

## **2007 SCOSTEP Bureau Meeting Minutes**

Time: 08:30-18:00, 7 July 2007

Location: Conference room in Hotel Gio

Attendees: M. Geller (President), S. T. Wu (Vice President), W. Baumjohann (member, IAGA), N. Gopalswamy (member, IAU), C. Hanuise (member, URSI), R. Fujii (member, COSPAR), T. Tsuda (member, IAMAS), G. Lu (Scientific Secretary), C. Hanchett (Secretary), T. Killeen (guest, AGU President), T. Rosswall (guest, ICSU Executive Director), U. Shamir (guest, IUGG President), S. Avery (guest, CAWSES Chair), D. Pallamraju (guest, CAWSES Scientific Coordinator), R. Vincent (guest), K. Hamilton (guest)

### **1. President's and Vice-President's Opening Remarks**

President Marvin Geller opened the Bureau meeting by welcoming the Bureau members and guests. Every attendee announced his/her name and affiliation.

Geller pointed out that it has been a busy year since the STP-11 Symposium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in February 2006. A decision is yet to be made on the location of the STP-12 symposium. Due to the strict 1-week time limitation imposed by IAGA, a conjoint meeting with the IAGA conference in 2009 has been ruled out. Geller also pointed out that the planning for CAWSES-2 is currently under way. An important aspect of the CAWSES-2 planning is to establish stronger cooperation with ICSU. The SCOSTEP office has been moved from NOAA to NCAR since July 2006, and the relocation went smoothly. The new SCOSTEP website now resides and is maintained at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Geller overviewed the meeting agenda items and asked for any redaction. The agenda was approved as proposed.

### **3. Approval of 2006 annual report**

The 2006 SCOSTEP annual report prepared by the Scientific Secretary was approved by the Bureau, and it will be posted on the SCOSTEP website after the Bureau meeting.

### **4. President's perspective on past year and the future of SCOSTEP**

Geller stated that SCOSTEP has recovered from the significant budget shortfall during its Solar-Terrestrial Energy Program (STEP) in 1990-1997. SCOSTEP is now in a relatively healthy financial condition with about a 1-year operational fund being reserved. Geller stressed that the financial conditions of SCOSTEP directly affect its future in terms of the scientific programs that SCOSTEP sponsors. With CAWSES

now being extended to the second phase, a financially healthy SCOSTEP is critical to ensure the success of CAWSES-2.

Geller mentioned that SCOSTEP has received 3 proposals to host the STP-12 by Germany, Hungary, and Russia, and the Bureau will discuss all three proposals before making the final decision.

As part of the CAWSES Capacity Building effort in collaboration with Prof. Kamide as well as Nagoya University, six comic books have been translated into English. We are currently working with Prof. Kamide to make available the blank “balloon” version of these comic books so that they can be readily translated into other languages. SCOSTEP will set aside some funds for this capacity building effort. The bureau members unanimously passed the budget that will allow SCOSTEP to pay the cartoonist who drew the comic books for a fee of \$500 for each balloon version of the books. Another new comic book is currently under development, which will focus on the CAWSES science theme.

Tim Killeen (Director of NCAR) pointed out that SCOSTEP can take advantage of some opportunities that NCAR offers, such as annual summer student colloquia; faculty-visitors programs, the meeting facility and some staff support. Thomas Rosswall (Executive Director of ICSU) also mentioned that ICSU is willing to help SCOSTEP by promoting SCOSTEP related activities through its Newsletters and website. However, it will be difficult for SCOSTEP to obtain UNESCO’s financial support as it has only very limited resources.

## **5. AGU perspective on Sun-Earth system research**

Killeen gave a short presentation to the Bureau on AGU’s activities relevant to SCOSTEP. He pointed out that AGU has formed a number of Focus Groups to address some of the critical scientific issues such as Global Climate Change, Natural Hazards (including Space Weather). In answering Bureau member’s question on AGU’s attitude toward other international organizations, Killeen responded that AGU is an international organization with 40% of its members in 140 countries, and it interacts with other international communities, mostly in a friendly manner. So far AGU has not hosted any meetings in Africa. A jointly sponsored meeting (such as a Chapman Conference) with IUGG or SCOSTEP would be highly desirable. Rosswall pointed out there exist some barriers between AGU and ICSU, for example, regarding the restrictions on open access of scientific journals.

