

Minutes of the Meeting of Members of the IASPEI Commission on Education and Outreach (CoE&O)

Cape Town, South Africa, 12-14 January 2009

A formal meeting of the CoE&O had been scheduled by the IASPEI Secretariat for Tuesday, 13 January, 2009, 12:30 – 14:00 hours, in room (TBC) 1.43-1.44 of the Cape Town International Convention Center (CTICC). However, the meeting could not take place because of other priority matters/meetings of members. This has been compensated by personal meetings of the reporter with the E&O session co-convenor at IASPEI 2009, Paul Dirks, and with the attending members G. Gibson and V. Hamza. The outcome and recommendations resulting from these talks are summarized below.

1. Meeting with Paul Dirks, South Africa

P. Dirks has been the chairman of session O1: Capacity Building and Capturing Undergraduate Students to Geophysics/Seismology. His elaborate session report has been submitted to the IASPEI secretariat, with a printout copy for the reporters information. In summary, although small (only 6 talks presented), session O1 had been attended by 52 people. All talks received great interest, resulting in debate and questions from the audience as well as several follow-up meetings between the presenters. All presenters emphasized the urgent need to promote geoscience in general, and geophysics in particular, to a wider audience of learners at all levels, as early as primary and certainly secondary school levels. The talk covered a wide range of successful initiatives aimed at raising awareness of geophysics/geosciences as important fields with great perspectives and needs both in research and applications. The need of better national and international collaboration (networks) was emphasized and concerns by third world countries regarding brain-drain were noted. In summary, E&O sessions at IASPEI meetings must be continued and expanded in future.

2. Meeting with Gary Gibson, Australia

Gary is expected to be appointed as the chief Secretary of the LOC for the IUGG 2011 in Melbourne. With a view on the current situation in Australia, where no enthusiastic and competent young blood in seismology is seen to step in when the senior scientists retire, he also sees an urgent need for increasing E&O efforts in the field of earth physics and seismology. Gary welcomed the proposal by the reporter to convene at the IUGG 2011 a joint CoSOI-CoE&O work-shop type session which leaves enough time for appealing demonstrations and discussions. His strong involvement in general IUGG organization affairs at this meeting notwithstanding, he is willing to co-chair such a meeting. Gary himself will focus this years on the elaboration of a major new chapter for the web-edition of the NMSOP_2 on strong-motion recordings and analysis and their application in risk mitigation, seismology and engineering. He could present at the planned session a talk and demonstration on related key issues.

3. Meeting with Valiya Hamza, Brazil

Valiya has been instrumental in the development of a new, very compact and easy portable system for measuring, acquisition and analysis of geothermal data. This system has been used in a 2008 training course in Colombia (see amended activity report) and demonstrated its suitability also for demonstrations and practical training. Valiya provided a short amendment to the Activity Report 2008-2009 and supported the proposal for a joint CoSOI-CoE&O meeting in Melbourne.

4. CoSOI and IASPEI Executive meetings on program proposals for IUGG 2011

P. Bormann, Secretary of the IASPEI Commission on Seismic Observation and Interpretation, proposed at the CoSOI meeting on 14 January 2009 to envisage a joint workshop-type CoSOI-CoE&O session in Melbourne. The proposal was accepted with the clarification that the contribution of CoSOI to this meeting will focus on the web-edition of the IASPEI New Manual Seismological Observatory Practice (NMSOP_2) and CoSOI supported training activities (see CoSOI Minutes on the IASPEI website). Accordingly, the reporter presented this proposal Thursday, 15 January 2009, to the Executive meeting with Commission members aimed at elaborating a first draft proposal for IUGG and IASPEI sessions at the Melbourne 2011 assembly. As tentative conveners and session title the IASPEI Secretary General, Peter Suhadoly, noted: “

Bormann, Taber, Gibson: Education and Outreach - Internet-based NMSOP and educational tools

The reporter now proposes to consider a slightly broadened title, which could read (pending approval or modification by the CoE&O chairmen):

"Education and Outreach: Internet-based NMSOP, training courses, educational concepts, modules and tools".

Reporter: Peter Bormann

Kleinmachnow, 04 March 2009