

REPORT OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE XXIst GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE IUCr, Osaka, Japan, August 2008.

Canadian delegates: Louis Delbaere (Chair), Joe Schrag and Pamela Whitfield. Alternate Canadian Representative: Lachlan Cranswick

The General Assembly opened on August 24 at 21:00 hrs. Professor Yuji Ohashi was in the Chair.

1. Appendix 1. *Approval of the Agenda*. The full agenda was approved.
2. Appendix 3. *Application for Membership of the Union*. The Regional Committee of Crystallographers from Algeria, Latvia, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine had submitted an application for membership of the IUCr in Category I; this Adhering Body undertakes to pay the dues (guaranteed by the European Crystallographic association for two triennia). This was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.
The Regional Committee of Crystallographers from Bangladesh, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam had submitted an application for membership of the IUCr in Category I; this Adhering Body undertakes to pay the dues (guaranteed by the Crystallographic Association of Japan and the Society for Crystallographers in Australia and New Zealand for two triennia). This was approved unanimously by the General Assembly.
3. Appendix 4. *Withdrawal of Adhering Bodies*. The financial problems with the payment of dues have not been resolved for the Adhering Body in Venezuela; the Executive Committee therefore recommended that this membership in the IUCr be cancelled. The General Assembly approved the cancellation of membership by a substantial majority
4. Appendix 5. *Change of Names of Adhering Bodies*. The Adhering Body of The Korean National committee for Crystallography has been changed to the Korean Crystallographic Association and requested approval of the change of name for the Adhering Body. The General Assembly approved the name change.
5. Appendix 6. *Changes in Category of Adhering Bodies*. The Adhering Body for India (the National Science Academy) requested a change from Category II (three unit subscriptions) to Category III (six unit subscriptions). The request was approved by the General Assembly.
6. Appendix 7. *Approval of the Minutes*. The Minutes of the XXth General Assembly were approved without change.
7. Appendix 8. *Amendments to Statutes and By-Laws not affecting adherence to the Union*. The USA National Committee for Crystallography proposed amendments to the Statutes and By-Laws as follows:
 - i) One representative from each of the Three Regional Associates, who is not elected in the General Assembly of the IUCr should be a member of the Executive Committee
 - ii) Any crystallographer has a right to speak in the General Assembly

- iii) At least two nominees for the election of each IUCr Officer should be presented

During the discussion, it was mentioned that the purpose of these amendments was to try to equalize the number of representatives on the Executive Committee from each Regional Associate. Canada supported amendments i) and iii). Nevertheless all of the amendments were rejected by the General Assembly. It should be noted that 41 votes in favour of each amendment were necessary to have these accepted. However, the total votes for each amendment were 12, 35 and 25, respectively. Thus, all proposed amendments were rejected. It should also be noted that the number of votes against each amendment and the number of votes abstaining were never called for.

8. Appendix 9. *Report of the Executive Committee*. This report was given in some detail in the Agenda. Yuji Ohashi outlined a few of its salient points and the report was then accepted by the General Assembly.
9. Appendix 10. *Financial Report*. The General Secretary and Treasurer of the IUCr, Sven Lidin, gave an extensive report on the financial state of the IUCr. The total assets have increased by CHF 767,506 to CHF 5,019,330, or 18% since the triennium. The Crystallography Journals Online and the International Tables Online have been developed and the Union is now operating with a small surplus of income over expenditure. The Union is predicted to operate with a small surplus in the coming triennium. The General Fund carries the income and expenditure related to the IUCr's administration and its regular scientific activities, other than publications. The income has two main sources, the subscriptions from Adhering Bodies and the interest income from investments and bank accounts. Expenditures for administration, subscription to ICSU, administrative meetings and scientific meetings were 19% higher than predicted. Investments are held primarily for long-term gain and since the Union is operating at a small surplus, there is no need to realize any of the investments.
10. Appendix 11. The Ewald Prize was established in 1986 for outstanding contributions to the science of crystallography. The Prize consists of a medal, a certificate and an award of USD 30,000. It is presented during the triennial IUCr Congresses. The eighth Ewald Prize was presented at the Congress Opening Ceremony in Osaka to David Sayre for the unique breadth of his contributions to crystallography. **Louis Delbaere (Canada)** was a member of the 2008 Ewald Prize Selection Committee.
11. Appendix 12. *Commission on Journals*. A full report on the state of the *Acta Crystallographica* series was included in the Agenda.
12. Appendix 13. *Commission on International Tables*. All eight volumes are available online. Revisions of several of the volumes and the further development of International Tables online are planned.

