



**The Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Broadcast Meteorology was held on Wednesday September 14th at 1730 in Conference Room Vulcania 2, Stazione Marittima Congress Centre Trieste. It was held during the 16th EMS Annual Meeting & 11th European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC) 12th – 16th September 2016 in Trieste, Italy.**

**In attendance:** Inge Niedek (in the chair) Panos Giannopoulos, Dieter Walch, Gerald Fleming, John Teather.

## **MINUTES**

1. Apologies for absence were received from Robert Goldhammer, Paul Gross, Dan Corbett, Bill Giles, Claire Martin, Jill Peeters, Jay Trobec
2. Adoption of the minutes of the 18th Annual General meeting were proposed by GF and seconded by PG
3. There were no matters arising.
4. The meeting received a report from the Chairman.

*As we are an International Association it is always difficult to bring members together. We have tried to tie meetings to conferences, but there are so many and they are not really international. This time we have chosen the EMS in Trieste hoping to get at least some European attendance. We may plan in the future to have some type of teleconference, which is no replacement for face-to-face meetings. So we always have to arrange somehow. This will be apart from two director's meetings in Dublin in 2014 and 2015 the first AGM after 2013.*

*First of all I would like to say thank you to all the members of our committee who have always stood by and have contributed to our fruitful work, which has been expressed by our news-paper "Up Front". Further I would like to thank them for so many discussions and exchange of thoughts about developments in the field of TV-broadcasting. A special thank goes to John Teather who is keeping our Web site up-to-date with great enthusiasm and always new ideas, and to Gerald Fleming who is wearing the hat of IABM in the WMO besides his various other functions.*

*Since 2013 communication has been facilitated, as we began to introduce Skype-committee-meetings. They work quite well and give us a chance to see each other from time to time and to exchange our views. Email is still our quickest communication-tool.*

*As time has passed so quickly let me briefly look back, what has happened in the meantime: we managed to publish Up Front-editions 5 times since then. As printing cost has risen, we decided to send out the magazine electronically. So the edition in autumn of 2013 has been the last one on paper. Every edition is unique and picks up topics in our business. In the meantime the German National Weather Service has asked us to allow them to add Up Front to their library. Most of the editions will be available there. But they can also be studied on our website (<http://www.iabm.org/#!/publications/cee5>)*

*There have been some highlights of course since 2013, I want to mention. One has been the invitation from President Obama to our colleague John Toohey Morales from NBC6 in Miami in 2014, Florida. He was amongst only 8 others from the US - what an honour and respect for our profession. So much respect has – so far I know, received only our colleague Jesper Theilgaard from Denmark (see later). The occasion was the release of the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S government-authored National Climate Assessment (NCA) –There has been a special reason for this invitation. The geographic location Miami is one of the most vulnerable cities in the world to sea level rise. The purpose for the invitation to the White House was to raise awareness for climate change to TV-weather-audience. The climate issue has become a constant theme in John's weather-reports. He thinks that it is an important work to educate audiences about how climate change was already affecting their lives and how it would impact them in the future.*

*Another unique workshop has been arranged with the help of Jesper Theilgaard. His credibility and his engagement in weather and climate not only draw attention but also the financial support of the Danish government to hold a separate 2-day climate-workshop together with WMO about the IPCC (AR5 report) in Paris along the annual FIM-arrangement. About 80 TV-broadcasters from more than 50 countries worldwide had been able to attend, widen their knowledge and reported about their issue of climate change back in their home-countries - A great success that we were hoping to repeat. The effort would be much cheaper to bring together this highly recognized TV-people, instead of the cost involved to teach people about climate change with other means of communication. No doubt TV-weather-broadcasters work as multipliers and can reach Millions of people via TV.*

*Another event I want to mention is the cooperation with the foundation "We are Water", an idea from our colleague Thomas Molina from Barcelona. The financial support and invitation of "We are Water" made it possible to gather with 20 weather-broadcasters from many different countries to experience and study the interaction of water and climate. We were able to gain knowledge about how closely the availability of water is related to climate-change. We had impressive insights to projects of "We are Water" in relation to the importance of drinking-water availability and of sanitation, especially in areas where oceans and rivers are polluted.*

