

Minutes, Council Meeting 2014

April 15 - 17, 2014
Novosibirsk, Russia

In Attendance:

President	Chen Jun (CJ)
Secretary General	Christian Heipke (CH)
First Vice President	Orhan Altan (OA)
Second Vice President	Marguerite Madden (MM)
Congress Director	Lena Halounová (LH)
Treasurer	Jon Philip Mills (JPM)

In attendance as guests:

ISPRS Hon. Member	Gottfried Konecny - April 15
ISPRS Fellow	Ivan Antipov - April 15; upon invitation from Council

Minutes:

ISPRS Headquarters	Annette Radtke (AR)
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Minutes

1. Opening remarks

CJ opened the meeting at 2.35pm. He welcomed residing guest Ivan Antipov and Gottfried Konecny. He thanked Rector Alexander Karpik of the Siberian State Academy of Geodesy for hosting Council for the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Review of previous meetings

3.1. Approval of minutes of CM, Antalya, November 10-11 + 14, 2013

The minutes from Antalya were approved.

3.2. Review of council action lists

The action list was reviewed and updated.

4. Science issues

4.1. ISPRS vision paper

CJ reported the status of the vision paper. Contributions are still outstanding from some authors. JPM will follow up. CJ wants to circulate the next draft of the paper before the Com. IV Midterm Symposium in Suzhou in May.

Action 14/1001: JPM to remind authors that their contributions to the vision paper are still missing, by April 30, 2014.

Action 14/1002: CJ to distribute the next draft of the vision paper before the Com. IV Midterm Symposium in Suzhou, by May 10 2014.

4.2. ISPRS Journal of Ph&RS theme issue for Congress

The purpose of this theme issue is to compile a scientific overview of the state-of-the-art and future directions and/or to highlight special developments in the fields covered by the ISPRS Technical Commissions.

CH reported that only one commission had suggested a (working) title for its overview contribution to the ISPRS Journal of Ph&RS theme issue for the Congress by the set deadline (March 31, 2014). Several other commissions have indicated that they are still discussing its contribution. CH suggested considering to launch an open call for the theme issue in addition to soliciting contributions through the commissions.

It was decided to discuss the issue with TCPs at the upcoming symposia in May and June and to take a decision, whether an open call should be launched in addition to invited papers organised by the commissions following the Com. V symposium.

Action 14/1003: CH to monitor progress of the theme issue and to report the status to Cnl after the Com. V symposium for further action, by June 27, 2014.

4.3. IJGI theme issue on GI for Congress

MM reported that the organisation is in its initial phase.

Action 14/1004: MM to continue preparations of the IJGI theme issue for the congress and report to Council, by July 31, 2014.

5. Policy matters and society management

5.1. Restructuring of Commissions and meeting structure

CH reported on the status of the restructuring proposal. Version 3 had been distributed to a number of senior scientists involved in ISPRS, incl. TCPs, ISAC, IPAC, Honorary members and Fellows. Received comments, most of them being in favour of the proposal, had been distributed to Cnl prior to the meeting.

A small number of replies stated their concern in relation to the ability to adequately represent all regions of the world, and to a potentially increased workload of the TCPs under the new scheme.

After in-depth discussion, it was decided to further pursue the proposal and to take the following steps:

- revise the proposal, taking into account the comments received. In particular, the role of the Vice-President should be more clearly defined, and regional meetings should be emphasized.
- distribute the proposal to all ISPRS members and all ISPRS officers and ask for opinions,
- set up a blog on the ISPRS website for collecting comments discussing of the proposal,
- announce the proposal in the next eBulletin and use additional channels to allow for wide spread discussion and ensure transparency,
- discuss the proposal at the forthcoming symposia in May, June and September.

Action 14/1005: CH to revise the proposal according to the comments received, and to circulate it to Cnl for comments, by April 25, 2014.

Action 14/1006: CH to ensure that the decisions for distribution of the proposal and the discussion via the blog and during the symposia will be implemented, by May 1st, 2014.

5.2. Summer schools - strategy and events during 2014

MM explained the strategy for funding ISPRS summer schools. Based on funding requests of previous years TIF and ISPRS allocate a certain amount of money for supporting these activities in the yearly budget. Support for applications will then be given according to the decision of TIF and ISPRS Council on a case to case basis. If an application comes in at a time where all funds have already been allocated, TIF and ISPRS will try to find a solution, but this is not guaranteed. Therefore, prospective organisers are advised to come up with funding requests as early as possible.

