

Porto Alegre, Brazil: 2 March 2002

The meeting was attended by Michael Barbour (US), Elgene Box (US), George Bredenkamp (ZA), Janus Falinski (PL), Kazue Fujiwara (JP), Akira Myawaki (JP), László Orlóci (CA), Valerio de Patta Pillar (BR), Michael Palmer (US), Franco Pedrotti (IT) Jörg Pfadenhauer (DE), Richard Pott (DE) and Irina Safronova (RU). As Secretary General Joop Schaminée could not attend the meeting, Nina Smits attended on his behalf; she had been appointed as representative by Laco Mucina and Hartmut Dierschke.

1. Opening and installation of the new Council

The president, E.O. Box, opened the meeting at 17:00 with a word of welcome. As there were some troubles with the late arrival of the latest bulletin, offering the members a relatively short period to vote, the Council discussed whether the preliminary result of the election had to be accepted as final. As the number of people that sent in their votes (150) was about the same as with previous votings, and no new ballots were received over the last days, the voting was accepted as final by the Council. The results are presented elsewhere in this Bulletin. The new Council members will soon be approached with the question whether they want to participate in the new Council (2002-2005). As the election of the Council was delayed, the old Executive Committee offered to stay on for another year. This was approved by the Council. The new Executive Committee will be elected in Naples.

The voting list contained 110 candidates, of which 40 receiving the most votes are elected directly. To guarantee that each major world region is represented in the newly elected Council, at least one representative from each region will be voted, i.e. the candidate that receives the most votes among those in the region). During the meeting in Freising, Box presented a provisional list of major world regions, which was discussed; amendments were put forward by van der Maarel and others. The revised list has been approved. Altogether, 12 regions have been distinguished. After the name of the region, the countries involved and numbers of members are shown.

- **Region 1** : Northern Europe (NW Europe + Scandinavia + Baltic countries). Total = 243. Belgium 12; Denmark 14; Estonia 13; Færoes 1; Finland 19; Iceland 4; Ireland 5; Latvia 7; Lithuania 1; Luxemburg 2; Netherlands 53; Norway 30; Sweden 42; United Kingdom 40.
- **Region 2**. Central Europe (German Europe). Total = 295. Austria 21; Germany 238; Switzerland 36; Liechtenstein.
- **Region 3**. Southern Europe. Total = 175. Andorra; Cyprus; France 47; Israel 7; Italy 34; Malta; Portugal 7; Spain 87; Turkey 1.
- **Region 4**. Eastern Europe (Eastern Europe + Balkan peninsula). Total = 165. Albania 2; Bosnia-Herzegovina 1; Bulgaria 4; Croatia 8; Czech Republic 33; Greece 9; Hungary 32; Macedonia; Moldavia; Poland 50; Romania 9; Slovakia 7; Slovenia 9; Yugoslavia 1.
- **Region 5**. East Slavonic countries Total = 70. Belarus; Russia 64; Ukraine 6.
- **Region 6**. Middle East including Middle Asia (Minor and Central Asia). Total = 18. Afghanistan; Armenia; Azerbajdzjan; Bahrain; Georgia 2; Irak; Iran 4; Jordan 1; Kazachstan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Oman; Pakistan; Saudi Arabia 2; Syria; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan 1.

- **Region 7.** South and Southeast Asia. Total = 19. Bangladesh; Brunei 0; Burma 0; India 11; Indonesia 1; Malaysia 1; Indonesia; Nepal 2; Philippines; Réunion; Singapore 1; Sri Lanka 2; Thailand 1; Vietnam.
- **Region 8.** East Asia. Total = 181. China 52; Japan 112; Korea Republic 13; Korea DPR 1; Mongolia; Taiwan 3.
- **Region 9.** Africa. Total = 48. Algeria 6; Botswana 1; Egypt 9; Ethiopia 4; Ghana 1; Namibia 2; Nigeria 4; Senegal 1; South Africa 12; Tanzania 2; Tunisia 1; Uganda 1; Zambia 1; Zimbabwe 3.
- **Region 10.** North America (USA + Canada + English speaking Caribbean). Total = 318. Canada 46; Jamaica 0; USA 272.
- **Region 11.** Latin America, including Central America and non-English Caribbean. Total = 68. Argentina 29; Brazil 8; Chile 5; Colombia 1; Costa Rica 3; Ecuador; Honduras; Mexico 19; Nicaragua; Panama; Peru 1; Surinam; Uruguay 1; Venezuela 1.
- **Region 12 .** Australia and New Zealand plus Pacific islands (Oceania). Total = 41. Australia 26; French Polynesia; New Caledonia 1; New Zealand 14; Papua New Guinea.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, in Freising (as published in Bulletin 6) were approved with a change in section 8: the offer to organize an IAVS symposium came from Newport, not from Bangor; the offer was made by Hillary Thomas and Paddy Coker.

