



## **Sixth Meeting of the Board of Directors (BM6) of the International Year of Planet Earth Corporation**

19 November 2009 in VIP Executive Art's Hotel  
Lisbon, Portugal

### **Condensed MINUTES**

**Board members present:** Board members present: Woodfork, Larry (Chair); Rubio, Eduardo (Vice-Chair); Riccardi, Alberto C. (President IUGS), Muhongo, Sospeter (Chair Science Programme Committee); Leahy, Patrick (Founding Partner (FP) AGI); Toteu, Félix (rep. Africa); Abler, Ronald (FP IGU); De Coster, Dirk (co-rep Ass. Partners); Hess, Jack (co-rep. North America); Eder, Wolfgang (rep. Europe); Buchanan, Kelvin (FP AIPG); Nickless, Edmund (FP GeolSoc); Bjørlykke, Arne (rep. four-stars donors); Yu, Jae Young (rep. East & SE Asia); Dent, David (FP ISRIC); van Bracht, Mart (FP TNO); Porturas, Francisco (FP AAPG); Ismail-Zadeh, Alik (FP IUGG); Nortcliff, Stephen (FP IUSS); Teller, James (co-rep. North America); Berbert, Carlos Oití (rep. Latin America); Al Thour A., Khalid (rep West, Central and South Asia); Oberhaensli, Roland (representing Prof. Cloetingh, Sierd, FP ILP).

**Apologies from absence:** Missotten, Robert (UNESCO), Baird, Ralph (Chair Development Committee); Dr. Manning, Phillip Chair OPC); Ludden, John (rep. Int. Partners); Dimri, V.P. (rep. West & Central Asia); Prof. Clague, John (FP INQUA); Dowman, Ian ((co-rep. Ass. Partners).

**Invited guests:** Werner Janoschek (GWA) under Agenda item 9-c (IYPE exhibitions)

**Observers:** Bobrowsky, Peter (Secr. Gen. IUGS); Gaines, Sarah (UNESCO); Margaret W. Maimba (Kenya N.C.).

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

#### **1. Welcome and apologies**

The 6<sup>th</sup> IYPE Board meeting formally opened at 9:00 AM. The IYPE Chairman Larry Woodfork extended a warm welcome to the Board members present in Lisbon and informed them about Board members who, due to different reasons could not attend the meeting.

## **2. Implementation of Actions BM5**

The IYPE Executive Director Dr. Eduardo de Mulder (EM) informed the Board that all seven (7) actions arising from BM5 London (UK) had been addressed.

## **3. Corporation & Board**

### ***a. Status Corporation and tax exemption***

The Chair informed the Board that the IYPE Corporation request for a federal tax exemption status in USA had been denied as a result of two main reasons:

- The control of IYPE is beyond "US control" because its main operating office is located outside the USA, the majority of its Board members are non-US residents, and its main sources of financial support comes from outside the USA.
- No sufficient financial information was supplied to demonstrate the full IYPE global activities.

### ***b. Closure of Corporation 30 June 2010***

According to the Statutes and Bye laws, IYPE will close in June 2010. The Secretariat will take care of all the administrative documentation required in the State of Delaware.

### ***c. Statutes & Bye laws***

A resolution taken on 14 July 2009 by IYPE Board of Officers, granting the Executive Director and the Chairman of the Board powers to deal and sign financial transactions in regard to the IYPE accounts at the UNITED Bank in Morgantown, WV 26505 USA and at the Banco Espirito Santo in Lisbon (Portugal) respectively was formally endorsed by the Board.

The Lisbon bank account was established to accommodate PEL2009 and to receive locally generated contributions. The Board was satisfied that the chain of command in managing the two accounts (i.e. authorisations by the Chair) as provided in the Bye laws was in place.

## **4. Secretariat**

The Executive Director reports the IYPE Secretariat activities regularly to the Board through the Executive Director's quarterly reports.

The Portuguese Ministry of Economy and Innovation offered an office to host the PELE 2009 Organizing Committee (PELE 2009 OC) at no cost to IYPE. The PELE 2009 OC main activities had been to coordinate all activities leading to the event, including logistics, travel and accommodations arrangements for the participants for both PELE 2009 and BM6.

The Secretariat in Norway continues its normal activities. The main activities in 2010 will focus on the production of one report that will serve the needs of both UNESCO, IUGS and the UN General Assembly. It should cover all major IYPE activities and results achieved during its Triennium 2007-2009.

The IYPE Secretariat will also produce a more popular booklet for a wider audience summarizing the results of the IYPE and way forward. That popular

publication could very well be in a format comparable with the Planet Earth publications, i.e. including advertisements, on glossy paper and with a lot of pictures.

## **5. Finances**

### **a. *Financial Review IYPE 2007-2008;***

The Deloitte report on IYPE financial statements for 2008 was presented and formally received by the Board. A similar statement will be ordered for 2009 and 2010.

### **b. *Status implementation IYPE Budget 2009***

The Executive Director presented the IYPE finances in 2009 and the budget 2010. He announced that the slow collection of pledges did not seriously hamper IYPE activities so far. He disclosed that new International Partners were still willing to join IYPE. The estimated budget deficit for 2009 would be around \$ 290 K, mostly due the global financial crisis that hampered the fundraising expectations.

