

International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science
Division of History of Science

The Secretary General

Minutes of the General Assembly
Beijing, China, 27 and 29 July 2005

First Session

Time: 9:00-13:00, July 27

Location: Expert Club, Friendship Hotel, Beijing, China

1. President E.Ihsanoglu opened the General Assembly by delivering a welcome message, and suggesting that candidates for major posts of the next Council of the DHS give a speech in this General Assembly and not following the customary procedure. This proposal was approved.
2. The Agenda for this meeting previously prepared by the Secretary General was approved.
3. Secretary-General J. J. Saldaña delivered his report, in which he mentioned that the detailed information and documents on his activities 2001-1005 was available in a webpage created for him on a such matter (www.prodigyweb.net.mx/saldanaji/)

And in particular he specified:

- The need for transformation: In the last four years important transformations were produced in the environment in which the DHS is embedded, and new opportunities have arisen. However the organizational structures of the DHS are not yet responding in an optimal manner to these changes. The Division does not even count with a strategic plan on which to act upon. If we are really not only to survive in a globalized world but also if we are to fully undertake our mission as historians of science and technology, we must then push for a real change in order to serve the international scientific community and the broader society. This latter aim must be included in what we have traditionally considered our professional responsibility so our discipline achieves a real cultural influence in the contemporary world.
- The changes ICSU has undertaken and the resulting impact on the DHS: The series of changes that since 1999 the International Council for Science (ICSU), our main partner, implemented in its organization and goals directly reflected on us in two ways. First, by suppressing the grant block that was traditionally given to us and second by inviting us to participate in a competitive grant allocation program within ICSU's priorities. In 2002 we found ourselves in the need of conceiving us as a proactive institution capable of being able to be inserted in the new international scientific scenario. The "World History of Science Online: Databases of Bibliographic and Archival Sources" (WHSO) project that created by the Secretary General in collaboration with the President of the Commission on Bibliography and

Documentation was the first result of this attitude change. Fortunately this result was indeed very successful and ICSU and other international scientific organizations considered it a project of “Excellence” due to its importance in disseminating scientific culture through modern information and communication technologies and assigned it financial assistance for its commencement. On the history of the project and the achievements up to date can be consulted since last April at the webpage of the project www.dhs-whso.org.

- The significance and impact of WHSO project: The undertaking of this project implied a great number of actions always in collaboration with the Commission on Bibliography and Documentation. As well, International Council for Science, International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies and the International Social Science Council took part in our project and supported it under a new scheme of international interdisciplinary collaboration. The WHSO project has been considered a guide project in these three international scientific organizations regarding their connection with UNESCO and its new policies on project financing. This has opened up real possibilities for the project to continue to develop until its full completion. Not least importantly has been the result that the DHS achieved great visibility and increased international status from which we can expect in the near future interesting results for other areas of our activities. With the WHSO project we have acquired great experience that will most certainly be useful in future activities.
- Improved relations with our sister divisions DLMPS: Our relations with our sister division, the DLMPS have achieved new and more substantial results. A new cooperation agreement was negotiated with the DLMPS that takes into account the changes previously mentioned that ICSU introduced in 2001, as well as other aspects of the general running of both divisions within the framework of our Union. Likewise, the activities of the Joint Commission which we hold with the DLMPS were undertaken and I was able to participate in the Congress that the DLMPS organized in Spain two years ago, as well as in their General Assembly and in the meeting of their Council. Dag Westerstahl, the Secretary General of the DLMPS, was a colleague in which I found an ever-present willingness to collaborate in all aspects to further our relations and benefit both organizations and I wish to take this opportunity to thank him deeply for this.
- Relations with the DHS main partners: Our relations with our main partners, ICSU and CIPSH were also greatly increased during these years. I participated in the General Assemblies of CIPSH that took place in Benin (2002) and China (2004) as well as in ICSU’s that took place in Brazil (2002), and was honored to assist various commission in both assemblies. I also represented the DHS in the meeting of scientific unions organized by ICSU in Paris 2004. However, the salient point of our new relation with both Councils has been derived from the WHSO project by granting us their full support as I have mentioned before. Since 2003 I informed the International Social Sciences Council (ISSC) on the existence of our project and in their recent General Assembly that took place in this same city last November, the

ISSC decided to support our project and take it on as their own once we are adhered to this Council. This is of utmost significance since it would be the first time that the three scientific councils related to UNESCO would have a common project thanks to a strategic alliance with our Division. The ISSC of course has other fronts on which it is working which will undoubtedly be of interest to our division and which can also give way to bilateral collaboration schemes with the ISSC or multilateral schemes with the two other councils to which we belong.

