

Minutes from the meetings of the International Council of INQUA XVIII International INQUA Congress, Bern, Switzerland, July 2011

Agenda for the three meetings:

1. Address and welcoming new members
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Minutes of the International Council in Cairns 2007
4. Matters arising from the Minutes (unless covered by agenda below)
5. President's Business
6. Secretary's General's report for the 2007-2011
7. Treasurer's financial report for the period 2007-2011
8. Report by the Auditing Committee
9. Presentations of bids for XIX International INQUA Congress in 2015
10. Nomination of candidates for the Executive Committee 2011-2015 and candidates' presentations
11. Revision of the INQUA Statutes and Bye-laws
12. Liaison with ICSU
13. Reports of the activities in the INQUA Scientific Commissions 2007-2011. The Vice Presidents will present their evaluations
14. Approval of the Officers of the Commissions
15. NACSN Survey on the Redefinition of the Quaternary and Pleistocene
16. Ratification of the Membership fees for 2011-2015
17. Election of Honorary Life Fellows
18. Election of the INQUA Executive Committee for 2011-2015
19. Selection of the venue for the XIX International INQUA Congress in 2015
20. Any Other Business

Below you find a summary of my notes, from attending the council meetings as a representative for Sweden. I presume that more detailed and official minutes from the meetings will appear during this year at the homepage of INQUA www.inqua.org/ . Information concerning the new Executive Committee is already available.

23rd of July

1. The president Allan Chivas, Australia, welcomed all members of INQUA and opened the meeting.

2. The proposed agenda (see above) was approved by the council.

12. ICSU (International Council for Science) was shortly presented by its treasurer Hans R. Ott (see www.icsu.org). INQUA has recently become a member of ICSU.

3. The minutes from the previous council meeting in Cairns was presented (see www.inqua.org/documents).

4. The minutes were approved without objections.

5. The president gave a summary of his activities during his election period and presented the young scientist award to Steve Porter.

6. The secretary Peter Coxon, Ireland, presented his General's report for the period 2007 – 2011, which was approved by the council. He addressed the Executive Committee's sincere thanks to Christian Schlüchter and his team for organizing the INQUA Congress in Bern, and to Sandy Harrison who compiled the session programs.

7. The treasurer Marie-France Loutre, Belgium, presented the financial report of INQUA 2007 – 2011. She pointed out that there is too much money on the accounts that would fund research projects. However, she elucidated that INQUA does not fund fieldwork or newsletters.

8. The Auditing Committee made their report and encouraged more project applications.

9. The bids for the XIX International INQUA Congress in 2015 were presented by Japan and Spain (see www.inqua.org/documents/icb2011.html).

The member of the International Council of INQUA were after the meeting invited to the Natural History Museum of the Burgher Community of Bern to visit the recently established exhibition of “quartz crystals from Planggenstock” and for an aperitif.

25th of July

The editor of Quaternary International, Norm R. Catto (Canada) gave a report about the progress of the Journal. Presently there are 18 volumes per year published (see www.inqua.org/publications_quaternary_international.html).

10. The following candidates were nominated for the Executive Committee for the Intercongress period 2011 – 2015:

President: Margret Avery (South Africa), Christian Schlüchter (Switzerland), Allan Ashworth (USA)

Past President: Allan Chivas (Australia)

Secretary-General: Julius Lejju (Uganda)

Treasurer: Marie-France Loutre (Belgium)

Vice President: Frank Audemard (Venezuela), Koji Okumura (Japan), Fabrizio Antonioli (Italy), John Lowe (UK)

The candidates were presented in Quaternary Perspectives 19:1 (see www.inqua.org/publications_quaternary_perspectives.html).

11. The proposed revision of some statues and bye-laws was presented for the council and approved.

13. Vice president John Lowe gave a summary and an evaluation of the reports from the Science Commissions Coastal and Marine Processes (CMP), Humans and the Biosphere (HaB), Palaeoclimate (PALCOMM), Stratigraphy and Chronology (SACCOM), and Terrestrial Processes, History and Deposits (TERPRO). For information about the Commissions see www.inqua.org/commissions.html .

14. The Council approved the reports from the Officers of the Commissions.

26th of July

15. Phil Gibbard reported on NACSN Survey on the redefinition of the Quaternary and the Pleistocene. The Quaternary is now defined to have started 2.6 million years ago and INQUA recommend using this definition.

16. The Council agreed on raising the Membership fees 5% per year until 2015.

17. For Honorary Life Fellows the following persons were elected: Yin Wang (China), Peter Kershaw (Australia), John Chappell (New Zealand), André Berger (Belgium), Yoko Ota (Japan), Stephen Porter (USA), S.N. Rajaguru (India) and Jim Rose (UK).

18. For the period 2011-2015 the following persons were elected for the INQUA Executive Committee: Margaret Avery (President), Allan Chivas (Past President), Julius Lejju

(Secretary General), Marie-France Loutre (Treasurer), Frank Audemard (Vice President), Fabrizio Antonioli (Vice President), John Lowe (Vice President) and Koji Okumura (Japan).

19. The Council selected Nagoya, central Japan, for arranging the XIX INQUA Congress in 2015.

20. Criticism was raised by some members concerning the transparency of the Council meetings and particularly of the activities performed by the Executive Committee. The discussion finished with a desire of better information to individual participants at the Congress about decisions taken at the Council meeting. Questions were also addressed about how the INQUA Executive Committee files their documents and if there exists an archive.

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