### **c. *Proposed budget for 2010 and implementation***

The IYPE has reached 36 International Partners among them 20 private firms. Several are willing to pay their contribution for 2010 or to support a linking bridge towards a new initiative. Income collected through the fundraising team in 2010 will be used to support 2010 activities and to cover the 2009 deficit.

A motion tabled by Eduardo Rubio and seconded by Khalid Al Thour to maintain the fundraising team passed by majority vote with two opposing votes and 3 abstentions.

## **6. IYPE Legacy**

The Board received a briefing from a representative of the Beijing YES Congress 2009 Organizing Committee, Wang Meng from the University of Geosciences in Beijing (China).

Apart from the YES Initiative, other major IYPE achievements include a broad political and recognition of Earth sciences through UN; 80 Regional and National Committees, the OneGeology project; the IYPE Springer Book series; Earth Sciences Education in Africa; Africa Alive Corridors; Via Geo-Alpina;; Africa Forum for Sustainable Development; etc..

The Board passed unanimously a resolution that IYPE Officers and Members of the Board express their deep appreciation and sincere thanks to the Young Earth-Scientists International Organizing Committee, and the Beijing YES Organizing Committee, for a very successful First Young Earth-Scientists Congress held in Beijing, China in October 2009.

## **7. The Future**

The Board received updates from members of the ad-hoc Working Groups on a World Geoscience Forum and, more in particular, on a Global geoscience initiative to explore options for a 'world-class geoscience programme'

through a meeting in London (July) and Town-Hall meetings at GSA (October), AGU (December) and EGU (May 2010). A follow-up meeting at UNESCO was proposed.

The Executive Director informed the Board on progress made in the ad-hoc Working Group on a primarily outreach-oriented initiative, entitled the Planet Earth Initiative (PEI). PEI is a new initiative that should build on the legacy of the International Year of Planet Earth IYPE, whose Mission would be to inform the public how Earth scientific knowledge helps to make societies around the world healthier, safer and more prosperous, and to excite the youth about the Earth.

While the Board agreed that the geo sciences community needed that kind of platform, as it has the potential to carry the IYPE message at an international level for the years to come. Once established, National Committees would be invited to embark on the initiative. Some members thought that the idea needed more research in regard to the PEI organization (membership), financing and implementation of activities.

The Board passed a motion to endorse the PEI by majority vote, opposed by two votes with one abstention.

#### **8. Development Committee**

The IYPE Development Committee's activity report of the IYPE Development Committee was presented by the IYPE Chairman, on behalf of the Committee Chair Dr. Ralph Baird.

#### **9. Outreach programme**

##### **a. *Planet Earth Books***

Two issues of the Planet Earth Book are already published and a third issue will be published in a few weeks time. New items on Geo-Parks and the Darwin Year will be included in the third issue.

##### **b. *Planet Earth TV***

The PETV project has been put on hold due to the weak advertisement market. PETV was supposed to be fully financed by advertisements. The Board recommended that the PETV video should be put on YouTube.

##### **c. *IYPE exhibitions***

Recent IYPE exhibitions were held in Toronto (AGU), Houston (SEG), and in San Francisco (AGU).

#### **10. Science programme**

##### **a. *Evaluation activities 2009***

The Science Committee Chair gave an update summary of activities within each of the Sciences Implementation Teams, and informed the Board on the conclusions and recommendations of the Sciences Implementation Teams (SIT) leaders meeting in Pretoria (May 2009).

##### **b. *Status IYPE-SPRINGER Book series***

The IYPE-SPRINGER first thematic book on New Frontiers in Integrated Solid Earth Sciences by ILP is already out, the book on Hazards will be out in two months, and the one on Groundwater and the remaining books will be done

by mid 2010. African National Committees present at the Pretoria meeting came up with an idea to produce a supplementary book on Africa. The book should be ready by mid 2010.

### **11. National & Regional Committees**

The Executive Director made an analytical presentation of results received from NC questionnaire on how IYPE had addressed their respective expectation, and to request their views and suggestion on goals of a potential IYPE follow-up initiative.

The NCs answers show that IYPE did well, mostly in regard to the Outreach Programme, and in the fact that different local, national or regional scientific groupings came to work together. The number of student's enrolment in Earth sciences education has doubled in some countries that keep reliable data. Most countries are receptive to join a new initiative.

Concerning NC contributions to the IYPE budget, the Board passed unanimously a motion proposed by Alberto Riccardi and seconded by Eduardo Rubio requiring the Secretariat to approach each NC and claim the 3% contractual contribution.

On IYPE Awards during PELE 2009, the Board was informed on how the IYPE Awards idea was conceived and implemented, and how the selection and awards criteria for the 17 most active National Committees were put together.

### **12. IYPE International Events**

The Executive Director briefed the Board on the preparation, implementation of PELE 2009.

Jack Hess reported on IYPE related events scheduled to take place during the San Francisco AGU meeting in December 2009.

### **13. Advisory Groups**

No new item to discuss under this item

### **14. Next Board meeting**

As the IYPE Triennium has almost come to an end, there were no proposals for new Board meetings. BM6 Lisbon was therefore the last formal IYPE Board meeting.

### **15. Any Other Business**

The Board empowered the Chair to write a "Thank You" letter thanking the Norwegian Government for hosting and co-financing the IYPE Secretariat, and to the IYPE Initiators UNESCO and IUGS for their support.

The Chair thanked each IYPE Board member's contribution the IYPE achievement and adjourned the BM6 meeting at 17H00

Cyprien Habimana  
05.02.2010