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## MINUTES OF THE IPA COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

May 15-17, 2016, at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and  
Paleoanthropology (IVPP), Beijing, China

*May 16, Morning session: Chaired by Lars Holmer*

- 1) President Dr **Zhonghe Zhou** opened the meeting and gave a welcome speech and an introduction to the major topics and proposed agenda for the meeting (Attachment 1, also including a list of participants), which started at 9:00 a.m., May 16.

This was the first business meeting of the IPA Council to be held between the quadrennial congresses since these were initiated in 2002 (following a decision taken during the IPA Council Meeting at the IPC4 in Argentina). The meeting in Beijing was kindly sponsored by the **IVPP** with support from the **Chinese Academy of Sciences, Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China**.

Most importantly this meeting of the IPA Council resulted in agreement to undertake 10 main actions that are listed at the end of this document.

- 2) The written budget report (Attachment 2) of the Treasurer Dr **Ron Parsley**, who was not able to be present, was presented by the Secretary-General Dr **Lars Holmer**. The main items and problems pointed out in the budget report were discussed and the proposals from the Treasurer concerning changing dues payments to conform to calendar years were accepted. Payment to the IPA can now be made by direct wire transfer or by credit card and a new PayPal account will be set up. Since it is practical that the funds of the IPA continue to be managed in the USA, it was decided to propose a change to the IPA constitution "ARTICLE X. DOMICILE" (<http://www.ipa-assoc.org/index.php/constitution>) – from "The legal domicile of IPA shall be the place where the **Secretary-General** conducts his or her business" to "shall be the place where the **Treasurer** conducts his or her business" at the next General Assembly. A major issue regarding the IPA-budget concerns the various corporate and individual memberships. The criteria for these

need to be clarified and re-defined. New more comprehensive lists of the various members shall be assembled.

As before it can be noted that International Palaeontological Association has a tiny membership, but it is the primary sponsor of a highly successful series of international congresses. IPA has considerable prestige but unfortunately next to no money.

- 3) Vice President Dr **Hiroshi Kitazato** presented his suggestions on how to enhance connections of IPA with IUGS and IUBS in order to make IPA more active and visible among palaeontologists of the world. It is important that the IPA submits reports of its activities to these organisations in accordance with the regulations. Dr **Hiroshi Kitazato** will represent IPA at the next meeting of the IUGS at the IGC in South Africa, 2016.
- 4) Vice President Dr **Thomas Servais** presented his suggestions on the current connections between IPA and affiliated palaeontological associations, such as the International Federation of Palynological Societies (IFPS). The present list of corporate members clearly lacks many important paleontological associations and needs to be updated as to representatives and associations both from the local national associations as well as the various associations dedicated to various taxonomic groups. It was agreed that the IPA should be more active and strive to be the main association for palaeontology and palaeontologists internationally. Each member of the IPA council will be active in promoting and achieving this aim. The assembled material will be compiled by the Secretary-General.
- 5) President Dr **Zhonghe Zhou** initiated the discussion on the establishment of a membership category of Fellows of IPA and other honours or prizes of the organisation. These important discussions continued during the entire meeting.

*May 16, Afternoon session: Chaired by James Crampton*

- 1) The PaleoParks representative Dr **Jere Lipps** reported on progress of the PaleoParks project, where close to 1000 PaleoParks now are more or less established. The objective of the PaleoParks project is not to establish a new complicated structure of evaluation. Rather, it is to support local and international organizations that nominate sites of significant palaeontological interest that are already conserved, or groups that may wish to conserve new sites. Databases are available on the IPA homepage (<http://www.ipa-assoc.org/PaleoParks/>). One list that is open to the public at large, will include protected sites. The other list, accessible only by

password, will list unprotected sites that local groups are seeking to conserve.

The establishment of an International Fossil Day was discussed. It was decided that IPA should promote this event to enhance public interest in palaeontology and that it should coincide with the USA National Fossil Day (<http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/index.cfm>)

- 3) Corporate member Dr **Mahendra Pal Singh** representing the Palaeontological Society of India gave a brief presentation on the activities of the Indian society. He also made several important suggestions as to how the work within IPA could be improved (Attachment 3).
- 4) The IPA Web Manager Dr **Yongdong Wang** presented on-going work on the new Website of the IPA (<http://www.ipa-assoc.org/>) which will kindly be hosted free of charge by the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology (<http://english.nigpas.cas.cn/>). The new website will be formally released on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016. It will include links to all major initiatives and databases of the IPA and also new instructions on how to become a member or supporter of the IPA.
- 5) President Dr **Zhonghe Zhou** continued the discussion on how to expand the number of members of the IPA and how to improve the official webpages. Discussion on the establishment of honours or prizes of the organisation led to the following conclusions: IPA should select and announce the six most significant published palaeontological discoveries of a given year on International Fossil Day; IPA should select Fellows every 2nd year; IPA should establish a "Gould Medal" for internationally active senior palaeontologists who had made outstanding contributions to palaeontology, to be announced every 4th year on the occasion of the International Paleontological Congress; IPA should establish 4-5 best presentation awards to be presented to young (within 5 years of the PhD) palaeontologists at the IPC.