For 2014 € 6,000,- have been allocated for summer schools. The following events will take place and will be supported:

- the 11th ISPRS Summer School in connection with the Com. VI Midterm Symposium in Wuhan, (support € 3000,-)
- the (to be proposed) 12th ISPRS Summer School in connection with the Asian Conference on Remote Sensing in Nay Pyi Daw (Myanmar), (support € 3000,-).

In addition, travel grants for the EARSeL & ISPRS Young Scientist Days in Warsaw have been granted, using funds from UN OOSA. Also, it was decided that the 2014 meeting of the International Geodetic Student Organisation (IGSO), the IGSM 2014 in Istanbul, will be supported with CHF 2,000,- from ISPRS funds.

In November 2013 interest was also expressed by members of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment (AARSE) to organise a summer school in connection with the AARSE meeting in Johannesburg in October 2014, however, no further action has been taken by AARSE so far. In case this interest persists, it is hoped that funding could come from the local host.

Action 14/1007: MM to approach AARSE to see, whether there still is an interest in organising a summer school during the 2014 AARSE meeting, and if so, whether the local host has a possibility to fund the summer school, by May 31, 2014.

5.3. ISPRS Geospatial Week

NP had distributed his plans for the next intercommission meeting to be held in La Grande Motte near Montpellier from 28th September to 2nd October 2015 with an option for the 26th. The plan includes several workshops.

The branding of the Workshop was discussed. Cnl suggest using "ISPRS Geospatial Week 2015".

Action 14/1008: CH to contact NP to propose using "ISPRS Geospatial Week 2015" as branding, by April 30, 2014.

6. Review of Technical Commission composition

6.1. Mid-term symposia, participation of Council members

In general, preparations for the midterm symposia are going well. All contracts, with the apparent exception of TC VIII, are signed or in preparation, web sites are up, dates for paper submission have been set and published.

JPM presented the status of the symposium contracts and the contracts to be signed with Copernicus for publishing the proceedings.

TC	Symposium Contract	Copernicus contract	Copies available at SG office
I	Draft status	Under discussion	-
II	Signed	Signed	Symposium copy
III	Cleared by JPM, signed by TC	Signed	-
IV	Signed	Signed	Both
V	Cleared by JPM	Signed	-
VI	Signed	Signed	Symposium copy
VII	Cleared by JPM, signed by TC	Signed	-
VIII	Tbd	Tbd	-

Action 14/1009: CJ to sign the contracts of Com. III and Com. VII and to send copies to respective TCP, CH and JPM, by April 30, 2014.

Action 14/1010: JPM to continue contract preparations for Com. I, V and VIII, asap.

Action 14/1011: CH to ask TCPs to send him a copy of the missing contracts, in due time.

Based on the example of the agenda for the TC IV board meeting agenda, a template agenda for the board meetings to be held at every symposium was set up. CH was asked to forward this agenda to all TCPs.

Action 14/1012: CH to circulate the template agenda for the Commission Board meeting to TCPs, by April 30, 2014.

Cnl discussed attendance at the midterm symposia. Current plans are collated in the table below, which also contains names of Council Members being involved in the opening and closing ceremony. Topics for the opening include a short presentation of ISPRS and in

particular recent developments and forthcoming symposia, and presentation of the TIF/ISPRS travel grants (if not done otherwise). Topics for the closing can include an evaluation of the symposium and - if not done otherwise - the presentation of the best paper and/or best poster awards. In addition LH will have a separate slot to invite all participants to the next congress.

