

IAGA Annual Report for 2020

International Association for Geomagnetism and Aeronomy

January 07, 2021

1 Introduction

IAGA, the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (AIGA - Association Internationale de Géomagnétisme et d'Aéronomie) is one of the eight Associations of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). It is a non-governmental body funded through the subscriptions paid to IUGG by its Member Countries. IAGA has a long history and can trace its origins to the Commission for Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity, part of the International Meteorological Organisation, which was established in 1873.

IAGA is the premier international scientific association promoting the study of terrestrial and planetary magnetism, and space physics. IAGA is concerned with the understanding and knowledge that result from studies of the magnetic and electrical properties of:

- the Earth's core, mantle and crust
- the middle and upper atmosphere
- the ionosphere and the magnetosphere
- the Sun, the solar wind, the planets and interplanetary bodies.

More information on IAGA is provided on its websites: <http://www.iaga-aiga.org>.

2 Administration

Since 2015, IAGA is organised in six Divisions and four Inter-divisional Commissions. Each Division may form Working Groups in given specialised topics and elects officers to run the business of the Working Groups. The terms of office are linked to the IUGG General Assemblies. Lists of the Division/Inter-divisional Commission leadership and the Working Group names and officers can be found on the following website:

<http://www.iaga-aiga.org/about/>.

Three new working groups formed in 2020. Div. III re-established the WG on ULF waves and set up a new working group on Geospace Data Assimilation jointly with Div. II. The early career scientists who started IAGA social media activities in 2019 are currently establishing a WG on Social Media within the Interdivisional Commission of Education and Outreach.

IAGA is administered by an Executive Committee on behalf of IUGG Member Countries in accordance with the Association's Statutes and By-Laws. The Executive Committee members are:

President: Mioara Mandea (France)

Vice-presidents: Alan Thomson (UK), Andrew Yau (Canada)

Secretary General: Monika Korte (Germany)

Treasurer: Aude Chambodut (France)

Members: Kusumita Arora (India), Loren Chang (ECS, Taiwan), Anna Kelbert (USA), Michael Kosch (South Africa), Huixin Liu (Japan), Klaus Spitzer (Germany), Ricardo Trindade (Brazil)

The executive committee had two virtual meetings in 2020 and communicated frequently by e-mail.

IAGA communicates with Member Countries through National Correspondents nominated by appropriate National Bodies. Member Countries are represented at IAGA Assemblies by accredited

Chief Delegates who may vote on matters, according to the voting rules set out in the Statutes and By-Laws, at meetings of the Conference of Delegates. Information on the EC members and National Correspondents are found at: <http://www.iaga-aiga.org/about/> .

3 Activities

3.1 Preparation of IAGA-IASPEI Joint Assembly 2021

The preparations for the IAGA-IASPEI Joint Assembly, to be held from August 22 - 27, 2021 in Hyderabad, India were in full swing when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world. IAGA and IASPEI Secretary Generals Monika Korte and Johannes Schweitzer had just visited the hosts and local organisers (LOC) of CSIR-NGRI from February 4 - 6, 2020. We inspected the modern conference centre and several of the foreseen hotels and accommodation options in the vicinity and found them all to be of very good international standard. We experienced the new, excellent metro line and discussed the plans of the LOC for shuttle bus transportation. Last but not least we identified beautiful locations for the associations dinners. Not long after we returned from India with very positive impressions about the preparations for the Joint Assembly the first wave of the pandemic struck. Over the past months we kept up the hope for as long as possible to be able to conduct a normal meeting in summer 2021. When requirements to finalize contracts forced us to take a decision in November 2020 it unfortunately was clear that a large meeting with strong international attendance still seemed unlikely for August 2021. After several online meetings and many discussions within and among the two executive committees and the LOC the decision was taken to hold the meeting in fully virtual form on the originally foreseen dates. In foresight the LOC had already started to explore the options. Organising a virtual meeting is a new experience and a learning process for all of us. We are trying to learn from other meetings and we will all do our best to create an event to foster scientific exchange and networking as close as possible to a personal meeting.