*May 17, Concluding Morning session: Chaired by Dr Zhonghe Zhou*

- 1) Dr **Eric Buffetaut** outlined the organization of the next IPC "The Fossil Week" to be held in Paris, 9-13<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. The first circular for IPC5 will be distributed in November, 2016. A webpage will soon be opened with details of the scientific programme and pre- and post-conference field trips. A fee for IPA membership will be included in the conference fee, which will give

participants membership in the IPA until the next IPC in 2022. It is estimated that around 1000+ paleontologists will participate in IPC5.

- 2) President Dr **Zhonghe Zhou** continued the discussion on the establishment of special committees to administer honours, prizes, and other missions of the IPA that were agreed upon during the meeting. The discussion resulted in the following list of agreements and decisions:
- a. IPA will extend and promote the existing USA National Fossil Day as the International Fossil Day – with Dr **Jere Lipps** in charge of this process.
  - b. IPA will select and announce the six most significant published palaeontological discoveries (during a 12 month period) – with all Council members responsible for finding candidates and the Executive Council in charge of the selection process.
  - c. IPA will select Fellows every 2nd year– with Dr **Michael J. Benton** in charge of this process.
  - d. IPA will establish a “Gould medal” recognizing particularly outstanding contributions (international collaborations, efforts to raise public awareness, and teaching etc)to paleontology, to be announced every 4th year in connection with the International Palaeontological Congress. All Council members will be responsible for finding candidates and the Executive Council will be in charge of the selection process.
  - e. IPA will establish 4-5 best presentation awards to young (within 5 years of the PhD) palaeontologists at the IPC. All Council members will be responsible for finding candidates and the Executive Council will be in charge of the selection process.
  - f. IPA will actively recruit “Ambassadors” from each country to be members of IPA and to encourage national, regional and specialists’ organizations to become Corporate Members and to be actively involved in the programs of IPA. All Council members will be responsible for finding candidates.
  - g. IPA will strengthen its ties with IUGS, IUBS, and other similar international organisations, and it will continue to sponsor international meetings - with all Council members responsible.
  - h. The IPA website should continue to be improved and updated with new membership information and list – with Dr **Yongdong Wang** in charge of this process.

- i. The conference fee for IPC5 should include a membership fee to the IPA – with Dr **Eric Buffetaut** responsible for discussions with the organisers of IPC5.
- j. IPA will continue to promote the PaleoParks initiative – with Dr **Jere Lipps** in charge of this process.

The IPA Business Meeting was adjourned at 11:30

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LH' followed by a stylized flourish.

**Lars Holmer, Secretary-General**

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016**



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China

## Programme

IPA Council *business*  
*meeting*



**May 15-17, 2016**

**Beijing, China**

## Contents:

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## PARTICIPANTS:

#### 1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT **Dr. Zhonghe Zhou** (China)

SECRETARY-GENERAL **Dr. Lars Holmer** (Sweden)

VICE PRESIDENTS

**Dr. James Crampton** (New Zealand)

**Dr. Hiroshi Kitazato** (Japan)

**Dr. Thomas Servais** (Belgium)

**Dr. Beatriz Waisfeld** (Argentina)

COUNCILLORS-AT-LARGE

**Dr. Olga Kossovaya** (Russia)

LAST PRESIDENT **Dr. Michael J. Benton**

LAST SECRETARY-GENERAL **Dr. Roger D. K. Thomas**

#### 2) SPECIALLY INVITED

**Dr. Jere H. Lipps** Paleopark representative

**Dr. Yongdong Wang** IPA Web Manager

#### 3) REPRESENTATIVES OF CORPORATE MEMBERS

**Dr. Qun Yang**

**Dr. Takenori Sasaki**

**Dr. Vachik Hairapetian**

**Dr. Mahendra Pal Singh**

**Dr. Dayou Zhai**

#### 4) REPRESENTATIVE FROM FRANCE

(ORGANIZER OF THE NEXT IPA CONGRESS)

**Dr. Eric Buffetaut**

## MEETING INFORMATION

### Meeting date:

May 15-17, 2016

### Meeting venue:

Institute of Vertebrate  
Paleontology and Paleoan-  
thropology (IVPP), Beijing,  
China



**IVPP Main building**

### Weather

Summer

29~30°C

## CONTACT WITH

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Tel: 86-10-68354669  
or :  
Prof. Zhonghe Zhou  
([zhouzhonghe@ivpp.ac.cn](mailto:zhouzhonghe@ivpp.ac.cn))



