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**ANNUAL REPORT (consolidated), 2011-13**

**Selection of the Site for IPC 4**

During the last months of 2010, proposals were solicited from potential hosts of the next International Palaeontological Congress, IPC 4, to be held in 2014. By mid-November, 2010, expressions of interest had been received from two groups, the German University of Technology (GUtech), in collaboration with Sultan Quaboos University in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, and Centro Científico Tecnológico – CONICET Mendoza, in Argentina.

These proposals were circulated to all members of the Council of IPA. Members of the Council reviewed the proposals and submitted questions and/or requests for responses to comments from the potential organizing committees. These requests for additional information were compiled and sent to the two groups. Their responses were submitted by early January, 2011. This new information was circulated to the Council, together with a ballot by means of which one of the proposals was to be accepted.

On February 1, 2011, the Secretary-General announced that the Council of the International Palaeontological Association had elected to issue an invitation to the group in Argentina, led by Dr. Claudia Rubinstein, Dr. Beatriz Waisfeld, and Dr. Claudia Marsicano, to convene the Fourth International Palaeontological Congress in Mendoza, Argentina, in 2014.

This decision represented a broad near-consensus. Eighteen delegates, many of whom consulted with the leadership groups of their organizations, voted to accept the proposal from Argentina. Three delegates voted to accept the proposal from Muscat, Oman, and two delegates abstained from voting.

A message of thanks and congratulations was sent to the group in Argentina. Regrets were conveyed to the group in Oman. Members of the Council noted that many aspects of the proposal from the group in Oman were very appealing. This group was encouraged to submit a proposal to convene IPC 5 in 2018, with the proviso that the current Council of IPA could not make make any commitment on the site of IPC 5. That decision would be made by the next IPA Council, consisting of members elected in 2014 and delegates appointed immediately following the congress in Argentina.

**Planning for IPC 4**

Planning for the International Palaeontological Congress in 2014 has been undertaken entirely by the organizing committee in Argentina, with encouragement and a limited amount of logistical and financial support from the International Palaeontological Association.

Early in July, 2011, Dr. Beatriz Waisfeld distributed the first announcement of the 4th International Palaeontological Congress, IPC 2014, indicating that it would be held from September 28 to October 3, 2014, in Mendoza, Argentina. The three previous congresses had all been held in June or July, but the climate in Mendoza is such that a date in southern hemisphere spring was desirable, especially for the conduct of field trips.

**Sponsorship by IPA of Conferences within the Scope of IPA’s Interests**

Over the past three years, IPA has joined in sponsorship, financially or otherwise, of the following conferences:

2012 EMPSEB18, 18th European Meeting of PhD Students in Evolutionary

Biology, held in central Finland. Provided support of $750.

2013 EMPSEB19, 19th European Meeting of PhD Students in Evolutionary

Biology, held in Cornwall, UK. Provided support of $750.

2013 International Palaeontological Congress, IPC 4, in Mendoza, Argentina.

Provided an advance payment of $1250 in support start-up expenses.

2013 3rd International Conodont Symposium, held in Mendoza, Argentina,

July 15-19, 2013. No financial support, IPA logo provided to signify

IPA’s endorsement.

2013 International Palaeontological Congress, IPC 4, in Mendoza, Argentina. Provided an advance payment of $1250 in support start-up expenses.

**Selection of Nominees for Election to Serve as Officers of IPA, 2014-2018**

In May, 2014, Michael Benton, acting in his capacity as President of the IPA, appointed a Nominating Committee to solicit and review potential nominees to stand for election at the Ordinary Meeting of the General Assembly, in Mendoza, Argentina, as IPA’s officers for 2014-2018.

The members of the Nominating Committee were: James Crampton (New Zealand), Hiroshi Kitazato (Japan), Maria McNamara (Republic of Ireland), Jaiyu Rong (China), and Alycia Stigall (USA). The committee was convened and chaired by the Secretary-General, who did not vote on any of its decisions, as specified by the constitution.

