

Annual Report for 2006

International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy

The year 2006, between the year of the Xth IAGA Scientific Assembly and the year of the XXIVth IUGG General Assembly, has been dominated by preparations for the IUGG 2007 in Perugia and by efforts associated with the starting up of the Electronic Geophysical Year initiative (*eGY*). The Executive Committee met in Beijing in July and decided to propose a change of its composition and to present a number of IAGA awards, among many other things. Several IAGA-sponsored topical meetings have been held during the year and a new issue of IAGA News has been distributed.

Preparations for the XXIVth IUGG General Assembly: IAGA will hold its General Assembly during the first week of IUGG 2007 in Perugia, i.e. between July 2 and July 7 in accordance with the decision to reduce the length of the IAGA assemblies from two weeks to one that was taken by the Conference of Delegates in Toulouse. The IAGA-led scientific programme consists of 57 symposia, of which 3 are Union symposia, 12 are joint symposia with other Associations, and 42 are IAGA-only symposia. A full set of business meetings is also being planned for Perugia, where new leaders will be appointed at all levels of IAGA and planning will start for the scientific programme of the XIth Scientific Assembly in Sopron, Hungary in 2009.

IGY+50 and eGY: The 50-year anniversary of IGY will be celebrated by IUGG and IAGA in Perugia. IAGA is one of the main sponsors of eGY and strongly supports the International Heliophysical Year (IHY). A lot of effort has gone into preparations for these projects. The official launch of eGY will take place in Perugia. The US National Science Foundation has become a major sponsor of eGY, in addition to IAGA and IUGG. The IAGA-led programme for Perugia includes four half-day sessions dealing with the IGY+50, eGY, and IHY. Other Associations within IUGG are also holding sessions related to IGY+50 themes. A public event on this subject will take place on Saturday 7th July 2007.

Global Science Commons: IAGA, largely through eGY, has lent strong support to international efforts to move towards a global (geo)science commons. The President attended the 20th CODATA Conference in Beijing in October as IUGG's observer. CODATA is taking a lead role in realising ICSU's vision for a modern data, information, and services environment that will serve our scientific needs for the future.

IAGA medals and awards: The IAGA Medal for Outstanding Long Service was awarded by the IAGA Executive Committee to Toyohisa Kamei of the World Data Center for Geomagnetism in Kyoto for his invaluable service to the community since 1979 on the production of the AE and Dst geomagnetic indices.

This award recognises outstanding long service in a field of activity of any of the IAGA Divisions (not only Division V) by a scientist who might otherwise receive little recognition.

The decision in Toulouse to establish an IAGA Young Scientist Presentation Award was implemented in 2006. The award is given to selected young scientists who have made outstanding contributions, in terms of both their personal scientific contribution and excellence of presentation, at special topic meetings for which IAGA is a major sponsor. The three first awards of this kind were agreed: to Anna Khanukhina (Russia), Annika Seppälä (Finland), and Tracy Moffat-Griffin (United Kingdom). The award consists of support to participate in the next IAGA Assembly, comprising an economy class air ticket, waiving of registration fee, and a USD 200 contribution to hotel and subsistence costs.

The EC decided not to pursue an additional Outstanding Young Scientist Award that was planned in Toulouse because of the great problems associated with making a fair selection.

To add balance to the small list of IAGA awards, the EC decided to prepare the case for the establishment of a new medal for outstanding scientific services to IAGA. The aim is to recognise persons who have given exceptional service to IAGA and IAGA science, but who are well-known, prominent scientists and, therefore, do not qualify for the Outstanding Long Service Medal.

The composition of the IAGA Executive Committee: At the initiative of the President, the EC discussed ways of modifying the composition of the EC to create greater opportunities to bring younger persons into the Committee without increasing the total number of members and, therewith, the cost. The EC recommends that the position of past-President be eliminated and the number of Vice-Presidents be reduced from two to one. In the view of the EC, this would have no major drawbacks and would have the advantage that two new persons, hopefully younger and representing presently poorly represented sectors of IAGA activities, could be added. The matter will be brought to the Conference of Delegates in Perugia for a decision.

IAGA sponsored topical meetings in 2006: IAGA sponsored 9 topical meetings in 2006 at a total cost of USD 13 000.

IAGA News 43, containing primarily information about the IAGA programme at the IUGG 2007 in Perugia and reports of EC actions, was distributed widely in December of 2006. It can be found at the IAGA web site (www.iugg.org/IAGA).

For the Executive Committee of IAGA
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Secretary General