## Xiyuan Hotel

### Address:

(across the street of the IVPP)

1 Sanlihe Str., Haidian District, Beijing

**Tel: 86-10-68313388**

**Buffet Breakfast:** Panorama Revolving Restau-  
rant (on the 26th floor of the main building) .

Opening Hours: 6:30-8:30

**Buffet Lunch:** Panorama Revolving Restau-  
rant. Opening Hours: 11:30-13:30

**Chinese style Dinner:** Villa Restaurant  
(located at the No.2 Building in the hotel  
courtyard )  
Opening Hours: 18:00-

## Xiyuan Hotel





# SCHEDULE

MAY, 15

## Registration:

*The lobby of Xiyuan Hotel*

## Reception:

### Chinese style Dinner

*Time: 6:00pm-*

*Location:*

*Villa Restaurant*

## Pick-up

We will arrange pick up at the Beijing International Airport.

## REGISTRATION:

### Location:

The lobby of Xiyuan Hotel  
Main building

**Time:** May 15, 2016



# SCHEDULE

MAY, 16

## Morning section

Time: 9:00am-11:30am

### Chaired by Lars Holmer:

- 1) Welcome speech and a brief introduction of major topics of the business meeting by Zhonghe Zhou.
- 2) Budget report of IPA by Lars Holmer on behalf of Ron Parsley.
- 3) Suggestions by Hiroshi Kitazato on how to enhance connections of IPA with IUGS and IUBS in order to make IPA more active and visible among paleontologists in the world.

Tea break:

10:15-10:30

## Topics:

- 4) Suggestions by Thomas Servais on connection between IPA and affiliated paleontological organizations.
- 5) Discussion on the establishment of fellow of IPA and other honors or prizes of the organization.

## MEETING VENUE

### Location:

At meeting room 317,  
third floor of IVPP Main  
building

Time: May 16, 2016



**GROUP PHOTO**  
TIME: 11:30-11:45

### Lunch:

At 11:45am in Panorama  
Revolving Restaurant.

# SCHEDULE

MAY, 16

## Afternoon section

Time: 2:00pm-5:30pm

**Chaired by James Crampton :**

- 1) Presentation by Jere Lipps on the Paleoparks Project Initiative.
- 2) Discussion on how to make the project play a bigger role in promoting the conservation of important fossil sites and raising the public awareness of the significance of the fossil conservations.

Tea break:  
3:30-3:45

## Topics:

- 3) Discussion on how to expand the number of the membership of the IPA and how to improve its official web pages and the possibility of the selection of the annual 10 paleontological discoveries or breakthroughs of IPA.

## MEETING VENUE

### Location:

At meeting room 317,  
third floor of IVPP Main  
building

**Time:** May 16, 2016

## Chinese style Dinner

at 6:00pm in Villa Restaurant



# SCHEDULE

MAY, 17

## Morning session

Time: 9:00am-11:30am

### Chaired by Zhonghe Zhou

- 1) Presentation by Eric Buffetau on the organization of the next IPC.
- 2) Discussion on issues of the next IPC.
- 3) Discussion on the establishment of special committees of honors, prizes, and other missions.

### Lunch:

At 11:30am in Panorama Revolving Restaurant

Tea break:

10:15-10:30

## MEETING VENUE

### Location:

At meeting room 317,  
third floor of IVPP Main  
building

Time: May 17, 2016



## Topics:

### Afternoon visit:

Participants can choose to tour the town by his/her will, but we can arrange a visit to Zhoukoudian, a famous *Homo erectus* site or a visit to the Beijing Olympic Park (Bird nest etc).

### Chinese style Dinner

at 6:00pm in Villa Restaurant



## Mid –Term Treasurer Report – 2016

### International Paleontological Association

**Preamble:** When I was approached to take on this position I envisioned inheriting a list of members to be periodically billed, an account book, and a bank account. It was not the case. The system worked for my predecessor (and in no way is this criticism of him) but across the board it does not work well. Instead of account books I inherited spread sheets that convey only some of the data necessary to do business. Billing is erratic and many organizations seem to drop in and drop out according to IPA meetings or, as of late, drop out altogether.

I have tried and accomplished a few things. Payments can now be made by credit card.(see attachment for payment form). Our Pay Pal account is now almost completely closed down because trying to transfer the account to me has been a year and a half nightmare. The plan is now to close it down and then reopen a new account in my name.

**Current Bank Balances:** At present we have ca. \$10,200 (balances vary slightly because we are charged \$9.95 monthly in bank fees) in our Bank of America Account here in Hendersonville, NC. [I use Bank of America because it is a national bank and the account can be easily transferred – I assume that there is an advantage in having the treasurer here in the US because we are legally chartered here]. Bruce Lieberman has told me that our PayPal Balance is \$174 and we will be able to close out the account in May.