## **6. ICSU Strategic Plan 2006-2011**

Prof. Rosswall gave an overview of ICSU, including its structure and scientific planning activities. Rosswall pointed out that ICSU’s current strategic plan is focusing on three overlapping areas: International Research Collaboration; Science for Policy; and Universality of Science. International Polar Year (IPY 2007-2008) is

one of the programs sponsored by ICSU. Other strategic research programs include Natural Hazards and Disasters, and Science for Sustainable Development. Rosswall concluded his presentation by saying that ICSU needs to strengthen the dialogue with SCOSTEP and initiates a review of its activities. He strongly encouraged SCOSTEP to collaborate with other ICSU's Interdisciplinary Bodies (IBs) and Unions

## **7. Messages from ICSU Executive Board and IUGG**

Prof. Uri Shamir spoke after Rosswall. He stressed that ICSU has its own science programs. One way for SCOSTEP to engage ICSU is to look across the various Unions and IBs to find some suitable collaborators and then work its way up. ICSU's regional offices play an important role in defining ICSU's strategic plan. For example, the new strategic program on Natural Hazards and Disasters is one of the topics that was initiated by regional offices and then recognized by all Unions and IBs. He also said that SCOSTEP should participate more actively in regional offices' activities, and needs to raise its profile in the international arena.

## **8. CAWSES reports (current status and Phase-2 planning)**

Prof. Susan Avery gave an overview of CAWSES activities during the period of 2006-2007. She highlighted some of the major achievements by all four Themes, particularly the very successful First Virtual Conference in Space Science in November 2006 led by Dr. Janet Kozyra (the co-leader of Theme 2).

Regarding the CAWSES Phase-2 planning, Avery pointed out that CAWSES is really an agent that bring together scientists from different disciplines. It functions to facilitate countries to obtain funds toward solar-terrestrial research. Although the current 4-Theme structure seems to work, the CAWSES-2 will need some integration and modification, and additional research topics may be adopted. An Executive Committee will be formed soon to lay out the detailed strategic plan for CAWSES-2. Bureau members provided some initial input to Susan Avery regarding the Executive Committee membership.

## **9. SCOSTEP Finances and Finance Committee**

Geller appointed Robert Vincent and Susan Avery as the ad hoc Finance Committee members to examine the SCOSTEP funds spent during last year. After clarifying a couple of specific items on the financial report prepared by Gang Lu, the Finance Committee was satisfied with the explanation, and the financial report was approved by the Bureau.

## **10. Recommendation of New Subscription Dues Structures**

S.T. Wu presented the new SCOSTEP Subscription Dues Structures that he, Ryoichi Fujii, and Karin Labitzke put together. The new subscription structure change was prompted by the similar subscription fee changes taken by ICSU. The SCOSTEP

subscription fees have kept the same since 1993, while the annual inflation rate from 1993 to 2006 was 2.8% on average. The raise of the subscription dues is therefore justified by the inflation rate. In addition, the current SCOSTEP subscription income prevents us to support its scientific programs (currently it is the CAWSES program) at a relatively healthy level. The committee recommended to increase the subscription fees by 25% for all 7 subscription categories. The recommended subscription fee changes will be further discussed at the General Council meeting.

### **11. Proposed SCOSTEP budget**

Gang Lu presented the SCOSTEP budget for 2007-2009. The 3-year budget was approved by the Bureau.

### **12. New Science Discipline Representatives**

Toshitaka Tsuda presented a list of semi finalists of new SCOSTEP Scientific Disciplinary Representatives (SDRs) that he and Brigitte Schmieder prepared together. The Bureau added additional names to the list. The final decision of the new SDRs has been postponed until the October Bureau meeting in Kyoto to allow some national adherent members to make their input.

### **13. STP-12 proposals**

Three excellent proposals to host the STP-12 symposium were received from Germany (presented by Franz-Josef Luebken), Hungary (presented by Judit Pap on behalf of Andras Ludmany), and Russia (presented by Oleg Troshichev). After some lengthy discussion, the Bureau eliminated the Russian proposal due to its high cost as well as relatively high financial risk. However, bureau members were evenly divided between the German and Hungarian proposals. Geller then made an executive decision by suggesting to leave the matter to the newly elected president and vice president to decide.

