

GeoUnions Steering Committee Meeting

Minutes

Held on Monday 2 July, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

La salle du conseil de MétéoFrance, IGN, 73 avenue de Paris,
94165 Sant-Mandé, Paris, France

Participants:

Piero Benvenuti (IAU SG), Teresa Lago (IAU ASG), Menno-Jan Kraak (ICA P), Orhan Altan (ICSU EB), Yukio Himiyama (IGU P), Nathalie Lemarchand (IGU VP), Allan Ashworth (INQUA P), Lena Halounova (ISPRS SG), Nicolas Paparoditis (ISPRS CD, host), Michael Sideris (IUGG P), Alik Ismail-Zadeh (IUGG SG), Qiuming Cheng (IUGS P), William Cavazza (IUGS), Melody Burkins (USNC-IUGS Chair, guest), Reiner Horn (IUSS PP), Makoto Ando (URSI P)

1. Opening of the meeting

The participants were welcome by Allan Ashworth.

2. Introduction of the meeting participants

All participants introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes from GUs Steering Committee Meeting in Taipei in 2017

The Minutes were approved.

4. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved with the following changes:

Items i, ii and iii were incorporated to the item of **GUs new initiatives for the ISC**

- i. Strengthening cooperation in disaster risk and climate change with social sciences
- ii. Extent and consequences of non-site adjusted land use systems for food production, groundwater recharge and filtering efficiency as well as soil erosion and enhanced greenhouse gas emission
- iii. Mapping of GeoUnions to the SDGs

5. Presentation of Nicolas Paparoditis, ISPRS Congress Director and host of the Meeting

Nicolas Paparoditis, ISPRS Congress Director presented shortly IGN (Institut Géographique National), projects and present state of the scientific achievements of the Institute. He informed about geoportal existing since 2007. The geoplatform was changed and allows users to create their own applications in GIS of environment, biodiversity, etc.

6. GU (future) relationship in the new family of ISC

The participants of the meeting criticised two level selection of candidates for the Governing Board of ISC.

Individual Unions had various polices for proposal of their candidates - several had more than one candidate.

Participants highlighted that GUs was a strong group in ICSU and is a strong group in ISC as it forms nearly 1/4 of ISC Unions. However, the strength can be used if the Unions will work together. Therefore GUs should maintain the previous meetings held two times per year to discuss common cooperation, experience and strategy and cooperation in projects.

Cooperation with colleagues from social science was recommended.

7. GUs membership (should we include inter-disciplinary bodies of ICSU dealing with Earth and space sciences in our grouping?)

The members of the meeting agreed not to enlarge the GeoUnions and keep the present members. Members from other unions and interdisciplinary bodies of ICSU can be invited as "guests".

8. Possible new initiatives with social scientists (e.g., green energy and clean water for society);

The main part of the meeting programme was dedicated to the new initiatives proposed by ISC as part of the GA Agenda. Members of GUs expressed their opinions about them separately. The main problem of new ISC initiatives was that they were not new.

Individual GU members talked about really urgent, serious and new „geo“ problems in their branches which are globally very important and they as experts in their fields are aware of them.

It was stressed that human life is fully dependent on atmosphere, water, energy, soil. The present situation is a result of historical development which has to be taken into account. The new initiatives might lead to realistic models (e.g., soil, ground water flow, global warming, ecological development, atmosphere, disasters risk management and reduction, understanding the Earth, deep Earth, etc.), which are still missing in many analyses and models used at present.

It was agreed that GUs will present their decision concerning new initiative/s during the **Membership meeting of GA Tuesday 3 July 2018**. The new initiative of GUs will be prepared within the next months.

The discussion brought the planned items:

- a. GUs will propose one or more new initiatives - with wide spectrum of impacts and involved aspects handled in our unions as “everything is connected with everything” and with social science in case it will be appropriate.
- b. GUs will meet to prepare such a wide range project to be able to get financial support not only from their societies, but mainly from organisations like Belmont Forum.
- c. The general topic of the project will be under the umbrella of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with prognosis to 2030.

9. Dealing with GDPR by individual unions

GDPR was shortly explained to non-European members.

10. Common calendar of important events of our societies

It was agreed to maintain a common calendar of important events of GUs’.

11. Next GUs meeting

The meeting for the new initiative preparation/s will take place in Istanbul for two days in the autumn. The exact date will be determined during summer.

12. Closing of the meeting

GUs chair thanked all participants for active and precious discussion. All participants thanked Nicolas Paparoditis for the nice venue and generous care.

The meeting was closed at 5 p.m.

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Prague, 26 August 2018