

International Society of Zoological Sciences

Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting– IOZ, Beijing

10 July 2009

Opening:

The first meeting of the second Executive Committee of the International Society of Zoological Sciences was called to order at 0800 on 10 July 2009 in Beijing by Jean-Marc Jallon (Chair).

Present:

Executive Committee: Abraham Haim, Jean-Marc Jallon, Rosa Polymeni, Nils Chr. Stenseth, Zhang Zhibin.
Secretariat: Ben Bravery, Chunxu Han, Yan Xie, Wenhua Xiong.

Apologies:

John Buckeridge, Edwin Cooper, Jurgen Heinze.

A. Approval of agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting of the ISZS Executive Committee (Paris, August 2008) were accepted as a true and accurate record.

C. Attendance at Executive Committee meetings

Dr Jallon stated that all Executive Committee members should make an effort to attend these meetings as they are held infrequently and are an important avenue for decision making and discussion. Dr Jallon moved that ISZS Past Presidents are welcome to participate in these meetings but attendance is optional.

D. Publication of papers following an International Congress of Zoology

Dr Jallon felt that papers from the XX ICZ should have been handled differently by the INZ editorial office. Dr Haim suggested that more students should be encouraged to submit papers during a Congress and that it should be managed as a competitive process. Dr Zhang stated that three to five student awards should be allocated at each Congress as support for this process.

E. ISZS Research Program: Biological consequences of global change

Dr Xie informed the group that a website for the project is being developed, trying to get more people across the world into the research program, and that Issue 2 of 2010 of INZ will publish material related to this theme.

Dr Haim reminded the group that one of the most forgotten aspects of global change is the level of light pollution across the world. Biologists are behind in this issue. Places are illuminated constantly and this can cause a change to the biota. There was support for future conferences of the ISZS to include posters, plenary or guest lectures on this topic.

Dr Stenseth noted that the key role of the ISZS should be to promote the allocation of funds for this project, rather than trying to attract the funding directly. He suggested that the NSF and EU and should be targeted. We as a society can encourage applicants for those funds.

Dr Zhang stressed the need for a large database to link climate data to help zoologist find this data. We could also help to set up our own zoological data bank. We can invite published and unpublished data.

Dr Jallon asked where the climate data will come from; Dr Xie indicated that much data was already available online and that the database would link to available climate data.

Dr Stenseth suggested that as a part of this project, the ISZS could lobby for zoology to have a greater role in long-term and existing monitoring projects. The US contains many such monitoring projects that tend to focus on botany and abiotic factors. We should try to develop a better role for zoology.

It was agreed that the first step was to attract some funding for the research project. With financial backing, a committee could then be established to oversee the project and provide direction and structure.

F. XXI International Congress of Zoology, Haifa 2012

Dr Haim informed the group that the XXI ICZ would most likely be held in the first week of September 2012 at the University of Haifa. The conference will open on Sunday evening and finish on Friday at noon and include a half day tour. The mayor of Haifa will support the congress. The university is on the border of a national park. A number of bus lines service the university. Student accommodation will be available for use. The main hall can accommodate up to 350 people. The ISZS website will be used to provide information. The first call or announcements will take place in February 2010.

Dr Stenseth suggested that the congress should be themed so a topic can be developed across the Congress. Select people for plenary sessions and then ask them to recommend people for establishing symposium.

Dr Haim asked the group: should each symposium have a plenary or should each plenary have associated symposia? We need a core meeting of zoologists at least once a day. Also, poster sessions should be focused and guided. Guided sessions also benefit students, we have a responsibility for teaching students too.

Dr Jallon informed the group that the General Assembly of the IUBS in Beijing in 2012 will feature a Scientific Symposium and this could be linked to our Congress theme. This was strongly supported by all members present.

Dr Xie reminded the group that our publishing partner has requested that the ISZS include subscription fees for Integrative Zoology in the next Congress registration fee. There was not a great deal of support for this notion, except if the subscription rate was heavily discounted.

Dr Jallon told the group that based on his experience in Paris the advertising of student awards and call for papers should be done earlier and visas should be applied for in advance.

0945 Dr Stenseth had to leave the meeting and a break was taken. Meeting resumed at 1000.

G. Financial report by Mr Han, Treasurer

Mr Han tabled a financial report for financial years 08-09 and 09-10.

Some discussion was held around membership fees and whether the ISZS can begin charging individual membership fees. Indeed, a small amount of money per person was provided from the organizing committee of the XX ICZ to cover those participants becoming members of the ISZS. The ISZS could now request national zoological societies to pay a small amount of money for each member they have (essentially a corporate/institutional membership fee).

H. Working groups

Dr Haim proposed the creation of a working group on the effects of light pollution on wildlife. Dr Polymeni indicated she would support the creation of a working group to address zoological education and cross-cultural issues.

I. Broader geographic representation in committee

Dr Jallon proposed creating three new Executive Committee positions: (1) a post to be occupied by the chief-organizer of the Congress following the next Congress; (2) a member from South America; (3) a member from Africa.

J. Scheduling of International Symposia of Integrative Zoology

Dr Polymeni and Dr Jallon proposed that ISIZ be held every four years in between Congresses. This proposal was not widely supported and instead it was felt that the ISIZ should be flexible and responsive to the needs of the ISZS and its research programs.

Dr Zhang suggested the next ISIZ should take place in 2011 in Beijing.

K. Update on the progress of INZ and current negotiations with Wiley-Blackwell

Mr Bravery informed the group of the progress of INZ, its application for indexation and current negotiations with our partner publisher Wiley-Blackwell. Wiley-Blackwell and the ISZS are currently negotiating a new co-publishing agreement as the global economic slowdown has put Wiley under additional financial pressure and their expectation is that INZ should be generating greater revenue for them.

It was agreed that the ISZS needed to continue to support the journal and that members should be contacted to encourage subscription. It was also agreed that a new system of 'Subject / Field Editors' would be trialed.

L. Next meeting

Dr Jallon moved (as suggested by Dr Buckeridge) that an informal meeting of the ISZS Executive take place in Cape Town, South Africa in October 2009 during the Annual IUBS meeting. He also suggested that the ISZS did not necessarily need to meet around a table each time and alternative methods could be investigated.

Closing

The meeting was closed at around 1300 by Jean-Marc Jallon