



**International  
Palaeontological  
Association**

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

### **Objectives**

The International Palaeontological Association (IPA) aims to promote and coordinate international cooperation in palaeontology and to encourage the integration and synthesis of all palaeontological knowledge. A detailed mission statement is published on the IPA web site at < <http://www.ipa-assoc.org/>>, which is kindly hosted free of charge by the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology < <http://english.nigpas.cas.cn/>>.

### **Membership**

Corporate Membership is open to national, regional, and disciplinary paleontological societies and sections of societies; as well as to other scientific societies, agencies, institutions, organizations, working groups, and informal associations that support the aims of IPA. Corporate Members pay annual dues to IPA. Organizations interested in palaeontology and in supporting the aims of IPA are encouraged to contact the IPA Treasurer to become Corporate Members. There are two classes of individual membership: Subscribing Members are those who subscribe to *Lethaia*, an international journal affiliated with IPA. A portion of the subscription covers their dues. Ordinary Members pay dues directly to IPA.

### **Constitution**

The most recently revised Constitution was approved by the General Assembly of IPA at its meeting of June 20, 2006, in Beijing. The Constitution is published on the IPA web site at < <http://www.ipa-assoc.org/>>.

### **Officers 2014-2018**

The Executive Committee officers of IPA for the 2014-2018 term are as follows:

PRESIDENT Dr. Zhonghe Zhou (China)

SECRETARY-GENERAL Dr. Lars Holmer (Sweden)

TREASURER Dr. Ronald Parsley (USA)

## VICE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Lucia Angiolini (Italy)  
Dr. James Crampton, (New Zealand),  
Dr. Hiroshi Kitazato (Japan)  
Dr. Thomas Servais (Belgium)  
Dr. Beatriz Waisfeld (Argentina)

## COUNCILLORS-AT-LARGE

Dr. Peter Doyle (United Kingdom, Editor of *Lethaia*)  
Dr. Olga Kossovaya (Russia)

The President, Secretary-General and Treasurer constitute the Executive Committee that conducts the day-to-day business of the IPA.

## **Council of IPA**

In addition to the Executive Committee and other Officers, the Constitution provides that the Council shall include delegates representing the Corporate Members and the journal *Lethaia*, delegates charged with to carry out specific tasks on behalf of IPA, the Past-President and the Past-Secretary-General. Current Corporate Members and all delegates now serving on the Council are listed in the Appendix to this report.

## **Business Meetings**

The most recent IPA Council Business Meeting was held May 15-17, 2016, at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP), Beijing, China. Minutes of that meeting are attached to this report. 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.

The most recent Ordinary Meeting of the IPA General Assembly was held during the Fourth International Palaeontological Congress, in Mendoza, Argentina, September 30, 2014.

## **Selection of Site for the Fifth International Palaeontological Congress, IPC 5**

During late 2014, proposals were solicited from potential hosts of the next International Palaeontological Congress, to be held in 2018. By early, 2015, expressions of interest had been received from two groups, the French Centre of Research on Palaeobiodiversity and Palaeoenvironments (CR2P) in Paris and the Palaeontological Society of Japan in Yokohama.

These proposals were circulated to all members of the Council of IPA. Members of the Council reviewed the proposals and submitted questions and/or requests for responses to various comments from the potential organizing committees. These requests for additional information were compiled and sent to the two groups. This new information was circulated to the Council, together with a ballot by means of which one or other of the proposals was to be accepted.

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Secretary-General announced that the Council of the International Palaeontological Association had decided to issue an invitation to the group in Paris, France, led by Dr. Sylvie Crasquin, Dr. Angelina Bastos, and Dr. Stephane Peigne, to convene the Fifth International Palaeontological Congress in Paris, France, in 2018.

This decision represented a broad near-consensus. Nineteen delegates, many of whom consulted with the leadership groups of their organizations, voted to accept the proposal from France. Five delegates voted to accept the proposal from Yokohama, Japan, and two delegates abstained from voting.

A message of thanks and congratulations was sent to the group in France. Regrets were conveyed to the group in Japan. Members of the Council noted that the proposal from the group in Japan also would have been an excellent venue and many noted that it was difficult to choose between the two proposals. The Council of the International Palaeontological Association clearly strongly encourages the group in Japan to submit a proposal to convene IPC 6.

### **Planning and Development of IPC 5 in Paris, France**

Planning for the International Palaeontological Congress in 2018 has been during 2016-2017 undertaken entirely by the organizing committee in France, with encouragement and but limited amount of financial support from the International Palaeontological Association.

Early in 2017, Dr. Sylvie Crasquin distributed the first circular of the 5th International Palaeontological Congress, IPC 2018, indicating that it would be held July 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> in Paris.

