

Minutes of the  
**Ionosonde Network Advisory Group (INAG)**

26 October 2005  
New Delhi, India

- 1) This meeting was held during the XVIIIth General Assembly of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI), in New Delhi, India on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2005. The meeting was chaired by Dr Phil Wilkinson of IPS, Australia.
- 2) Apologies from Dr Terry Bullett and Dr Chris Davis, Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2002 – 2005 triennium.
- 3) An attendance list appears at the end of these minutes.
- 4) Agenda Item 1: Election of Officers  
It was noted that Dr Chris Davis would like to step down from the Vice-Chair position since he is no longer active in ionospheric sounding. Dr Terry Bullett is prepared to stand for another triennium as chair. Therefore, it was proposed, and accepted without objection, that Dr Terry Bullett (U.S.A) remain as Chair and Dr Lee-Anne McKinnell (South Africa) take over as Vice-Chair for the next triennium.
- 5) Agenda Item 2: INAG Triennium Report  
Dr Phil Wilkinson is continuing to manage the INAG mailing list and edit the bulletin. INAG extends a huge thank you to Phil for his continued efforts in this line – we really appreciate it!  
Phil reported on the articles received for the bulletin over the past 3 years and it seems that articles are trickling in at a slow rate. We would like to see the number of articles increase over the next few years, particularly from new stations. More of an effort will be put into soliciting such articles.  
The INAG mailing list contains 247 quiet but active members. Members can send items to Phil, who will post them to the mailing list.
- 6) Agenda Item 3: Digital Ionogram Formats  
Agreeing on a suitable data exchange format is the current major task confronting INAG. UMLCAR have proposed a data exchange format called SAOXML with the idea that this will become a standard for all future ionograms. In July 2005, the UMLCAR proposal was added to the INAG bulletin online to elicit comments and feedback. The World Data Center in Boulder have responded with their comments and a copy of this document is also available on the INAG Bulletin webpage.

Phil Wilkinson opened the discussion on the new format by explaining the extent to which discussions on this format had taken place through the INAG mailing list and then he explained the position of IPS on this matter. After which Bodo Reinisch from UMLCAR made a brief presentation on the proposed SAOXML format. UMLCAR have a webpage detailing the new format as well as an example; the address is

<http://ulcar.uml.edu/SAOXML/index.html>

Lee-Anne McKinnell (South Africa) made some comments from the South African ionosonde network and data user point of view.

It was decided that it was not possible to reach a decision on this format at the 2005 General Assembly, but that further discussions and comments should be obtained and a decision reached in about 1 year and preferably before the 2008 General Assembly. To this end, a subgroup of INAG will be formed to resolve the issue of the format of an XML based standard for the exchange of ionosonde data. This group will ideally comprise members representing all the stake holders.

7) Agenda Item 4: Reports from the network

Phil Wilkinson reported on a new ionosonde station at Niue, 19.1°S 169.9°W, which began operating on the 31 October 2004.

No other reports were received.

8) Agenda Item 5: Other Business

No other business was added to the agenda.

The meeting was closed.

**Attendance for INAG meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Country</b>
Phil Wilkinson	IPS	Australia
Lee-Anne McKinnell	Hermanus Magnetic Observatory	South Africa
Bodo Reinisch	U Mass Lowell	U.S.A
Mike Rietveld	EISCAT	Norway
Bruno Zolesi	National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology	Italy
Ciesidio Bianchi	National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology	Italy
Iwona Stanislawska	Space Research Centre, Warsaw	Poland
Alexander Shirochkov	Arctic & Antarctic Research Institute, Saint-Petersburg	Russia
John MacDougall	U. Western Ontario	Canada
Takashi Masuyama	NICT	Japan
Vera Moshkova		Russia
Alexey V. Oinats		Russia
Boris Shpynev	ISTP	Russia
Pierre Cilliers	Hermanus Magnetic Observatory	South Africa
Alexandre Boa Ventura Oliveira	ITA	Brazil
Ronald Ilma	Jicamarca Radio Observatory	Peru