TC	Date	Location	CM Attendance	Opening	Closing
IV	May 14-16.	Suzhou	CJ,CH,MM,LH	CJ,CH	MM,LH
VI	May 19-21	Wuhan	CJ,CH,MM,LH	CJ,CH	MM
V	June 23-25	Riva	CH,LH,JPM	CH	JPM,LH
III	Sept. 5-7	Zürich	CJ,CH,LH	CH	CJ,LH
VII	Sept. 29–Oct. 2	Istanbul	CH,OA,LH	CH	LH
II	Oct. 6-8	Toronto	OA,MM	OA	MM
I	Nov. 17-20	Denver	CH,OA,MM, LH	CH	OA,LH
VIII+CM/JM	Dec. 9-14	Hyderabad	All	CJ	CH,LH

Prior to the Council meeting, discussions with some TCPs were held with respect to funding local accommodation and registration for attending Council members. As a result, during the next Joint Meeting in Hyderabad, the ISPRS financial model will be discussed together with the TCPs. It is felt that more transparency in financial matters would help facilitate the discussions.

For 2014 no deviation from current regulations for hosting Council members during midterm symposia are foreseen. If required, letters to the Ordinary Members hosting the commissions will be prepared to explain the situation.

Action 14/1013: JPM to formulate a letter explaining the current situation with respect to Council attendance at midterm symposia, by April 30, 2014.

Action 14/1014: CJ to send out such letters to Ordinary Members if necessary, in due time.

Action 14/1015: CH to prepare a presentation for discussion of the ISPRS financial model, incl. financial transparency with TCPs at the JM in Hyderabad, and to circulate it to Council for comments, by Oct 31, 2014.

7. The XXVIII Congress in Prague 2016

7.1. Congress dates and sponsorship

The Congress date was confirmed to be 12th to 19th July, 2016. While platinum sponsorship has been signed with Leica Geosystems, other sponsorship slots are still under negotiation.

7.2. Lessons learnt from Melbourne

The accumulated comments on the Melbourne Congress and their consequences were discussed in detail. LH will take appropriate action in due time.

7.3. List of action items, incl. awards brochure

The pre-congress preparation list was discussed. OA is to update the list and forward it to the SG.

The 2016 Awards brochure has been printed and distribution has begun. OA requested that any communication regarding awards be forwarded to himself, as all business related with the awards is the responsibility of the 1st VP.

Action 14/1016: OA to forward updated action list to CH for pre-congress preparation, May 15, 2014.

7.4. Sessions and session titles

Session titles should be fixed by the end of 2014 in order to be published in the first announcement of the Prague Congress. Typically, the congress contains different types of sessions.

Plenary sessions are to give an overview of the whole field; there are no parallel sessions. They are organised by Council, they typically do not have a special title.

Technical Sessions will be prepared by the TCs. For the announcement of the Congress, session titles are those of the WGs. At a later stage, they may be changed at the discretion of the TCs and WGs.

Theme sessions cover topics relevant to more than one commission and are prepared between commissions. Suggestions for theme sessions are to be requested from the TCPs by LH.

Special sessions are organised in conjunction with sister societies. For each special session one Council member is responsible, incl. suggestion of a session title. Speakers will then typically be suggested in a collaborative effort between the responsible Council member and the sister organisation. It was decided to split responsibilities according to the following preliminary scheme:

CJ: GEO, JBGIS

CH: EuroSDR, ICA

MM: OGC, AARSE, LARS

JPM: CIPA, FIG

OA: UN GGIM, UN OOSA, IAG, ICSU, IAA/IAF, GSDI, URSI

Depending on the available slots, different special sessions can also be combined if appropriate. A final decision will be taken later.

Exhibitor's showcases are an opportunity for companies to present their services and products. Exhibitor's showcases are organised by LH in cooperation with exhibiting companies. They can also take place directly in the exhibition area.

Action 14/1017: LH to write to TCPs and request theme session titles, by July 31, 2014.

Action 14/1018: Cnl to suggest titles for special sessions according to the list above, by July 31, 2014.

7.5. Local and international review committee

LH explained the structure of relations between the local and the international programme committees. OA requests that LH discusses the reviewing scheme with Copernicus to avoid any potential problems.

Action 14/1019: LH to discuss the reviewing scheme incl. the roles of the local and the international programme committee with Copernicus, by June 30, 2014.

7.6. National mapping forum

CH reported that EuroGeographics will hold its General Assembly 2016 in Budapest. Collaboration with National Mapping Agencies should be pursued through EuroSDR.

LH is asked to pursue the possibilities of the Czech Republic joining EuroSDR and EuroSDR hosting its 2016 meeting in Prague.

Action 14/1020: LH to contact local bodies for a possible membership in EuroSDR, by June 30, 2014.

