IAG Newsletter

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The IAG Newsletter is under the editorial responsibility of the Communication and Outreach Branch (COB) of the IAG. It is an open forum, and contributors are welcome to send material (preferably in electronic form) to the IAG COB (newsletter@iag-aig.org). These contributions should complement information sent by IAG officials or by IAG symposia organizers (reports and announcements). The IAG Newsletter is published monthly. It is available in different formats from the IAG Internet site: <http://www.iag-aig.org>.

Each IAG Newsletter includes several of the following topics:

- I. General information
- II. Reports of IAG symposia
- III. Reports by commissions, special commissions or study groups
- IV. Symposia announcements
- V. Book reviews
- VI. Fast bibliography

General Announcements

Toward the creation of a Global Geodetic Center of Excellence

Brief report on the UN-GGIM 10th session

The tenth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) was held in a scaled down virtual format, consisting of three two-hour meetings, on August 26–27 and September 4, 2020. Full details regarding the agenda

can be found here: <https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/>.

Of interest to our association is the Agenda item #6, dealing with the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF). The Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG) has prepared a full report describing its activities during the intersessional period, including the responses of the IAG Services to the questionnaire on the geodetic infrastructure that was prepared by the lead of the corresponding Working Group (the author of this brief report). The SCoG has also prepared and submitted to the 10th session, for discussion, a Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, as well as a Concept Paper on establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE). The aim of the GGCE is to improve collaboration and coordination amongst Member States, in coordination with the IAG, in sustaining the global geodetic reference frame, and in particular its geodetic infrastructure.

An offer to host the office of the GGCE for the UN-GGIM was submitted by the Federal Government of Germany (coordinated by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy—BKG) which is intended to be located at the UN Campus in Bonn. The offer has received a number of supports from Member States, as well as from IAG (see the letter of support of IAG President <https://www.iag-aig.org/doc/5f6c5ffa95613.pdf>).

In its statement available here:

https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/Proforma_Agenda-item-6-IAG-Statement.pdf, the IAG emphasized the need for detailed and clearly defined work program of the GGCE, in agreement with the recommendations of the GGRF roadmap, and in cooperation with the Committee of Experts, the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the relevant geodetic organizations, including our association.

In its Decision 10/104, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recognized the essential role of the geodetic services provided by the International Association of Geodesy.

Respectfully,
Zuheir Altamimi,
IAG President

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Inaugural Meeting: International Geoid Commission July 1990

Just over 40 years has passed since the inaugural meeting of the International Geoid Commission of the IAG. It occurred in July 1990 at the IAG meeting in Milano¹; we met at the University of Milan hosted by Professor Fernando Sanso.

Present at this meeting were (see photo) Georges Balmino, Fernando Sanso, Bill Kearsley, Petr Vanicek, Richard Rapp, Christian Tscherning and Wolfgang Torge. At this meeting, Dick Rapp was elected President of the Commission, with Chris Tscherning and myself as co-secretaries.

I want to say that, in all of my years in service on numerous committees, and in public life, I have never met a more congenial and collaborative group. It was, for me, a great honor, a privilege and pleasure to have been involved in the genesis of this important service.

Bill Kearsley
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Obituary

Joseph David Zund (1939–2014)

Joe Zund was the foremost expositor and developer of the Marussi–Hotine approach to theoretical geodesy. This note is a belated tribute to his enormous contributions in this field. Joe was trained as a mathematical physicist, receiving his doctorate in 1964 from the U. of Texas. He held several academic positions, before settling in 1970 for the rest of his career at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico, USA. Before becoming involved in geodesy, he possessed an extensive publication record dealing with topics in differential geometry, electromagnetic theory and general relativity. He was proficient in several languages.

¹ Which happily coincided with the FIFA World Cup held in Italy.

