

**ILRS Governing Board Meeting
Canberra, Australia
October 19, 2006**

Attendees

Graham Appleby, Pippo Bianco, David Carter, Jan McGarry, Werner Gurtner, Georg Kirchner, Hiroo Kunimori, Cinzia Luceri (new), Ron Noomen (retiring), Erricos Pavlis (new), Mike Pearlman, Ulli Schreiber (retiring), Wolfgang Seemueller, Yang FuMin (new), and Peter Shelus (retiring)

Review of ILRS Activities

Mike Pearlman gave a brief review of ILRS activities over the past year (see Attachment 1).

Establishment of the New Board and New Working Group Chairs

The Central Bureau conducted the biannual elections. The new Governing Board members are:

Ex-Officio Members:

Director, Central Bureau:	Mike Pearlman
Secretary, Central Bureau:	Carey Noll
President of IAG Commission I:	Hermann Drewes

Members Appointed or Elected by Organizations:

EUROLAS Network Representatives:	Pippo Bianco, Werner Gurtner
WPLTN Network Representatives:	Yang Fumin, Hiroo Kunimori
NASA Network Representatives:	David Carter, Jan McGarry
IERS Representative:	Bob Schutz

Members Elected by their International Peers:

Analysis Representatives:	Cinzia Luceri, Erricos Pavlis
Data Center Representative:	Wolfgang Seemueller
LLR Representative:	Juergen Mueller
At-Large Representatives:	Graham Appleby, Georg Kirchner

The Governing Board welcomes the new members Yang Fumin, Cinzia Luceri, Erricos Pavlis, and Juergen Mueller. The Board extends its appreciation to the retiring members Ron Noomen, Ben Greene, Peter Shelus, and Ulli Schreiber for their past service and reminds them of the need for their future participation in the ILRS activities.

Working Group chairs and co-chairs were selected:

Analysis:	Erricos Pavlis (chair), Cinzia Luceri (co-chair)
Missions:	Graham Appleby/TBD
Networks and Engineering:	Georg Kirchner/TBD
Data Formats and Procedures:	Wolfgang Seemueller (chair), Randy Ricklefs (co-chair)

Co-chairs, if not specified at the time of the meeting, may be selected by the working group chairs from the ILRS membership.

Werner Gurtner was confirmed as chair of the Governing Board for another 2-years term.

Official ILRS objection to the present ITRF2005

The IGN solution for the ITRF2005 has been issued as the official IERS product. The solution relies on SLR for the determination of Earth Center of Mass, but there is a discrepancy in scale of about 0.7 ppb between SLR and VLBI. The IGN has used the VLBI results, a choice that the ILRS considers to be rather arbitrary. DGFI, another one of the three ITRS centers which also calculated a terrestrial reference frame solution, sees no significant difference in its SLR and VLBI scale calculations, nor in the temporal behavior of the SLR-only scale. On this basis, the ILRS is preparing an objection to the IERS, requesting a revisit on the ITRF2005 and a better definition of the ITRF selection process.

Action: Werner Gurtner will draft the objection.

New Data Format

Randy Ricklefs has been leading the development within the Data Formats and Procedures Working Group of an expanded data format to accommodate interplanetary transponder ranging as well as the present ranging applications. Several drafts have been circulated for comment.

The Governing Board gave formal approval to this activity.

Procedures to handle funding support from missions and projects

The Governing Board has expressed some concern that funding support for individual stations from missions and projects might distort the balance of network and the network priorities. The issue has emerged due to possible funding for some stations from Galileo. It was pointed out that funding support had been provided by the TOPEX project to the NASA network. Other examples may also exist.

It was agreed that under the current austere environment, we really did not want to turn any reasonable funding source aside, and that networks are free to negotiate with sponsors, but they should keep the ILRS informed.

Site Ties

Local site surveys and site ties have been a traditional shortcoming in our single and multiple technique solutions, including the ITRF. The IGN, NASA, and other organizations have been working the site tie issue, with a number of surveys remeasured over the past several years, but there are still surveys lacking and unresolved issues with the site tie files.

The Governing Board established a joint AWG/N&E activity on site ties to assess the situation and report back with a plan of action at EGU in April.

Station Designation

Based on a liberal interpretation of the Shanghai Criteria, the Central Bureau had been periodically categorizing stations as “operational” or “associate”, and designating them on ILRS web-based maps.

The Central Bureau will continue this process on an annual basis until a more elaborate process is ready for implementation by the Analysis Working Group.

Satellites

The OICETS Satellite will be dropped from the priority tracking list until such time as further tracking is required as per the Mission Support Request Form.

Redesignation of the Signal Processing Ad hoc Working Group

The Signal Processing Working Group has been functioning as an ad-hoc working group for a number of years. Recognizing that this activity will likely continue for many years, the Governing Board has redesignated the Working Group as a Study Group under the Networks and Engineering Working Group. Toshi Otsubo will chair the Study Group.

Analysis Center Feedback to the Stations

DGFI, the Backup ILRS Combination Center, had agreed to propose a data performance feedback system for the stations.

Action: Mike Pearlman will check with DGFI on the status.

2005-2006 ILRS Report

The ILRS Report for 2005-6 will be a full report including station and Analysis Center briefs.

Action: The Central Bureau will develop the outline and schedule, and assign writing tasks.

ILRS Special Issue Editorial Board

The Journal of Geodesy has agreed to publish a special issue from the ILRS. The edition would include SLR science articles and an ILRS introductory chapter. Ron Noomen is organizing an editorial board to help coordinate and review the activity.

Analysis Center “Logs”

At the request of INDIGO, the ILRS has agreed to furnish Analysis Center Logs which would document techniques, models, parameters and other key information on how the Analysis Centers calculate their primary and secondary products. These would be analogous to the station logs now online. Ron Noomen has developed a template and circulated it to the analysis and associate Analysis Centers for completion. Only four centers have completed the task so far.

Shortly after the Governing Board meeting all of the Analysis Centers had completed their logs. The Central Bureau will work with the Analysis Working Group to complete this task with Associate Analysis Centers.

Next Meeting

The next ILRS Governing Board Meeting will be held at EGU in April.