



**International
Palaeontological
Association**

www.ipa-assoc.org

MINUTES OF THE IPA COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

May 15-17, 2016, at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and
Paleoanthropology (IVPP), Beijing, China

May 16, Morning session: Chaired by Lars Holmer

- 1) President Dr **Zhonghe Zhou** opened the meeting and gave a welcome speech and an introduction to the major topics and proposed agenda for the meeting (Attachment 1, also including a list of participants), which started at 9:00 a.m., May 16.

This was the first business meeting of the IPA Council to be held between the quadrennial congresses since these were initiated in 2002 (following a decision taken during the IPA Council Meeting at the IPC4 in Argentina). The meeting in Beijing was kindly sponsored by the **IVPP** with support from the **Chinese Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China**.

Most importantly this meeting of the IPA Council resulted in agreement to undertake 10 main actions that are listed at the end of this document.

- 2) The written budget report (Attachment 2) of the Treasurer Dr **Ron Parsley**, who was not able to be present, was presented by the Secretary-General Dr **Lars Holmer**. The main items and problems pointed out in the budget report were discussed and the proposals from the Treasurer concerning changing dues payments to conform to calendar years were accepted. Payment to the IPA can now be made by direct wire transfer or by credit card and a new PayPal account will be set up. Since it is practical that the funds of the IPA continue to be managed in the USA, it was decided to propose a change to the IPA constitution "ARTICLE X. DOMICILE" (<http://www.ipa-assoc.org/index.php/constitution>) – from "The legal domicile of IPA shall be the place where the **Secretary-General** conducts his or her business" to "shall be the place where the **Treasurer** conducts his or her business" at the next General Assembly. A major issue regarding the IPA-budget concerns the various corporate and individual memberships. The criteria for these

need to be clarified and re-defined. New more comprehensive lists of the various members shall be assembled.

As before it can be noted that International Palaeontological Association has a tiny membership, but it is the primary sponsor of a highly successful series of international congresses. IPA has considerable prestige but unfortunately next to no money.

- 3) Vice President Dr **Hiroshi Kitazato** presented his suggestions on how to enhance connections of IPA with IUGS and IUBS in order to make IPA more active and visible among palaeontologists of the world. It is important that the IPA submits reports of its activities to these organisations in accordance with the regulations. Dr **Hiroshi Kitazato** will represent IPA at the next meeting of the IUGS at the IGC in South Africa, 2016.
- 4) Vice President Dr **Thomas Servais** presented his suggestions on the current connections between IPA and affiliated palaeontological associations, such as the International Federation of Palynological Societies (IFPS). The present list of corporate members clearly lacks many important paleontological associations and needs to be updated as to representatives and associations both from the local national associations as well as the various associations dedicated to various taxonomic groups. It was agreed that the IPA should be more active and strive to be the main association for palaeontology and palaeontologists internationally. Each member of the IPA council will be active in promoting and achieving this aim. The assembled material will be compiled by the Secretary-General.
- 5) President Dr **Zhonghe Zhou** initiated the discussion on the establishment of a membership category of Fellows of IPA and other honours or prizes of the organisation. These important discussions continued during the entire meeting.

May 16, Afternoon session: Chaired by James Crampton

- 1) The PaleoParks representative Dr **Jere Lipps** reported on progress of the PaleoParks project, where close to 1000 PaleoParks now are more or less established. The objective of the PaleoParks project is not to establish a new complicated structure of evaluation. Rather, it is to support local and international organizations that nominate sites of significant palaeontological interest that are already conserved, or groups that may wish to conserve new sites. Databases are available on the IPA homepage (<http://www.ipa-assoc.org/PaleoParks/>). One list that is open to the public at large, will include protected sites. The other list, accessible only by

password, will list unprotected sites that local groups are seeking to conserve.