3. Report of the Executive Committee

The financial report for 2001 was made by the treasurer (Hartmut Dierschke). The revenues were 14,440.28 DEM: 10,805.37 DEM membership fee and 3,634.91 DEM interest. The expenses were:

10,000.00 DEM for the symposium in 2001 in Freising;
 10,054.45 DEM for the symposium in Porto Alegre in 2002;
 2,473.61 DEM for the notary who approved the Statutes (necessary for legalizing IAVS);
 1,603.52 DEM for the office in Wageningen (administrator);
 457.48 DEM for the office in Göttingen;
 536.30 DEM to Opulus Press;
 327.31 DEM bank costs.

The total expenses were 25,452.67 DEM. As the expenses of the symposium of Porto Alegre in 2002 were already paid in 2001, the balance turned out to be negative (-11,012.39 DEM). The balance of the IAVS on 31-12-2000 was 71,312.18 DEM and on 31-12-2001 60,299.79 DEM = 30,830.79 EUR.

On 1 September 2001, Nina Smits, Wageningen, member of IAVS, was appointed assistant for membership administration and maintenance of the home page.

Eddy van der Maarel (Publication Officer) had sent a written report to the members of the Council.

Several items were put forward during the meeting. With regard to the Journal of Vegetation Science (*JVS*) and Applied Vegetation Science (*AVS*), there are now four Editors who serve both

journals. The Council confirmed the nomination of Jan P. Bakker as new Editor after Ladislav Mucina. Bastow Wilson acts as Chairperson. The number of Associate Editors was further increased in 2001 in order to improve the procedure for manuscript review and decisions about acceptance or rejection. On the other hand, Associate Editors Julie Denslow and Deborah Goldberg (*JVS*) and Trudy Watt (*AVS*) resigned. Finally, Robert K. Peet, former Editor of *JVS*, was nominated as the second Consulting Editor, along with Eddy van der Maarel. In addition to the Book Review Editor there will be a Review Editor for 'reviews of digital products for vegetation scientists', i.e. packages of computer programs and large databases. The first colleague in this position is Michael W. Palmer, a former Associate Editor of *JVS*.

Both *JVS* and *AVS* are now available in electronic form for reasonable prices. The number of electronic subscriptions is still low but is expected to rise steadily. Considering the number of submitted manuscripts, 230 in 2002 against 200 in 2001 and 180 in 2000, *JVS* is still growing in popularity. This is certainly related to the high impact factor of *JVS*. The number of papers published in 2002 was 92, with an average length of 9.7 pages. In 2001 98 papers were published, with an average of 9.5 pages. This means that the rejection rate is ca. 55%, with a trend towards 60%. Although we had some delays in publication during the winter of 2000/2001, papers are now being published soon after acceptance. For the papers in issue 12-4 the time between acceptance and publication was 5 months, for 12-5 it was 4.5 mo, for 12-6 3.7 mo, and for issue 13-1 it will be less than 3 mo. The time between submission and acceptance varies considerably – as has always been the case. The average for the last few years has been roughly 12 mo, but the papers in the recent issue 12-6 were accepted only 9 mo after submission. Further recent initiatives to increase the attraction of *JVS* include the activation of the Forum section, which now has its own Editor, and the solicitation of Guest Editorials.

After the Dutch version of the IAVS Statutes was adapted to Dutch law and society rules and finally accepted by the Dutch Notary in December 2001, the application for registration of IAVS was delivered to the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in December 2001. We were registered shortly thereafter. At last IAVS has received legal status! Now the IAVS can, among other things, open a bank account for IAVS Global Fund and prepare payment of membership fees with credit cards.

