

2009 SCOSTEP Bureau Meeting Minutes

Prepared by Gang Lu

Time: 8:30AM – 2:30PM, April 18, 2009

Location: NCAR CG-1, Room 3131, 3080 Center Green Drive, Boulder, Colorado, USA

Attendees: Susan Avery, Nat Gopalswamy, Christian Hanuise, Gang Lu, Alan Rodger, Brigitte Schmieder, Robert Vincent

1. Opening Remarks of President and Vice-President

SCOSTEP President Vincent briefly reported on the 29th ICSU General Assembly (GA) held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 21-24 October 2008. Vincent noted some personnel changes within ICSU: the current ICSU president is Prof. Catherine Brechignac, who is also the President of CNRS in France; Nobel Prize Laureate Yuan Tseh Lee from Taiwan is the President Elect; the new ICSU Executive Director is Prof. Deliang Chen from University of Gothenburg in Sweden, who replaces the retiring Director Prof. Thomas Rosswall. Vincent presented a poster on SCOSTEP and the CAWSES program, which was well received at the assembly. The comic books were very popular too at the meeting.

Vincent also pointed out, after the somewhat slow start, the CAWSES-II was now getting into full swing. Vincent thanked Susan Avery, co-chair of the CAWSES program, for her leadership. Vincent also welcomed Alan Rodger onboard to co-lead the program. He was happy to see that the CAWSES-II Kick-off workshop during the past 3 days was very productive, and thanked both Avery and Rodger for their dedicated work and leadership skill that led to the success of the kick-off workshop. Gopalswamy suggested SCOSTEP/CAWSES to co-sponsor the UN Basic Space Sciences meetings as a way of leveraging the CAWSES Capacity Building efforts.

Vice President Schmieder pointed out there seemed to be poor communications within SCOSTEP. She expressed her strong desire to be more directly involved in the decision making process concerning all SCOSTEP related matters.

2. Approval of Agenda

After some minor revision (namely, corrected date for the next bureau meeting and added discussion on CAWSES task group membership to Item 3 below), the meeting agenda was approved.

3. Summary of CAWSES-II Kick-off workshop and Discussion

Avery and Rodger thanked the bureau members for actively participating in the kick-off workshop during the past 3 days. They presented the summary slides from each of CAWSES Task Groups, which displayed the preliminary scientific plans for each task group along with names of potential leaders for each research project. Much of the discussion by the bureau members focused on the diversity of scientific expertise and geographic balance of the potential project leaders. There is an apparent lack of African scientists, and Gopalswamy has volunteered to help recruit African countries in CAWSES-II. Avery and Rodger will rally bureau's suggestions when finalizing the scientific plans and the project leaders for each task group. The final composition of all CAWSES-II project leaders shall be approved by the bureau. Due to the absence of both co-leaders of Task

Group 3, no action has been taken. Avery and Rodger will contact Task Group 3 co-leaders to develop a detailed scientific strategy for the group. The presentations by CAWSES co-chairs as well as the task group leaders will be made available on the new CAWSES website, which is currently under development by Peter Fox at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Bureau members also suggested advertising the CAWSES-II program to the broad international community in the coming months. Avery will draft a uniform letter to formally announce the launch of CAWSES-II, and the letter will be published on all major national and international STP newsletters as well as through the CAWSES and SCOSTEP email lists. It was also suggested to publish an article on EOS to review the major achievements from CAWSES-I and preview the new scientific objectives of CAWSES-II.

4. Preparation of STP-12

Vincent presented to the bureau the final composition of the Scientific Organization Committee (SOC). All SOC members have accepted the position. Vincent also presented a preliminary list of keynote and invited speakers along with a strawman's program for bureau's comments. Bureau members suggested additional names to the SOC in order to strike a better scientific balance among the SOC members' expertise, and Schmieder was nominated to co-chair the SOC along with Vincent. The bureau also suggested that the STP-12 program should center on the main science topics of CAWSES-II, and should seek an overall balance between "experienced" and "young" scientists when scheduling oral presentations. The meeting should also try its best to make sure that poster sessions are "attractive" to the participants.

On behalf of Lübken, chair of the local organization committee (LOC), Lu showed the meeting costs estimated from November 2008. Bureau members were satisfied with the estimated budget. Any future updates from the LOC will be reported to the bureau as soon as they become available. Bureau members also urged Lübken to attend the next bureau meeting in August 2009 to personally report on the STP-12 preparation status. The website for STP-12 is fully functional now, and it has been linked to several major international organizations' websites. A community wide announcement will be made once the scientific program for STP-12 is finalized.

5. Report on other related meetings

Vincent gave a brief overview of the ICSU GA (see Item 1). He also attended the International Symposium on the 50th celebration of IGY held in Ibaraki, Japan, on 10-13 November 2008, where he gave an invited presentation on the SCOSTEP/CAWSES program.

6. Approval of 2008 SCOSTEP annual report and audit

Due to the inadequate number of bureau members present, this agenda item was postponed to the next bureau meeting in August 2009. It is important that all bureau members should make their best effort to attend the bureau meeting in Sopron (see below for date and location).

7. Approval of SCOSTEP budget

This agenda item was postponed to the next bureau meeting due to the lack of quorum.

8. SCOSTEP Financial Committee

This item was postponed until next bureau meeting in August 2009.

9. Updates on SCOSTEP membership

- Bulgarian Academy of Science has approved its SCOSTEP membership, thanks to the effort by Dora Pancheva
- Three letters have been sent to Spain so far regarding its SCOSTEP membership, and we are still waiting to see any response from them
- Letter was sent to Mexico in December 2008. Xochitl Blanco-Cano is helping with the effort
- Despite repeated effort since 2006, Italy has not provided any positive response on its SCOSTEP membership
- Membership for Korea and African countries: Gopalswamy will contact scientists in these countries regarding their participation in SCOSTEP
- Hanuise will contact suitable scientist(s) in Poland

10. Date of 2009 General Council meeting in Sopron

Date and time for General Council meeting: 08:30-10:00, August 30, 2009

Date and time for Bureau meeting: 10:30 – 15:00, August 30, 2009

Both meetings will take place at the IAGA meeting venue in Sopron. More details on the meeting location will be forthcoming.

11. Date and location of 2010 Bureau meeting

The 2010 Bureau meeting is scheduled on July 17, in Berlin, right after the STP-12 meeting.