2009 IAVS General Assembly

3 June 2009, Chania, Crete

Minutes

Opening

The meeting was opened at 5.15 pm by IAVS President Robert Peet. Approximately 70 members attended the General Assembly.

The IAVS meeting in Crete was attended by 254 participants from 38 countries.

President Peet and Secretary Mucina informed the Assembly of actions taken by Council and of upcoming events. The announcement of young scientist awards (oral presentation and poster) was postponed to the closing session on the last day. The winners of the awards are listed at the end of this report.

Report from the Council Meeting

Financial report

A short financial report was provided. The assets of the IAVS grew from 51,117€ in 2007 to 62,026€ at the end of 2008. The text of this report is available in IAVS Bulletin 12. Financial projections for 2009 and 2010 foresee continued increases in assets. Attendees of the General Assembly were asked for suggestions as to how to use these funds most effectively. Student support is mentioned.

Towards more professional management for IAVS

The Executive Committee is exploring the possibility of sharing a professional office with one or more other professional organizations so as to provide increased access to critical services such as accounting, legal advice, investment advice, meeting organization and members services.

Membership report

The website is being upgraded to facilitate member renewal. Anticipate posted and emailed requests for you to join or renew your membership.

Publications

Publication officer

The IAVS is happy with its relationship with its new publisher, John Wiley & Sons. There were some rough periods during the transition from Opulus Press, mostly due to problems at Opulus. The Publication Officer, Martin Diekmann, apologized for these problems and discussed many of the benefits to IAVS and its members of this transition.

Bulletin

IAVS Bulletin 12 is ready and available through our website. Expect *IAVS Bulletin* 13 to become available around the end of the year.

Future meetings

2010 (18-23 April) Ensenada MX –Jose Delgadillo & Michael Barbour

2011 Lyon FR – July, Gudrun Bornette

2012 Mokpo, Korea – Sun-Kee Hong

2013 – a proposal from Estonia is pending

2014 – a proposal from western Australia is pending

Other Business

The local organizers thank the sponsors and Athens travel for their support and help.

Closing

The meeting was closed by the President at 6.00 pm.

Addendum 1 – Young Investigator Awards

IAVS awards annual prizes to young scientists (< 35 years of age) for their outstanding work and presentation skills. One award is presented for the best oral presentation and one for the best poster presentation. The winners each receive an IAVS travel grant of 1000€ one of the next two IAVS meetings

This year IAVS congratulates

Miquel De Cáceres Ainsa (University of Montreal, Canada) for his oral presentation "Improving diagnostic species analyses by considering combinations of groups"

and

Jan Plue (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium) for his poster "How to sample a forest soil seed bank?"

Honorable mentions for the oral presentations went to
Carly Stevens (The Open University, Milton Keynes, England) "Impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition on European calcifuge grasslands," and
Vanessa Minden (University of Oldenburg, Germany) "Plant functional traits in relation to disturbance in salt marshes of NW Germany".

Honourable mentions for the poster presentations went to
Krista Takkis (University of Tartu, Estonia) "Contrasting responses of two grassland species to habitat fragmentation," and
Tanaka Furukawa (Yokohama National University, Japan) "Abrupt vegetation change along human disturbance gradient in an urban tropical dry forest, Nairobi, Kenya".

Addendum 2 – Thanks to local organizers

IAVS thanks Panayotis Dimopoulos for organizing the meeting .

IAVS thanks Sandy Coles, Athanasios Kallimanis, Magdalini Pleniou, and Foula Nioti for assisting with the administration of the meeting.

IAVS thanks the Athens Travel Service and Fofi Mazeraki for logistical support.