

Business Transacted by Commission J

Chair: Richard Schilizzi.

Vice-Chair: S.Ananthkrishnan

Commission J meetings were held by Prof.Richard Schilizzi on the following two days:

Meeting 1: Monday, August 11, 17:20 – 18:40

Meeting 2: Wednesday, August 13, 17:20-18:40

Meeting 3: Friday, August 15, 17:20-19:00

1.1 URSI Awards :

(i). Jack Welch

Balthasar van der Pol Gold Medal

Citation: “Pioneer of millimeter wavelength interferometry to investigate astronomical objects ranging from solar system planets to galaxies at the edge of the Universe with spectral and angular resolution”

(ii). Alan Rogers

John Howard Dellinger Gold Medal

Citation: “For his outstanding contributions to instrumentation in radio astronomy and its use to make fundamental discoveries about interstellar masers, superluminal expansion of quasars, deuterium abundance in the galaxy, and plate tectonics”

Commission J members congratulated both members on their well deserved awards.

1.2 Election of Vice-Chair :

Candidates:

(i) Don Backer – USA

(ii) Justin Jonas – South Africa

(iii) Marat Mingaliev – Russia

(iv) Shang-Cai-Shi - China

Votes received from:

Australia, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary

India, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Sweden

Taiwan ROC, USA

Dr.Don Backer of USA was elected as Vice-Chair.

1.3 Commission J Budget, report on 2005-8 triennium

A. Budget 2005-2008 (Commission J activities) €11000

Expenditure 2005-2008 for Commission J activities

i)“Astrophysics in the LOFAR era” €3000
Emmen Netherlands, April 07

ii)“From Planets to Dark Energy: the Modern
Radio Universe”, Manchester, UK, Oct. 2007 €4000

iii) Travel grants to URSI GA €3450
 Bob Frater (special invitation)
 Jayanta Roy (India)
 Peeyush Prasad (India)

TOTAL €10450
Balance carried forward €550

B. Extra grant of \$5000 for travel grants for Young Radio Scientists to GA2008

\$1000 each to J.L. Du (China), Stefan Wijnholds (NL), Peter McMahon (SA)
\$500 each to A. Parsons, R. Shannon, B. Barrott, N. Paravastu (all USA)
TOTAL \$5000

1.4 Discussion of issues arising from 10 August meeting of the URSI Council

- Reactions to White paper on Solar Power Satellite system – Many members expressed their concern about the possible implication of the SPS to radio astronomy observations.

1.5 Resolutions discussed in the Council.

Item 1: Inter-Commission WG on Natural and Human-Induced Catastrophes and Disasters:

— Coronal Mass Ejections (with Comm. H). A discussion on how the CME propagation could be observed using radio astronomy techniques was done.

Item 3: Inter-Commission WG on Radio Science Services:

- Work with IUCAF.
- Forum on Radio Science and Telecommunications.

Item 5: Change name of GA to “URSI General Assembly and Scientific Symposium”

Item 8: Inter-Commission Data Commission:

- ICSU initiative.
- Comm J rep should be an expert on the Virtual Observatory.

1.6 IUCAF: A presentation by Wim van Driel, IUCAF Chairman on its activities during the past 3 years. The WRC 2007 conference was used by IUCAF to bring more protection to some of the radio astronomy bands.

1.7 Terms of Reference for Commission J: Changes were introduced in the terms of reference for Commission J, in keeping with the changing times as well as to reflect the changing nature of radio astronomical observations.

RADIO ASTRONOMY (including remote sensing of celestial objects)

- The activities of the Commission are concerned with
 - observation and interpretation from the early universe to the present epoch and
- 2) radio reflections from solar system bodies

- Emphasis is placed on:

- The promotion of science-driven techniques for making radio-astronomical observations and data analysis,
- Support of activities to protect radio-astronomical observations from harmful interference.

1.8 Other topics:

Triennium report, Posters, Commission J Resolution, Editor RSB, GA2011, visit to Wheaton. The Chairman noted, as part of the record, that Prof.A.van Ardenne gave the Commission J tutorial and Prof.Jim Cordes gave one of the General lectures.

COMMISSION J BUSINESS SESSION 2

2.1 Report on 12 August URSI Council meeting

2.2 Commission J Resolutions

2.3 Editor for Radio Science Reviews, topics for the next triennium.

2.4 Report from GVWG (Jon Romney)

- continuation of GVWG was emphasised. A sub-committee was formed to elect the next Chair of GVWG.

2.5 URSI Long Range Plan

2.6 Other topics: Young Scientist Awards, Student Prizes – The need to strengthen the YS programme was emphasised.

2.7 Presentation of Grote Reber Gold Medal to Sandy Weinreb was highly appreciated.

BUSINESS SESSION 3

Chairman: Prof.R.Schilizzi (first half) / Prof.S.Ananthkrishnan (second half)

Vice-Chairman: Prof.Don Backer

3.1 Report on 14 August URSI Council meeting

3.2 Terms of Reference for Commission J

3.3 URSI Recommendation on the SKA

3.4 GVWG

3.5 URSI Long Range Plan/Emerging issues in omission J.

3.6 General Assembly 2011, Commission J Program – Suggestions:

(i) Low Frequency Radio Astronomy;

- (LOFAR, LWA, MWA, GMRT, any other)

(ii) SKA –Technology Development;

(iii) ALMA - mm and sub-mm science & technology;

(iv) Signal Processing, Calibration and Imaging in radio astronomy;

(v) Sun and solar system science;

(vi) Space and Moon `Science & Technology`;

(vii) Observatory reports – same format ?;

(viii) Joint sessions ? Suggestions? ;

(ix) Splinter/WG meetings during lunch time;

(x) New Observations and results.

3.7 Budget 2008-11 was briefly discussed.

3.8 Topics for Radio Science Bulletin 2008-2011.

i) "Phased arrays in Radio Astronomy", A. van Ardenne (Commission J Tutorial, 2008), in preparation.

ii) "Paths to Discovery in Radio Astronomy", R. D. Ekers (in preparation?)

iii) "Calibration of High Frequency Telescopes" TBD

- Editor: Dr. Richard Strom has agreed to take it up.

3.9 Meetings to be supported by Comm. J, 2008-11 – a list to be made.

3.10 Communication with Comm. J members – the existing email list needs to be improved.