13. Appendix 14. *Committee on Electronic Publishing, Dissemination and Storage of Information*. Howard D. Flack retired as Chair of the Committee at the Florence Congress and a suitable replacement has still to be found. The crystallographic nexus CD-ROM project of **Lachlan Cranswick (Canada)** continues; standard writable CD-ROM production for distribution in the developing world contains crystallographic software, web browsing software and general interest software.
Robert Gould has become Editor of Crystallography News Online.
14. Appendix 15. *Committee for the Maintenance of the CIF Standard (COMCIFS)*. Eighteen years have passed since the IUCr adopted the Crystallographic Information Framework (CIF). COMCIFS has the responsibility for managing CIF and has moved from the production of dictionaries to the coordination of software. **I. David Brown (Canada)** was the Chair of COMCIFS.
15. Appendix 16. *Committee on Crystallographic Databases*. The IUCr will play a neutral, facilitating role with respect to new and existing databases.
16. Appendix 17 *IUCr Newsletter*. The Newsletter promotes the interests and activities of the IUCr and enhances communication within the crystallographic global community. Substantial reports on the history and activities of crystallography from fourteen countries were published as a major item in one (or more) issue(s) of the *IUCr Newsletter*. **The Canadian National Committee of the IUCr, in consultation with Canadian crystallographers, has provided such a report to the IUCr Newsletter. Lachlan Cranswick is Editor of this report, which will be published in the next triennium.**
17. Appendix 18. *IUCr/Oxford University Press Book Series Committee*. Important topics in crystallography continue to be published in the IUCr/OUP Series. The Committee encourages proposals for new books in the series and prospective authors should contact the Chair, H. Schenk.
18. Appendix 19. *Non-publishing Commissions*. Before the General Assembly the Executive Committee had met with the members of all 17 Non-Publishing Committees. The reports of the commissions were received and the Chairs or a representative of the chair were each asked if they wished to speak to the report. Each report was open to questions from the General Assembly. **Hanna Dabkowska (Canada)** was the Chair of the Commission of Crystal Growth and Characterization of Materials and she represented this Commission.
19. Appendix 20. *Proposals for New Commissions*. A proposal for a Commission on Crystallography in Art and Cultural Heritage had been received. The reasons for the proposal were outlined in the agenda and the Executive Committee recommended that the proposal be accepted. This was approved by the General Assembly.
20. Appendix 21. *Review of existing Commissions*. A proposal was received to change the name of the Commission on Electron Diffraction to the Commission on Electron Crystallography.

This name change was supported by the all the members of the Commission and by the Executive Committee. This was approved by the General Assembly.

21. Appendix 22. *Determination of the number of elected members on each Commission.* The Agenda listed the current membership list. It was proposed by the Executive Committee that the Commission on Aperiodic Crystals be expanded from 8 to 10, the Commission on Biological Molecules, be expanded from 10 to 12, the Commission on Mathematical and Theoretical Crystallography from 9 to 10 and the Commission on XAFS be reduced from 8 to 7. These changes were all approved by the General Assembly.
22. Appendix 23. *Regional and Scientific Associates.* There are three regional bodies associated with the IUCr, the American, Asian and European Crystallographic Associations (ACA, AsCA & ECA). In each case, a member of the Executive Committee of the IUCr serves as the IUCr representative to the association and the Chair of each of the Associations and the appropriate IUCr Executive representative reported on the activities of the Association to the General Assembly. For the ACA: Iris Torriani (IUCr) reported that the 2006 Annual meeting took place in Honolulu, Hawaii and the 2007 Annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Newsletter, *ACA RefleXions* continues to be an excellent source of information on ACA activities. For the AsCA Gautam Desiraju (IUCr) reported that in 2006 the joint meeting of the AsCA and the annual meeting of the Crystallographic Society of Japan met in Tsukuba, Japan. The 2007 meeting of the AsCA took place in Taipei, Taiwan. For the ECA, Chris Gilmore reported that the 2006 ECM was held in Leuven, Belgium and the 2007 ECM was held in Marrakech, Morocco.
International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD) is represented by Jim Kaduk to the Commission on Powder Diffraction.
International Organization of Crystal Growth (IOCG) was reported on by **Hanna Dabkowska**.
23. Appendix 24. *Bodies not belonging to the Union.* Reports were also received from the Interdivisional Committee on Terminology, Nomenclature and Symbols of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC ICTNS) by A. Authier, the International Council for Science (ICSU) by Bill Duax, ISCU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) by Brian McMahon, the ICSU Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) by **Hanna Dabkowska** and the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI) by John Helliwell.
24. Appendix 25. *Sponsorship of Meetings* Davide Viterbo presented a detailed report of all the activities of the IUCr Sub-Committee on the Union Calendar. During the last three years the committee has made recommendations to the Executive Committee for sponsorship and financial support for over 60 conferences and workshops, with the emphasis on financial support for students and for those from countries where crystallography is, as yet, less developed. Particular emphasis was placed on applicants from Africa and South America. The financial support each year ranged between CHF 108K and 175K. **Louis Delbaere** has been a member of this Sub-Committee.

25. Appendix 26. *Confirmation of the Date and Place of the 21st General Assembly.* The location of the XXIInd General Assembly, Madrid, Spain for August 2008, was confirmed.

26. Appendix 27. *Preliminary consideration of date and place of the XXIIIrd General Assembly.* There were three groups applying for consideration to hold the 22nd Congress. The National Research Council of Canada proposed to hold the 2014 Congress in Montreal, the Regional Committee of the Czech and Slovak Crystallographic Association proposed to hold the Congress in Prague, and the India National Science Academy and the Indian Crystallographic Association proposed to hold the Congress in Hyderabad, India. After a secret ballot, Prague was dropped from the list of possible hosts. After a second secret ballot, **the XXIIIrd General Assembly and Congress was provisionally scheduled for Montreal in August 2014.** This is to be confirmed at the General Assembly in Madrid in 2011.

