

## **IGSN e.V. General Assembly 2014**

Sunday, December 14, 2014, 3:00-4:00pm

Marriott Marquis San Francisco

### **Present:**

Kerstin Lehnert

Jens Klump

Catherine Constable

Irina Bastrakova

Lesley Wyborn

Dirk Fleischer

Anthony Koppers

Anders Noren

Ursula Roehl (MARUM representative)

Uli Harms

Leslie Hsu

Megan Carter

Jess Robinson

### **Agenda:**

1. Opening and Welcome
2. Appointment of the meeting chairperson
3. Appointment of the minute taker
4. Establishment of the quorum
5. Approval of the agenda
6. Report by the members of the executive board and discussion
7. Appointment of the electoral officer
8. Election of the members of the executive board
  - a. President
  - b. Vice-President
  - c. Treasurer
9. Election of the annual accounts auditor
10. Budget proposal for 2015 and discussion
11. Discussion on admission of new members and vote
12. Discussion Topics
13. Miscellaneous

### **Notes:**

1. Kerstin Lehnert opened the meeting at 3:00pm
2. Jens Klump was appointed the meeting chairperson.
3. Leslie Hsu was appointed the minute taker.
4. The majority of members were present, so a quorum was established.
5. There were no requested changes to the agenda.

6. Report by the executive board (given by Kerstin):
  - a. In the past year, IGSN e.V. has continued to work with Elsevier to link IGSNs in publications, and is trying to bring other publishers on board.
  - b. IGSN e.V. is keeping an eye on the Coalition of Data Facilities (previously called the Editors Roundtable group), which is generating a list of data providers for editors, publishers, and authors.
  - c. In the last year there was a large change at SESAR to implement 5-digit namespaces, IExxx for individual investigator level accounts, as opposed to 3-digit namespaces.
  - d. Kerstin attended a workshop in Stockholm for TDWG, Taxonomic Data Working Group. This continues the communications with the biologic community. Kerstin met with Joann Starr, about integrating IGSN as an allowed identifier type in DataCite.
  - e. Chris Lenhardt from RENCi proposed a task group in CODATA for physical objects in cyberinfrastructure. Lesley Wyborn represented this at the CODATA meeting. There was high interest in the IGSN. The task group was approved, but may not get much funding. This will get exposure outside of the Earth sciences. DataCite was there, and this was a chance to engage them about the IGSN.
7. Questions and discussion on annual report of activities
  - a. Q: Who are the data providers that will be listed in the Coalition of Data Facilities?? KL: There is an emerging definition of data facilities.
  - b. Q: Are you looking at criteria from Re3 data? A: Yes, and World Data System and Re3data will converge. Re3data will become part of DataCite.
  - c. Comment: ISO: 16363 is a relatively new standard for Audit and certification of trustworthy digital repositories. This may be relevant for future discussions.
8. Appointment of the Electoral Officer.
  - a. Lesley Wyborn volunteered and was confirmed.
9. Election of the members of the executive board.
  - a. Lesley Wyborn reviewed that the current positions are: President (Kerstin Lehnert), Vice President (Jens Klump), Treasurer (Cathy Constable)
  - b. Uli Harms suggested that the three members should continue their posts, and Anders Noren seconded that. Lesley asked if there were any objections to this, and there were none. As electoral officer, Lesley declared that all posts were to be continued for another term.
10. The annual accounts auditor, Anders Noren, reported that last year there were no funds in the accounts and no funds moved through the accounts. Jens proposed Anders to be the auditor for the next year. Anthony Koppers seconded the proposal. Anders will continue to be the annual accounts auditor next year.
11. Budget Proposal for 2015
  - a. Kerstin reported that the projected income for 2015 is 6500 Euros.

- b. So far, the only expenses are the room rental of the General Assembly each year. The room rental is on the order of \$1000.
- c. Cathy Constable brought up that until this year, Kerstin has been funding the activities from other grants.
- d. Proposed expenses:
  - i. Next year, in 2015, we will have money for other outreach. As we get more international, there are more groups that we like to reach out to. EGU is a community that we should stay in touch with. IGSN e.V. should propose a Town Hall or activity at EGU. IUGG, Geodesy and Geophysics, is a community we would like to reach out to.
  - ii. The budget can be used for promotional materials. What kind of promotional materials do we want? A. Noren: brochures and posters.
  - iii. We could have some training workshops in the future, for spending funds.
- e. The 2014 membership dues are due by the end of the year. Cathy Constable is looking into PayPal for payments, though we may need to register with a U.S. tax ID. Some members have difficulty paying to a German bank account because it is a foreign entity. Cathy will look into making the payment of dues as easy as possible.
- f. As a non-profit organization, IGSN e.V. cannot keep much in the account (cannot keep tens of thousands). Therefore we need a plan for spending the money.

