

Minutes of the Business Sessions at the XXII International Grassland Congress Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Opening Business Meeting

IGC Chair (Guy Allard) welcomed delegates to the business session.

He acknowledged members of the IGC Continuing Committee who were in attendance: Dr Rita de Cassia Ribeiro Carvalho (Brazil, Region 3), Dr Sujatha Premarante (Sri Lanka, Region 4), Dr David Kemp (Australia, Region 5), Dr Zhibiao Nan (China, Region 6), Dr Claudio Porqueddu (Italy, Region 8), Dr Johannes Isselstein (Germany, Region 9), Dr Piotr Golinski (Poland, Region 10), Dr David Miano Mwangi (Kenya, Region 11) and Dr Yun Jinfeng (China, Immediate past host country). Apologies were lodged from Dr Maria Diaz Sanchez (Cuba, Region 2) and Dr Hossein Barani (Iran, Region 7).

The Chair reported that Minutes of the XXI IGC business meetings are on the IGC website, and therefore, they were not published in the IGC-IRC 2008 Proceedings. An update was given on the Resolutions that were passed at the China, XXI IGC:

Resolution 1 – express their sincere thanks to the Chinese Grassland Society and to all sponsoring organisations that enabled the first joint IGC/IRC congress to be held.

Resolution 2 – recognise and thank the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region People's Government for the financial support and contributions.

Resolution 3 – recognise and thank the members and leadership of the VIII IRC for the first joint meeting of these congresses and proclaim that this joint meeting has been a success in achieving our common objectives and interests.

Resolution 4 – ask that the organising committee of the XXII IGC continue with the practices of stimulating a strong attendance of grassland researchers and practitioners from all developing countries with a special effort be dedicated to encouraging attendance and participation by students and young professionals from around the world.

Resolution 5 – encourage the participation of practitioners in their respective international activities and meetings, including farmers, ranchers, or herders.

Resolution 6 – Whereas the importance of carbon sequestration, soil conservation, nutrient cycling, energy costs, and natural resource conservation continue to escalate, it is requested that future congresses place greater emphasis on agroforestry and agro-silvo-pastoral ecosystems as a sustainable alternative for livestock production.

Resolution 7 – Whereas temperate indigenous grasslands are critically endangered and urgent action is required to protect the services they provide to sustain human life, the XXI IGC resolved to call upon all sectors of society to collaborate in protecting these vital ecosystems.

Resolution 8 – Delegates at the XXI IGC request that revision of the Terminology for Grazing Lands and Grazing Animals be completed by the end of 2009 and presented at the IX IRC in Argentina (2011) and the XXII IGC in Australia (2013).

The free access of the publication of the «International Terminology for Grazing Lands and Grazing Animals» on the Web was jointly funded by the Forage and Grassland Foundation of U.S.A., the International Rangeland Congress, and the International Grassland Congress.

Resolution 9 – request that future IGC Continuing Committees make every endeavour to conduct joint activities with the IRC in order to maximise synergies in knowledge, practice, and resources. More specifically, it is requested that the IGC Continuing Committee works with the IRC Continuing Committee to develop a joint Congress in 2015 where the location

provides access to both grassland and rangeland systems; and the program gives focus to priority topics within both bio-physical and socio-economic themes.

No constitutional amendments were received prior to the 6 months preceding the IGC-IRC 2008 meeting.

The venue for the XXIII IGC 2015 was announced. Enquiries to host this Congress were received from India. The successful bid was New Delhi, India, where the emphasis will be on biodiversity and environmental protection.

Closing Business Meeting

The Resolutions Committee was composed of: Dr Gavin Sheath (New Zealand), Dr Walter Ayala (Uruguay), Dr Ying-jun Zhang (China) and Dr Ray Smith (USA). This committee was charged with bringing IGC resolutions to the final business session for discussion and approval. They tabled the resolutions they received:

Resolution 1 – The members of the XXII IGC congratulates the Australian Organising Committee for putting together an excellent congress. The program with its well thought-of plenary sessions was very much appreciated. Overall, this has been a very successful event.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 2 – Considering the amount of information presented in the posters, poster papers and sessions should be revitalised by:

- organising poster sessions by topics more clearly;
- having a group of people to evaluate and report on the emerging areas and conclusions;
- encouraging greater participation of authors during the poster viewing sessions.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 3 – The local IGC Organising Committee should be encouraged to source papers that demonstrate integration, farm systems and value chains to reflect actual farm behaviour, including the human dimension.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 4 – The Organising Committee of the XXIII IGC should give strong consideration to incorporating a mid-congress tour into the congress program so that delegates may see some representative Indian grassland.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 5 – That the plenary presentations of future conferences be recorded for wider distributions through the IGC website or simultaneous delivery.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 6 – Resolve that the IGC continue to develop programming applicable to forage and grassland outreach and extension including involvement of industry representatives, primary producers, public extension and private consultants.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 7 – Whereas uninterrupted services from temperate indigenous grassland, agro-silvo-pastoral, and agroforestry systems are critical for sustainable development of livestock production systems, and soil and water sustainability is the key driver of these systems, the XXII IGC resolved to call upon all sectors of society to collaborate in protecting these vital resources and ecosystems.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 8 – That the IGC Continuing Committee forms a framework and guidelines for developing the congress program in order to ensure a balance of agro-ecosystems, country representation as well as gender and age demographics. This framework should be used by the local Organizing Committee when developing and finalising the program.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 9 – That the role of regional representatives on the IGC Continuing Committee be strengthened by developing networks for information sharing, collaboration and contributing to future IGC activities.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 10 – That the IGC Continuing Committee establishes an advocacy strategy and capability with the mandate to keep grassland research a primary priority with governments, thereby making it easier for researchers to obtain funding.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 11 – Resolve that IGC continue the Early Career Researchers (ERC) Forum and explore a variety of capacity building activities including a pre-conference ERC workshop, international exchange programs, and other networking opportunities.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 12 – Given the demonstrated benefits of the joint IGC-IRC 2008 meeting in China and considering the worldwide decreasing number of researchers as well as funds available for research in grassland and rangeland, the members of the XXII IGC recommend that, given a viable equal partnership between IRC and IGC, future IGC Continuing Committees make every endeavour to conduct joint activities with the IRC in order to maximise synergies in knowledge, practice, and resources.

Carried: Unanimously

Resolution 13 – That in planning future conferences, IGC Continuing Committee has more stability in the dates that the conferences will be held. The International Herbage Seeds Group values its relationship with IGC and such stability will help in its forward planning.

Carried: Unanimously

The Nominations Committee was composed of: Dr Gary Lacefield (USA), Dr Sujatha Premarante (Sri Lanka) and Dr Johannes Isselstein (Germany). This committee was charged with nominating first-term representatives to the Continuing Committee for the following regions:

Region 1	:	Canada, USA
Region 2	:	Central America
Region 4	:	South East Asia
Region 9	:	Europe (excluding Mediterranean, Near East and Northern Eurasia)

From the meeting in China, it was recommended that the chair correct the unhealthy imbalance between first- (4) and second-term (7) representation on the Continuing Committee. After discussion with the representative of Region 5, Dr David Kemp and regarding the fact that the representative of the previous host country would be from Australia, Dr David Kemp accepted to stay on the continuing committee as the representative of Australia as the host country, so we could nominate a first-term representatives for

Region 5	:	Australia, New Zealand
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Dr Gavin Sheath (New Zealand) was then added to the nomination Committee.

The new representatives to the Continuing Committee were announced:

Region I [Canada, USA]
Region II [Central America]
Region IV [South East Asia]

Dr Ray Smith, USA
Dr Fernando Ibarra Flores, Mexico
Dr P. K. Gosh, India

Region V [Oceania]
Region IX [Europe]

Dr Derek Woodfield, New Zealand
Dr Jean-François Soussana, France

The Continuing Committee representatives who will complete their second term were acknowledged:

Region III [South America]
Region VI [East Asia]
Region VII [Middle East]
Region VIII [Mediterranean]
Region X [Northern Eurasia]
Region XI [Africa]
Australia Organising Committee

Dr Rita de Cassia Ribeiro Carvalho, Brazil
Dr Zhibiao Nan, China
Dr Hossein Barani, Iran
Dr Claudio Porqueddu, Italy
Dr Piotr Golinski, Poland
Dr David Miano Mwangi, Kenya
Dr David Kemp, Australia

Dr P.K. Gosh and Dr Malaviya introduced the XXIII IGC venue (New Delhi, India) to the delegates and issued an invitation to attend the meeting in 2015.

Returning and new members of the Continuing Committee left the meeting to vote on the new IGC chair. Guy Allard then announced to the meeting that Dr. David Miano Mwangi is the new chair of the IGC Continuing Committee. Dr. Mwangi thanked the Australia Organising Committee, the previous Continuing Committee and Dr Allard for their work over the last 5 years; and for a highly successful Congress.

The meeting then ended.