### **14. ISEA-12 Sponsorship Request**

The Bureau discussed the request by Christos Haldoupis to seek SCOSTEP sponsorship of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Equatorial Aeronomy (ISEA-12) to be held in Greece in 2008. Bureau members felt that the request is more relevant to the CAWSES program, and therefore advised Dr. Haldoupis to resubmit his request to Susan Avery for possible CAWSES sponsorship of the ISEA-12.

### **15. Preview of SCOSTEP Election**

Gang Lu gave a brief preview on the SCOSTEP election. She pointed out that a total of 83 ballots were sent to national adherent representatives, Scientific Disciplinary Representatives, and the CAWSES theme leaders and working group leaders, and 43 ballots were returned. Additional ballots will be available during the General Council

meeting to give those eligible voters a last chance to vote. The final ballot counting will take place at the Council meeting.

## **General Council Meeting Minutes**

Time: 08:30-13:30, 8 July 2007

Location: Conference room in Hotel Gio

Attendees: M. Geller (President), S. T. Wu (Vice President), N. Gopalswamy (member, IAU), C. Hanuise (member, URSI), R. Fujii (member, COSPAR), T. Tsuda (member, IAMAS), B. Fraser (Australia Adherent Representative), K. Labitzke (Germany Adherent Representative), M. Revallo (Slovakia Adherent Representative), A. Yau (representing Canada), J. Pap (guest), R. Lopez (guest), J. Haigh (guest), G. Kotova ((Russian Adherent Representative), Potapov (guest), I. Veselovsky (guest), L. Zelenyi (guest), G. Lu (Scientific Secretary), C. Hanchett (Secretary)

### **1. Opening Remarks and Welcome**

The General Council meeting started with a self-introduction by all attendees, and President Marvin Geller welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Status Report on SCOSTEP activities since last General meeting in Rio 2006**

Geller pointed out that it has been a busy year since the 2006 STP-11 symposium in Rio de Janeiro. Gang Lu has taken over the Scientific Secretary position from Joe Allen who stepped down due to health reason in 2006. The new secretarial office located at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) has been running smoothly.

Geller informed the audience that the Bureau has unanimously approved the plan to make the popular comic books available online both in English and in a blank “balloon” version that can be readily translated into other language. A budget has been set aside to facilitate the publication of the electronic version of the comic books.

### **3. CAWSES Updates**

On behalf of Susan Avery who was unable to attend the Council meeting, Geller gave an update of the recent achievements of the CAWSES program as well as its Phase-2 planning process.

Susan Avery took over the CAWSES leadership role from Sunada Basu who stepped down in August 2006 due to health reasons. There is also a pending change of CAWSES Scientific Coordinator due to the relocation of Dr. D. Pallamraju to India in 2008. A mutual agreement has been reached so that Dr. Pallamraju will continue his role until a suitable replacement is found.

#### **4. Finance Committee Report**

Robert Vincent and Susan Avery were appointed to form the ad hoc Financial Committee by the Bureau. They reviewed the annual financial report for 2006, and clarified a couple of questions concerning the report. Vincent presented the Committee's findings to the Council, and recommended the approval of the report.

#### **5. New subscription Dues Structures**

S. T. Wu presented the new subscription dues structures to the Council. The council members expressed their different views on the proposed subscription fee changes, with most member countries in favor of the proposed subscription fee increase while some countries were against such changes. In accordance with the SCOSTEP Constitution, a count of weighted votes by the adherent national representatives who attended the Council meeting was carried, which resulted in 24 votes in favor of the measure and 9 votes against it. The new subscription dues structures were therefore passed by the Council, and they will become effective in 2008.

#### **6. Proposed 2007-2009 Budget**

G. Lu presented the 3-year SCOSTEP budget for 2007-2009 to the council. The budget sheet showed that there will be a significant deficit in SCOSTEP budget for the coming years if the subscription fees (which are the main source of SCOSTEP income) remains at the current level; otherwise the CAWSES program will be severely under funded.

#### **7. New Scientific Discipline Representatives**

Tsuda showed the semi-final list of the new SDR candidates to the Council. The Russian delegate expressed their desire to nominate additional candidates. The Bureau agreed to postpone the final decision on the new SDRs until mid September to allow the Russian delegate enough time for their input.

