



ORGANIZACION HIDROGRAFICA INTERNACIONAL

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COMITÉ MIXTO DE SOCIEDADES DE INFORMACIÓN GEOESPACIAL (JB-GIS)  
REUNION ANUAL, Cairo, Egipto, 19 de Abril del 2005.

Referencia : A. Circular No. 69/2003 del 12 de Noviembre del 2003;  
B. Circular No. 30/2005 del 21 de Marzo del 2005.

Estimado Director,

Durante la Semana de Trabajo de la FIG en el 2005 y durante la 8ª Conferencia Internacional sobre una Infraestructura Global de Datos Espaciales (GSDI), que tuvo lugar en el Cairo del 18 al 20 de Abril, el **Comité Mixto de Sociedades de Información Geoespacial (JB-GIS)** celebró su reunión anual con los representantes de la FIG, la OHI, la ACI (Asociación Cartográfica Internacional), la AIG (Asociación Internacional de Geodesia), la ISPRS (Sociedad Internacional de Fotogrametría y Teledetección), el ISCGM (Comité Director Internacional para Cartografía Global), la IMTA (Asociación Internacional de Comercio Cartográfico) y de la GSDI. El VA A. MARATOS representó a la Organización.

Durante la reunión, se discutieron y redactaron los Términos de Referencia del JB-GIS. El JB-GIS es un foro de Organizaciones Internacionales interesadas en la Información Geoespacial y puede verse como una red de cooperación. El Comité Mixto:

- tendrá un Presidente que será nombrado por el Comité Mixto (JB) para un periodo de dos años y que puede hablar externamente, de requerirse, tras consultar con los miembros del JB;
- todas las decisiones serán confirmadas por todos los miembros;
- puede establecer comités "*ad hoc*" para tratar temas importantes de interés común;
- tendrá una dirección permanente que es la de la oficina permanente de la FIG;
- se reunirá normalmente una vez al año.

El Bureau cree que al participar en este Comité Mixto, nos beneficiaremos de la experiencia de otras organizaciones internacionales y profesionales en el campo de la Infraestructura y la Información Geoespaciales, que es también un tema de interés para la OHI y para sus Estados Miembros. El Servicio Hidrográfico Alemán ha organizado un seminario sobre este tema ("El Rol de los Servicios Hidrográficos con respecto a los Datos Geoespaciales y a la Infraestructura de Planificación") en Rostock, los días 8 y 9 de Noviembre del 2005, según fue anunciado en la referencia B. Se anima a los Estados Miembros a llamar la atención del Bureau sobre temas de interés relacionados con la Información Geoespacial, que pueden discutirse en las reuniones del Comité Mixto. La próxima reunión del JB se celebrará en Viena el 11 de Julio del 2006 al mismo tiempo que un Simposio organizado por la ISPRS.

El JB ha establecido un proyecto de sitio Web que se mejorará y finalizará en el futuro, que será manejado por la FIG. Está disponible en el sitio: [www.fig.net/jbgis](http://www.fig.net/jbgis).

Se adjuntan las actas de la reunión y los TdRs del JB como Anexos A y B. El Bureau agradece cualquier comentario.

En nombre del Comité Directivo  
Atentamente,

Vice-Almirante Alexandros MARATOS  
Presidente

Anexo: A. Actas de la Reunión (en inglés únicamente)  
B. TdRs del Comité Mixto de las Sociedades de Información Geoespacial.

# Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies

## MINUTES

of the meeting held at the Semiramis Intercontinental in Cairo, Egypt on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April  
2005 from 9:00 to 12:30

### Participants:

Prof. Holger Magel, President of FIG, in chair  
Prof. Milan Konecny, President of ICA  
Prof. Bengt Rystedt, Vice President of ICA  
Prof. Gerhard Beutler, President of IAG  
Prof. Hermann Drewes, IAG  
Vice Admiral Alexandros Maratos, President of IHB  
Mr. Allan Doyle, Business Director of GSDI  
Dr. Alan Stevens, Secretary General of GSDI  
Prof. D. R. Fraser Taylor, President of ISCGM  
Mr. Hiromichi Maruyama, Secretary General of ISCGM  
Prof. Ian Dowman, President of ISPRS  
Mr. Peter Jolly, Past President of IMTA  
Mr. Markku Villikka, Director, FIG

### In attendance:

Mr. T. N. Wong, Vice President of FIG  
Prof. Stig Enemark, Vice President of FIG  
Mr. Ken Allred, Vice President of FIG

## MINUTES

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Prof. Holger Magel, President of FIG welcomed the participants to this Joint Board meeting in Cairo. After the welcome all participants briefly introduced themselves.