7.7. Space agency forum

Collaboration might be possible by involving ICORSE and IAA/IAF. Details need to be worked out, IPAC should be involved in the preparations.

7.8. Other preparations

The Congress organization is running smoothly.

OA and CH suggested to organise an exhibitor's meeting during the midterm symposia with exhibitions, in particular in China.

Action 14/1021: LH to contact Jiang Jie for help with organising an exhibitor's meeting during the Com. IV midterm symposium, by May 1st, 2014.

Media partners such as GIM, Geospatial Media & Communications, GeoConnexion, Geoinformatics etc. should be contacted within the next few months to ensure a good coverage of Congress preparations. Inviting them to the Intergeo 2014 Exhibitor's Meeting is seen as a good possibility for contact.

Action 14/1022: LH to organise an exhibitor's meeting during Intergeo 2014 with the help of CH and to consider also contacting media partners, by July 31, 2014.

A so called "Prague Declaration" may be prepared to adequately publicize the outcome of the Congress. It should be prepared well in advance to be able to solicit support from sister societies. A possible topic is the support of the ICSU project Future Earth with geospatial information. A similar declaration was prepared for the Beijing Congress and had a good impact.

Action 14/1023: Cnl to consider preparing a Prague Declaration, possibly on Support of Future Earth with geospatial information, in due time.

The Congress App will be ready by mid 2015. A possible test run could take place at Montpellier at the ISPRS Geospatial Week 2015. LH was asked to contact NP, whether this will be possible. It was decided that a printed version of the daily congress newsletter should be circulated, in parallel to the digital form.

Action 14/1024: LH to contact NP and discuss, whether a test run of the Congress App can be organised for the ISPRS Geospatial Week 2015, by June 30, 2014.

8. ISPRS Membership

8.1. Individual membership

CH reported that the postal ballot closes on the 6th May. To date, 11 replies have been received, 10 of them positive. A reminder email will be sent after Easter.

Upon completion of the ballot, results should be announced on the web, the next eBulletin etc. and - if the result will remain positive - facilities for introducing Individual Membership need to be provided by CH.

Action 14/1025: AR to send reminder email to OdMs by April 25, 2014.

Action 14/1026: CH to report result of postal ballot in appropriate form, by May 7, 2014.

9. ISPRS Publications

9.1. ISPRS Annals and Archives

9.1.1. Status of cooperation with Copernicus

A new contract with Copernicus is under discussion, it will be valid as of Jan 1st, 2015. Contracts between Copernicus and meeting organisers will be negotiated based on the current status.

The congress will be based on the original contract terms.

The new contract will probably include a different pricing model and an option for organisers to do reviewing and meeting organisation themselves and only submit proceedings papers after the meeting.

For the congress a revised key word list should be employed, CH is asked to draw up such a list with help of the TCPs.

Action 14/1027: CH to continue negotiations with Copernicus and to report progress to Cnl, in due time.

Action 14/1028: CH to circulate the current keyword list to TCPs for revision, by July 31, 2014.

9.1.2. Status of 2012 Archive Vol. A

OA reports that the 2012 Vol. A is complete and ready to be printed. He will forward his received quote to CH. CH to obtain a second quote for comparison.

Action 14/1029: OA to forward quote to AR, by April 30, 2014.

Action 14/1030: AR to obtain a comparison quote, by May 15, 2014.

9.1.3. Status of ISPRS Archive repository, incl. digitalisation of old material

A contract has been prepared between ISPRS and the library of Leibniz University Hannover, TIB/UH, to host all ISPRS Archives in analogue and digital form via the web. Digitisation will be free of charge for ISPRS, access to the digital content will also be free of charge. This also means that the ISPRS repository will be transferred from ITC, Enschede, to Hannover.

ITC is in favour of this transfer and asked to be appropriately acknowledged for their services to ISPRS.

CJ signed the contract, CH is asked to oversee further action.

Action 14/1031: CH to implement the contract between ISPRS and TIB/UH, having the ISPRS repository transferred to Hannover and made available in digital form, in due time.

9.2. ISPRS Journals

9.2.1. ISPRS Journal of P&RS

DL reported that the Journal is doing well, with statistics for the first quarter of 2014 rising in comparison to the same quarter of 2013. He also requested suggestions for the replacement of a member of the UV Helava jury, after the resignation of Etienne Berthier.