Since then, the international palaeontological community has been kept well informed by a succession of circulars that have been widely distributed electronically, and by an attractive, very informative website at [<https://ipc5.sciencesconf.org/>](https://ipc5.sciencesconf.org/)

The organizing committee has worked hard and effectively to attract support from sponsors for IPC 5. These include:

International Palaeontological Association  
CR2P : Centre de Recherche en Paléontologie - Paris  
Sorbonne Université  
Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle  
CNRS INEE  
CNRSINSU  
TOTAL  
Fondation L'Oréal  
The Palaeontological Association  
Paleontological Society  
IUGS  
OSU Ecce Terra  
Les amis du Muséum  
International Palaeontological association  
IRGO: International Research Group on Ostracods  
Société Géologique de France  
Société Géologique de France ; Stratigraphy section  
APF : Association paléontologique Française  
IFPS  
Fondation Université Pierre et Marie Curie  
GFC : Groupe français du Crétacé  
GFEJ : Groupe français d'étude du Jurassique

Several of the following sponsoring organizations have made significant commitments of financial support to subsidize participation in IPC 6 by students and early stage researchers:

IRGO	RAUSCH	Lea	Romania	1 000 €
	SHURUPOVA	Yana	Russia	1 000 €
	RINKEVIČIŪTĖ	Simona	Lithuania	1 000 €
IPC/L'Oréal	DHILMAN	Harsha	India	1 100 €
IPA	Jimenez-Lara	Kevin	Colombien/ Argentine	1 100 €
IUGS	AHOUNTA	Djimdoumalbayle	Tchad	950 €
	HEREDIA	Arturo Miguel	Argentina	950 €
	LADEIRA OSÉS	Gabriel	Brasil	950 €
APF	Viglino	Mariana	Argentina	650 €
	Zverkov	Nikolay	Russia	650 €
PalAss				17 000 €
SGF	VASSEUR	Raphael	Nancy, France	500 €
	AUBINEAU	Jérémie	Poitiers, France	500 €
	ZACAI	Axelle	Lille, France	500 €
GFC/GFEJ	EL HAJJ	Layla	Liban/France	300 €
GFC	Polette	France	France	300 €
IFPS				500 €
				500 €
				500 €

### IPA and *Lethaia*

*Lethaia* is an international journal of palaeontology and stratigraphy, published by Wiley Blackwell, with oversight from the Lethaia Foundation <[www.lethaia.org](http://www.lethaia.org)> (Dr. Hans-Arne Nakrem, Chairman). The current editors of *Lethaia* are Peter Doyle (Editor-in-Chief), David A.T. Harper, Alan Owen and Brooks B. Britt.

Members of IPA are eligible to purchase online and print subscriptions to *Lethaia* at discounted rates. Subscription at the IPA members' rate **includes** the annual IPA membership fee (US\$5.00). This is explained on the inside cover of the

journal and on the Wiley Blackwell website

<[http://ordering.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/subs.asp?ref=1502-3931&doi=10.1111/\(ISSN\)1502-3931](http://ordering.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/subs.asp?ref=1502-3931&doi=10.1111/(ISSN)1502-3931)>

The IPA and *Lethaia* have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship. Members of IPA were influential in founding *Lethaia* in 1968 as an international journal of broad scope in palaeontology and stratigraphy, at a time when nearly all other journals were tied to national organizations or specialized scientific interests. In 1970, IPA formally adopted *Lethaia* as its official journal and authorized the publisher to collect IPA dues from individual subscribers. The IPA encourages all palaeontologists to support *Lethaia* and IPA by subscribing and by submitting high-quality palaeontological manuscripts to the journal.

### **The IPA Website**

The new IPA web site at <<http://www.ipa-assoc.org/>>, was formally released on 1st July, 2016 and it features general information about the association, its officers, constitution and by-laws, a link to the publisher of *Lethaia* and *Fossils and Strata*, information on palaeontological symposia, and several databases.

The IPA web site is kindly hosted free of charge by the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Paleontology <<http://english.nigpas.cas.cn/>> and the officers of IPA are grateful to the IPA Web Manager Dr Yongdong Wang for the development and efficient maintenance of this valuable resource.

The website also maintains links to **PaleoPortal**, the **Paleobiology Database**, and the **Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)**.

### **The IPA logo and its Use**

The IPA logo is available in two forms as high-resolution image files that are suitable for use on banners and in other printed materials. Corporate Members or other organizations wishing to obtain copies of these files for use in promotion of IPA-sponsored activities or publications should contact the Secretary-General.

### **Selection of Nominees for Election to Serve as Officers of IPA, 2014-2018**

The report of the Nominating Committee and the slate of candidates for election as 2014-2018 officers of IPA to be put before the General Assembly in Paris is attached as a separate document.

**Lars E. Holmer, Secretary-General**

**8<sup>th</sup> May, 2018**