In 1981, Joe encountered Hotine's Mathematical Geodesy (published in 1969) and was immediately attracted by its creativity and richness of concepts. This happy interaction yielded a series of publications advancing many of Hotine's ideas and settling some long-standing problems posed by Hotine. His publications, mainly appearing in *Boll. di Geod. e Sc. Aff. and Tensor* over the period of 1987 to 1996, introduced many improvements and extensions, but his most outstanding achievements were his two books, both published by Springer-Verlag: (1) A compilation, editing and evaluation of Hotine's unpublished papers (1991) and (2) his magnum opus "Foundations of Differential Geodesy" (1994). The latter in my opinion was the most significant accomplishment in theoretical geodesy since Hotine's work. It still serves as both textbook and research treatise.

After Joe turned his attention to geodesy, he became an active participant in the activities of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). He prepared the Geodetic theory portion of the 1991 Quadrennial U. S. National Report to the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. At the General Assembly in Vienna, he was appointed Chairman of the IAG Geodesy Subcommittee on Differential Geometry. He also served as a member of many other IAG special study groups and commissions. In October 1989, he was the only American invited to a special convocation of the Accademia di Lincei in memory of Antonio Marussi, and he was given the honor of making the initial presentation covering the significance of the work of Marussi. He was a Life Member of AGU.

Joe told me that he deeply regretted coming into the field of geodesy too late to personally know Marussi and Hotine. In turn, I am certain that they would have appreciated knowing him.

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In Memoriam—Günter Stangl

We received the deeply sad news that Günter Stangl—former Director of GGOS Coordinating Office from 2016 to 2017—passed away, unexpected, much too early in the first years of his retirement in the age of 68 years.

Günter Stangl started his career in Satellite Geodesy in the late 1970s working with Peter Pesec in Doppler campaigns, particularly in the projects promoted by prof. Marussi, prof. Moritz, prof. Seeger and other leading Geodesists of the time aiming at replacing old triangulations across the Alps with satellite surveys, based on the Transit constellation, the precursor of GPS. With Peter Pesec, he was involved in the activities of the Graz Observatory for satellite geodesy, where the Laser Ranging activities to satellites were complemented with Doppler and GPS/GNSS. In the early 1960s, Graz was one of the centers involved in the optical tracking of the very first artificial satellites, using optical cameras and processing techniques inherited from the tracking of minor planets and comets. He was an enthusiast about archeology and used to spend his vacations by supporting from the topographic view point archeological excavations.

Most of his career he worked for the “Austrian Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying” (BEV—Bundesamt fuer Eich- und Vermessungswesen) at the “Observatory Lustbuehl Graz” (OLG) of the “Austrian Academy of Science” and the TU in Graz at the “Institut fuer Weltraumforschung (IfW). It was normal to find at the IfW young visiting scientists from several countries working with Günter on the processing of GPS campaigns.

He was involved in the EUREF (Reference Frame Sub Commission of Europe) activities since the late 1990s. With Günter Stangl, OLG and later BEV hosted one of the “Re-

gional Data Centres” for the EUREF Permanent Network (EPN), the “Local Analysis Centre” named OLG and a “Densification Analysis Center”. In 2001, he joined the EUREF TWG, now Governing Board (GB). In 2008, he took over the responsibility as EPN Data Flow Coordinator. Also in 2008, he took over the responsibility for the validation and the database for the EUREF GNSS Campaigns, where he collected the data, results and reports. Günter had a wide knowledge in Geodesy in general, and he was well connected within the European GNSS community, especially in the South East and Central part of Europe.

In 2016, the GGOS Coordinating Office (CO) was transferred from BKG in Germany to the BEV in Austria and Günter took over the position as the director of the GGOS CO until his retirement in 2017. We appreciate his great effort and contribution to GGOS activities including success of smooth transition of GGOS CO.

We will miss him and convey our sincere condolences to his family, friends and co-workers.

In the name of the GGOS Coordinating Board,
Basara Miyahara (GGOS President) and Martin Sehnal
(GGOS CO Director)

September 2020

Source: <http://ggos.org/en/memori-am-guenter-stangl/>