

**Fifth Meeting of the Board of Directors (BM5) of the International
Year of Planet Earth Corporation**

26 January 2009 at the Geological Society of London
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London UK

Condensed MINUTES

Board members present: Woodfork, Larry (Chair); Rubio, Eduardo (Vice-Chair); Missotten, Robert (UNESCO); Nield, Ted (OPC Chair); Leahy, Patrick (AGI); Toteu, Félix (Reg. rep. Africa); Buttimer, Anne (IGU); Abler, Ronald (IGU); De Coster, Dirk (co-rep Ass. Partners); Dowman, Iain (co-rep. Ass. Partners); Hess, Jack (rep. North America); Eder, Wolfgang (rep. Europe); Buchanan, Kelvin (AIPG); Ludden, John (rep. Int. Partners); Nickless, Edmund (GeoSoc); Bjørlykke, Arne (rep. four-stars donors); Yu, Jae Young (rep. East & SE Asia); Dent, David (ISRIC).

Invited guests:

- a. Molina, Dan (Development Committee and Media) invited under Agenda item No 6 (a)
- b. Dr. Manning, Phillip Deputy/Chair OPC invited under Agenda item No 8 (a)
- c. Fernandes, Mauricio (Development Committee, Fundraiser) invited under Agenda item No 7 (f)
- d. Derbyshire, Edward (Goodwill Ambassador & editor PlanetEarth books), invited under Agenda item No 8 (b)

Secretariat: De Mulder, Eduardo (Executive Director) and Habimana, Cyprien.

1. Welcome and apologies:

The IYPE Board Chairman Larry Woodfork extended a warm welcome to the Board members present and extended special thanks to Edmund Nickless and through him to the Geological Society of London for hosting the 5th meeting of the IYPE Board. EN welcomed the participants.

The IYPE Executive Director, Ed de Mulder suggested that Agenda Item 3 (c) be discussed after discussion of Agenda Item No 5 and preferably together with Agenda Item No 7.

The Board adopted the BM5 Agenda with these adjustments.

2. Implementation of Actions arising from BM3 and BM4

a. Paris Board Meeting in February 2008-BM3

Ed de Mulder reported that, of 11 actions arising from BM3 in Paris (France), 8 had been implemented, one was still pending (BM3-9), one was partly completed (BM3-11), and one had become obsolete (BM3-8).

b. Oslo Board meeting in August 2009 (BM4)

Ed de Mulder reported that, of seven (7) actions arising from BM4 in Oslo (Norway), six had been implemented and only one (BM4-2) remained to be completed.

3. Corporation & composition of Board

a. Shared seats

The following IYPE Board members have replaced the outgoing members:

- i. Prof. Alberto Riccardi replaces Hongren Zhang for IUGS
- ii. Ronald Abler replaces Anne Buttimer for IGU
- iii. Prof. V.P. Dimri replaces Khalid Al-Thour for West/central Asia in 2009

b. Status Corporation and tax exemption

The IYPE legal counsel has submitted a document on the status of the IYPE Corporation filing for IRS approval of US federal tax exemption and other matters related to requirements of the IYPE incorporation in the U.S. State of Delaware.

c. Statutes & Bye laws

The IYPE Status and Bye laws do not include any statement on ways of dealing with IYPE assets (cash or goods) or deficits on the closure date of IYPE activities, i.e. 30th June 2010. The Executive Director presented several options on how to deal with a surplus or deficit once the IYPE Corporation is terminated and after all the debts have been paid.

In the event of a surplus, the following alternative options should be considered:

- i. The surplus should go to the Initiators (IUGS and UNESCO)
- ii. The surplus should go to the Initiators and the 11 Founding Partners
- iii. The surplus should go to a follow-up initiative built on the legacy of the IYPE
- iv. The surplus should go to the National Committees.

The Board recommended that the Secretariat should enter into consultation with UNESCO and IUGS on the issue and ensure that the two institutions make a firm decision on how best to use any surplus.

4. Secretariat

a. Evaluation Q3 and Q4

During the third and fourth quarters of 2008, most of the Secretariat's efforts were directed towards expanding the number of international partners, advancing the new edition of the IYPE book, and interaction with National Committees.

b. Expectations for 2009 and 2010

Most of the activities will be centred on IYPE exposure and legacy, sustained communication with National Committees, and the continued implementation of the outreach projects, among others.

5. The Future

a. Paper Review and Recommendations

The findings of the Ludden Working Group on the impact and future role of the IYPE were presented to the Board. Following extensive discussion, it transpired that five (5) questions were emerging from the Group's findings:

1. What sort of light-weight arrangement/platform can be created to encourage the bringing together of the various science unions and councils?
2. How should individual countries or groups of countries preserve their National Committees (NCs), if needed?
3. Is there a world-class Science programme worthy of development as a legacy of IYPE?
4. How do we encourage the Young Earth Science (YES) Group?
5. How can we develop a future Earth-focused, self-financed outreach initiative?

b. Discussion

Five (5) break-out groups were formed under an appointed chairperson to discuss these questions:

Question 1: Bringing together geosciences families, Chair John Ludden

Question 2: National Committees, Chair Wolfgang Eder

Question 3: Global earth science, Chair David Dent

Question 4: YES group, Chair Jack Hess

Question 5: Outreach, Chair Phil Manning

c. Follow-up Activities: Reporting from working groups

On Question 1: The Board formalised the proposition by unanimously approving a motion requesting that the IYPE Secretariat should create a scoping group to develop further the Tsukuba Declaration. A scoping group will carry forward the idea of creating a "World Geosciences Forum". It will define the limits of such a forum and develop a "vision". The "vision" will be part of the final declaration of the IYPE and will include a request that UNESCO develops the process of implementating this group.

