

Fourth Meeting of the Board of Directors (BM4) of the International Year of Planet Earth Corporation

Condensed Minutes

7th August 2008 at the IGC33
Lillestrøm Cultural Centre, Lillestrøm (NORWAY)
09:20 am - 17:15 pm

Present: Woodfork, Larry (Chair); Rubio, Eduardo (Vice-Chair); de Mulder, Eduardo (IYPE Secretariat); Missotten, Robert (UNESCO); Zhang, Hongren (IUGS); Muhongo, Sospeter (Chair SPC); Nield, Ted (OPC Chair); Leahy, Patrick; Toteu, Félix; Buttimer, Anne; De Coster, Dirk; Elewaut, Emile (for van Bracht, Mart); Cloetingh, Sierd; Hess, Jack; Berbert, Carlos Oití; Eder, Wolfgang; Buchanan, Kelvin; Ludden, John; Nickless, Edmund; Teller, Jim; Bjørlykke, Arne; Yu, Jae Young and Ismail-Zadeh, Alik (late arrival).

Apologies from absence: Baird, Ralph (Chair DC); van Bracht, Mart (represented by Emile Elewaut); Nortcliff, Stephen; Porturas, Francisco; Clague, John; Al-Thour, Khalid; Dent, David; van Impe, William

Invited guests: Jordan, Robert (invited under Agenda item 3c)

Observers: Moody-Stuart, Sir Mark (IYPE Patron); Janoschek, Werner (Goodwill Ambassador) and Manuel Regueiro y González-Barros (EFG President)

Secretariat: De Mulder, Eduardo (Executive Director); Dantec Elena (IYPE/IUGS) and Habimana, Cyprien.

1. Welcome

The IYPE Board Chairman Larry Woodfork (LW) extended a warm welcome to the Board members present, and announced that the quorum was reached to formally start the fourth IYPE Board meeting and declared the meeting open. He bid a special welcome to new members and guided the participants through the agenda before proposing a *tour de table* for all members present.

2. Implementation of Actions BM3.

a. Board Meeting BM3, Paris, 14 & 15 February 2008

At the time of the Oslo Board meeting (BM3), eight actions out of eleven had been executed, two were still pending and one had become obsolete.

b. Informal Board Meeting (IBM), Arusha, 9 May 2008

At the time of the Oslo meeting, ten out of eleven actions had been implemented, and one was still pending.

3. Corporation & composition of Board

a. Shared seats:

With the election of Prof. Jae-Young Yu as the representative for East and South East Asia Region, all the IYPE Board seats are now distributed, since Australia and New Zealand have chosen not to take part in the shared seats nomination process. The Board composition as of 07.08.2008 was therefore as follows:

1. Dr. Larry, D. Woodfork (LW)	15. Prof. John Clague (JC)
2. Mr. Eduardo Rubio (ER)	16. Dr. Alik Ismail-Zadeh (AZ)
3. Prof. Sospeter Muhongo (SM)	17. Dr. David Dent (DD)
4. Dr. Ted Nield (TN)	18. Prof. Stephen Nortcliff (SN)
5. Dr. Ralph Baird (RB)	19. Prof. Anne Buttimer (ABu)
6. Dr. Robert Missotten (RM)	20. Dr. John Ludden (JL)
7. Prof. Zhang Hongren (ZH)	21. Dr. Dirk De Coster & Dr. Ian Dowman (DC & ID)
8. Dr. Mart van Bracht (MB)	22. Dr. Wolfgang Eder (WE)
9. Dr. Edmund Nickless (EN)	23. Dr. Félix Toteu (FT)
10. Dr. Patrick Leahy (PL)	24. Dr. Jack Hess & Dr. Jim Teller (JH & JT)
11. Dr. Francisco Porturas (FP)	25. Dr. Jaime Urrutia Fucugauchi & Dr. Carlos Oiti Berbert (JF & CB)
12. Dr. Kelvin Buchanan (KB)	26. Prof. Jae-Young Yu (JY)
13. Prof. William F. Van Impe (WVI)	27. Dr. Khalid Al-Thour (KA)
14. Prof. Sierd Cloetingh (SC)	28. Dr. Arne Bjørlykke (ABJ)

b. Status Corporation and tax exemption

On 14.07.2008, the State of Delaware issued a Certificate of good standing to IYPE Corporation testifying that the IYPE Corporation was duly incorporated under the State's Laws.

4. Secretariat

a. Evaluation Q1 and Q2 in 2008

The first quarter of 2008 was the busiest period because of preparations for the IYPE GLE in Paris. GLE follow up activities, IYPE regional launch events, the communication with ever increasing numbers of IYPE National Committees, reprinting flyers, preparing the IYPE follow-up initiative beyond 2009, etc. are among activities that occupied the Secretariat during the second quarter.

The Secretariat has obtained a Norwegian Government contribution of NOK 4 million disbursable in four annual instalments (2007-2010) to cover the Secretariat costs in Norway. The Dutch Government has also pledged another contribution of Euros 0.6 million, and International and Founding Partners are paying their annual contributions on a more or less regular basis.

5. The Future

In response to a general desire to sustain the IYPE spirit beyond 2009 expressed by some Board members and, in particular, by National Committees, there was an exchange of views on a new and long term initiative that would build on IYPE ideals without necessarily being a simple continuation. The Board decided to set up a Working Group, led by John Ludden of the British Geological Survey, to think about a structure that should be put in place after the IYPE closure, and to report its findings with recommendations to the Board before the end of 2008.