JPM reported on talks with Elsevier regarding their Open Access option for the Journal. The agreed cost for gold open access is \$2.500,- per article, the decision whether or not the option should be chosen is taken by the author.

It will be possible to provide StMs with a free digital copy of the Journal via the member's area of the web site, as a member benefit, providing their fees are paid.

Action 14/1032: MM and JPM to finalise Open Access Amendment to contract with Elsevier and forward to Cnl by May 15, 2014.

Action 14/1033: MM and JPM to finalise next three-year contract with Elsevier, in due time.

Action 14/1034: Cnl to suggest potential candidates for replacement of UV Helava jury member with emphasis on representation from Asia, Africa or South America, June 30, 2014.

9.2.2. The International Journal of Geo-Information

The Journal is also going well. In 2013 the average number of submissions per month was 11.6; up by a total of nearly 50 from the year before. Nearly 60 papers were published in 2013, with the average publication time a little over 3 months.

9.2.3. Book Series

CJ will organise a meeting with Zhilin Li during one of the midterm symposia in May to discuss progress and further steps.

Action 14/1035: CJ to set a date for a meeting with ZL and circulate the date to Council members attending the midterm symposia in Suzhou and/or Wuhan, by May 10, 2014.

9.2.4. eBulletin, social media, web page

Everything is running smoothly, responsibilities for the editorial are governed by the corresponding list.

In the meantime ISPRS is also present in social media (Linked-in, Facebook, Google +).

9.3. GIM and Geoinformatics page

CH reported that both pages are doing well, with sufficient input. Responsibility lists were viewed and updated.

9.4. Biennial report

CH reported on the status of the report. 2500 copies will be printed and distributed, the report will also be available online.

Action 14/1036: CH to finalise printing and then distribute the ISPRS Biennial Report 2012/2013, by May 31, 2014.

10. Financial affairs

10.1. Treasurer activities report

JPM gave a report about his activities since the last CM, which was well received.

10.2. Update on Melbourne Congress finances

Financial transactions with respect to the 2012 Congress in Melbourne were concluded in 2013. CJ wrote a formal letter to John Trinder, the president of SSSI Australia, thanking him for huge efforts Australian photogrammetry and remote sensing specialists have undertaken in connection with the 2012 Congress.

Action 14/1037: CJ to forward to Council the letter to John Trinder and John's answer for inclusion into the ISPRS files, by May 31, 2014.

10.3. Update on subscription payments received to date / members in arrears

JPM reported that a number of members are at least one year in arrears. JPM suggested to write a letter to the 10 countries with major arrears, offering an amnesty providing they settle their 2013 and 2014 fees before July 31, 2014.

Action 14/1038: JPM to send amnesty letter to 10 OdMs, by May 31, 2014.

10.4. Approval of 2013 financial report

Cnl approved the financial report 2013. JPM was asked to send it to the ISPRS Financial Commission for approval.

Action 14/1039: JPM to send financial report 2013 to Financial Commission, by May 31, 2014.

10.5. Current 2014 financial position against budget

A loss of CHF46.540 is anticipated for 2014 due to outgoing funding for Scientific Initiatives.

10.6. Update on credit card payments

The link from the ISPRS web site to Copernicus for the implementation of the credit card payment system is set up and active since 1st January 2014, but has not been used to date.

10.7. TIF - travel grants for Symposia

MM reported on the TIF/ISPRS budget for travel grants which has been set at € 24,000,- (CHF 29,600) for the Midterm Symposia and € 6,000,- (CHF 7,350) for Summer Schools, see also item 5.2. Deadlines for applications for the midterm symposia are set, but need to be brought forward to enable sufficient time for visa applications and reasonable airfare prices.

Grants for TC Symposia IV (2 grants) and VI (5 grants) have been awarded. Awardees will be announced on the TIF and the Symposium web sites. TCP's are to print out certificates, which MM is to prepare. These certificates will be handed out to the awardees, preferably during the opening session of the Symposia.

Action 14/1040: MM to bring deadlines for TIF/ISPRS travel grant applications forward as much as possible, by April 30, 2014.