#### **8. Presentations of National reports and other special reports**

- Brian Fraser highlighted some of solar-terrestrial (ST) research activities in Australia. Australian Government Antarctic Division is carrying out ST research using synoptic magnetic and photometric observations as well as LIDARs. Researchers at University of Sydney have been very active in pursuing both theoretic and observational studies in solar physics. The southern hemisphere HF radars managed by La Trobe University have provided new insights into ionospheric electrodynamics. University of Newcastle has a very active group of researchers focusing on space physics and space weather using various satellite and ground-based instruments, along with numerical modeling.
- Andrew Yau gave the Canadian national report on behalf of William Liu (who is Canadian representative to SCOSTEP). The report showed that Canada has a very

- active ST program consisting of ~200 researchers in various universities over Canada, and the research areas cover from the Sun to the lower atmosphere of the Earth. Canada also has an excellent space program, with 5 research satellites being launched since 2005, and 4 more missions either under construction or in the second phase of the review process.
- Gang Lu presented a report on behalf of the Chinese National Representative Prof. Zuo Xiao. China has made significant progress in recent years in ST research. It holds national conferences on space physics biannually since 2003. There is a very active working group on space weather research and application. The group organizes scientific meetings annually. China has established a close relationship with CAWSES and SCOSTEP. In fact, SCOSTEP officers have paid a number of visits to Chinese universities and research institutes during past few years. China also has a very active space program. It has successfully launched the Double Star satellites. A new mission consist of 3 spacecraft has passed comprehensive review, and is expected to be launched in 2012. China will hold its 12<sup>th</sup> Space Physics Conference in November 2007 in Sanya, China.
  - Christian Hanuise reported some ST activities in France during the past year. France is an active participant of International Heliophysical Year (IHY). It organized the 1<sup>st</sup> IHY workshop in Paris, and education-outreach exhibitions in commercial centers in France, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. French scientists are taking leadership roles in several ST programs, including J.L Bougeret chairing the IHY European Coordination, J. Lillensten chairing the COST Space Weather activity, C. Hanuise chairing the Interdisciplinary Working Group on Physical Processes of Space Weather, and B. Schmieder serving on the CAWSES Phase-2 Planning Committee.
  - Karin Labitzke reported on CAWSES related activities in Germany on behalf of Franz Josef Luebken. The Priority Program is a German CAWSES program that focuses on upper atmospheric research, including the effects of solar forcing, the dynamical and chemical processes of the atmosphere, and coupling with forcing from lower atmosphere. The program is funded by German Science Foundation (DFG). It covers the period from 2005 to 2011, consisting of three 2-year phases. Each of the 2-year phase is funded at an approximately \$5M level. The current 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will support 9 postdoctoral scientists and 24 graduate students, involves 18 institutes in Germany.
  - Milos Revallo reported on ST activities taking placing in Slovakia during the period of 2005-2006. Slovakia has been maintaining several ground-based observatories which make routine measurements of solar and geomagnetic activities. Slovakia is also an active participant in a number of ESA-led space missions as well as other international ST programs. The Slovak National Committee is currently chaired by Jan Rybak, with Adriena Ondraskova as Vice Chair, and Milos Revallo as Scientific Secretary. Slovakia plans to establish its regional CAWSES program in the coming years.

## **9. Final Election Ballot Counting**

A few ballots were given to those eligible voters who had not voted previously. The final ballot counting was carried out by a 2-member ad hoc committee consisted of N. Gopalswamy and C. Hanuise, who were not running for the SCOSTEP office.

#### **10. Announcement of New SCOSTEP President and Vice President**

After the final ballot counting, Geller announced the newly elected SCOSTEP officers to the Council: Prof. Robert Vincent from Australia is the new SCOSTEP President and Dr. Brigitte Schmieder from France is the Vice President. Both will serve a 4-year term which became effective right after the General Council meeting.

#### **11. STP-12 Location and Dates**

Since the bureau members were divided between the two very competitive proposals from Germany and Hungary to host STP-12, Geller informed the Council that the announcement of the STP-12 location and dates has to be postponed to a later time after the newly elected president and vice president have a chance to review these 2 proposals and make the final decision then.