### 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Adopted** the agenda as circulated in advance.

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2004 IN ISTANBUL

Minutes of the meeting held in Istanbul July 15, 2004 were **adopted** as circulated. As follow-up **noted** that Dr. Fraser Taylor told about the preparations of the World Summit for Information Society and that the plans to get a sponsor for JB GIS participation (parallel event) have not been realized as expected, still some options are open. **Noted** that Dr. Taylor has made separate reports on the progress with this event.

#### 4. ORGANISATION OF THE JOINT BOARD AND ITS STRATEGIC ROLE

The discussion on the organization and role of the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies was based on the Green Paper prepared by Prof. Ian Dowman, **appendix to item 4**. After the presentation of the paper by Prof. Dowman, following points were raised during the discussion:

Dowman: The Green Paper has been prepared based on the discussion in Istanbul and discussion that Prof. Dowman and Prof. Magel had in December in London. Concerning the organizational structure he was supporting the model of ad hoc commissions and having a chair for the Joint Board for term of office of two years (two meetings).

Konecny: Supporting model 3 with ad hoc commissions. The JB should be effective actor on the field of geospatial information. Supported a project based approach and thus model 3 with possible combination with alternative 2.

Beutler: The JB has already decided on chair and permanent address. The role of the JB should be that of a pressure group, however he expressed concerns whether this will work in practice (whether members of the JB are willing to use the JB when they have direct links to get their ideas through). It may be that the JB will work only on certain special circumstances. There is obvious need to agree on the lead on joint actions. Asked what the ad hoc committee will be in practice? Expressed suspicion on the operability of these groups. However there is need for a more organized organization (not as formal as the former IUSM, but more than at the moment).

Maratos: Supported combination of models 1 and 3. Appointed that the concept and rules need to be approved by member associations, especially in the case of IHB. Supported the idea of getting better use of modern technologies e.g. having discussion on Internet and establishing (discussion or action) groups on certain topics. Supported to start – for a certain (limited) period. After that the results of the JB can be evaluated and assessed. Was in favour for two years experiment period (or at least to make an evaluation after this period).

Doyle: Was in favour for option 1. Option 3 means written statements that need to be signed all organisations case by case. Chair of the JB will have a coordinating role but cannot be a spokesman externally. Proposed that the chairmanship to be changed alphabetically. Supporting option 1 with some parts from option 3).

Taylor: Supported a pragmatic approach: what can be done with the results. There is need for a mechanism how to use the results from the work of the members and ad hoc commissions. Supported a two-year term of office for the chairmanship and the proposed structure. The main issue what are the common goals for the JB. The ad hoc group should be led by the organisation with biggest knowledge on this topic. Supported a combination of options 1, 2 and 3 but not using the JB as a “pressure group”.

Jolly: We should use term action or activity group instead of “pressure group”.

Magel: Summarised that there was common support for the model of ac hoc committees, but also support for elements from options 1 and 2. Supported a model that allows the chair to act and be a spokesman for the group (“common voice”).

Dowman: ISPRS is supporting ad hoc committees model The JB should not be too heavy, but a chairperson that can act is needed. This is needed e.g. in situation when something needs to be put together with a short notice (e.g. tsunami). Supportive for informal approach – substantial issues to be taken into the agenda to allow attendance – not to have the JB only for “meeting”.

Doyle: We should decide whether the JB is for internal coordination (e.g. to avoid overlap with meetings) or to be an external spokesman. Was in favour for internal coordinating group.

Magel: As an example: How would the JB work or react on tsunami in the new structure of the JB GIS?

Maruyama: Explained the instant activities of the ISCGM after the tsunami (providing maps etc.)

Taylor: Secretariat to contact members what is there and available. Members to contact their member associations how can they contribute. Important to avoid duplicating efforts. In the case of tsunami ISCGM was in close co-operation with ICM. Use of printed maps by Global Map and in the reconstruction phase to use an ad hoc group to evaluate the situation.

