REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, May 8th, 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 Paleontology <http://english.nigpas.cas.cn/>.

Membership

Corporate Membership is open to national, regional, and disciplinary palaeontological 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 26th, 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 9th-13th 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/>

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:

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**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> (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
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  
8th May, 2018