

# 1 Foreword

In 2012 the IERS took steps to prepare for its future goals and products. The Analysis Coordinator set in motion plans for an IERS Retreat to “focus on maintaining the IERS’s core role of the generation of regular, high accuracy products ... [and] to establish directions for IERS over next decade that will ensure this core role is met.” Along with the publication of IERS Technical Note 37 on the analysis and results of ITRF2008, the ITRS Centre began preparations for ITRF2013. To strengthen this work the IERS Directing Board accepted the proposal from JPL to become an ITRS Combination Centre.

The GGFC organized a workshop in Vienna “with the goal of allowing the Special Bureau Chairs, the GGFC Product Centers, and the GGFC user community to review the structure and data holdings of the GGFC and to make suggestions for new products”. Several proposals were received in response to a GGFC call, demonstrating the interest of the community in continuing refinement of IERS products.

To provide improved latency the Rapid Service / Prediction Centre began operational distribution of EOP combination and prediction solutions four times per day. In response to a need to facilitate comparison of products the IERS established a new working group on site coordinate time series format to define a common exchange format for coordinate time series of all geodetic techniques.

Two developments of potential importance to the IERS should be noted. The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly held in Geneva decided to defer the development of a continuous time standard in order to address the concerns of countries that use the current system of the leap second in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The IERS should be prepared with the products and processes to proactively address the changes that may be decided in the future. The IAU General Assembly in Beijing established under Division A the working group for the Third Realisation of International Celestial Reference Frame. The IERS should have an active role in the preparation and adoption of future realizations of the ICRF.

Finally, the IERS Directing Board elected Brian Luzum to be its new Chair beginning in 2013. His expertise and experience in the work of the IERS will provide a firm foundation for the future.

*Chopo Ma  
Chair, IERS Directing Board (2005–2012)*