Magel: Need to contact the United Nations and inform about the JB. This time there was no interest to contact the JB for its experiences and expertise.

Taylor: Who makes the contact / request from the UN?

Jolly: Made a reference to the report from IMTA.

Dowman: From ISPRS no immediate response would have been possible. Lead in this case should have been by Global Map. ISPRS would have been (and is) able to help in longer term.

Beutler: Tsunami catastrophe is one way a good example of for the JB. IAG has the follow-up system, organisation responsible for measurements should be active and provide information for others – global infrastructures are becoming more important.

Maratos: Immediate action from chair of the JB to guarantee that the members will support actions on this topic. Inform member associations. IHO has a special session on tsunami. IHO has also a special policy paper on risk management. The chair of the JB should e.g. make a press release informing the JB (or in fact its members) can give assistance.

Doyle: What is more important: infrastructures or immediate response? Long term contribution are more important and thus the focus should be on built infrastructures.

Magel: What are the differences between options 1 and 2?

Dowman: Difference is in the structure: in option 1 the chair coordinates activities while the group takes care of activities; 2) the role of the chair is more than a chair (being more involved in actions).

Magel: Chair should be responsible for meeting and coordinating ad hoc groups.

Rystedt: Chair should be more than technical chairperson.

Taylor: Can chair establish ad hoc groups?

Doyle: The role should be only in coordination. More effort should be put to email lists, modern correspondence technology etc. All organisations are coordinators and not actors. Coordination is needed on the activities in GEO.

Magel: JB is not needed only to have another meeting platform. It should raise voice on important issues e.g. at the UN.

Taylor: We should go back to the decisions made at the JB in Durban.

Doyle: More information is needed whether GSDI can join the JB.

Magel: As summary all agreed that a chair is needed (at least) for two years and the chair should be responsible for internal issues meeting (to put together the agenda etc.) but he is also needed as a visible spokesperson of the JB (“common voice”).

Taylor: Having a spokesperson cannot prevent or forbid individual action (of the members of the JB).

**Decided** as follows:

- The JB will have a Chairperson who will be appointed by the JB. The term of office is two years (from meeting to meeting i.e. for two meetings) with option for extension of one period.
- Chairperson can speak on behalf of the JB externally after consulting with members of the JB.
- All decisions of the JB need to be confirmed by all member associations
- The JB can establish ad hoc committees on important topics of common interest. In urgent issues the ad hoc committee can be established by the Chairperson after consultation with the members of the JB
- All members of the JB can apply / appoint chair/members to the ad hoc committees
- The JB will have a permanent address which is the permanent office of FIG (responsible for minutes of the meetings, administration and website).

**Decided** to appoint Prof. Magel, President of FIG as the chair of the JB for the next two meetings (2006 and 2007).

**Decided** on the rules and goals of the JB that the FIG office will prepare a draft (about one page) for the rules and that these will be circulated to the members of the JB for their comments and commitment. The draft will be based on the material prepared for the previous meetings of the JB.

**Decided** that the membership of the JB that new members can be accepted based on invitation or application.

## 5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT BOARD

**Discussed** on new members and **decided** to invite GSDI, OCG and Digital Earth as members and recorded that GSDI will consider its membership after this meeting.

## 6. FUTURE ACTIVITIES – JOINT PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS/AD HOC COMMITTEES

### 6.1 Inputs to the World Summit for Information Society in Tunis, November 2005

**Recorded** the report of Prof. Taylor about his activities on this item to get a partner to sponsor the participation of the JB in the drafting of the final document of the World Summit and organising a parallel event in Tunis. The work in Tunis is divided in the political event and side events (NGO Forum). The final document is finalised except small sections that were left open in the preparatory committees. This means that the document is not open for changes from the JB. NGOs linked to the World Summit topic can register and send their profile on the ITU web site dedicated to the conference (ISCGM has registered already). The way to have any influence to the final document is to work through national delegations. The other option is to participate through UNESCO regional (preparatory) meetings (civil society participation). The final draft of the statement does not include geospatial information as part of the information society. There is option for side events in Tunis, but it is not possible for the JB to organise any events by its own. Possible participation could be through ICSU CODATA Commission which is organising a side event in Tunis (many of the JB members are members of ICSU and may have option to participate through that option). **Recorded** that Dr. Taylor has informed ICSU CODATA on the JB GIS and its interest to participate the World Summit in Tunis. The option would be to have one slot in the ICSU side event reserved for the geospatial topic (JB GIS) in Tunis. Dr. Taylor considered that it is worth participating the World Summit only if the JB has input in the side event. **Noted** that individual associations can participate the World Summit by submitting their information via the ITU web site. JB can do the same. In addition individual associations can make input by lobbying national delegations on the needs to change the position paper. Active participation is possible through the UNESCO meetings and the side event(s) in Tunis.

