

# Minutes – Annual Meeting of the IAVS General Assembly Ensenada, Mexico – 23 April 2010

## Opening

The meeting was opened by IAVS President Robert Peet. He reported that the 53<sup>rd</sup> IAVS meeting in Ensenada was attended by ~200 participants from ~35 countries. Attendance was remarkably strong given a significant number of Europeans had to cancel participation at the last moment owing to disruption of air travel caused by the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano.

## Membership report

As of December 31, 2009 IAVS had 756 active members including 440 ordinary members (286 with journal subscriptions), 41 service members (mostly editors), 18 student members, 8 honorary members and 249 gratis members.

## Financial report

The assets of the IAVS grew from 51,117€ at end of 2007 to 62,026 (2008), to 108,990 (2009), and are projected to reach 163,771€ at the end of 2010. We will be looking into using some of this income for increased administrative efficiency, members services, and student support.

## Awards

The Honorary membership Award is the highest award the IAVS confers. Current holders of life membership include Hartmut Dierschke, David Goodall, Eddy van der Maarel, Akira Miyawaki, Dieter Mueller-Dombois, Alessandro Pignatti, and Salvador Rivas-Martínez. The 2010 Honorary Membership Award is given to John Rodwell. He will receive his award at the 2011 meeting in Lyon where he will present an invited lecture.

President Peet read from Rodwell's letter of acceptance.

"It is a great pleasure and privilege to accept the IAVS award of Honorary Member for 2010/11. And it was with great regret that I had to decline the offer of attendance at this year's conference to receive this award. ... I look forward greatly to being with you at the IAVS Conference in Lyon in summer 2011. ..."

Susan Wiser announced the winners of the 2010 young Scientist Awards.

### Best oral presentation:

**S. Vanderplank:** The perennial vegetation of greater San Quintin, Baja California, Mexico.

### Honorable mention, oral presentation:

**A. Fidelis:** Short-term changes caused by fire and mowing in Brazilian Campos grasslands.

**A. Lumbreras:** Ecology of aquatic Ranunculus communities in the west of the Iberian Peninsula: a center of water crowfoot biodiversity.

**Best Poster presentation:**

**M.R. Wong:** Vegetation and soil food web responses to resource availability in a perennial tussock grassland, south-eastern Australia.

**Honorable mention, poster:**

**A. Fidelis:** Floristic similarities of wet-grasslands in the Brazilian cerrado biome.

**Vision Statement and Benefits Statement**

President Peet reported on both the new IAVS Vision Statement and the new IAVS Membership Benefits Statement. Both documents are available on the IAVS website.

**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.

**2011 Elections**

Elections will be held in spring 2011 for membership on the IAVS Council. IAVS Members are encouraged to send nominations to one of the members of the Executive Committee.

**Changes in the Statutes and Bylaws**

The Current Council is working toward revision of the IAVS Statutes and Bylaws. One of the most important changes proposed is to transfer decision-making power from the General Assembly to the Council. The reason is that the Council is an elected, representative body with well-defined mechanisms for decision making. The General Assembly consists of those persons who happen to be at a particular annual symposium and decide to attend the Assembly meeting. Toward this end the Council at its meeting earlier in the week approved changes in the Statutes to change how changes are made in the Statutes and Bylaws. These were advertised in advance and were presented to the General Assembly for vote. They were moved, seconded and approved unanimously. The exact wording is presented in the minutes of the Council meeting.

**Future meetings**

A series of presentations summarized plans for future IAVS annual symposia.

2011: In the absence of Local Committee Chair Gudrun Bornett, Elise Buisson presented a summary of plans for the 2011 meeting to be held in Lyon, France.

2012: Local Committee Chair Sun-Kee Hong was not able to stay for the entire meeting, but during the opening session he presented a summary of plans for the 2012 meeting to be held in Mokpo, Korea.

2013: In the absence of Local Committee Chair Martin Zobel, Inga Hiiesalu presented a summary of plants for the 2013 meeting to be held in Tartu, Estonia.

2014: Local Committee Chair Laco Mucina presented a summary of plans for the 2014 meeting to be held in Perth, Australia.

**Thanks to local organizers**

IAVS thanked with a standing ovation the organizing committee and especially the Chair

**José Delgadillo Rodríguez**

Thank you José!

This was a wonderful meeting and it would not have been possible without you.

IAVS also especially thanked for assisting in the meeting organization

**Steve Bullock and Michael Barbour**

**Concluding remark**

With deep sadness and a period of silence, IAVS recognized the contributions to the symposium of Carlos Alberto Arambula, 23 years old, who we had all seen active at the front desk for the meeting for several days and who very unexpectedly passed away the evening before the final Assembly.