



Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics SCOSTEP General Council Meeting, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna 28 April 2017

Attendees: The list of the Attendees is given in the Appendix

1. Opening Remarks of President

In his opening remarks the SCOSTEP President *Dr. Nat Gopalswamy* thanked the Austrian Academy of Sciences for hosting the General Council meeting. The President evaluated the progress of the VarSITI program as very good, with an excellent organization of VarSITI's First General Symposium held in June 2017 in Albena, Bulgaria. A special issue of the Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, comprising articles presented during the Symposium is in preparation.

Further N. Gopalswamy informed the General Council that the SCOSTEP Distinguished Scientist award/medal for 2016 was given to Prof. Sami Solanki, while the Distinguished Young Scientist medals for 2016 were awarded to Drs. Brett Carter, Nick Pedatella, Xin Cheng (honorable mention).

SCOSTEP supported 19 meetings and 2 capacity-building activities: SCOSTEP/ISWI School in India, capacity-building workshop in Ethiopia.

In 2018 the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) will celebrate 50 years (1968 - 2018) since the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space by organizing the UNISPACE+50, a special segment of the 61st session of the UN COPUOS. It will also be an opportunity for the international community to gather and consider the future course of global space cooperation for the benefit of humankind. One of the seven Thematic Priorities is Space Weather. SCOSTEP needs to play a significant role in this upcoming event.

The SCOSTEP Vice President Dr. Franz-Josef Luebken suggested that the National representatives should interact more with the Bureau and provide input to improve the functioning of SCOSTEP.

2. SCOSTEP Awards – Distinguished Service Award 2017

The SCOSTEP Awards Selection Committee chaired by Prof. Archana Bathacharyya (and members: Marina Battaglia, Dhani Herdiwijaya, Vladimir Kuznetsov, Mark Miesch, Marco Milla and Nikolai Østgaard) selected Prof. Marvin Geller as the recipient of the SCOSTEP Distinguished Service Award for 2017. The award recognizes a unique contribution to SCOSTEP activities, to the realization of its programs and events. SCOSTEP's President Dr. Nat Gopalswamy presented Prof. Marvin Geller with the SCOSTEP Distinguished Service Medal, acknowledging his leadership and long standing commitment to the successful realization of several SCOSTEP programs and events and his unique contributions to SCOSTEP activities through his leadership roles in various international programs.

In his acceptance speech, Prof. Geller thanked SCOSTEP for the high recognition and briefly outlined the

achievements of SCOSTEP in leading the international solar-terrestrial physics community during the time of his tenure.

Following the Distinguished Service Award presentation, the General Council meeting resumed.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved without changes.

4. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Council meeting in Prague, June 26, 2016

Tabled due to non-availability of a copy. This will be done offline.

5. Status Report on SCOSTEP activities since the last General meeting in Prague 2015

Dr. Marianna Shepherd, the SCOSTEP Scientific Secretary, gave a preview of SCOSTEP activities during 2016 and 2017 to date. In 2016 SCOSTEP through its Capacity Building and VarSITI programs organized and/or supported financially 19 international meetings and workshops, the most significant of which was the First VarSITI General Symposium, held in Albena, Bulgaria in June 2016 and a SCOSTEP/ISWI International School on Space Science in Sangli, India, in November 2016.

As of April 2017, SCOSTEP has supported 3 international workshops and conferences, the creation of 4 databases and 1 observational campaign related to VarSITI.

a. New SCOSTEP Adherent Members: Mexico, Republic of Georgia

In August 2016 Mexico's application for a membership in SCOSTEP was unanimously approved by SCOSTEP's Council. Dr. Juan Americo Gonzalez-Esparza is Mexico's National Representative to the SCOSTEP Council.

The Republic of Georgia was approved in January 2017 with Prof. Goderdzi Didebulidze appointed as the National Adherent Representative, and financing of the membership subscription has been granted.

SCOSTEP welcomes the new Adherents.

6. Financial state of SCOSTEP to date:

M. Shepherd presented the SCOSTEP financial report to date. This included a summary of the Financial Audit report for 2016 and up-to-date financial summary for 2017. The organization's finances are in good standing with all planned activities within budget.

The proposed 2017 budget and the projected budgets for 2018 and 2019 will be sent offline.