#### 12. More budget discussion:

- a. Anders: Can the budget support the technical resources needed for allocating agents to be set up? No one has been able to set up an allocating agent yet since it is a lot of development. Who would support this, would this be NSF or some other group? Kerstin: I do want to see if we can get funding for the development of software that can be implemented for different allocating agents.
- b. There are two issues, one is establishment of a software package, and the second is local set up. Could the set up come out of member dues? Cathy: we could think about NSF international organization seed funding.
- c. Other proposals for funding the technical work included: internships that could be supported through grant money; Lesley Wyborn: can this be done as a cloud based solution? Amazon is offering free research projects now. Dirk: this can be in a virtual machine that can be deployed. But then you need the configuration like the allocating namespace and other things that are particular to certain members; AK: There could also be bilateral agreements between different members for help supporting the technical needs.
- d. The new allocating agents would need an interface, but also the underlying info. There could be an API that could be installed and connect to local databases.

- e. Jens: We need a technical workshop.
  - f. The budget discussion was closed.
13. Discussion on the admission of new members, and vote.
- a. There is a new application for membership from Geoscience Australia.
  - b. Irina Bastrakova, representing Geoscience Australia, gave a short description of Geoscience Australia and their motivation for joining IGSN e.V. Geoscience Australia has ~2 million samples, both onshore and offshore.
  - c. There were no objections from the group to the membership of Geoscience Australia.
14. Other Discussion topics:
- a. Kerstin Lehnert brought up that point that the group should have more interaction about the technical issues.
    - i. How can we bring technical experts together to address these issues and get something implemented? There are two aspects - finding opportunities and funding to support workshops/working meetings/hackathons, and also funding for a larger software development. The working meetings should happen sooner rather than later. I have talked to NSF CI people, but they push that we involve more than the Earth Sciences. We should solve our issues first before scaling up.
    - ii. Jess: it is relatively easy to set up the hackathons, but doing it in different places is logistically difficult, it should be in one place.
    - iii. KL: One mode for funding is that everyone finds funding for their staff member to attend the meeting. Are there meetings that we can leverage because people already go? RDA Plenary in March. That is an international organization that goes beyond the earth sciences, EGU, or the next AGU. IUGG.
    - iv. Comment: We thought of having a technical workshop in the meeting last year already, so we should try to get it done ASAP.
    - v. AK: How many from the members are thinking of being an allocating agent? The smaller we are, the faster we go. RPI will be interested. We can get a list of people who want to participate? Who wants to implement something? Who can offer what expertise? Who needs hands on training?
  - b. DOI and IGSN
    - i. Jens reported on this topic. There has been a long “flirtation” between IGSN and DOI. Previously, the partnership was not in scope, and beyond the mission of DOI. DataCite was interested, and now they have more interested since they have been approached many times about registering *physical* objects.
    - ii. If IGSN e.V. becomes a member of DataCite, then we need to play by DataCite rules. However, members have a lot of autonomy. We can continue as we always did, but leverage the

DOI. Otherwise we will be competing with DOI, because they will start doing something about physical objects.

- iii. Jens: if joining was for free, this would be a no-brainer. But it will cost IGSN 8500 Euros per year for a full membership. KL: if we have a growing membership... then we have more funds to meet this cost. CC: if we join them we might get some benefit from their infrastructure? So this may be worth the cost.
- iv. KL: Does there now need to be a separation between members that use the allocation agents vs. not, for the purpose of the dues? Jens: we could offer discounted membership and Associate membership, but then they wouldn't be able to vote. So there is no perfect situation. Jens: this is like a sports club membership. If you want to use this, then there is an extra fee. There would be a base membership fee and then more fees. KL: I prefer that everyone is a member and feels part of the organization.
- v. If we partner DOI, will we need redirection of the URLs? If more and more people are using IGSNs, then we need to make sure not to have old links. AK: probably the use of DOI will be preferable to journals since they are familiar with it.
- vi. Jens: My proposal is that we (executive board) draw up a plan for becoming a member of DataCite.

15. Jens brought a close to the formal part of the General Assembly at 16:06.

## **Actions**

1. The manager will ask membership again about who wants to set up an allocating agent, and report back to the group.
2. The executive board will draw up proposal for IGSN e.V. becoming a member of DataCite.
3. The executive board will organize a technical meeting to make progress on setting up more allocating agents.