alan Title on the magnetic field and its effects on the solar atmosphere as observed at high resolution
- Shuang Nan Zhang on Similar phenomena at different scales: black holes, sun, supernovae, galaxies and galaxy clusters
- Reinhard Genzel on The power of new experimental techniques in astronomy: Zooming in on the black hole in the center of the Milky Way

#### *Symposia*

- S 235 Galaxy Evolution across the Hubble Time
- S 236 Near Earth Objects, our Celestial Neighbors: Opportunity and Risk
- S 237 Triggered Star Formation in a Turbulent ISM
- S 238 Black Holes: from Stars to Galaxies: across the Range of Masses
- S 239 Convection in Astrophysics
- S 240 Binary Stars as Critical Tools and Tests in Contemporary Astrophysics

#### *Joint Discussions*

- JD 01 Cosmic Particle Acceleration: from Solar System to AGN
- JD 02 Pulsar Emission and Related Phenomena
- JD 03 Solar Active Regions and 3D Magnetic Structure
- JD 04 The Ultraviolet Universe: Stars from Birth to Death
- JD 05 Calibrating the Top of the Stellar M-L Relation
- JD 06 Neutron Stars and Black Holes in Star Clusters
- JD 07 The Universe at  $z > 6$
- JD 08 Solar and Stellar Activity Cycles
- JD 09 Supernovae: One Millennium after SN1006
- JD 10 Progress in Planetary Exploration Missions
- JD 11 Pre-Solar Grains as Astrophysical Tools

JD 12	Long Wavelength Astrophysics
JD 13	Exploiting Large Surveys for Galactic Astronomy
JD 14	Modeling Dense Stellar Systems
JD 15	New Cosmology Results from the Spitzer Space Telescope
JD 16	Nomenclature, Precession and New Models in Fundamental Astronomy
JD 17	Highlights of Recent Progress in the Seismology of the Sun and Sun-like Stars

*Special Sessions*

SPS 1	Astronomical Facilities of the Next Decade
SPS 2	Innovation in Teaching/Learning Astronomy Methods
SPS 3	The Virtual Observatory in Action: New Science, New Technology and Next Generation Facilities
SPS 4	"Hot Topics"
SPS 5	Astronomy for the Developing World
SPS 6	Astronomical Data Management
SPS 7	Astronomy in Antarctica

MEETINGS OUTSIDE GA XXVI

*Symposia*

S 233	Solar Activity and its Magnetic Origin <i>31 March-3 April 2006, Cairo, Egypt</i>
S 234	Planetary Nebulae in our Galaxy and Beyond <i>3-7 April 2006, Waikoloa Beach, HI, USA</i>
S 241	Stellar Populations as Building Blocks of Galaxies <i>10-14 December 2006, La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain</i>

*Colloquia*

As of 31 December 2005, the IAU Colloquium Series will end, or rather, will be up-graded to IAU Symposia. The IAU EC encourages those who wish to propose IAU meetings for 2007 to propose those as IAU Symposia. About nine IAU Symposia will be approved for 2007.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

XXVI<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PRAGUE

*Report on preparation*

Jan Palous reports on the preparation of the General Assembly. The following points are mentioned:

- 50 connections for wireless Internet rooms will be installed;
- deadlines for input for scientific programme and submission of abstracts will be made as late as possible;
- The abstract service will be handled by Oxford Abstracts directly with the IAU. The electronic version of the abstract book will be printed by ICARIS;
- the deadline for applications for grants is set to April 10, in order to allow notification before the end of April to respect the early registration date;



- the registration fee is approved, as per the following table:

Assumption	Without Forum Hall		With Forum Hall		Farewell Dinner	
	CZK/EUR	CZK/EUR	CZK/EUR	CZK/EUR	CZK/EUR	
Participants						
	2500	16100/536	20100/670	16500/550	20500/683	1250/45
	2000	19500/650	22500/741	19900/663	22900/763	1400/47

#### *Opening ceremony*

Among the current items is the PGF ceremony, which will be made short, as in Sydney. The GS is to settle this with them. Also, as Czech past General Secretary, Lubos Perek should be honoured in one way or the other.

