

MINUTES OF THE TENTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR DIATOM RESEARCH

2-7 September 2004, Miedzyzdroje, Poland. 18th International Diatom Symposium

The President Athena Economou-Amilli opened the 10th General Meeting of the International Society at Miedzyzdroje Poland, and welcomed everyone to the meeting, 68 members having signed their presence

1. Apologies for absence

Regrets for absences were received from Pierre Compère, Carina Lange, and Viv Jones.

2. Deaths of members

With sadness the deaths of members John Kingston and Norman Hendey (our oldest Honorary Member) and also Jean-Jaques Pichon were noted by a minute of silence. Gene Stoermer spoke for John Kingston and David Williams for Norman Hendey.

3. Minutes of the 9th General Meeting held on 30th August 2002 Canadian Museum of Nature, Ottawa, Canada

The Minutes of the 9th General Meeting were made available. The President asked if there were any questions relating to the minutes. None were raised and she asked for approval that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting. Martha Ferrario proposed and Wiebe Kooistra seconded that they be accepted.

4. President's report (Athena Economou-Amilli)

The President thanked the organizing committee of Andrzej Witkowski's group. She reported that the meeting has attracted 200 participants from 42 countries. Poland, in the middle of Europe, has been an excellent choice, with the participation of many young scientists, and especially many scientists from eastern European countries. There has been a wide scientific field of lectures and posters, more than traditional approaches. The President thanked the new secretary Viv Jones and the immediate past president Eileen Cox. The President then briefly reported on the Council Meeting held on the 1st September 2004.

- The members of Council were formally recognised
 - Diatom Research. Mike Sullivan resigned and Jeff Johansen took over as North American Editor. Frank Round resigned as Executive Editor
 - Gill Lockett and Frank Round were proposed by Council as Honorary Members and these were accepted by the Members.
- During the Meeting of the Council in Canada, Eileen Cox and Liz Haworth

were empowered to establish a formal contract with Biopress. There was generally a good agreement on the issues of best practice, and discussions clarified the respective roles of editors and publishers. This was effectively summarized in a memorandum of understanding. However, there was no formal agreement to ratify the society's ownership. The Council has decided that a formal contract with Biopress is not necessary at the moment due to excellent collaboration at present.

- Publication of Symposium Papers. Biopress has been given the option to publish and expressed interest, decision to be made by Council and Andrzej Witkowski.
- Due to exchange rate fluctuations a subscription rate of 60 US \$ was proposed for 2005

5. Treasurer's report (Liz Haworth)

The Treasurer presented financial information in the form of a spreadsheet for the period August 2002 to July 2004. She reported that changes in the exchange rate made it necessary to raise the US \$ to 60; with the Pound (£30) and Euro rates (€ 50) remaining the same. She noted that Transfer charges are the responsibility of the members and that there are now 25 student members since Ottawa meeting. There are 13 assistant treasurers and she thanked them for their support. There are currently between 480 and 520 members in the Society.

Discussion: Linda Medlin asked what type of account we held, i.e. minimal interest bearing? Liz Haworth replied that the Society holds a Capital Reserve Account but noted that interest rates are low.

6. Editor's report (Karen Serieyssel and Jeff Johansen)

The Editors' report was given by Karen Serieyssel

- It is now acceptable to submit manuscripts by e-mail to either editor; followed up with one hard copy by mail.
- e-mail return address to be included on all submissions.
- Colored plates are now available at extra cost to the authors.
- Plates for Biopress should be as .jpg or .tif files, 300 dpi.
- If old issues of DR are available please contact Viv Jones to fill in and give to new people / institutions.
- Instructions to the editors will be updated, first on the web and then in the 20th volume.

The following statistics pertain only to what K. Serieyssel has received.

- In 2002: 19 articles were submitted of which 14 were published.
- 2003: 16 articles were submitted of which 14 were published.

- 2004: 17 articles have already been submitted, 2 were rejected.
- Average time to publication is now 4 months.

Discussion

David Williams asked if the first 10 volumes could be made into .pdf?

Linda Medlin suggested that pdf-files should be given instead of reprints.

Wiebe Kooistra wondered if larger plates or larger format for the journal was possible?

These were felt by the Editors to be an issue for Biopress.

6. Secretary's report (Viv Jones)

Athena gave a short report in absentia. Viv Jones reported that e-mail is saving time and money. For the first time our elections were done by e-mail and they were successful because 151 members voted. They were allowed to vote through e-mail-attachment, fax or snail-mail.

7. Results of Elections

Professor Andrzej Witkowski was elected as Vice-President (Sept. 2004- Sept. 2006), and 3 new Council members for term of September 2004-August 2008 were elected: David Mann, Fumio Akiba and Martha Ferrario

7. Venue for the 18th International Diatom Symposium in 2006

- An invitation to India was to have been presented by Prakash Nautiyal, but he was not able to attend due to visa problems. Mekhala Suseela spoke for India in his place: inviting the ISDR to Lucknow which is 450 km from New Delhi and is well connected by flights and trains. The Foothills of Himalaya, and the Taj Mahal is close, the city is important Science City and has traditional strength in biodiversity and taxonomy. Summer months are very hot (45 °C) colder months: November-February are best time for the meeting. She agreed to have formal proposal to Council in 3 months time.
- Dick Crawford presented the Russian group (Nina Strelnikova in St. Petersburg and Yelena Likoshway in Irkutsk) who have invited the ISDR to Lake Baikal. The meeting venue would be Listvianka or hotel between Irkutsk and Listvianka. Meeting highlights may include boat trip on Lake Baikal, BBQ on shore. Flights to Irkutsk are available from Moscow, Japan, and China.
- Alternate proposal from FYROM (Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia) was presented by Svetislav Krstic (they had already proposed in Australia); they would like to step in for India and Russia. Meeting venue would be Lake Ohrid area.
- Eileen Cox reminded Members that we should have earlier offers. They should be sent to the secretary for the council to review ahead of the meeting.

- A hand vote was taken and resulted in a discussion on counting votes: 1. Russia (30 votes), 2. India (18 votes), 3. FYROM (Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia) (16 votes).
- Offers for 2008: FYROM and India and Argentina (Martha Ferrario)

The Council should decide for the next venue by the end of this year (2004) and inform the members accordingly

8. Any Other Business:

- David Mann urged that Proceedings should be published within a year.
- Bart van de Vijver suggested that Proceedings should be included in registration fee.
- In 2006 Italy will host the Paleoecology Meeting, please take care of timing during planning of IDS 2006.
- NOTE Subsequent to the meeting, the International Paleolimnology meeting will now be held in Minneapolis Minnesota most likely during the last week of June 2006.
- Jan Stevenson felt that a contract with BioPress is necessary. Liz replied that this is not needed at the moment but we will ask for a priority to get the copyright. Karen commented that she is happy with the relationship with Gill Locket.
- Ric Jordan commented that money transfer is very expensive for the IDS meetings. How about changing the cover of the Journal, would it be possible to even just add a photo to the existing layout?
- Dick Crawford noted that the Forum for Diatom Collections is on the web: <http://www.isdr.org/> in 2 years the management of the website has to move from Dick to somebody else.
- Garcia-Rodriquez requested that a special Diatom Research subscription rate be offered to South American and African members of ISDR. Liz replied that she is always open to be contacted about special arrangements.

9. Athena passed Presidency to Michel Poulin and officially closed the 10th General Meeting of the ISDR.