

SCOSTEP Bureau Meeting Minutes

Time: 10:30AM – 02:30PM, August 30, 2009

Location: Daruka Terem, Sopron

Attendees: Maurizio Candidi (Bureau member, SCAR), Nat Gopalswamy (Bureau member, IAU), Christian Hanuise (Bureau member, URSI), Vladimir Kuznetsov (Bureau member, IAGA), Brigitte Schmieder (Vice President), Robert Vincent (President), Susan Avery (CAWSES co-chair, invited guest), Alan Rodger CAWSES co-chair, invited guest), Franz-Josef Lübken (the LOC chair for STP-12, invited guest), and Gang Lu (Scientific Secretary)

1. Opening Remarks

Vincent opened the Bureau meeting. He noted that he was deeply impressed by the national reports presented at the General Council meeting earlier. SCOSTEP member countries have contributed greatly to the CAWSES program, and they have become the international framework for solar-terrestrial research. SCOSTEP through CAWSES is doing the right thing for the international community, with more and more countries formally participating in CAWSES. Vincent also mentioned that the CAWSES symposium held in October 2007 in Kyoto was a huge success. The meeting proceedings now becomes the second book of CAWSES, after the first CAWSES book published in 2004 on Auroral Phenomena and Solar-Terrestrial Relations. The electronic version of the book is available online and can be downloaded freely at <http://www.terrapub.co.jp/onlineproceedings/st/CAWSES2007> or through SCOSTEP website at <http://www.scostep.ucar.edu/archives/publications.html>.

On another note, Vincent informed the Bureau that the current Scientific Secretary Gang Lu will step down in 2010 after the STP-12 symposium in Berlin. Vincent is in the process of finding a replacement, and would welcome suggestions from the Bureau regarding the selection of a new Scientific Secretary for SCOSTEP.

2. Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved. But Vincent pointed out, depending on time, some agenda items may cut short to allow ample time for some bureau members to catch their flights.

3. Updates on STP-12 preparation

Franz-Josef Lübken, Chair of the local organization committee (LOC), gave an updated report on the preparation of STP-12. Lübken pointed out that the science program for STP-12 has taken shape, and the lecture, keynote and invited speakers are being identified and notified. Most of them have accepted the invitations. All logistical issues concerning the meeting facilitate, costs, and finance have been settled. Lübken reassured that SCOSTEP will not be liable for any financial risks regarding STP-12.

The Bureau was very pleased with Lübken's report, and thanked the LOC (and Lübken in particular) for doing a superb job in preparing for STP-12. The Bureau also suggested widely advertising STP-12, including sending the meeting announcement and flyer to all major STP news

letters as well as SCOSTEP and CAWSES colleagues.

4. Report from CAWSES-II co-chairs

Susan Avery and Alan Rodger (Co-Chairs of the CAWSES program) updated the Bureau on the status of CAWSES-II. The CAWSES-II website is now up and running, and its URL address is <http://www.cawses.org/>. The website is multi-lingual, currently in French, Dutch, Russian, as well as in English. The website also provides the wiki access for each of the task groups. All four task groups are now in place. Some of the task group leaders have been very active in organizing scientific projects and coordinating research efforts in the international SCOSTEP community.

Bureau members thanked Avery and Rodger for their leadership in the CAWSES-II program, and acknowledged that CAWSES-II, while with a slow-start, is now in full swing. The Bureau suggested that we should make the best effort to promote CAWSES-II in international arenas. As part of that effort, Alan Rodger will propose a special SCOSTEP/CAWSES session at the IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne, in 2011. A possible topic for the special session may be on virtual conference or virtual institute for STP. Christian Hanuise will also propose a CAWSES-II session for the URSI General Assembly in Istanbul in August 2011.

5. Planning for SCOSTEP program(s) after CAWSES-II

The Bureau discussed briefly on future SCOSTEP science programs after CAWSES-II, which is our main science program for 2009-2013. Bob Vincent reported on the preliminary discussion with IAGA about a possible joint project on scientific assessment of solar-terrestrial impact on Earth's climate. It has been suggested that SCOSTEP leads a full and balanced assessment of outstanding issues and questions concerning solar influence on global climate. Such an assessment should be completed by 2012 in order to be fully considered by IPCC before the next installment of the IPCC report.

Bureau members voiced their opinions on the subject. It is recognized by the Bureau that the climate issue is so large that no single science group is fully capable of doing it alone. The assessment of Sun-Climate relationship is certainly a part of responsibility that SCOSTEP should take on. However, the climate issue is also complicated both scientifically and politically. Caution should be exercised when SCOSTEP takes upon such a responsibility.

The Bureau did not pass any formal resolutions. Bob Vincent urged Bureau members to go back to their respective associations to think about other possible new projects after CAWSES-II. A longer discussion on future projects will be carried out at the next bureau meeting.

6. New adherents

Vincent informed the Bureau that Bulgaria just joined SCOSTEP, and South Korea is in the final stage of joining (Note: South Korea formally joined SCOSTEP in September 2009). Unfortunately, Brazil dropped out as a formal SCOSTEP member (as a matter of fact, Brazilian government has decided to withdraw its membership from all international organization due to budget shortfalls.) Vincent has contacted Ireland, but so far received no response. Similar, contact with Mexico has not resulted in a positive response at this point. It was suggested that Nigeria may be a potential member country, and Vincent will initiate a contact with Nigeria.

7. Approval of 2008 SCOSTEP annual report and audit

The 2008 annual reported prepared by Scientific Secretary Gang Lu was approved by the Bureau. The Bureau members also reviewed the SCOSTEP audit report, and unanimously approved it. The 2008 annual report is now posted online at SCOSTEP website.

8. SCOSTEP budget for 2009-2010

Gang Lu presented the SCOSTEP budget for 2009-2011. She pointed out that SCOSTEP is quite healthy financially, owing to the continuing support by our member countries as well as various saving efforts made during the past few years. As a result, we will be able to allocate more funds for the CAWSES program and to support other international meetings/workshops that are relevant to SCOSTEP. After viewing the budget, the Bureau suggested to add a line item in the budget for meeting sponsorship that is outside of CAWSES's purview. Such sponsorship requests will be reviewed and approved by the SCOSTEP executive committee, which composes of President (Vincent), Vice President (Schmieder), and Scientific Secretary (Lu). A modified version of the budgets was sent to Bureau members in September 2009 for final approval.

9. SCOSTEP Financial Committee

In accordance with SCOSTEP's Constitution, a two-member financial committee is needed to examine SCOSTEP's finance, including all incomes and expenditures. Christian Hanuise and Brigitte Schiemder volunteered, and were approved by the Bureau, to serve on the SCOSTEP Finance Committee. They reviewed the detailed itemized financial reports from 2006 to 2009, which were prepared by Gang Lu and Carol Hanchett. No irregularities were found in those reports.

10. Other business

The next bureau meeting will be held on 17 July 2010 in Berlin, right after the STP-12 symposium.

Vincent told the Bureau again that the search for a new Scientific Secretary is under the way, and he will make a "call-for-nomination" to some member countries in the coming months. He pointed out that all previous scientific secretaries have been from US, but there is no reason/restriction why the new secretariat office should not reside in other countries. He asked bureau members for inputs and suggestions.