#### *Session for Young Astronomers*

A meeting followed by a lunch with Young Astronomers is planned. This event will be specially attended by EC Members.

#### *Session for Women in Astronomy*

A session with lunch is planned. AAS is willing to offer USD 1000 to support this meeting.

#### *Resolutions*

Resolutions ought to be presented by the proposer(s), in the best interest of all parties.

### **FUTURE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES**

#### **STATUS OF PLANNING FOR GA XXVII (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)**

The EC wishes to see that the government of countries that wish to host an IAU General Assembly will commit to a certain level of financial support in the offer presented by the inviting National Member. Concerns were raised that governments like the Brazilian may be reluctant to make such commitments so long in advance.

The announced registration fee of USD 250 for this GA is particularly attractive. However, the Brazilian colleagues are requested to check that this amount really covers all the normal items included in the fee.

Also, Brazil is invited to prepare an adequate presentation and announcement of the XXVIIIth General Assembly at the XXVIth General Assembly in Prague, where a free booth will be made available to them.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION OF HOSTS OF FUTURE GAS STARTING WITH GA XXVIII**

Instructions for hosting IAU General Assemblies have been written, and the General Secretary is due to send the to the three following countries, from which invitations to host the XXVIIIth General Assembly have been received: Greece, Germany and China. The guidelines are also available on the web.

## PUBLICATIONS

### PROCEEDINGS OF SYMPOSIA

#### *Proceedings published in 2004 (10)*

IAU Symposium No. 210  
Modelling of Stellar Atmospheres  
17-21 June 2002, Uppsala, Sweden  
Eds. N. Piskunov, W.W. Weis & D.F. Gray  
(San Francisco: ASP) ISBN: 1-58381-160-5, February 2004

IAU Symposium No. 213  
Biastronomy 2002: Life Among the Stars  
8-12 July 2002, Hamilton Island, Great Barrier Reef, Australia  
Eds. R.P. Norris & F.H. Stootman  
(San Francisco: ASP) ISBN: 1-58381-171-0, July 2004

IAU Symposium No. 214  
High Energy Processes and Phenomena in Astrophysics  
6-10 August 2002, Suzhou, China  
Eds. Xiang Dong Li, V.L. Trimble & Z.R. Wang  
(San Francisco: ASP) ISBN: 1-58381-157-5, January 2004

IAU Symposium No. 215  
Stellar Rotation  
8-12 November 2002, Cancun, Mexico  
Eds. A. Maeder & P.R.J. Eenens  
(San Francisco: ASP) ISBN: 1-58381-180-X, November 2004

IAU Symposium No. 217  
Recycling Intergalactic and Interstellar Matter  
14-17 July 2003, Sydney, Australia  
Eds. P.A. Duc, J. Braine & E. Brinks  
(San Francisco: ASP) ISBN: 1-58381-166-4, June 2004

IAU Symposium No. 218  
Young Neutron Stars and Their Environment  
14-17 July 2003, Sydney, Australia  
Eds. F.M. Camilo & Brian M. Gaensler  
(San Francisco: ASP) ISBN: 1-58381-178-8b, December 2004

IAU Symposium No. 219  
Stars as Suns: Activity, Evolution and Planets  
21-25 July 2003, Sydney, Australia  
Eds. A.K. Dupree & A.O. Benz  
(San Francisco: ASP) ISBN: 1-58381-163-X, September 2004

IAU Symposium No. 220  
Dark Matter in Galaxies  
21-25 July 2003, Sydney, Australia  
Eds. S.D. Ryder, D.J. Pisano, M.A. Walker & K.C. Freeman  
(San Francisco: ASP) ISBN: 1-58381-167-2, July 2004

IAU Symposium No. 221  
Star Formation at High Angular Resolution  
22-25 July 2003, Sydney, Australia  
Eds. M. Burton, R. Jayawardhana & T. Bourke  
(San Francisco: ASP) ISBN: 1-58381-161-3, September 2004

IAU Symposium No. 222  
The Interplay among Black Holes, Stars and ISM in Galactic Nuclei  
1-5 March 2004, Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil  
Eds. Th. Storchi-Bergmann, L.C. Ho & H.R. Schmitt  
(Cambridge: CUP) ISBN: 0-521-84803-2, November 2004  
(e-version: [http://journals.cambridge.org/jid\\_IAU](http://journals.cambridge.org/jid_IAU) )

