Dear members of the IAMAS community,

I was very glad to meet Hans Volkert, the IAMAS SG, during the IUGG Executive Committee in Karlsruhe, Germany, from 5-6, August. One year has passed since the new IAMAS Bureau was elected during the IUGG Assembly in Perugia. The transition from the old bureau to the new one has been smooth and constructive. The bureau members have been in close contact and working hard to serve the IAMAS community, perfectly echoing Hans’ motto “co-co-co” (cooperation, communication and continuity). Both of us were pleased to find that most of the ten IAMAS commissions have been active during the past year. In particular, ICAE, ICCL, ICCP, IOC and IRC have held large conferences. ICCL and ICCP received some direct financial support for their conferences from IUGG, which was mainly used to support young scientists from developing countries. I noticed that ICAE published two newsletters this year, and I believe other commissions have done so or are planning to do so. I would like to encourage all commissions to publish an e-newsletter at least once a year. These newsletters can be made accessible not only on commission websites but also on the IAMAS website. In this way we can enhance a sense of community and increase the visibility of both the commissions and IAMAS altogether. Moreover, newsletters provide a basic method to record the activities of IAMAS and its commissions. It’s always nice to look back, maybe once a year, and take stock of what we have achieved or what needs to be tackled in the future.

Hans and I, as a team, represented IAMAS at the IUGG EC meeting (see photograph below). We reported about IAMAS activities, in particular commission activities and the preparation for MOCA-09, based on the reports submitted by commission presidents or secretaries in late July.

The planning of the joint assembly MOCA-09 in Montréal, Canada is going well thanks to the great help from our Canadian hosts and the strenuous efforts from SGs of three associations. Hans went to Montreal last November to personally inspect the venue and meet the other SGs and the members of the Canadian organizing committee. In addition, he and John Turner joined several tele-conferences on the planning of MOCA-09. If MOCA-09 is successful, which I’m sure it will be, we will have demonstrated that the three IUGG associations for atmosphere, ocean and ice are closely inter-related.

Guoxing Wu
President, IAMAS

IAMAS President and SG cooperating with the IUGG Bureau in Karlsruhe, Germany; seated from left: Aksel W. Hansen (IUGG treasurer), Tom Beer (IUGG president); standing from left: Alik Ismail-Zadeh (IUGG SG), Guoxiong Wu (IAMAS president), Harsh Gupta (IUGG vice president), Hans Volkert (IAMAS SG).
IAMAS Symposia

M01: Middle Atmosphere Science
M02: Climate Processes in the Upper Troposphere and Stratosphere
M03: The Impact of Solar Variability on Earth
M04: Solar UV Radiation
M05: Stratosphere-Troposphere-Ocean Coupling in Climate — Top Down or Bottom Up?
M06: Theoretical Advances in Dynamics
M07: Towards Seamless Probabilistic Forecasting
M08: Dynamics and Predictability of High-impact Weather
M09: Topographic Effects on Weather and Climate
M10: Tropical Waves and Circulations and Tropical-Midlatitude Interactions
M11: Dynamical Implications of Aerosol-Cloud-Climwe Interactions
M12: Relations Between Aerosols and Ice Formation in Clouds: Measurements and Modelling
M13: Aerosol-Cloud-Radiation-Precipitation Interactions
M14: 3D Radiative Transfer in the Atmosphere
M15: Atmospheric Composition Change: Air Pollution in the Global Environment
M16: Thunderstorms and their Manifestation on Local, Regional and Global Scales
M17: Lightning: Characteristics, Physics and Hazard Mitigation
M18: Comparative Atmospheres of the Giant Planets and their Satellites

Joint Symposia

J01: Observations of High Latitude Climate Change
J02: Polar Regional Weather and Climate Modelling (and Global Relevancy)
J03: International Polar Year — Early Results
J04: The Contribution of Greenland and Antarctica to Fresh Water Input to the Ocean and Sea Level Change
J05: Arctic Ocean Circulation and Sea Ice: Present and Future
J06: Abrupt Changes in the Climate System
J07: Comparison of Projected Future Climate Change to Warm Intervals in Earth History
J08: Ice Cores in Paleoclimate
J09: Interannual and Interdecadal Climate Variability and Predictability
J10: Climate Sensitivity, Climate Feedbacks and Regional Responses to Global Forcing
J11: Climate Model Intercomparison
J12: Regional Climate Modelling
J13: Biogeochemistry and Climate
J14: Ocean-Ice-Atmosphere Boundary Layers and Interactions
J15: High Latitude Terrestrial Processes, Hydrology and Interactions with the Atmosphere
J16: Remote Sensing — Use of Products in Cryospheric, Atmospheric and Oceanographic Investigations
J17: Monsoon Observations, Modelling and Prediction
J18: Natural Hazards (Atmosphere, Ocean and Ice)
J19: Tropical Cyclones
J20: Atmospheres and Ice of Terrestrial Planets
J21: Advances in Data Assimilation for Earth System Science
The 15th International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation was held in Cancun, Mexico, between 7 and 11 July, 2008. The conference was organized by the ICCP (International Commission on Clouds and Precipitation, a commission of IAMAS) and it was co-sponsored by the IUGG, IAMAS and the WMO (World Meteorological Organization). Financial support for students and young scientists from less developed countries was partially provided by the WMO, the IUGG, IAMAS and the ICCP. The local organizing committee was headed by Prof. Graciela Raga, from the University of Mexico. The scientific and program committee was headed by Prof. Zev Levin, President of the ICCP.