On Question 2: The Board formalized the recommendation by approving unanimously a request that the Secretariat send out a questionnaire to all National Committees requesting their input and views on the need and aims of a potential IYPE follow-up initiative. The questionnaire should be discussed at the forthcoming EGU Congress, Vienna, 19-23 April 2009.

On Question 3: The Board formalised the recommendation by approving unanimously a motion approving that:

- a. IYPE will be used as a platform for a new body, embracing all environmental science, tasked with advocacy and representation of environmental sciences' contribution to society - to ensure that decision makers and the wider public are well informed, and to lobby on global issues.
- b. The work of the IYPE should culminate in the promotion of a single, world-class, international scientific program that all Earth sciences can unite behind. The program should make a difference, be global in scope and relevance, exclude no branch of Earth sciences, and be inclusive of all people directly and in the short term. Suggested issues include climate change (putting the carbon back in the Earth where it came from), future of water (Source to shelf), Geo-hazards and Delta environments.

On Question 4: the Group 4 reported that it had covered issues on how to encourage the involvement of young people in the geosciences, how to achieve broad representation at the YES Congress, how to expose young geoscientists to politics, etc. There was no formal motion on this question and no special action was requested of the Secretariat.

On Question 5: the Board formalized the recommendation by approving by majority vote a motion recognizing the need to set up a strategy that will work on Planet Earth image, to promote science to the media, and facilitate communication among scientists, between scientists and major players and between scientists and the wider community.

6. Development Committee

The report presented the updated composition and the tasks of the Development Committee, the priority target groups for fundraising and results achieved so far, the fundraising strategy for 2009, the media strategy and the Committee's future plans. Mr Mauricio Fernandes, a professional fundraiser was hired. He has already identified projects to optimize the fundraising yield that includes the production of videos, DVDs and the IYPE big-screen display project (Planet Earth TV, PE-TV).

7. Finances (Eduardo de Mulder; doc BM5-6)

- **Financial Review 2007 and Deloitte Report:**

The Board approved a motion to approve and accept the Deloitte audit report for 2007, and requested that the Executive Director should schedule another audit for the year 2008.

- **Discussion on proposed budgets for 2009 and 2010**

The Executive Director presented four (4) scenarios of expected income and expenditure and asked the Board to recommend the one it thought to be more responsive to IYPE planned activities. The Board approved the rather conservative budget of 1 499 000 US\$ for 2009.

The Board passed a motion approving payment of the Executive Director's invoices once the bank account had a positive balance of 150 000 US\$ and after all other debts for 2008 had been paid.

8. Outreach programme

- **Report on Q3 and Q4 activities Projects**

The Board approved a motion to commend Dr. Ted Nield, the outgoing IYPE Outreach Programme Chairman, for his work on IYPE matters.

- **IYPE Book, review '08 editions and preview '09:**

The progress of the second international edition of the IYPE Book was set out. Apart from the 35% advertisements, the book will contain both (popular) scientific articles and brief descriptions of activities by all National Committees in 2008.

9. IYPE International Events

a. Evaluation Launch Events

A comprehensive list of launch events in all countries where IYPE is active was presented.

b. International IYPE events foreseen for 2009.

Upcoming international IYPE activities include:

- October 2009: GSA Annual Meeting in Portland (USA)
- October 2009: YES Congress in Beijing (China)
- November 2009: IYPE Event in Lisbon (Portugal)
- December 2009: AGU meeting in San Francisco (USA)

10. Science programme

a. Report on Q3 and Q4 activities

The report includes information on Science Implementing Teams (SITs) leaders' meetings and the Committee's contribution to the update and publication of IYPE books and brochures.

b. Status IYPE-SPRINGER Book series

Eight (8) out of the ten (10) IYPE science themes will produce a thematic book in the IYPE-SPRINGER series. Some of these are in an advanced stage of development and it is planned to publish the first books in spring 2009. The IYPE legacy Book series will be published by Springer Science & Business Media B.V.

11. National & Regional Committees

a. Status of National and regional Committees

EM informed the Board that the IYPE family has reached 77 National Committees and one (1) Regional Committee as of January 2009. Five countries (Serbia, Angola, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka) are making progress in establishing their committees.

b. Relation between National Committees and Corporation

The collaboration between the Secretariat and National Committees is progressing well, especially following the effectiveness of the GLE. IYPE books provide each National Committee with an opportunity to present itself and to showcase its activities.

12. Advisory Groups

a. Senior Advisers, Goodwill Ambassadors & Patrons

No changes were reported.

13. Legacy of the IYPE

It was noted that many actions are in hand concerning the IYPE legacy, with a view to continuing influence on the part of the IYPE. The global network established by IYPE, which continues to expand, offers enormous potential for reaching out to audiences never before reached by geoscientists.

14. Next Board of Directors and BO meetings

The next Board Meeting (BM6) will take place in Lisbon (Portugal) during the Lisbon IYPE Event.

Cyprien Habimana

20.04.2009

Edited ED and EdM

25.04.2009