By the second week of August, 2014 the Nominating Committee had completed its work. The candidates who have been nominated for election as officers of IPA for the 2014-2018 term are as follows:

PRESIDENT **Dr. Zhonghe Zhou (China)**

SECRETARY-GENERAL **Dr. Lars Holmer (Sweden)**

TREASURER **Dr. Ronald Parsley (USA)**

VICE PRESIDENTS

**Dr. Lucia Angiolini (Italy)**

**Dr. James Crampton, (New Zealand),**

**Dr. Hiroshi Kitazato (Japan)**

**Dr. Thomas Servais (Belgium)**

**Dr. Beatriz Waisfeld (Argentina)**

COUNCILLORS-AT-LARGE

**Dr. Peter Doyle (United Kingdom, Editor of *Lethaia*)**

**Dr. Olga Kossovaya (Russia)**

The Constitution of the International Palaeontological Association specifies that additional nominations may be submitted to the Secretary-General, prior to the General Assembly, provided that such nominations are supported by at least five other Members, is made in writing, and are received by the Secretary-General before the opening of the meeting of the General Assembly in Mendoza.

**R. D. K. Thomas, Secretary-General xx September, 2014**

**APPENDIX**

**IPA: MEMBERSHIP AND DELEGATES TO COUNCIL**

CORPORATE MEMBERS 2013-14 AND THEIR DELEGATES (as of September, 2014)

Canada, **British Columbia Paleontological Alliance**; no delegate appointed

China, **Palaeontological Society of China**, Dr. Qun Yang

Czech Republic, **Geological Institute AS CR**; no delegate appointed

France, APF (**Association Paléontologique Française);** Dr. Taniel Danelian

France, **Staff of Carnets de Géologie** - Notebooks on Geology; Dr. Bruno Granier

India, **Palaeontological Society of India**; Professor M. P. Singh

IRGO **International Research Group on Ostracoda**; Dr. Finn Viehberg

New delegate, Dr. Gabriela Cusminsky, as of 9/02/14

Italy, Societa Paleontologica Italiana; no delegate appointed

Japan, **Palaeontological Society of Japan**; Dr. Kazuyoshi Endo

New Zealand, **The Royal Society of New Zealand**; Dr. James Crampton

Poland, **Polish Section of Palaeontologists**; delegate to be appointed

Spain, **Sociedad Española de Paleontologia**; Dr. Silvia Blanco Ferrera

Switzerland, **Société Paléontologique Suisse**; Dr. Jean-Pierre Berger, deceased 2012

No new delegate appointed to date

United Kingdom, **The Micropalaeontological Society**; Dr. M. Paul Smith

United Kingdom, **The Palaeontological Association**; Dr. Howard A. Armstrong

U.S.A., **Botanical Society of America, Paleobotanical Section**; Dr. Michael Dunn

U.S.A., **The Paleontological Society**; delegate to be appointed

U.S.A., **Paleontological Society of Washington**; delegate to be appointed

OTHER DELEGATES APPOINTED TO THE COUNCIL OF IPA

Dr. David A. T. Harper, Past-President, 2010-2014

Dr. Rosalie Maddocks, Past Secretary-General, 2010-2014

Dr. Jere H. Lipps, Delegate for PaleoParks Project, 2006–current

Dr. Jan Audun Rasmussen, Delegate for *Lethaia*, 2010-2014

INDIVIDUAL (ORDINARY) MEMBERS

As of January, 2014, the IPA had 74 ordinary members who had paid their membership fees directly to the Treasurer. As of May, 2014, 96 ordinary membership fees had been paid together with registration fees for IPC 4 in Mendoza. A few of the latter payments represent renewals. On the other hand, additional membership fees will have been received since May. Thus, including the *Lethaia* subscribers (see above), IPA appears to have at least 250 individual members. However, this is less than half the number of people who have registered for IPC 4, all of whom should be IPA members in one category or another. After IPC 4, it should be possible to establish a complete membership list, starting with registrants for the congress, and adding in known ordinary members and *Lethaia* subscribers who did not attend the congress.

*LETHAIA* SUBSCRIBERS 2013-2014

As of May, 2014 the IPA had 101 members who subscribed as individuals to the journal *Lethaia* in either 2013 or 2014, or in both years. Their membership fees, which are included in their subscriptions, are remitted to IPA by the Lethaia Foundation. This number of subscriber/members is 34 less than in 2010, certainly reflecting the general decline in subscription to print journals.