- Updating of DHS Bylaws: Two main changes in our Statutes and Rules of Procedures were promoted by the Secretary-General to be submitted for approval to this General Assembly. The first one was the addition of the word “Technology” in the name of our Division in order to recognize the importance and professional value of the history of technology developed by our members. The second one was the acknowledgment of the need to include gender balance and cultural diversity amongst the members of the DHS Council. In the preparation of those proposals it was praiseworthy the help I received from ICOHTEC’s President and several members of the Commission of Women in Science.
- DHS national committees, commissions, joint commissions and scientific sections: During the past four years the Secretary-General maintained a permanent communication with all the DHS constituency. Regarding the national committees and commissions most of the report of activities of the ordinary members for the period of 2001-2005 (which are available upon request) were received and the main achievements were summarized to the General Assembly

Finally Professor Saldaña mentioned that he received during the last four years financial support for his activities as Secretary General of the IUHPS/DHS from Mexican authorities and from the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

4. Treasurer E. Nicolaidis presented the financial reports for years 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005 (until July 15), which is available on the website of the DHS. Members raised some questions and proposals regarding the reports, and the Secretary-General and Treasurer answered the questions respectively.

5. According to the Agenda, all members discussed and passed by majority three resolutions:

- i) Appointment of four members in charge of scrutinizing the accounts:
Four members are respectively Christopher Cullen from UK, Sergei Demidov from Russia, Wenlin Li from China, and Rod Home from Australia.
- ii) Reform the Rule of Procedure 2.1, and which now reads: “The Nominating Committee set up by the Council to nominate two or more candidates for each vacancy in the Council consistent with Article 2.1 shall have its recommendations to Ordinary Members dispatched through the Secretary General no later than three months before each General Assembly. The DHS is a scientific organization that promotes the proper gender balance and cultural diversity. All elective

representatives from the DHS, including those from its Commissions and Scientific Sections, should be designated following this principle, whenever possible”.

iii) Change the DHS name by adding the word “Technology”.

6. Candidates for main posts (President and Secretary-General) of the next Council of DHS gave speech on their ideas about the post:

Vladimir Kirsanov (Russia) and Ronald Numbers (USA) (candidates for the post of President) made their speeches;

Juan José Saldaña (Mexico) and Efthymios Nicolaidis (Greece) (candidates for the post of Secretary-General) made their speeches.

Second Session.

Time: 9 a.m.-2.p.m., July 29th, 2005

Location: Conference Hall, Friendship Hotel, Beijing, China

1. President E. Ihsanoglu announced the procedure for the election of the posts of the next Council. Each member was issued a list of candidates.
2. As agreed by members through voting, S. Chalhoub from Syria and M.I.D. Chughtai from Pakistan were taken away from the list due to unpaid membership for the past three years. Likewise, some national commissions (Bulgaria and Kyrgyzstan) had no rights to vote for having defaulted their annual fees in the past three years.
3. Two scrutinizers were elected: Wesley Stevens (Canada) and Franklin James (Britain)
4. The proposal to adhere to the International Social Sciences Council (ISSC) was rejected through voting.
5. Proposal to validate Euro for payment of dues was accepted through voting with 35 for the proposal and 5 against the proposal. It is also clarified that other countries not belonging to the Euro zone can also choose to pay their fees either in Euro or in US dollars.
6. The Council proposed to establish a solidarity fund to assist the different activities of the Division with 20 Euros or dollars to pay for DHS international congresses attendants applicable beginning from the 23rd Congress. Members agreed on allocating a fixed amount for the above purpose, with four members (UK, US, Austria, Israel) against the proposal and the rest for the proposal. The Assembly strongly recommends that these funds be used to help the participation of young scholars. The new Council to be elected shall decide on the specific affairs thereof.
7. Prof. R. Home, the financial scrutinizer, gave a report after examining the financial reports presented by E. Nicolaidis (DHS) and J.J. Saldana (WHSO Project). He accepted the materials submitted by E. Nicolaidis, and pointed out that a few items in documents prepared by J. J. Saldana seemed strange and he didn't provide accounting information on an amount of 8,000 dollars received for WHSO project experts meeting.
8. R. Home, the financial scrutinizer also made four suggestions, which were approved by the majority of the members: The Treasurer's accounts be accepted and he be acquitted of his responsibilities; the incoming Treasurer be instructed to seek less costly banking arrangements; Professor Saldana present to the next meeting of the Council an audited financial report on all monies received by him for the WHSO project, fully supported

