International Geographical Union  
Minutes of the IGU Executive Committee Meeting  
Zoom EC Meeting  
Monday, 28th June 2021

Welcome, Apologies and Meeting Logistics

The online meeting was chaired by President Michael Meadows, who welcomed EC members, Past-President Yukio Himiyama, First Vice-President Iain Hay, and Vice-Presidents Elena dell’Agnese, Nathalie Lemarchand, Barbaros Gönencgil, Ruben Lois-González, and Holly Barcus, along with Assistant Secretary-General Pankaj Kumar. Apologies were received from Secretary-General R.B. Singh, and Vice Presidents Bojie Fu and Céline Rozenblat. The Executive Committee meeting commenced at 10h00 GMT on Monday, 28th June, 2021.

Adoption of the Schedule and Agenda

The agenda was duly adopted.

Minutes

Minutes of the IGU Executive Committee Meeting, held online on 8thApril and 15th April 2021, previously circulated and corrected via email, were approved. The French version was also prepared by Lemarchand.

Organization

4.01 General Assembly 2021

EC discussed and finalised the draft agenda for IGU General Assembly 2021. The virtual IGU General Assembly (GA) is scheduled to commence on Monday 16th August 2021 at Istanbul, Turkey in conjunction with IGC 2021. Two sessions, each of two hours, are reserved for the GA on 16th and 17th August. The need for the second day GA session will be determined at the conclusion of the session on the 16th. The GA will be broadcast simultaneously on YouTube and will be recorded. The GA agenda, virtual meeting link, and call for Financial Sub-committee member nominations will be circulated by the General Secretary to IGU communities in advance of the meeting. The EC approved the following draft GA agenda:

Istanbul, Turkey 16th Monday and 17th Tuesday August 2021
10 am to 12 pm (GMT)

- Welcome by the President
- Roll Call
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Nomination and Approval of Finance Sub-Committee
- Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 General Assembly
- Amendment to IGU Statutes
- Report of the President for the Period 2020-21
- Report of the Secretary General and Treasurer for the Period 2020-2021
- Announcement of IGU Honours and Awards
- IGU Commission Excellence Awards for 2019, 2020
- Schedule of Future IGU Meetings
- Report of the General Assembly Finance Committee
- Open discussion National Committee and Commission and Task Force members
Regarding the amendment to the IGU Statutes to accommodate a suggestion that IGU affiliation with CIPSH be noted, Meadows agreed to consider how this can be phrased and also to consider an amendment to clarify the situation regarding IGU 'corresponding membership', which is a category no longer used and which name appears to cause some confusion. The proposed amendment is to be circulated with the General Assembly agenda documents, by the end of July (Meadows, Singh).

It was also agreed that the President and Secretary-General report should be presented in written form and circulated with the General Assembly agenda documents (Meadows, Singh).

4.02 IGU Finances
The Statutes require IGU accounts to be reviewed by a temporary Finance Committee who are tasked with formally reporting on the matter at the General Assembly. Due to the fact that the General Assembly in Istanbul in 2020 was held online, such review had not proved possible then and the decision was taken to postpone the task to 2021. Since the 2021 General Assembly is also online, a way forward to ensure compliance with the Statutes is required. Meadows suggested that a call be made to the IGU Community, via National Committee and Commission and Task Force chairs, to nominate individuals (self-nomination is also acceptable) to serve on the Finance Committee (typically comprising three people) to review the IGU accounts for the period 2016 to 2021. Acting IGU Treasurer Barcus and President Meadows will then share e-versions of the IGU accounts, including annual financial reports, bank statements, balance sheets and budget, with nominated members of the committee ahead of the General Assembly. This should be done by the end of July 2021 to allow the committee sufficient time to review the accounts and report back to the General Assembly (Singh, Barcus, Meadows).

4.03 Executive Committee member reports
The EC agreed that the Secretary-General and Treasurer should compile a summary report of Executive Committee activity for reporting to the GA. This summary should draw from EC members’ reports prepared since the last GA. (Singh)

Operations

5.01 Commission Excellence Award
The IGU Commissions Excellence Award sub-committee reported its unanimous nomination of the Commission on Geography of Governance for the IGU Commissions Excellence Award for 2020. The award has already been announced on the IGU website. The EC agreed that evaluation guidelines for the Commission Excellence Award should be prepared for circulation to Commission and Task Force chairs (dell’Agnese).

5.02 Honors and Awards Committee
Himiyama presented the draft IGU Honors Committee Report, dated 20 June 2021. The EC discussed the Committee’s responses to earlier EC questions and suggested a number of minor modifications to the draft details of existing and new awards. Himiyama will communicate with the Honors Committee about these (Himiyama).
6.01 IGC Istanbul 2021
Gönençgil presented a draft framework for the forthcoming 34th International Geographical Congress. Participants from around 75 countries have registered to join the virtual Congress. Meadows suggested that the Commission Excellence Award lectures (Tourism, 2019; Biogeography, 2020) should be highlighted separately on the program so that Congress participants have greater opportunity to attend it. It was also agreed that the EC meeting be held on the day before the Istanbul Congress in hybrid form to accommodate those members able to attend Istanbul in person as well as those unable to travel.

6.02 Paris Congress
Lemarchand discussed preparations for the Paris Congress 2022 which will be presented as both in-person and online for a part of it (hybrid mode). The sessions will be either in person or virtually. Participants physically present in Paris will be able to follow all sessions but online participants will only be able to follow the online sessions. Session organisers are advised to specify the form of the session — virtual or in-person - when submitting a proposal. If this is not specified, the sessions will be added to the list of "in-person sessions", but we will make the adjustment as long as possible, depending on the sanitary context. Acknowledging the gender inequality on the current scientific committee (13 male, 6 female), Lemarchand sought suggestions from the EC for more female representatives. Several names were proposed. There remains considerable uncertainty about financial sponsorship due to COVID-19. Venues for the opening and closing ceremonies are still undecided but promising discussions continue. Exhibitions will be held in National Library of France. Lemarchand outlined registration-related processes, including proposed Congress registration fees, and a provisional calendar. Lemarchand highlighted various COVID-related challenges and their consequences for the event’s budget and calendar. In response to these concerns the EC agreed to provide bridging finance to the LOC in the amount of Euros 10,000 to secure some key event bookings.

6.03 IGU Regional Conference 2026
A letter of intent to hold an IGU Regional Conference in 2026 at Nur Sultan city in the Republic of Kazakhstan has been received from Qazaq Geography. The proposers are requested to prepare a more detailed bid document (by 1 May 2022) for presentation to the General Assembly at the Paris Extraordinary Congress. Other bids received by that time can also be considered.

Cooperation and Outreach

7.01 Report on UNGEGN
The Report of the 2nd UNGEGN Session was circulated and posted on the website.

Other Business

No other business was tabled.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 13.30GMT on Monday, 28th June, 2021. The next meeting to take place on 15th August 2021 ahead of the 34th International Geographical Congress in Istanbul.