About 400 scientists, including 80 students, attended the conference, presenting about 550 papers in oral and poster presentations (out of about 600 papers that were submitted). The presentations covered a wide range of topics on the formation of clouds and precipitation, the interactions of aerosols and clouds, the effects of clouds on climate, new instrumenta-

Hans-Jürgen Bolle, former President of the International Radiation Commission of IAMAS (1979-1983) and President of IAMAS (1983-1987), has compiled a detailed report entitled 'International Radiation Commissions 1896 to 2008: Research into Atmospheric Radiation from IMO to IAMAS'. Based on the minutes of numerous meetings and personal notes he has succeeded in putting together background material illustrating the astounding development from individual measurements of solar radiation to satellite programmes of global relevance. Many photographs of the acting persons and several appendices provide both a flavour of the family-type atmosphere often present in IAMAS groupings, and a complete directory of who was acting, where and when. Also, the power of international cooperation on a voluntary basis becomes evident.

The 150-page volume stands as no. 1 of the IAMAS Publication Series, which was started to encourage similar accounts of sufficient general interest about the association or one of its ten commissions. It is listed as ISBN 978-3-00-02466-1 and can be requested in print from the IAMAS Secretariat (Email: Hans.Volkert@dlr.de).

Electronic access to the 34-MB-pdf-file is possible via the IAMAS home page:

http://www.IAMAS.org/
Brief Commission Reports

IRC
1) The International Radiation Symposium 2008 was held in Iguacu, Brazil during 3-8 August: 506 abstracts were submitted and more than 300 colleagues attended the IRS. The symposium marked the 60th anniversary of the of IAMAS-IRC in its present form. Some 130 IRS participants obtained a copy IAMAS Publ. Ser. No. 1 describing roots and development of the commission (cf. p. 3). Dr. Graeme Stephens was awarded the IRC Gold Medal, while Dr. David Tobin and Dr. Ilan Koren received Young Scientists Awards.

2) IRC will organize the following sessions for MOCA-09:
   M07: Link of aerosol-cloud-radiation-precipitation (IRC, ICCP, ICACGP)
   M17: The impact of solar variability on Earth (ICMA, IAGA, IRC)
   M22: 3-D Radiative Transfer in the atmosphere (IRC)
   M24: Solar UV radiation (IRC)

ICAE
We successfully held the 13th International Conference on Atmospheric Electricity in Beijing last August with the attendance of IAMAS President, Prof. Wu. These days there are more peoples (especially from developing countries) showing interest in mitigation of the lightning hazard, so our ICAE mailing list has been nearly doubled from the August of 2007.

ICCL
Updating IUGG on developments in the field of climate (e.g. conferences, workshops, publications, significant breakthroughs) is not a task we wish to take on. The IPCC report provides a fairly recent update of the state of the field. Subsequent to IPCC there have been some developments of course - sea level and ice sheet grounding line instability certainly come to mind.

The $2k of IUGG support received this year was used to enable a few young developing-country scientists to attend the very successful “Effects of Climate Change on the World’s Ocean” symposium in Gijon, Spain, in May (http://www.pices.int/meetings/international_symposia/2008_symposia/Climate_change/climate_support.aspx).

Looking to the future, IUGG can be informed that ICCL continues to prepare for good integrated IAPSO/IAMAS/IACS sessions in Montreal and requests $5k in financial support from IUGG and/or IAMAS to support ICCL activities in preparation for and during the Montreal congress.

Finally, the Marquis upcoming climate related events shortly after Montreal, which ICCL will be targeting with any relevant message for policy world, are the “World Climate Conference III, at WMO in Geneva the first week of September 2009, and the UNFCCC COP in Copenhagen the first two weeks of December.

ICMA
ICMA co-sponsored some symposia at the 37th COSPAR Scientific Assembly, July 13-20, 2008 in Montreal, Canada:
   C23 “Variability of the Middle Atmosphere and Lower Ionosphere in Composition and Dynamics Induced by External Forcing from Space”
   C22 “Multi-Scale Wave Coupling and Energetics from the Troposphere to the Ionosphere”

ICMA will co-sponsor the 5th IAGA/ICMA/CAWSES Workshop on Long-Term Changes and Trends in the Atmosphere, September 8-12th 2008 in St.Petersburg, Russia.

ICMA opened its new webpage at (new URL) http://www.icma-iamas.org/

Upcoming Meetings

American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting:
San Francisco, USA, 15-19th December, 2008

9th International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography:
Melbourne, Australia, 9-13th February, 2009

7th International Conference on Air Quality—Science and Application:
Istanbul, Turkey, 24-27th March, 2009

European Geosciences Union General Assembly:
Vienna, Austria, 19-24th April, 2009

The IAMAS Newsletter

The newsletter editor welcomes short reports from the individual IAMAS Commissions at any time.

Gareth Marshall (gjma@bas.ac.uk)
Editor IAMAS newsletter