

## SCOSTEP General Council Meeting Agenda

**Time:** 08:30AM – 10:00AM, August 30, 2009

**Location:** Daruka Terem, Sopron

**Attendees:** Yihua Yan (China), Nicole Vilmer (France), Galina Kotova (Russia), Barbara Popielawska (Poland), Dora Pancheva (Bulgaria), Jan Lastovicka (Czech Republic), Nikolai Østgaard (Norway), Willian Liu (Canada), Andras Ludmany (Hungary), Toshihiko Hiroka (Japan), Subramanian Gurugaran (India), Karen Labitzke (Germany), Maurizio Candidi (Bureau member, SCAR), Nat Gopalswamy (Bureau member, IAU), Christian Hanuise (Bureau member, URSI), Vladimir Kuznetsov (Bureau member, IAGA), Brigitte Schmieder (Vice President), Robert Vincent (President), Susan Avery (CAWSES co-chair, invited guest), Alan Rodger CAWSES co-chair, invited guest), Franz-Josef Lübken (the LOC chair for STP-12, invited guest), and Gang Lu (Scientific Secretary)

### 1. Opening Remarks of President and Vice-President

Bob Vincent opened the General Council meeting by welcoming all attendees. In particular, Vincent welcomed the newest National Representative from Bulgaria, Dora Pancheva. Bulgaria formally joined SCOSTEP in early 2009, and South Korea is in the final stage to become a SCOSTEP member country.

Brigitte Schmieder also thanked everyone attending the meeting. She stressed the importance of encouraging young scientists to attend the STP-12 symposium in 2010.

### 2. Status Report on SCOSTEP activities since last General meeting in Perugia 2007

Vincent pointed out that, since the last council meeting in Perugia in 2007, we have had a busy period with the end of CAWSES-I and the start of CAWSES-II. The SCOSTEP/CAWSES Book from the 2007 CAWSES Symposium in Kyoto summarizes some results from CAWSES-I. The fact that Susan Avery took up a new position in 2008 as the President and Director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute had caused some delay in the implement of CAWSES-II. Alan Rodger became the CAWSES-II co-chair in 2009. He and Avery will split duties in managing and leading the CAWSES-II program. Things are now moving forward, and all four Task Groups are in place. The April 2009 CAWSES kick-off meeting in Boulder marked the official launch of the CAWSES-II program. STP-12 will take place in Berlin in 2010, and we particularly encourage young scientists to attend this important SCOSTEP conference.

### 3. CAWSES-II Updates

Susan Avery gave an update on the status of CAWSES-II. The CAWSES-II website is now up and running, and its URL address is <http://www.cawses.org/>. The website is multi-lingual, currently in French, Dutch, Russian, as well as English. The website also provides the wiki access for each of the task groups. Some of the task group leaders have been very active in organizing scientific projects and coordinating research efforts in the international SCOSTEP community. Avery encourages everyone to make a use of the materials online to help advertise CAWSES. Avery told

the attendees that the establishment of the Virtual Institute in CAWSES-II will give us an edge in Cyber-infrastructure. Peter Fox and Janet Kozyra are leading the effort in this aspect. Avery pointed out that this meeting (e.g., the IAGA Symposium in Sopron) provided us a good opportunity to introduce the Task Group leaders.

#### **4. SCOSTEP Budget for 2010-11**

Gang Lu presented the 3-year SCOSTEP budget for 2009-2011. She pointed out that SCOSTEP is now quite healthy financially, owing to the continuing support by our member countries as well as various saving efforts made during the past few years. Currently, there is no plan to change the SCOSTEP subscription fees.

#### **5. National reports**

- Jan Lastovicka from Czech Republic reported on the severe budget cut to the Academy of Science of Czech Republic. The proposed budget cut will be detrimental to the entire basic research community in Czech Republic. Bob Vincent, representing SCOSTEP, has sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Czech Republic to express our deep concerns about the budget situation as well as our strong support for the Czech STP community.
- William Liu summarized Canadian STP research during the past years. The Canadian SCOSTEP community has been very active during CAWSES-I, with two major research facilities (more than \$20 M total funding each) established or receiving funding. The first was the Polar Environment and Atmospheric Research Laboratory (PEARL) in Eureka, a comprehensive observatory-class facility closest to the geographic North Pole. The suite of close to 20 instruments make crucial measurements on air quality and arctic atmospheric dynamics important to polar climate, and are in the most advantageous location for validating polar-orbiting satellites. The second facility was the Canadian face of the Resolute Incoherent Scatter Radars. The state-of-the-art facility provides unprecedented capability to study atmosphere-ionosphere-magnetosphere coupling in the crucial open-closed magnetic flux boundary. A number of space science missions returned valuable data during the CAWSES-I period, such as OSIRIS, MOPITT, and ACE. Others were being developed (such as e-POP and SWARM/CEFI), and still more are in the planning phase (e.g., ORBITALS). Of particular note is the Polar Communication and Weather (PCW) satellites that are currently in Phase A. The Canadian Space Agency is considering to fly a suite of science instruments as secondary payload to study problems of intimate interest to the Sun-climate relationship. W. Liu also expressed his observation that during CAWSES, the Canadian activities were carried out mainly outside the SCOSTEP envelop, although the scientific thrusts were closely aligned with CAWSES-I. While the success on the project level is impressive, at some point, Canada will run out of human capacity to analyze all the data. It is important that future Canadian activities in Sun-Climate be more coordinated with CAWSES-II on the international scale, so as to maximize the two-way flow of benefits. As Canadian National Representative as well as a Scientific Discipline Representative, W. Liu will consult with the Canadian SCOSTEP community for a better-organized national CAWSES initiative during Phase-II.
- Yihua Yan showed some recent advances in solar-terrestrial physics and space weather activities in China. China has developed a comprehensive medium and long-term plan for 2010-2015, which involves three main research areas concerning space astronomy and solar physics, space physics and solar exploration, and microgravity science and space life science. There are several STP projects currently under development, including the Solar Space Telescope to study the solar