*Proceedings of 2004 and earlier IAU Symposia, in press (4)*

IAU Symposium No. 202  
Planetary Systems in the Universe  
7-11 August 2000, Manchester, United Kingdom  
Eds. A.J. Penny, P. Artymowicz, A.-M. Lagrange, S.S. Russell  
Submitted to ASP: 17 May 2004  
Expected publication date: January 2005  
(San Francisco: ASP) ISBN: 1-58381-176-1, in press

IAU Symposium No. 223  
Multi-Wavelength Investigations of Solar Activity  
14-19 June 2004, St. Petersburg, Russia  
Eds. A.V. Stepanov, E.E. Benevolenskaya, & A.G. Kosovichev  
Proceedings ms submitted to CUP: 10 November 2004  
Expected publication date: 10 February 2005  
(Cambridge: CUP) ISBN: 0-521-85195-5, in press

IAU Symposium No. 224  
The A-Star Puzzle  
8-13 July 2004, Poprad, Slovakia  
Eds. J. Zverko, W.W. Weiss, J. Ziznovsky & S.J. Adelman  
Proceedings ms submitted to CUP: 8 November 2004  
Expected publication date: 8 February 2005  
(Cambridge: CUP) ISBN: 0-521-85018-5, in press

IAU Symposium No. 226  
Coronal and Stellar Mass Ejections  
13-17 September 2004; Beijing, China  
Eds. K.P. Dere & Jingxiu Wang  
Proceedings ms submitted to CUP: 10 December 2004  
Expected publication date: 10 March 2005  
(Cambridge: CUP) ISBN: 0-521-85197-1, in press

*Proceedings of 2004 and earlier IAU Symposia, in preparation (3)*

IAU Symposium No. 201  
New Cosmological Data and the Values of the Fundamental Parameters  
7-11 August 2000, Manchester, United Kingdom  
Eds. A.N. Lasenby, A.W. Jones & A. Wilkinson  
Expected Proceedings submission to ASP: January 2005  
Expected publication date: April 2005  
(San Francisco: ASP), in preparation

IAU Symposium No. 216  
Maps of the Cosmos  
14-17 July 2003, Sydney, Australia  
Eds. M. Colless & L. Staveley-Smith  
Expected Proceedings submission to ASP: January 2005  
Expected publication date: May 2005  
(San Francisco: ASP), in preparation

IAU Symposium No. 225  
Gravitational Lensing Impact on Cosmology  
19-23 July, 2004, Lausanne, Switzerland  
Eds. Y. Mellier & G. Meylan  
Expected Proceedings submission to CUP: January 2005  
Expected publication date: April 2005  
(Cambridge: CUP), in preparation

PROCEEDINGS OF IAU COLLOQUIA

*IAU Colloquium Proceedings, Published in 2004 (6)*

IAU Colloquium No. 190  
Magnetic Cataclysmic Variables  
8-13 December 2002, Cape Town, South Africa  
Eds. S. Vriellmann & M. Cropper  
(San Francisco: ASP) ASP-CS 315, ISBN 1-58381-170-2, December 2004

IAU Colloquium No. 191  
The Environments and Evolution of Double and Multiple Stars  
3-7 February 2003, Merida, Yucatán, México  
Eds. C. Allen & C. Scarfe  
(Mexico: UNAM) RevMexAA-SC Vol. 21, ISBN: 970-32-0607-7, August 2004

IAU Colloquium No. 192  
Supernovae (10 years of SN1993J)  
22-26 April 2003, Valencia, Spain  
Eds. J.M. Marcaide & K.W. Weiler  
Book title: "Cosmic Explosions. On the 10th Anniversary of SN1993J"  
(Heidelberg: Springer) Springer-PP 99, ISBN 3-540-23039-4, October 2004

IAU Colloquium No. 193  
Variable Stars in the Local Group  
6-11 July 2003, Christchurch, New Zealand  
Eds. D.W. Kurtz & K.R. Pollard  
(San Francisco: ASP) ASP-CS 310, ISBN 1-58381-162-1, May 2004

