

REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETINGS OF COMMISSION J – RADIO ASTRONOMY

Chair: Professor Makoto Inoue (Japan)

Vice-chair: Professor Richard Schilizzi (Netherlands)

FIRST BUSINESS MEETING: 24 OCTOBER 2005

1. Election of Vice-Chair

Two candidates were nominated for the position of Vice-Chair, Professor Subramaniam Ananthakrishnan of the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics in Pune, India, and Professor Thibaut Le Bertre of the CNRS in France. A vote was held amongst the Official Members which resulted in the election of Professor Ananthakrishnan. Professor Ananthakrishnan accepted the position of Vice-Chair of Commission J.

2. Discussion of Issues Arising from the Meeting of the Coordinating Committee for the General Assembly

The proposed guidelines for abstract and paper submission for future General Assemblies were discussed. Commission J members agreed that only one abstract should be requested that would serve for the selection of papers and for printing in the Program Book. Submitting a full paper should be optional.

3. URSI White Paper Policy and Solar Power Satellites

Following considerable discussion, Commission J members felt strongly that any URSI White Paper must be a balanced scientific exposition of the topic under consideration. The current draft White Paper on SPS was not felt to fulfill these criteria.

4. Budget

Professor Inoue reviewed the activities and budget expenditures of the previous triennium. It was noted that very few proposals had been received for URSI support for meetings, or for travel support for young scientists to the General Assembly. It was agreed that a more active policy should be followed for the next triennium.

5. Resolutions

Professor Inoue informed Commission members about the follow up to URSI Resolutions from GA2002 of interest to Commission J. He invited proposals for new Resolutions to be presented at this GA.

6. IUCAF

The Commission approved the nomination of Dr Uday Shankar (Radio Research Institute, Bangalore, India) to succeed Dr Yashwant Gupta as one of the three URSI members on IUCAF. The Commission also approved extension of the terms of the other IUCAF members, Dr Tasso Tzioumis (ATNF, Australia) and Dr Wim van Driel (Paris Observatory), for the coming triennium.

It was noted that Commission G planned to nominate an IUCAF representative before the IUCAF meeting on 27 October.

SECOND BUSINESS MEETING: 26 October 2005

1. URSI White Paper on Solar Power Satellites

Professor Inoue distributed copies of the draft White Paper to members of the Commission. Further discussion of the draft White Paper was postponed until the Third Business Session.

2. SCT

Professor Inoue reported on URSI Council discussions on the future role of the SCT. It has been decided that the SCT will continue at a low level to promote cross-commission interaction. It will be disbanded at GA2008 if no activity has taken place.

3. IAU Working Group of the History of Radio Astronomy

Professor Govind Swarup described the activities of the IAU WG, and suggested that Commission J funds be used to partially support travel by Commission J representatives to WG meetings. The Commission strongly supports the work of the IAU WG, and authorized the Commission Chair to investigate whether travel support of this nature is within the remit of URSI. Professor Swarup is prepared to act as Commission J contact person for the IAU WG.

4. Commission J Resolutions

No Resolutions were proposed to be submitted by Commission J at this GA.

5. Editor for Radio Science Reviews

Nominations were called for the position of Editor for Radio Science Reviews. Professor Ray Norris (ATNF, Australia) was nominated and accepted the position. The following reviews were noted:

"Fibre optics in radio astronomy" – McCool et al, in press

"Advances in Radio Astrometry" – Fomalont and Kobeyashi, under revision

"Calibration of High Frequency Telescopes" – to be commissioned

It was agreed that the Editor would obtain the approval of the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair before commissioning any further articles.

5. US Senior Review of Astronomy

Professor Don Backer informed Commission members of the background and mandate of the Senior Review panel established by the National Science Foundation to provide advice on US national facilities for astronomy.

6. Working Groups

Leap Second

Following a splinter meeting of the Leap Second WG, it was decided to discontinue the WG, since it is not of direct interest to URSI.

Global VLBI

The Commission decided to continue the WG for the next triennium.

7. Budget 2002-2005

Professor Inoue invited proposals for travel support for a small number of individual participants in this URSI GA, to be finalized at the Third Business Meeting.

THIRD BUSINESS MEETING: 28 October 2005

1. Report on the 27 October URSI Council Meeting

Professor Schilizzi reported the decisions of the Council meeting on the venue of next GA, Chicago, and the election of the URSI President for the next triennium, Professor F. Lefeuvre. He also reported on the continuing Council discussions on the Solar Power Satellite System White Paper. Following this report, Commission members discussed SPS at length. It was concluded that all statements in the White Paper and Appendices advocating SPS should be removed, and that considerable revision of the remainder of the material was required for this paper to reach the standard expected from URSI. The Commission Chair and Vice-Chair were mandated to make this position clear at the next Council Meeting.

2. General Assembly 2008

Possible topics for Commission J at the next General Assembly are:

- 1) Observatory Reports
- 2) Phased arrays in radio astronomy
- 3) Signal processing
- 4) Calibration and imaging techniques
- 5) Future large telescopes
- 6) RFI mitigation (together with Commission E)
- 7) High Frequency radio astronomy
- 8) Cosmic Microwave Background
- 9) Virtual Observatories and Large Surveys
- 10) Radio astronomy in Space

A selection will be made at the appropriate time during the triennium after consultation with Commission members via email. In addition, splinter meetings for IUCAF, GVWG, and VSOP-2 need to be planned, as well as proposals for the Commission J Tutorial and a General Lecturer.

1. Budget 2002-2005

Travel support for three participants (Aaron Chippendale, Wei Wang, and Aaron Parsons) was approved.