7. SCOSTEP Visiting Scholar (SVS) program

M. Shepherd briefed the General Council on the objectives of the SVS program and its status to date. The program was initiated by the SCOSTEP President in the fall of 2014 with the objective of providing training for periods of 1 to 3 months to young scientists and graduate students from developing countries in well-established solar-terrestrial physics laboratories. The training will help the young scientists to advance their career in solar-terrestrial physics using the technique/skill they acquire during

the training. SCOSTEP will provide the airfare while the hosting laboratory will provide the living expenses.

The 2016 SVS Selection Committee was chaired by Prof. Nicole Vilmer (France) (members: Maura Hagan (USA), A. Yoshikawa (Japan), Babatunde Rabi (Nigeria), Jean-Pierre Raulin (Brazil)). In 2016 there were 9 applications and best 4 were selected for SVS grants. In 2017 the President appointed a new SVS Selection Committee chaired by Prof. Nicole Vilmer (France) with members: Mike Taylor (USA), Akimasa Yoshikawa (Japan), Paul Baki (Kenya), Jean-Pierre Raulin (Brazil), and Katya Georgieva (Bulgaria).

All applications were sent to the SCOSTEP Secretariat by February 25, 2017, 2015 and immediately forwarded for consideration by the SVS Selection Committee. The selection results were announced on April 13, 2017. The number of applicants has significantly increased. There were 12 applications, 6 were selected for SVS grants. Congratulations to the six students selected.

8. Future directions for solar-terrestrial physics research after VarSITI – SCOSTEP white paper (NG, MS)

N. Gopalswamy described the rationale for and the process of consultations on the Future Directions for solar-terrestrial physics research following the current VarSITI program.

Franz-Josef Lübken proposed the consultation should be broadened by using the VarSITI mailing list and any other SCOSTEP means of communication.

The discussions and solicitation of inputs are ongoing and the results will be presented during the STP14 meeting in Vancouver, in July 2018.

9. SCOSTEP at the UN COPUOS (NG)

The president and Dr. Nikolai Ostgaard from Norway attended the 2017 February Session of the Science and Technical Subcommittee of the UN COPUOS.

SCOSTEP is featured as one of the 9 organizations included in the Space Weather Special Report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on developments within the United Nations System related to space weather (A/AC.105/1146, dated April 28, 2017).

10. Report/update on VarSITI activities

The VarSITI Co-Chair Dr. Katya Georgieva presented a brief summary of the activities carried out the program and its four projects. There were 19 meetings supported \$2K per meeting on average.

11. Report/update on preparations for the STP14 in Vancouver, Canada

William Ward, NAR for Canada gave a brief presentation on the Scientific Program for the STP14 and the preparations in general.

12. Report on Constitutional Amendment Discussion

N. Gopalswamy informed that SCOSTEP is working on suggestions for Constitutional amendments involving Editorial changes proposed by Craig Rodger, a new proposal for constitutional amendment, and a clarification on the voting by SDRs in the general council meeting on non-financial matters

13. Other Business

All topics of the Meeting's Agenda were addressed.

The President thanked all for attending the Bureau meeting and the meeting adjourned.

After the Award ceremony and the General Council there was a brief reception to honor Prof. M. Geller.

Appendix: List of Attendees

| Name | Position | E-mail address |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Nat Gopalswamy | President | nat.gopalswamy@nasa.gov |
| Franz-Josef Lübken | Vice-President | luebken@iap-kborn.de |
| Marvin Geller | Former President | marvin.geller@stonybrook.edu |
| Kyungsuk Cho | Bureau, IAU, South Korea | kscho@kasi.re.kr |
| Ivan Dorotovič | SDR, Slovak Academy of Sciences | ivan.dorotovic@suh.sk |
| Katya Georgieva | VarSITI Co-chair | katyageorgieva@msn.com |
| Olga Khabarova | Russia, SDR | olik3110@gmail.com |
| Vladimir Kuznetsov | Bureau, IAGA, Russia | kvd@izmiran.ru |
| Kalevi Mursula | Finland, NAR | kalevi.mursula@loulun.fi |
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| Nicole Vilmer | France, NAR | nicole.vilmer@jobspm.fr |
| William Ward | Canada, NAR | ward@unb.ca |
| Marianna Shepherd | Scientific Secretary | mshepher@yorku.ca |