IAU Colloquium No. 194  
Compact Binaries in the Galaxy and Beyond  
17-22 November 2003, La Paz, B.C. Sur, México  
Eds. G. Tovmassian & E.M. Sion  
(Mexico: UNAM) RevMexAA-SC Vol. 20, ISBN: 970-32-1185-5, July 2004

IAU Colloquium No. 195  
Outskirts of Galaxy Clusters: intense life in the suburbs  
12-16 March 2004, Torino, Italia  
Ed. A. Diaferio  
(Cambridge: CUP) ISBN: 0-521-84908-X, October 2004  
(e-version: [http://journals.cambridge.org/jid\\_IAU](http://journals.cambridge.org/jid_IAU) )

*Proceedings of 2004 and Earlier IAU Colloquia, in press (1)*

IAU Colloquium No. 197  
Dynamics of Populations of Planetary Systems  
31 August - 4 September 2004, Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro  
Eds. Z. Knezevic & A. Milani  
Proceedings ms submitted to CUP: 9 December 2004  
Expected publication date: 9 March 2005  
(Cambridge: CUP) ISBN: 0-521-85203-X, in press

*Proceedings of 2004 and Earlier IAU Colloquia, in Preparation (2)*

IAU Colloquium No. 168  
Cometary Nuclei in Space and Time  
18-22 May 1998, Nanjing, China  
Chair persons SOC: M.F. A'Hearn and Zhang Heqi  
Ed. M.F. A'Hearn <ma@astro.umd.edu>  
Publisher: Earth, Moon, and Planets (Kluwer Acad. Publ.)  
Manuscripts due: 15 July 1998  
Expected ms submission to KAP: May 2004  
No response from A'Hearn since January 2004

IAU Colloquium No. 196  
Transit of Venus: New Views of the Solar System and Galaxy  
7-11 June 2004, Preston, U.K.  
Eds. D.W. Kurtz & G.E. Bromage  
Expected publication date : 1 February 2005  
(Cambridge: CUP), in preparation

#### ASP PROPOSAL TO SELL OLD SERIES OF IAU PROCEEDINGS AT A REDUCED RATE

The proposal made by ASP is gratefully approved.

#### REPORTS ON INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

##### ICSU

The ICSU Executive Director is preparing a strategic plan for 2006-2012, with the objective to identify the continued needs for a strong, independent scientific organization like ICSU in a rapidly changing World. The proposed changes to existing ICSU structures will be implemented based on decisions by the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICSU in October 2005. The revised structure aims to ensure coordinated approaches to its key areas in collaboration within the ICSU family of Unions, i.e.:

- strengthening and promoting participation and capacity building in science development in developing countries;
- ICSU Priority Area Assessment on Environment and its Relation to Sustainable Development has identified Natural and Human-Induced Environmental Hazards;
- Universality of Science, fundamental principle to scientific process;
- secure availability of scientific data and information;
- communicate science to the public;
- focus on young scientists and international science. The planned of Young Astronomers session at the IAU General Assembly in Prague is well in line with this idea.

##### CODATA

Ray Norris' report concerning management of astronomical data were discussed in the first morning session of this meeting of the EC80. A Special Session on this theme will be organized during the General Assembly in Prague.

##### COSPAR (Committee on Space Research Council)

The EC thanked Hans Rickman, the IAU representative to COSPAR Council, for his report on new initiatives of COSPAR.

SC B1 - Space Related Studies of Small Bodies in the Solar System

SC D1 - The Heliosphere

The EC took note of the reports on COSPAR SC B1 and SC D1

##### FAGS

The EC shared the concern of the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services (FAGS) connected with the decision of ICSU to discontinue its support of these important services. A final decision will be made at the ICSU General Assembly in August. The IAU GS and IAU's representative to FAGS, Nicole Capitaine, will seek assistance from UGGI and URSI, in particular, and GeoUnions of ICSU, in general, to secure a mutually acceptable organizational solution for FAGS.

The EC took notes of the informative and instructive reports from IERS, IVS, IUCAF, SCAR, SCOPE, SCOSTEP, URSI, IAF, IHY, USES, ITU, BIPM/CCU and IUPAP.