27. Appendix 30. *Budget Estimates.* The recommendation that the Unit Contribution remain at its current level was approved.

28. Appendix 31. *Confirmation of appointments of Editors of publications for the Union.* G. Kostorz was confirmed as Editor-in-Chief for the IUCr Journals. The re-appointment of all the other editors was also confirmed. **Among these were the Canadians : George Ferguson re-appointed as Editor of Section C of *Acta Crystallographic* and Co-Editors: J. Barbier (Acta C), I.D. Brown (Acta E), B. Hazes (Acta F), A.J. Lough (Acta E) and A. Mar (Acta E) and M. Parvez (Acta E).**

H. Fuess was re-appointed as General Editor of *International Tables*.

29. Appendix 32. The recommendation of the Executive Committee for appointments and re-appointments were approved by the General Assembly. **Among the appointees are the Canadians: P. L. Howell, Commission on Biological Macromolecules; H.A. Dabkowska (Chair), Commission on Crystal Growth and Characterisation of Materials; L.M.D. Cranswick (Chair), Commission on Crystallographic Computing; George Ferguson and I. David Brown as members of the Commission on Journals and the Commission on Crystallographic Nomenclature; L.M.D. Cranswick, Commission on Crystallographic Teaching; P. Mercier, Commission on Inorganic and Mineral Structures; Pamela Whitfield (Chair), Commission on Powder Diffraction; Pawel Grochulski, Commission on Synchrotron Radiation; F. Jalilehvand, commission on XAFS. David Brown was re-appointed as the Chair for the IUCr Committee for the Maintenance of the CIF standard and H.A. Dabkowska was appointed as the IUCr representative to the International Organisation of Crystal Growth (IOCG) and as the IUCr representative to the International Council for Science Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and Pamela Whitfield was appointed as IUCr representative to the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD).**

30. *Election of Officers of the Union.* The Executive Committee presented a two candidates for the position of President and a single candidate each for Vice President and General Secretary and Treasurer of the Union and a slate of nine names from which three were to be selected to serve a period of six years as ordinary members. One or two additional persons from the six was/were also to be selected to serve for a three-year term (since an ordinary member (Chris Gilmore (UK) and a non-member Sine Larsen (France)) had been proposed to serve as President). A vote was taken for President and Sine Larsen was elected for a three-year term. The General Assembly had no problem with the recommendations for the Vice-President and General Secretary and Treasurer. Peter Colman (Australia and Sven Lidin (Sweden) were elected to these two positions, respectively.
31. *Election of ordinary members.* The General Assembly was given a ballot paper with the nine names and asked to vote for no more than three of them. The Delegates were informed that any person receiving 50% [surely over 50%] would be elected and if three were not elected on the first ballot, then the person with the lowest vote count would be eliminated and the delegates would vote again. In the first four ballots no one received the necessary votes to be elected for the six-year terms. In the fifth ballot J. M. Perez-Mato (Spain) was elected to a six-year term. In the sixth ballot **Louis Delbaere (Canada)** was elected to a six-year term. In the seventh ballot E. Boldyreva (Russia) was elected to a six-year term and C. Lecomte (France) was elected to a three-year term.

The Officers and Members of the executive Committee

Sine Larsen (France)	President
Yuji Ohashi (Japan)	Past President
Peter Colman (Australia)	Vice President
Sven Lidin (Sweden)	General Secretary and Treasurer
E. Boldyreva (Russia)	Ordinary Member – 6 years
Louis Delbaere (Canada)	“ “
J. M. Perez-Mato (Spain)	“ “
Gautam Desiraju (India)	Ordinary Member – 3 years
Chris Gilmore (UK)	“ “
Claude Lecomte (France)	“ “

27. At the end of the elections the President declared the General Assembly Adjourned at 21:40 hrs August 29, 2008.

General Comments: There were 84 delegates present at the General Assembly; the number of delegates for each country depended on the category that the country chose to fund. **Canada** as a category III delegation had three delegates. This is 3.5% of the total number. There were 9

Canadians appointed to the 18 commissions and 3 major committees. There are 129 commission members so that in this instance the **Canadians are represented above their expected proportion. In addition three Canadians are Chairs of Commissions – Hanna Dabkowska, Crystal Growth and Characterization of Materials; Lachlan Cranswick, Crystallographic Computing; Pamela Whitfield, Powder Diffraction. I. David Brown was re-appointed as the chair of the Committee on the Maintenance of CIF Standards.**

Of the 5 main Journals, G. Ferguson is Editor in Chief of Acta Cryst C, and we have 5 other Canadian co-editors among the 120 or so such editors.

The Canadian National Committee will be proposing more Canadian names for membership of the commissions and will be attempting to persuade some commissions to adopt appropriate Canadians as consultants to the commissions. This is often a first step to being appointed to the commission itself.

Louis Delbaere - Delegate to the XXIst General Assembly in Osaka, Japan.