- by relevant invoices, receipts and bank statements; for the future, it be a definite policy of the DHS, that all monies granted to the DHS, for any purpose, be transferred to the Treasurer, and its expenditure be administered by him or her.
9. The proposal to create a new commission on Science and Religion was not approved.
 10. The proposal made by L. Cormack (Canada) to create an ad hoc committee on commissions, procedures and standards, was approved.
 11. Dag Westerthal, Secretary General of the Division of Logic Methodology and Philosophy of Science, also the observer of the General Assembly, provided the resolutions reached with Prof. Saldaña and approved by the councils of both divisions on the cooperation of the two sister divisions. The Assembly approved the proposal on New Agreement of cooperation with the Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science.
 12. Prof. Eva Vamos delivered a speech on the application of Hungarian National Committee and the Academy of Sciences of Hungary to hold the next Congress. In the speech, she introduced the conditions they can provide, the enthusiasm they have, and the significance for such event to be held in Hungary. This application was unanimously approved by all the members in the Assembly.
 13. Proposal to designate Professor Paolo Galluzzi as the Chairman of the International Program Committee of 23rd International Congress of History of Science was unanimously approved in the Assembly.
 14. Unanimous consent was reached for the following people to take the following commission presidents:

Ancient and Medieval Astronomy Commission: S.M. Razaullah Ansari
Bibliography and Documentation Commission: Peter Harper
East Asia Commission: Christopher Cullen
Islamic Civilization: Jamil Ragep
Meteorology Commission: Cornelia Ludecke
Modern Physics: Helge Kragh- Roger Stuewer
Modern Chemistry: Christoph Meinel
Oceanography: Keith Benson
Pacific Circle Commission: Roy MacLeod
Scientific Instruments Commission: Paolo Brenni
Science and Empire Commission: Michael Osborne
Teaching Commission: Jaroslav Folta
Women in Science Commission: Annette Vogt
ICOHTEC: Hans J. Braun
IASCUD: Wesley Stevens
History of Astronomy C41/ ICHA (with IAU): Alexander Gurshtein
History of Geography (with IGU): Hector Mendoza
History of Geological Science (with IUGS): Philippe. Tacquet
Internacional Commission for the History of Mathematics (with IMU): Karen V. H. Parshall
History of Soil Science: Benno. Warkentin
International Committee for the History of Metrology (ICHM): Jean-Claude Hocquet

14. The members of the Assembly also agreed by majority that the maximum term for one individual to work as the President of the above Commissions is eight years (two terms).

15. The new IUHPS/DHST Council 2005-2009 were elected by ballot:

President: Ronald Numbers (USA), with 47 votes

1st Vice President: Liu Dun (China), with 66 votes

2nd Vice President: Fabio Bevilacqua (Italy), with 25 votes in the first round, 33 votes in the second round

Secretary General: Efthymios Nicolaidis (Greece), with 50 votes

Assistant Secretary General: Eva Vamos (Hungary), with 38 votes

Treasurer: Ida Stamhuis (Netherlands), with 60 votes

Assessors: Lesley Cormack (Canada), with 40 votes

Ubiratan d'Ambrosio (Brazil), with 54 votes

Abdul Hafiz Mohamot (Egypt), with 45 votes

Michio Yano (Japan), with 53 votes

Catherine Jami (France), with 54 votes

Alexey Postnikov (Russia), with 41 votes

16: As proposed by the President of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Prof. Lu Yongxiang, the Beijing Declaration was formally approved with a couple of modifications added; these are adding the word “technology” to the phrases “history of science”.

17. The Secretary General reminded that his predecessors left their position after the General Assembly and he said he would do the same. He said that Efthymios Nicolaidis was the Secretary General of the division from this same moment. He then expressed that during the last eight years he have had the wonderful opportunity to serve devotedly the DHS as organizer of the previous international congress in Mexico and as Secretary General of the division and he thanked all those who helped him in his responsibility during this time.

18. At the end of the meeting, the President Prof. E. Ihsanoglu invited the full members of the two Councils to meet for the first time including both the previous and new assessors to consider and clarify the functions of the assessors.