*Of course we are trying to generate more funding to organize these types of workshops. But this is still a difficult issue. We are trying to get WMO involved but so far with no success. We were hoping to get a brief interview with Petteri Taalas the New Secretary General of WMO to explain to him the primary position of broadcasters amongst their viewership and the potential to use these positions in communicating climate change to the public. Let's hope that we can get any further. With proper funding IABM could enlarge*

*their reporting about climate change as mediator between WMO, National Meteorological Services and the public. So funding is still a big issue. I have been investigating the possibility of getting some financial support from Munich Re, the biggest ReInsurance Co. of the world, and talked to Professor Höppe, head of Geo Risks Research/Corporate Climate Center, and a lady of their communications department. We have discussed all possible options for sponsoring of an event for TV-weather-broadcasters and the communication of climate issues or research results Munich Re is dealing with.*

*If we could find sponsors for travel and hotel cost for let's say 10 to 20 Broadcast Meteorologists from around the world we could held a high profile international workshop in Munich with very good press attention. But to find sponsors in Germany is very difficult. They appreciate our magazine and would place regularly articles. They are also developing "easier" to use graphics for the use in TV, which might come up next year. We will have possibly a meeting with Prof. Höppe, who will attend and give a lecture at the media session of the EMS.*

*As a first step to bring our valuable magazine Up Front to a wider readership we started to distribute it for free to more broadcasters. (See separate report from John Teather). We want to enlarge our committee to widen our view and getting new input and ideas. We have invited Jill Peeters and Claire Martin and hope that we can gain both.*

*Thank you again to all contributors to our work and wishing us a continued fruitful work in times of changing climate and changing TV-industry.*

***Inge Niedek, 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2016***

GF will send a complete set of UP FRONTS to the German National Weather Service for their archive.

Adoption of the report was proposed by JT and seconded by DW.

5. The meeting received a report from the Honorary Secretary.

*Despite the usual problem of organising meetings of very busy people spread across the world, the association continues to thrive. Regular meetings have been held with the use of Skype. Although we were unable to hold face-to-face Annual General Meetings in 2014 and 2015 they were held using Sykpe to meet our obligations as a registered limited company.*

*The committee has been reviewing our 'modus operandi' as the collection of subscriptions remains a challenging administrative problem. The importance of UP FRONT as a major support to our industry has been reinforced with the decision to make it freely available to as many people in our business as possible. A new email-out database has been established and the Spring 2016 edition was distributed by this means. A revision of the web site using a new provider has also provided an easy link between email and web.*

*This year we are able to hold a face-to-face AGM and with sufficient directors in attendance work has also been done on a new model for membership so as to best serve the association into the future.*

*As Editor of UP FRONT may I thank all those who have taken the time and care to provide articles.*

Adoption of the report was proposed by IN and seconded by PG.

6. The meeting received a report from the Honorary Treasurer.

*The Association urgently needs to consider its future financing, as well as its future structure. As a company limited by guarantee, it has a requirement to make annual returns to the Companies Office in Dublin. The cost in professional fees etc in meeting this requirement is circa €1,200 p.a. The collection of membership fees through credit card is via an intermediary and this facility costs approximately €450 p.a. Thus the Association needs about €1,650 per annum just to maintain its present identity. While no invoices / requests for 2016 fees have, as yet, been sent out the likelihood is that the IABM will enter 2017 without any certainty that there will be funds available to discharge its liabilities for that year. The Committee needs to decide on the best future, financially sustainable, structure for the IABM*

*Gerald Fleming  
Treasurer  
21<sup>st</sup> August 2016*

Adoption of the report was proposed by PG and seconded by IN.

7. Election of the Board of Directors. The following were unanimously elected, subject to them being fully paid up members. GF will check the current status of the director's payments and write to them if there are in arrears.

Chairman	Inge Niedek
Vice Chairman	Claire Martin
Secretary	John Teather
Treasurer	Gerald Fleming
Membership	Tomas Molina
Publications	Bill Giles
Ordinary Directors	Paul Gross, Panos Giannopoulos, Dieter Walch, Jesper Theilgaard, Jill Peeters
South American Representative	Mauricio N. Saldivar
Australasia Representative	Daniel Corbet

8. There were no resolutions.

9. Any other business.

- i.* JT to write to EMS and thank them for hosting rooms for our meetings.
- ii.* GF to get advice from our auditors as to whether a change of legal status of the association would be beneficial and report back to the committee.

Meeting Closed at 1805