IAVS has a Global Fund (GF) and an Adoption Committee that has, unofficially, functioned since the beginning of *JVS*. Since the Bilbao meeting the Committee has the following members: the IAVS Publication Officer as secretary, the IAVS Secretary, Treasurer and Administrator, and IAVS members Michael W. Palmer and Tomáš Herben. Since 1996, the number of adopted colleagues has been around 40. Adoptions go to Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, China, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, India, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, Yugoslavia, and Zambia. The list of adoptees has not been changed recently, mainly while waiting for the transfer of the money from an account in Marijke van der Maarel's name to an account of IAVS. This account can now soon be opened in The Netherlands. From 2002 onwards, the standard adoption will concern an electronic subscription. So far adoptions have been to *JVS* (with one exception). We will now also include *AVS* in the adoption system. We will contact Opulus Press for establishing an amount that has to be paid from GF to Opulus for each adopted electronic subscription. Present adoptees are being sent a letter of explanation with an application form for continued

subscription. The financial situation of GF is somewhat unclear because we still have to balance incoming and outgoing amounts with Opulus, which is pending the opening of a special IAVS account. By the end of 2001 there was ca. 57,000 SEK (ca. 6000 EUR) on the GF account.

The negotiations with SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition, have resulted in a Memorandum of understanding between the Association of Research Libraries, the organization running SPARC, Opulus Press and IAVS regarding support of *JVS*. Van der Maarel has signed the Agreement on behalf of IAVS. One of the benefits of this agreement is that all libraries supporting SPARC will promise to enter a subscription to *JVS*. Negotiations were also made with BioOne. BioOne 'will provide uniquely integrated, cost-effective access to a thoroughly hyperlinked information resource focused on biological, ecological and environmental sciences'. Electronic versions of BioOne journals, basically journals published by small publishing houses and societies, are offered as a package to research libraries as a complement to the journal packages offered by the big commercial publishers. BioOne is supported by SPARC, which makes it all the more interesting to join it. *JVS* and *AVS* have been accepted by the BioOne organization, and Opulus Press has found solutions for several practical problems included in joining the organization, so that the journals will probably be added to the BioOne aggregation in the course of 2002.

The draft of the contract between Opulus Press and the IAVS about *JVS/AVS* was presented to the Council. Members were invited to give their comments over the E-mail. The definitive contract text will be presented at the meeting in Naples.

4. Reports of Working groups, Commissions and Regional Sections

During the meeting in Uppsala (1998), it was decided that Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections should provide an annual report to the Council and that these (short) reports should be published in the IAVS Bulletin. These annual reports can be found elsewhere in this bulletin (see further under 'Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections').

5. Statutes (including by-laws) and official registration of IAVS

The statutes were accepted by all the Council members present.

6. IAVS Bulletin and Home page

In consultation with Opulus, it was decided to leave the home page housed in Sweden, as costs are much lower there. The next Bulletin will be available in 2003, the next membership list will be prepared in 2004.

7. Activities in the coming years

As decided earlier, the annual symposium in 2003 will be held in Napoli (Naples), Italy, from Sunday 8 June to Friday 13 June 2003. Also pre-symposium and post-symposium excursions will be organized. The theme of the symposium will be 'Water Resources and Vegetation'. Further details are given elsewhere in this Bulletin, in the section 'IAVS Symposia'.

Several offers were made for 2004 and further: (1) USA (Hawaii; invitation by Dieter Mueller-Dombois and Michael Barbour); (2) South Africa (Pretoria; invitation by George Bredenkamp and Ladislav Mucina); (3) New Zealand (Dunedin; invitation by Jill Rapson); (4) Portugal

(Lisboa; invitation by Maria Delila Espirito Santo); (5) UK, Wales (Newport; invitation by Hilary Thomas and Paddy Coker); (6) Russia (Saint Petersburg; invitation by Irina Safronova).

The Council voted in April 2002 by postal ballot to have the venue of the 47th IAVS Symposium in Hawaii, organized by Dieter Mueller-Dombois and Michael Barbour.