Action 14/1041: MM to make sure that awardees of travel grants are announced, separately for each Symposium, on the TIF and the Symposium website and to ask TCPs to also announce them on the Symposium web site, in due time.

Action 14/1042: MM to prepare certificates and distribute to TCPs before each Symposium, in due time.

11. ISPRS Committees

11.1. Ad hoc Committee on standards

Up to now, the Ad hoc committee on standards has not been very active during the current intercongress period. CH is asked to consult ISAC and IPAC, whether a need is seen to continue the ad hoc committee on standards, and if so, what tasks they see as primarily important for the committee to address.

Action 14/1043: CH to ask ISAC and IPAC to comment on the tasks relevant to ISPRS relating to standards and the need to continue the work of the ad hoc committee on standards, by May 31, 2014.

11.2. ISAC and IPAC

Thanks are expressed to both committees for having solicited constructive comments to the restructuring proposal.

11.3. CIPA

Fabio Remondino is now TCP of Com. V and also serves as ISPRS representative of CIPA.

11.4. ISRSE meeting in Berlin, May 2015

CH reports on discussions with Gunter Schreier (GS), who will serve as programme chair of the meeting. DLR, main organiser of the 2015 ISRSE meeting, has chosen Copernicus for organising the meeting and publishing the proceedings. These will be regular ISPRS Archives proceedings.

CH, OA and LH will attend the meeting and will represent ISPRS, if CJ cannot attend.

12. Relations with international and other organisations

12.1. ICSU

CJ reports on the status of the project to be submitted to ICSU for support. OA advises to finalise the preparations in good time to have a presentation at the GeoUnion's meeting prior to the ICSU General Assembly in late August 2014. To reach this goal the project should be finalised in July 15, 2014. In this way OA can review the proposal as foreseen and then forward it to GeoUnion members for comments and support.

Action 14/1044: CJ to send the final proposal to OA, by July 15, 2014.

OA reported on the good relations with ICSU and the amount of visibility being received also through the GeoUnions. His nomination as Executive Board member was welcomed.

OA asked CH to bring ISPRS promotion material to Auckland, i.e. the ISPRS banner and printed material to be distributed to ICSU delegates.

Action 14/1045: CH to support OA's nomination to the ICSU Executive Board with ISPRS promotion material during the ICSU General Assembly, by August 29, 2014.

12.2. UN OOSA

LH has secured funds from UN OOSA to support the EARSeL & ISPRS Young Scientists' Day to be held in conjunction with the next EARSeL meeting in Warsaw in June 2014.

CJ reported that Songnian Li agreed to represent ISPRS in the upcoming UN OOSA Workshop in Canada prior to the Com. II Symposium.

12.3. AGILE

CH reported that he is discussing to set up an MoU with AGILE. AGILE might also be interested to join ISPRS as a regional member.

13. Coming meetings

13.1. Meetings to be attended by Council members

The council attendance list was updated.

13.2. Next council meeting

The Joint Meeting of Council and TCPs will take place in Hyderabad during Dec. 9-14, 2014 in conjunction with the Co. VIII Symposium. CH is asked to contact Vinay Dadhwal in good time for being able to properly prepare the meeting.

Action 14/1046: CH to prepare the next Council and TCP meeting, in due time.

OA reported that he is in contact with an organisation in Dubai. This organisation has expressed an interest to invite Council to a scientific meeting immediately following the Joint Meeting in Hyderabad.

Action 14/1047: OA to keep Council updated on the possible visit to Dubai, in due time.

13.3. Council meeting and Joint Council and TCP meeting in 2014

JPM invited Council to conduct the spring meeting 2015 in Newcastle. CJ expressed his thanks and asked JPM to progress the preparations.

The next Joint Meeting will take place in Prague. Typically, the same season is chosen as the one in which the congress will take place the following year, this would be in July. CH is asked to coordinate a date with the TCPs and report to Council.

14. Any other business

14.1. Use of ISPRS database by other Council members, e.g. for Congress

CH informed Cnl that any changes to the database should be made at the SG office only.

15. Closing

CJ thanked Cnl for their contribution and participation, and closed the meeting at 6.30pm.

Action 14/1048: CJ to send a letter of thanks to the SSGA, the local host, by May 31, 2014.