atmosphere and corona, the multi-spacecraft KuaFu mission to study solar storms and the near-Earth space environment, the Chinese Mars Orbiter, and the ground-based space weather monitoring project at 120°E meridian.

- S. Gurubaran presented some selected SCOSTEP activities in India. He gave a brief overview of several scientific programs and missions undertaken by India in recent years, particularly the CAWSES-India program. India was heavily involved in the original CAWSES program during the past 5 years. It has now formed a National Scientific Steering Committee for the CAWSES-India Phase-II program. The CAWSES-India program focuses on three themes, namely, solar influence on climate, space weather and climate, and atmospheric coupling processes. Specific projects concerning these themes have been solicited, and will be submitted to Indian funding agencies. The CAWSES-India program has promoted much better coordination among different research groups and institutions throughout India. The program also includes a strong capacity building and public outreach component.
- Nicole Vilmer gave a national report on French research activities in solar-terrestrial physics. There has been a lot of progress in STP research in France, including maps of vector magnetic fields on the solar surface, discovery of magnetic link between the solar surface, corona, and interplanetary medium, and observations of ionospheric signatures of magnetic reconnection at Earth's magnetopause. The French satellite mission DEMETER is very successful, revealing interesting ionospheric observations of electric and magnetic fluctuations as well as ionospheric plasma properties and energetic particles. A new satellite mission PICARD to be launched in 2010 is designed to investigate the influence of the solar activity on the climate of the Earth, a central theme of the SCOSTEP's CAWSES program.
- Andras Ludmany reported on Hungarian SCOSTEP activity. There are a number of research institutes in Hungary that are actively involved in various aspects of solar-terrestrial research, ranging from geomagnetism and atmospheric/ionospheric processes to solar physics. Hungarian scientists are also heavily involved in research and data analysis using observations from several European Space Agency (ESA) satellite missions, including Cluster and SOHO. A note-worthy project named Solar-Terrestrial Investigations and Archives has recently been undertaken by the Heliophysical Observatory of Hungarian Academy of Sciences with a goal to create a wide synergy in the fields of solar-terrestrial and geophysics among different research centers in several European countries to provide high-level accessibility of data and models.
- Nikolai Østgaard gave a brief summary of some STP activity in Norway. He pointed out that Norway is actively involved in IPY. The IPY-ICESTAR project conducts conjugate studies of auroral and ionospheric dynamics, and it will make continuous operation of the EISCAT Svalbard radar to provide unprecedented a year-long time series of incoherent scatter radar data. The so-called "Space Suitcase" program is specifically designed for high school education, consisting of advanced scientific instruments such as GPS receivers, geiger-muellers, telescopes for detecting solar flares, wide-angle cameras, magnetometers, laptops, along with detailed operating manuals. Norwegian scientists are also actively involved in many international space research programs in Europe, North America, and Japan. The EISCAT 3D initiative is currently under way, which is a program to study the fundamental plasma physics processes that mediate energy flow in the solar-terrestrial system and the ways in which these processes couple together. Østgaard also mentioned that Space Science is now being integrated into polar research at University Svalbard.

- Barbara Popielawska talked about recent activities at the Space Research Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences. She pointed out that the main research interests of the center are on space physics, planetary geodesy, and remote sensing. In terms of space research, its activity covers a wide range of topics from modeling and observations of ionospheric disturbance, MHD simulations of the heliosphere, studies of solar wind dynamics and turbulence, as well as studies of solar flares and coronal mass ejections. Polish scientists are also participated in several spacecraft missions in collaboration with ESA and Russian Space Agency.
- Galina Kotova and Vladimir Kuznetsov jointly gave a comprehensive report on recent activities in Russia. Scientists in Russia are continuing making impressive achievements in solar-terrestrial research. Among the recent achievements is the development of a comprehensive database of synoptic solar observations from 60 years of continuous measurements by Kislovodsk Solar Mountain Station of the Pukovo Observatory. The Center for Analysis of Multiwave Solar Observatory in St. Petersburg also makes continuous solar observations and disseminates the data through internet. In addition, the Russian space science includes several satellite missions, such as the series of CORONAS satellites. The CORONAS-PHOTON mission was launched in January 2009, measuring the solar irradiance associated with solar flares as well as from the quiet Sun. it has made the first ever X-ray spectrum of the extremely quiet corona.

## **6. Discussion of future business and/or additional matters**

Vincent informed everyone that the current SCOSTEP Scientific Secretary Gang Lu will step down after STP-12, and the search for a new secretary is under the way.

Election of SCOSTEP office will take place in 2011, in conjunction with the IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne, Australia.