Prof. Konecny informed that INSPIRE will also participate the World Summit in Tunis.

Concerning the ICSU side event it was recorded that the event will be financed by ICSU and that there should be no costs for the JB or its members to be partners (ISPRS, IAG (via IGGS), ICA and FIG are members of ICSU).

**Recorded** that the JB supported the proposal to attend the World Summit through the ICSU side event and influence through ICSU CODATA. The members will be informed by email on the progress.

## 6.2 8<sup>th</sup> UNRCC-A in New York 27 June – 1 July

**Recorded** that Amor Laaribi who was invited to the meeting had to cancel his participation on the last minute but has sent his apologies. Recorded that at the moment Prof. Dowman Prof Drewes (IUGG), Prof. Menno Jan Kraak (ITC, ICA) and Carmen Reyes (Mexico, ICA), representative from IHB and Prof. Enemark (FIG) will attend the UN RCC-A in New York. FIG will also be represented by Prof. John Parker who will present the Aguascalientes Statement which is the result of the UN/FIG/PC IDEA Special Forum that was organised in Mexico in October 2004 by the request of the UN.

## 6.3 Operation with/at the Group on Earth Observations GEO based on the outcome of GEO-6

**Recorded** the report of Prof. Drewes on the activities of the ad hoc group on Earth Observations (GEOSS). The report is included in the report from IAG to these minutes.

Recorded that the participation to the GEO process has been difficult and the deadline to react are very short. Recorded that IAG, ISPRS and ISCGM are involved in the process. For IAG this is a core activity – IAG has 10 people involved and has managed to get its words in the final document that will be circulated in early May and confirmed in May.

Prof. Dowman expressed that there is role for coordination of JB actions at the GEOSS meetings. It will be proposed at the GEO meeting in Geneva that participating organisations to GEO have 3 seats in the Executive Committee [Note: this was not approved, and the composition of the EC is still under consideration.]. There are also representatives in the technical committees but coordination is especially needed at the Executive Committee.

Prof. Beutler stated that there are representatives from the members of the JB in the subgroups but that the coordination should be organised on bilateral bases.

**Decided** that those members of the Joint Board that will attend the GEOSS meeting in Geneva in first week of May will coordinate their actions there because of the short preparation time available.

## 6.4 Co-operation between members in developing countries

**Decided** to do this through topics and joint events (like the FIG regional conferences).

## 6.5 Workshop on disaster management

**Recorded** the Dr. Wilber Ottichilo who is charge for this issue in ICA (and who was invited to this meeting but was unable to attend) will organise a meeting on this topic at the ICA Congress in Coruna. IAG is interested in georisks. **Recorded** that there is both common interest on this topic as well as need to coordinate activities.

**Decided** to establish an ad hoc committee on risk management / early warning. The first task for this ad hoc committee will be to collect information from members of the JB ob the various projects that already exist etc. **Decided** to appoint Prof. Rystedt as the chair of the ad hoc committee and following persons as members: Ottochilo (ICA), Prof. Drewes (IAG),

Prof. Theo Kötter (FIG), Mr. Maruyama (ISCGM) and Vice Admiral Maratos (IHB). ISPRS will nominate someone to this committee.

## 6.6 Education in Africa

In the discussion following points were mentioned:

Maratos: There are problem to recruit students in Sub-Saharan and West Africa (financial problems for students). Should be recognised that hydrography is a component of survey engineering.

Konecny: This issue has been discussed with Ruth Neelan (AFREF).

Magel: Especially South Africa and University of Cape Town are most influened with this problem (funding and lack of students). FIG will have a regional conference in Accra, Ghana March 8-11. 2006.

