

3 Reports of IERS components

3.1 Directing Board

The IERS Directing Board (DB) met twice in the course of the year 2001. Short summaries of these meetings are given below.

Meeting No. 33 *Monday, March 26, 2001, Congress Centre, Nice, France*

J. Vondrak thanked C. Reigber for his activities as representative of IAG and as chair of the IERS directing board in the years 1995 to 2000 and presented to him a "Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service".

Reports on major activities since the last meeting and on the work of the IERS components were presented. The Central Bureau (CB) was asked to organise a full day meeting right before or after the IAG meeting in Budapest as a come-together meeting for all IERS Combination Research Centres. The CB was also asked to initiate a survey within the IERS to specify the various requirements of the PCs, ITRF CCs and CRCs from the various techniques.

The following decisions were made: There will be no IERS workshop organized in 2001 but in 2002 right before or after the EGS meeting. The old style (activity reports and results) will be kept more or less also for the IERS Annual Report 2000.

D. McCarthy announced the establishment of an UTC working group to translate the IAU recommendations.

Meeting No. 34 *Wednesday, September 26, 2001, Royal Observatory of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium*

J. Vondrak welcomed especially C. Ma as the only American participant at this meeting and expressed his sympathy for the American folk after the shocking terrorism attack. C. Ma wished to see his participation as a sign that normal work will go on. Due to the horrible events in the USA of September 11 and the ensuing problems for the American Board members to participate in this meeting, all decisions were postponed for later e-mail approval.

M. Rothacher was welcomed as the new IERS Analysis Coordinator.

Reports on major activities since the last meeting and on the work of the IERS components were presented. It was discussed whether EOP quantities should be given in equivalent units either arcseconds and seconds or in mas and ms. Several board members expressed their concerns about a change in the EOP format; a small group of specialists should discuss this in detail. C. Boucher proposed an ITRF Advisory Group. The goal of this group would

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be to advise the ITRS Centre about ITRF product selection and quality. Objectives are to evaluate ITRF2000 and to define the organization for future ITRF computation using several Combination Centres. On behalf of B. Chao, C. Ma presented a proposal by B. Chao and Hans-Peter Plag on "Establishing the Special Bureau for Loading, in the Global Geophysical Fluids Center (GGFC)". A proposal by J. Ray on an IERS Analysis Campaign to align EOPs to ICRF / ITRF2000 was explained by M. Rothacher.

As a result of the CRC meeting in Budapest, the IERS Workshop should be also devoted to combination problems (besides a discussion of the implementation of the IAU Resolutions to the ICRS). As location there are 2 proposals: Paris Observatory and Munich.

The Central Bureau was asked to compile a list of all meeting dates which are of relevance to the IERS, including workshops of Technique Centres. B. Richter proposed to publish a summary of the DB meeting minutes in the Web to make the decisions and recommendations of the board more visible for the public.

Votes collected by e-mail after the meeting:

Establishing a new GGFC Special Bureau: accepted

Setting up an ITRF Advisory Group: accepted

Place of next IERS Workshop 2002: Paris

Summaries of DB meeting minutes to be published in the IERS

Web pages: accepted

Next IERS directing Board meeting: in connection with the IERS Workshop