

## **Minutes – ISWI Steering Committee Meeting 2019, Feb 14, 2019**

Meeting held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), Vienna, Austria

Minutes submitted by Patricia Doherty, ISWI Meetings Coordinator

Dr. Nat Gopalswamy (ISWI Steering Committee Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:15AM. Twenty-three participants were in attendance including 9 committee members, achieving the necessary quorum for the meeting. A list of meeting participants is attached.

In accordance with the itemized agenda:

- 1) Introduction and Report: Nat reviewed the main activities of 2018
  - a. Support for a Mini Space Science School held during the Latin School on Data Analysis and Simulations for Space Physics held in April 2018, Buenos Aires, Argentina
  - b. Sponsorship for the COSPAR Capacity Building Workshop on Shock Waves from the Sun, May 21 – June 1, 2018, Mekelle, Ethiopia
  - c. The main event of the year: The ISWI School on Space Weather and Global Navigation Satellite Systems in October, 2018, Baku, Azerbaijan.
    - i. A very successful school with numerous lectures and hands-on laboratory; 50 participants including 7 ISWI members
    - ii. The local hosts also provided technical tours of Shamakhy Astrophysical Observatory, AzerCosmos and the National Aviation Academy.
  - d. Support for the 15<sup>th</sup> ISEA Symposium in October, 2018 in Ahmedabad, India
- 2) Secretariat Update
  - a. Secretariat members are active – no changes anticipated
  - b. Steering committee changes discussion
    - i. In lieu of Christian Monstein's retirement, Marina Battaglia will be the new Swiss steering committee member. Christian will continue to be the instrument lead for Callisto.
    - ii. Mamoru Ishii will replace Kazunari Shibata as the steering committee member from Japan
    - iii. Nat discussed the need for a European coordinator. In addition, a committee member from ESA would be beneficial. Nat will discuss with ESA.
  - c. Newsletter Update by George Maeda
    - i. George pointed to the archive of all the newsletters published since 2009. There are 522 subscribers. George is surprised at how little material he gets for the newsletter. He would like to get event reports. As meeting coordinator, Pat offered to get reports of the schools and workshops to George for the newsletters.
  - d. Website update by Katya Georgieva
    - i. Katya described updates to the website. Noted that the number of hits to the website have decreased but there was a noticeable increase following the ISWI workshop in Boston. We may need some updates to the website.
- 3) Steering Committee Member Remarks
  - a. George Maeda discussed the need for an update on instrument status and new deployments. We seem to be slow on those updates for general distribution.
  - b. George also cited that papers are being published using Callisto data. However, we are not tracking publications with Callisto or other instruments.
  - c. Nat took up the action item to discuss these topics at the ISWI workshop in May at ICTP in Trieste, Italy
- 4) ISWI National Coordinators – Update by Christine Amory
  - a. Christine has been working to identify the National Coordinators as many were no longer active. This is not an easy task but she is making steady progress. Changes will be updated in the website. Others include:

- i. R. Marshall added Simon Asemovski as a new national coordinator for Malaysia
  - ii. Discussion identified a need for national coordinators for Nepal, Viet Nam and Puerto Rico.
- 5) ISWI Instruments Update - Shing Fung
  - a. Shing provided a comprehensive update on AWESOME, CALLISTO, GIFDS, SOFIE, SEVAN and OMTI and the OMTI related capacity building activities.
- 6) Data Subcommittee Report
  - a. Christine Amory provided an update on instruments in Africa
    - i. Locations were identified where data is available freely on a website. She emphasized that these data are primarily those operated by organizations outside of Africa. Christine discussed that it is difficult to identify instruments and contacts (particularly GNSS) in Africa.
    - ii. Babatunde added that NIGNET in Nigerian is having administrative problems but expected they would be resolved soon. He also added that many networks in Africa are for surveying. These networks are not interested in ionospheric or space weather research.
    - iii. Pat suggested that ISWI consider ways to help coordinate and provide incentive for instrument holders to cooperate by making data available
    - iv. Clezio DeNardin suggested that local capacity training be developed in regions where networks exist for geological purposes. This may encourage permissions to use their data.
    - v. Overall – thoughts shared indicated that we should build on the format of networks such as SCINDA, LISN, MAGDAS and AMBER – where instruments and training are provided and data is centralized.
    - vi. Can we identify networks not being used for space weather purposes; contact the administrators and see what it will take to get access to the data? Can we offer some incentive?
  - b. Shing Fung presented information on the International Heliophysics Data Environment Alliance ([www.ihdea.net](http://www.ihdea.net))
    - i. Goals encourage the use of common standards and services in order to enable sharing of data and enhance science
    - ii. Alliance consistent with ISWI Data Policy
    - iii. Shing initiated a discussion on whether ISWI should become an IHDEA participant. Pros and cons were discussed. Further thought and discussion will be continued next meeting.
  - c. Shing discussed a funding issue for retired committee members. An example is Christian Monstein, longtime member and Callisto PI. Since he retired, he no funding to attend committee meetings. Can ISWI provided travel funds for retired members to attend committee meetings? Nat mentioned that we may need to ask the permanent missions to provide a trust fund for this purpose within the UN.
- 7) Sharafat Gadimova provided an update on the ISWI-UNOOSA collaboration. Shafa discussed the activities of the ICG including their efforts in support of space weather. She also discussed the continued support of the ISWI workshops both in Boston in 2017 and the upcoming workshop in Trieste, Italy in May 2019.
- 8) Jim Spann provided a report from NASA on Heliophysics space weather research at NASA. His presentation included space weather science research, applications and new initiatives.
- 9) Pat provided information on the upcoming UN/ISWI workshop to be held at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy on May 20-24 ,2019.
- 10) Shing presented information on the special issue of SunGeo that included papers from the last ISWI workshop held in Boston in 2017. This issue featured 9 papers. The group was

disappointed in the number of papers. We will work to increase the number of papers for a special issue on the upcoming workshop in Trieste, Italy.

- 11) The VarSITI report was given by Katya Georgieva. The report discussed the scientific projects, the closing symposium to be held in Bulgaria in June 2019, and the new scientific program PreSTo (**P**redictability of the variable **S**olar-**T**errestrial **C**oupling)
- 12) National/Regional Coordinator reports. A number of reports were presented by National and Regional coordinators/attendees on the following country activities: Norway, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Italy, Australia, Azerbaijan, China, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Philippines, Japan, Austria, Switzerland, SANSA- South Africa, Sweden, Slovakia, Portugal
- 13) Ian Mann provided an update on the UN COPOUS Space Weather Experts Group (EG). He discussed COPOUS Thematic Priority 4: Developing an International Framework for Space Weather Services. The presentation included a mandate for research and their priorities going forward. Ian mentioned that the EG is appreciative of its collaboration with ISWI.
  - a. Discussion that followed included questions on what ISWI can contribute. Also asked Ian for a suggestion on obtaining a trust fund for ISWI to cover instruments, travel for developers to install and train users of the instruments, etc. Ian suggested that we lobby a few member states to provide funds for this purpose.
- 14) Christine presented slides for Jean Lilensten on the need for space weather researchers to become involved in the European Space Weather Week meetings. The presentation illustrated the success of ESWW with over 400 attendees from many countries. However, they are lacking participants from emergent countries. They ask for ISWI expertise and support to build the country participation in ESWW.
- 15) Other business? The group concluded with discussions on how to enhance instrument deployment and encouraging the free use of data.

The meeting concluded at 6:00PM

A group dinner was held at the restaurant K.u.K. Piaristenkeller.

**ISWI Steering Committee Attendees, Feb 14, 2019  
Vienna International Center (VIC), Vienna, Austria**

Nat Gopalswamy  
Sharafat Gadimova  
Patricia Doherty  
George Maeda  
Christine Amory  
Marina Battaglia  
Manuela Temmer  
Hermann Opgenoorth  
Jim Spann  
Aleksi Parnowski  
Spencer Onuh  
Davie Boteler  
Pierre Langlais  
Richard Marshall  
Babatunde Rabi  
Shing Fung  
Vincenzo Romano  
Katya Georgieva  
Mamoru Ishii  
Siqing Liu  
Clezio De Nardin  
Ian Mann  
Elsayed Talaat