**Membership and dues:** Membership is hard to define because I have sent out dues notices and have had no responses to many of them. I think there are various reasons for this. 1) The contact person is no longer the financial officer for the institute/organization and the notice is not passed on. 2) Some organizations are not interested and have discontinued. I intend to bill these institutions just the same. 3) Organizations pay dues at any time of the year and expect the membership clock to begin at that time. This brings on a great deal of confusion for everyone: I am unsure when they think the clock starts—they seem to lose track and are equally unsure as to start times – The determining of the dues amount is also not clearly understood and needs some work.(see attached)

**How to solve the problem:** I propose that starting January-February, 2018 the dues period corresponds to the calendar year. Dues billing will go out at the end of 2017 and into early 2018 and will cover the calendar year.... Dues that come in late will be applied to 2018. And so it will go from year to year. What do we do in the interim? I propose that billing will go out for those who have paid at any time for 2016 and any paying ahead into 2018 will be given credit until January, 2018. This will make bookkeeping much easier and we will be able to issue a

receipt/membership statement that is unambiguous (see attached current payment receipt). I also recommend that whenever possible that credit card payment is preferable over Pay Pal and we should state our preference.

Personal memberships should be made available (advantages to this type of membership need to be determined and advertised) and priced reasonably (?\$5.00 a year). I see this as part of a network to attract and keep larger groups.

If this, or a similar payment/membership-definition, plan is approved by the governing body of the IPA I will proceed as following (or in any other manner approved by the IPA governing body).

- 1) Send out notices *again* with time and payment periods defined.

- 2) I have been made aware of a number of laboratories and small institutes in South America and colleagues knowing that I am looking for paleontological groups have been providing addresses and email addresses. I intend to exploit this data.

- 3) Expand our data base to increase the number of possible members. I think that the present practice (the one I inherited) to treat many past accounts that have not paid in years as “dead letters” and cease billing them as counterproductive and renew billing them on an annual basis.

Suggestions from The Palaeontological  
Society of India by Dr. M.P. Singh  
Secretary P.S.I.

Major topics to discussed are as follows:

**1. Discussion on the establishment of fellow of IPA and honors or prizes of the organization.**

- Among #6  
at 10-30 AM  
10-10-10*
- a. In many countries the position of the subject of palaeontology is becoming precarious as in many University Curricula, disciplines of a more applied nature are replacing it. This is a serious problem specially in South Asian and South East Asian countries. It is therefore critical to raise the profile of the Subject Palaeontology not only by increasing number of people interested in the subject but also by establishing honours and awards for those who have made significant contributions and others who have a keen interest in the subject and need a platform to expand their studies.
  - b. There can be two or three categories of Fellows: <sup>(1)</sup> Primary fellowship depending upon interest and contributions made; <sup>(2)</sup> Senior Fellows on contributions made over decades and <sup>(3)</sup> Distinguished Fellow for scientists who have left an international footprint in the field.
  - c. Primary fellowship should be recommended by the local (National) Palaeontology Committee and then be approved by IPA.
  - d. The other two categories can be decided by the IPA body as there is an international component in the scientific contribution.

**2. Discussion on how to improve the Paleoparks Projects, in order to have it play a bigger role in promoting the conservation of important fossil sites and raising the public awareness of the significance of the fossil conservations.**

- Among #6  
at 10-30 AM  
10-10-10*
- a. There are several aspects involved here: The foremost of these is the conservation of classic fossil sites in developing countries. At present hectic

building activity is destroying the Type Sections of palaeontological significant localities at an alarming rate. Efforts by local bodies to preserve such sites have usually failed mainly because the government administration may fail to see their scientific importance or it considers it more profitable to build infrastructure or industrialize the area.

Conservation and Palaeo Park projects should go together but sometimes the reverse happens as in the case of the Dinosaur National Park established by the Geological Survey of India, the premier Geoscience body in India, in 1983. The Park pinpointed the locality of dinosaur eggs but did not provide enough security in its initial stages to protect it from vandalism. Soon most of the priceless fossils were illegally removed from the huge Park precincts.

- b. A model conservation programme giving need for conservations and standard rules and regulations can be formulated by IPA. If needed respective member countries can use this model to implement it with their governments.
- c. Public awareness can also be raised by establishing local and national museums of Natural history where the palaeontological heritage of the country can be showcased.

### **3. Discussion on how to expand the number of the membership of the IPA.**

- a. This can be done by local bodies in respective countries.
- b. By organization of national and international seminars and conferences where a membership drive can be organized and becoming a member/ fellow can be made much easier.

*MP Singh*