The latest information on the Joint Assembly can be found on the meeting website, <http://iaga-iaspei-india2021.in/>, where also the second circular that was published in December 2020 can be found.

3.2 Preparation of IAGA School 2021

The 5th IAGA School is planned for August 16-20, 2021, just before the IAGA-IASPEI Joint Assembly. The School was normally planned to take place in Hyderabad, India, but due to the pandemic situation it also will be fully virtual this time. Lecturers for the IAGA School were recruited through recommendations of the division chairs. We thank the six lecturers who already agreed on serving at the IAGA school.

The application for the IAGA School participants has closed as usual by the end of Oktober 2020. We have received more than 50 applications from all over the world. The virtual format would allow for a larger participation than the 20 that IAGA usually sponsored for personal attendance. However, we still consider the aspect of the students getting to know each other an important aspect of the IAGA School so that we still limit the number of participants. However, we consider making recordings of the lectures temporarily available to all (PhD) students participating in the IAGA-IASPEI Joint Assembly. The selection process is finished and the selected participants were informed in December 2020.

3.3 Sponsored Topical Meetings

Several IAGA sponsored topical meetings and workshops were planned for 2020. Due to the pandemic, all of them had to be postponed, turned into virtual meetings or cancelled. Below is a brief overview. More information, including a report from the 9th VERSIM workshop that was conducted virtually, can be found in the annual IAGA Newsletter at <http://www.iaga-aiga.org/publications> .

Workshop Title	Planned Dates	Location	Changed to
9 th VLF/ELF VERSIM	March 23-27	Kyoto, Japan	Virtual, November 16-20, 2020
VIII SBGEA & SimFAST	May 25-9	Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil	Virtual, March 22-26, 2021
8 th HEPPA-SOLARIS	June 8-10	Bergan, Norway	June 2021
8 th IAGA/ICMA/SCOSTEP Vertical Coupling	July 6-10	Sopron, Hungary	cancelled
XIX Observatory Workshop	July 6-12	Kazan, Russia	postponed
43 rd COSPAR	August 15-24	Sydney, Australia	Hybrid, January 28 – February 4, 2021
17 th Castle meeting on Paleo, Rock and Environmental Magnetism	August 23-29	Zagreb, Croatia	August 28 – September 3, 2022
25 th EM Induction Workshop	September 13-19	Kuşadası, Turkey	2022

3.4 Further EC, Division, Commission and Working Group Activities

Further activities include the release of the 13th generation of the International Geomagnetic Reference Field (IGRF-13) and related publications in a special issue of Earth, Planets and Space by Working Group V-MOD. Four IAGA EC members participated in a virtual meeting of the International Association of Physics Students (IAPS) on August 28, and more future interactions between IAGA and IAPS are planned. More detailed information on IAGA activities can be found in the annual IAGA Newsletter at <http://www.iaga-aiga.org/publications> .

3.5 Publications

3.5.1 IAGA Newsletters

The latest issue of the annual IAGA Newsletter, nr. 57, was distributed in early January 2021. It can be downloaded from the IAGA website <http://www.iaga-aiga.org/publications> .

3.5.2 IAGA Flyer and Poster

Current versions of a IAGA Flyer and Poster are also available on the website.

4 Future activities

Main activities in 2021 will be the IAGA-IASPEI Joint Assembly and the attached IAGA School with the special challenge to organise both events in virtual format for the first time. Moreover, a GIFT (Geoscience Information For Teachers) Workshop is also planned attached to the 2021 IAGA-IASPEI Joint Assembly by the Interdivisional Commission of Education and Outreach.

To increase the interest and participation of early career scientists in IAGA a strengthening of social media activities by the formation of a dedicated working group and continued interactions with the IAPS are planned.

Monika Korte
IAGA Secretary General