The establishment of an International Fossil Day was discussed. It was decided that IPA should promote this event to enhance public interest in palaeontology and that it should coincide with the USA National Fossil Day (<http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/index.cfm>)

- 3) Corporate member Dr **Mahendra Pal Singh** representing the Palaeontological Society of India gave a brief presentation on the activities of the Indian society. He also made several important suggestions as to how the work within IPA could be improved (Attachment 3).
- 4) The IPA Web Manager Dr **Yongdong Wang** presented on-going work on the new Website of the IPA (<http://www.ipa-assoc.org/>) which will kindly be hosted free of charge by the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology (<http://english.nigpas.cas.cn/>). The new website will be formally released on 1st July, 2016. It will include links to all major initiatives and databases of the IPA and also new instructions on how to become a member or supporter of the IPA.
- 5) President Dr **Zhonghe Zhou** continued the discussion on how to expand the number of members of the IPA and how to improve the official webpages. Discussion on the establishment of honours or prizes of the organisation led to the following conclusions: IPA should select and announce the six most significant published palaeontological discoveries of a given year on International Fossil Day; IPA should select Fellows every 2nd year; IPA should establish a "Gould Medal" for internationally active senior palaeontologists who had made outstanding contributions to palaeontology, to be announced every 4th year on the occasion of the International Paleontological Congress; IPA should establish 4-5 best presentation awards to be presented to young (within 5 years of the PhD) palaeontologists at the IPC.

May 17, Concluding Morning session: Chaired by Dr Zhonghe Zhou

- 1) Dr **Eric Buffetaut** outlined the organization of the next IPC "The Fossil Week" to be held in Paris, 9-13th July, 2018. The first circular for IPC5 will be distributed in November, 2016. A webpage will soon be opened with details of the scientific programme and pre- and post-conference field trips. A fee for IPA membership will be included in the conference fee, which will give

participants membership in the IPA until the next IPC in 2022. It is estimated that around 1000+ paleontologists will participate in IPC5.

- 2) President Dr **Zhonghe Zhou** continued the discussion on the establishment of special committees to administer honours, prizes, and other missions of the IPA that were agreed upon during the meeting. The discussion resulted in the following list of agreements and decisions:
 - a. IPA will extend and promote the existing USA National Fossil Day as the International Fossil Day – with Dr **Jere Lipps** in charge of this process.
 - b. IPA will select and announce the six most significant published palaeontological discoveries (during a 12 month period) – with all Council members responsible for finding candidates and the Executive Council in charge of the selection process.
 - c. IPA will select Fellows every 2nd year– with Dr **Michael J. Benton** in charge of this process.
 - d. IPA will establish a “Gould medal” recognizing particularly outstanding contributions (international collaborations, efforts to raise public awareness, and teaching etc)to paleontology, to be announced every 4th year in connection with the International Palaeontological Congress. All Council members will be responsible for finding candidates and the Executive Council will be in charge of the selection process.
 - e. IPA will establish 4-5 best presentation awards to young (within 5 years of the PhD) palaeontologists at the IPC. All Council members will be responsible for finding candidates and the Executive Council will be in charge of the selection process.
 - f. IPA will actively recruit “Ambassadors” from each country to be members of IPA and to encourage national, regional and specialists’ organizations to become Corporate Members and to be actively involved in the programs of IPA. All Council members will be responsible for finding candidates.
 - g. IPA will strengthen its ties with IUGS, IUBS, and other similar international organisations, and it will continue to sponsor international meetings - with all Council members responsible.
 - h. The IPA website should continue to be improved and updated with new membership information and list – with Dr **Yongdong Wang** in charge of this process.

- i. The conference fee for IPC5 should include a membership fee to the IPA – with Dr **Eric Buffetaut** responsible for discussions with the organisers of IPC5.
- j. IPA will continue to promote the PaleoParks initiative – with Dr **Jere Lipps** in charge of this process.

The IPA Business Meeting was adjourned at 11:30

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LH', with a long, sweeping underline.

Lars Holmer, Secretary-General

June 10th, 2016