Taylor: ICA has a Working Group on Mapping Africa. CODI will organise a geo capacity building activity in ICA.

**Noted** that there is a CODI meeting 23-28 April 2005 in Addis Ababa (Prof. Dowman and Prof. Rystedt to attend).

**Noted** the need to link activities on this issue to ECA and AFREF.

**Decided** to have one day seminar on education (and capacity building) in Africa linked to the FIG regional conference in Accra, Ghana in 2006.

**Decided** to establish an ad hoc committee on capacity building in Africa. **Decided** to appoint Prof. Dowman to chair this ad hoc committee with following members: Dr. Taylor (ISCGM), Ms Ruth Neelan (IAG), Prof. Stig Enemark (FIG) and Prof. Bengt Rystedt (ICA). Draft terms of reference for this ad hoc committee, prepared by Prof. Dowman, are attached to these minutes.

## 6.7 Relationship with other organisations IEEE, GEOSS, etc.

**Decided** to invite IEEE to JB.

## 6.9 Web site of the Joint Board

**Decided** that FIG will be charge for the web site of the JB (with basic information of membership, members and mission statement). First draft is available at [www.fig.net/jbgis](http://www.fig.net/jbgis) .

## 7. REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS

**Recorded** that reports of the members of the JB are attached to these minutes.



## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Decided** that the next meeting of the Joint Board will be held on Tuesday, 11 July 2006 in Vienna, Austria prior to the ISPRS Symposium of Commission II (Theory and Concepts of Spatio-temporal Data Handling and Information) (to take place 12-14 July 2006). ISPRS will offer Presidents of the JB GIS free registration to attend the symposium.

**Comité Mixto de  
Sociedades de Información Geoespacial  
JB GIS**

**Términos de Referencia**

Informe de Misión

El Comité Mixto de Sociedades de Información Geoespacial (JB-GIS) es una coalición de sociedades geoespaciales internacionales que pueden hablar en nombre de la profesión geoespacial a nivel internacional, especialmente a las Naciones Unidas y a otras partes asociadas mundiales. Su segunda meta es coordinar actividades en la sociedad y en las organizaciones geoespaciales.

Miembros

Los miembros del JB-GIS son la FIG, la AIG, la ACI, la OHI, la IMTA, la ISCGM y la ISPRS. El Comité Mixto puede invitar a nuevos miembros o puede aceptarlos, basándose en su solicitud.

El JB-GIS es una red de cooperación y no hay obligaciones en cuanto a la pertenencia como miembro ni el JB-GIS cobra cuotas por serlo.

Administración

- El JB tendrá un Presidente que será nombrado por el JB. El mandato es de dos años (de reunión a reunión, es decir para dos reuniones), con la opción de una extensión por un periodo más.
- El Presidente puede hablar en nombre del JB, externamente, tras haber consultado con los miembros del JB.
- Todas las decisiones del JB tienen que ser confirmadas por todas las asociaciones miembros.
- El JB puede establecer comités “ad hoc” sobre temas importantes de interés común. En asuntos urgentes, el comité “ad hoc” puede ser establecido por el Presidente, tras haberlo consultado con los miembros del JB.
- El JB tendrá una dirección permanente, que es la oficina permanente de la FIG (responsable de las actas de las reuniones, la administración y el sitio Web).

Se permite a cada miembro del JB-GIS designar a dos representantes para las reuniones del JB-GIS. Normalmente, los representantes son el Presidente y el Secretario general / Jefe Ejecutivo de la organización. El miembro es libre de designar a su representante basándose en los temas, el lugar, etc.. de la reunión.

Reuniones

El JB GIS se reúne normalmente una vez al año en situaciones normales, estando la reunión vinculada a una de las conferencias o a otras reuniones de una o dos de las asociaciones miembros.

El organizador de la reunión decide si se permite a los participantes una inscripción gratuita. Normalmente, se recomienda proponer una inscripción gratuita a por lo menos un representante de cada miembro del JB GIS.

Comités “Ad Hoc”

El JB GIS puede designar comités “ad hoc” para ciertos proyectos y temas importantes; Normalmente, estos comités deberán tener metas claras y son designados normalmente para un periodo limitado de tiempo. Se permite a cada miembro interesado del JB-GIS designar a un miembro para el comité “ad hoc” de su interés.