6. Finances

Since the onset of IYPE (2001), fundraising activities have generated USD 3,686 million, including the Dutch funds, but not including funds raised locally by NCs for national/local activities; fundraising activities will continue. The total cost of implementation of IYPE activities during 2008 is expected to rise from USD 1,408 million (February 2008) to USD 1,525,500 (August 2008). Funds earmarked for Outreach and Science programmes are included in the costs, but their disbursement will depend on actual collection of donation pledges.

d. Competitive bids to audit IYPE accounts:

The Board approved the Secretariat proposal to hire Deloitte to review the IYPE 2007 books. A review committee chaired by Dr. Kelvin Buchanan was appointed and given a mandate to review the Deloitte audit report and to make necessary recommendations to the Board.

7. Development Committee

The Chair of the IYPE Development Committee, Dr. Ralph Baird, was appointed in February 2008. He has already prepared and submitted his step-by-step fundraising strategy and a list of the Committee members. The Board has recommended *that* the membership to the Development Committee be expanded to be more visibly international, to include IYPE flagship projects in the fundraising strategy and to enrich that strategy with the benefit of the IYPE National Committees' experience of fundraising success .

8. Outreach programme

a. Outreach programme activity report Q1 and Q2

The Chair of the IYPE Outreach Programme, Ted Nield, updated the meeting on the Committee's activities during the first and second quarters of 2008 with regard to the review of the Expressions of Interests and subsequent responses to accepted proposals, as well as on current initiatives/projects including the OneGeology project. He also reported on issues related to IYPE publications, the OPC dissemination activities through IYPE Website and media, etc.

He informed the Board of his wish to give 6-9 months' notice of his resignation as a member of the IYPE Board with effect from 01 April 2009.

b. IYPE exhibitions

IYPE Goodwill Ambassador Werner Janoschek presented an overview of all IYPE exhibition events in which he had taken part since the Global Launch Event in Paris, and those on his agenda.

c. Distribution and new editions IYPE book

A new edition of the IYPE Book is planned in 2008. Two more editions may be published before 2010. Edward Derbyshire will continue to be the editor for the book.

d. Closing events.

No closing event on the scale of the Paris GLE is being planned at the end of the IYPE triennium (December 2009). Options to link that event with one or more major geoscience gatherings is being considered.

9. IYPE Launch Events

a. Evaluation African Launch Event, Arusha (8-9 May 2008)

The Africa Regional Launch event in Arusha (Tanzania) was successful, well organised and well attended. The event was also the occasion for a meeting of NCs to exchange their respective experience. The event was expected to boost IYPE National Committees in Africa, but only one NC (Cape Verde) had since been established. The South African National IYPE Committee's idea of developing the concept of geological corridors was considered original and brilliant.

b. Evaluation Latin American Launch Event, Brasilia (23-24 April 2008)

The event was a success both in respect of scientific events, (local and regional) attendance, exhibitions and visits associated with the event. Many more associated events were planned in Brazil after the formal launch i.e. the Brazilian Society for the progress of Science, the National Week of Science and Technology, the Brazilian Geological Congress, the World Day of Science for peace and Development, etc..

c. Other Launch Events

By August 2008, IYPE Launch Events had been arranged in more than 30 countries. Such events are excellent awareness tools for IYPE National Committees. The list of IYPE national/regional launch events is published and updated on the IYPE website.

10. Science programme

The Chair of the IYPE Science Programme Committee, Prof. Sospeter Muhongo Chair, reported on ongoing activities in each of the ten IYPE Science Implementation Teams (SITs), and on their respective contributions to the preparation of the IYPE Legacy book series. He reported also that the Committee has recognised the need to establish some kind of formal contact between the SPC and IYPE National Committees with a view to improved distribution of work produced by the Science programme.

11. National & Regional Committees

As of August 2008, established and functioning National Committees numbered 73, representing almost 77% of the world population. Some NCs are more active than others, and there are a few NCs that have not yet reported on any activity.

12. Advisory Groups

a. Senior Advisers & Goodwill Ambassadors

The Board appointed Dr. Edward Derbyshire editor of the IYPE book and former Chair of the SPC to be appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador, in recognition of the services he continues to render to the IYPE.

b: Patrons

The Board was satisfied that Patrons are increasingly involved in IYPE activities such as lobbying, participation in IYPE events and fundraising.

13. Legacy of the IYPE

The IYPE Board Chair reminded members that the IYPE legacy was an important issue that the Board must keep in the foreground. The closing of the IYPE will have to be a great deal more than just be a celebration. Members and other interested group should start working on the IYPE's legacy drawing, for example, upon the OneGeology project.

14. Next Board of Directors and Board of Officers meetings

The next IYPE Board meeting will be held at the Geological Society of London (GSL) in London (UK) on 26 January 2009.

15. Any Other Business

- a. The Board Chair informed the meeting that IYPE Corporation Executive Secretary, Dr. Eduardo de Mulder, has been nominated as an Honorary Member of the Geological Society of London (GSL).
- b. The SPC Chair updated the Board on the preparations for the 29th ICSU General Assembly that will be held in Mozambique in October 2008.
- c. DVDs on the IYPE Global Launch Event in Paris and on the Africa Regional Launch Event in Arusha are available both in hard copies and on the IYPE website.

Cyprien Habimana
25.11.2008