#### *COPUOS: STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION*

The IAU representative to the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of the Outer Space (COPUOS), Karel van der Hucht, had attended the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COUPUS. His address to delegates was gratefully appreciated by the EC.

#### *OECD GLOBAL SCIENCE FORUM*

Upon invitation of the IAU President, Stefan Michalowski, Executive Secretary of the OECD Global Science Forum (GSF), gave an oral overview of (a) Need for international collaboration in Astronomy, and (b) Large Scale Facilities in Astronomy.

The speaker underlined that deliberations of the GSF have demonstrated the need for strengthened, more structured interactions between the scientific community and science policy makers, especially when large international projects are being considered. A global effort must be undertaken to identify key technologies and strategic R&D goals for large projects in astronomy, and to define the necessary follow-up actions.

The three astronomy-related issues from recent GSF work are: (1) Future large facilities, (2) radio astronomy and the radio spectrum and (3) Near Earth Objects.

Two GSF Workshops on Future Large-Scale Projects and Programmes in Astronomy and Astrophysics in, respectively, 2003 and 2004, underlined the need for a global consensus vision. It is, furthermore, recognized that ground- and space-based observations are vital and complementary for the future of astronomy.

The GSF Task Force on Radio Astronomy and the Radio Spectrum encourages Governments to consider mechanisms to promote co-operation and reduce potential conflict between the interest of LEO satellite operators and those of the radio astronomy community, especially at the small number of future high-sensitivity observatories.

With reference to an OECD GSF Workshop on 'Near Earth Objects' at Frascati, Italy, in 2003, Dr. Michalowski observed that while there are still uncertainties regarding the frequency and consequences of NEO impacts, enough is known at this time to conclude that OECD governments should assess the NEO hazard as it relates to public safety, determine commensurate level of response, and undertake appropriate actions at national and international levels.

#### *IAU POLICY ON NEOs*

The EC acknowledged the important work of the Division III WG on 'Near Earth Objects', in close collaboration with the "Minor Planet Center" in coordinating observations of NEOs, calculating their orbits and their sobering publicizing of the events that occasionally causes concern in media and among the public. Iwan Williams agreed to write a short article for the forthcoming IAU Information Bulletin 97 where he will explain the various steps from the very first discovery of a solar system object and potential Near Earth Object till one finally has obtained a reasonable certain orbit for the object. The IAU GS and President would welcome the creation of a small, advisory group when need for rapid response occasionally arise.

## REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

The EC recognizes the great importance and significance of the educational programmes of the IAU Program Group (PG) on International Schools for Young Astronomers (ISYAs)

The EC appreciated Michele Gerbaldi's fine overview of the 27 ISYAs held till now, back to the first one in 1967. *It congratulates the ISYA leadership of the highly successful 27<sup>th</sup> ISYA, Morocco, 2004 and 28<sup>th</sup> ISYA, Mexico, 2005. It is pleased to receive and accept the proposal from Malaysia for an ISYA in 2007*

The EC took note of the reports from the Commission 46's PG on TAD (Teaching Astronomy for Development) and PG on EA (Exchange of Astronomers).

The EC also expresses PG on WWDA's (World Wide Development of Astronomy) wide reaching programs and promotion of interest for astronomy in developing countries. I took note of its two reports from the visit of Peter Martinez' to Kenya, June 2004 and John Hearnshaw's visit to Cuba, January 2005.

## EXPECTED APPLICATIONS FOR NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TO THE UNION

The IAU GS has been notified that IAU memberships will be sought by Mongolia and Thailand.

## SCHEDULING OF THE GA XXVI SCIENCE PROGRAMME

The Division Presidents provided an overview and advice to the IAU GS regarding unwanted overlaps between various Symposia, Joint Discussions and Special Sessions which just had been accepted for the General Assembly in Prague. The scheduling of the six Symposia will be the start and thereby constraining the scheduling of all the other scientific session, and subsequently of the business sessions of Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups.

The final scheduling of the science programme and administrative sessions of GA XXVI is partly an iterative process which involves consultations with a number of session organizers. Therefore, the scheduling can be finalized only after the meeting of the EC.

## CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The Meeting was closed on Wednesday, at 17:00