

11th Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Broadcast Meteorology

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd August 2005 at 1730 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, USA, during the American Meteorological Society's 34th Conference on Broadcast Meteorology

In Attendance: Tomas Molina, Paul Gross, John Teather, Bill Giles, Claire Martin, Keith Monahan, Steve Swienckowski, Jay Trobec, Tom Hauf, Ed Gross, Stephan Andrade, Harry Volkman, Jim Jagers, Dan Satterfield, Steve Jerve, Fred Remer, T G Shuck, Jillene Wahl, John Collins, Yoshimitsu Tezuka, Yoshikazu Idesako, John Toohey Morales

1. Apologies for absence, and notification of postal votes.

Written Apologies were received from Dr John Zillman, Daniel Corbett, Gemma Puig, Ian Miller, Steve Quoa, Albert Berniol, Monica Lopez

2. Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting held in Barcelona on Thursday 3rd June 2004.

Adoption of the minutes were proposed by Paul Gross, seconded by Dan Satterfield and approved by the members.

3. Any matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

4. Report of the outgoing Chairman, Tomas Molina.

First, I have to say that this has been my first time in a chair of an international association, and it has been a great experience. I have to say that it has been, mainly, because of the great committee we all at IABM have.

After the Barcelona Conference, I think our association has become more mature and has granted even more international respect. In this year we have re-activated UP FRONT, thanks to our editor John Teather. It has now more color, more participation among the membership. It is now sent to all Permanent Representatives of WMO (the directors of the National Weather Services) this will help to build/strengthen relationships between NWS and media in every country.

*We have read in the last edition of UP FRONT that we have set the basis for the **Accreditation Scheme**. We will focus in the will for continuous development, run by National Meteorological societies, and with the compromise to credit the watches and warnings issued by the NWS. We continue to make progress on this, and we already have been approached by several Met. Societies from Africa and Europe.*

During this year, we have begun to develop more initiatives around the world. In Europe we participate at the European Meteorological Society meeting in Nice and Claire Martin and myself are members of the organizing committee of the Forum International de la Météo that will take place in October in Toulouse, where many of us will have the chance to meet.

From the EMS event, we co-opted Steve Quoa to be part of the IABM committee as an African Representative, that will allow us to be more active in Africa from the inside, to provide training and help them to build capacities.

In Asia, we have got serious approaches from Hong Kong and Japan. I was invited to be member of the jury of the Japan Weather Festival. I have to say that there are a number of things to learn on how the Japan people present de weather information on TV. There is a formal proposal of cooperation with Meteorological Business Support Center of Japan.

As every year, we were present at the Executive Council of WMO; I have participated in the elaboration of the Technical Note on Socio-economical Impact of Climate information. Gerald Fleming is the new chair of Public Weather Services program, and John and Bill have been doing some training for meteorologist from developing countries.

*As you have seen in last edition of UP FRONT, we have begun with the elaboration of a **video gallery** of weather presentations from the whole world. Many of you have sent their videos. Keep in mind that if you do so, you will have a copy of the gallery for a cost price.*

*We are working very actively for the **Second World Conference on Broadcast Meteorology** to be held in Monterrey (Mexico) in 2007. Thins are going OK in the preparation of this big event. Make a hole in you agenda.*

We are not as happier with the financial matters. Gerald has done a great job with the little money we have, but we need more income to fulfill all the activities we are running nowadays. Please, make sure to pay your membership dues.

For the future, we are quite excited. We have the World Conference of Monterrey and the video gallery that allow as to know better what's happening around the world and know each other, we are in conversation with the World Bank and others to seek for financial help, we want to develop a regular training activity as an association, and we will try to increase our membership.

*Big challenge!
Our forecast is that we will achieve it!*

5. Report of the outgoing Honorary Secretary, Bill Giles.

The Honorary Secretary report on the two committee meetings held during the year. He then read the following statement from the African Representative on the committee:

*Mr. Chairman,
I must say with all gratitude and sincerity that putting Africa on your Agenda for discussions is a clear manifestation of the bond of fellowship that we share as Meteorologists.*

Mr chairman, I feel that, the time has come when the IABM must excel where the world population will have no choice than to listen to us. I hope you will be guided by the shrewdness and intelligence of your mind to formulate pragmatic policies that will go a long way to help the Association. I know the challenge is great as you attempt to deal with the many demands this situation creates, I have no doubt at all that you will be able to do it. We in Ghana recall with pride the strides made by the IABM.

Formation Of Regional Associations.

Mr Chairman, you will agree with me that, we have been called to conscientise the minds of the world population about the change in the weather and climate that has devastated many countries. A case in point is the recent Tsunami that hit the Asian coast and also The Hurricane Denis, which devastated the U.S.A. That is why I find the formation of regional Association relevant.

With regards to the above, we in Africa would like to say with pride and gratitude that 'Barcelona 2004' was a nice recipe and a wake-up call for the birth of the Association of Africa Broadcast Meteorologists

Mr. chairman I wish to also to take this opportunity to present the following proposals for considerations by the executive body.

Name Of The Association.

That the Association will be known and called "The Association of Africa Broadcast Meteorologists"

Membership.

Membership of the Association will be open to all interested meteorologists or journalists who would like to be trained to become One.

Steering Committee.

A 7-member committee has been proposed. This will comprise of both Anglophone and Francophone countries. I have talked to Aziz Diop of Senegal about it. I am however yet to hear from him.

Constitution.

The Association will adopt that of the IABM except where there is the need to alter few sentences to suit our region.

Registration.

Registration of members will start in earnest when the house endorses the formation. We hope to finish that by the end of this year and then I will forward the list to your office.

Activities.

We would attempt to hold the first regional meeting in June next year.

Funding/ Sponsorship.

This will be mainly from the NGO'S and other governmental organizations. The assistance of the mother Associations will be sought from time to time. That's why I personally hail the suggestion by Tomas to seek Assistance from the World Bank is relevant. This will encourage full participation in programmes organized by the IABM.

Accreditation Scheme.

On the above subject, Mr. Chairman, I have floated the idea awaiting responses from my colleagues. Sister Lucy from Zambia requested for a direction. She is a new colleague. Mr. Fleming has referred this issue to me. I have addressed her as such. Mr. Chairman, accreditation scheme in Africa is a very big issue which has to be tackled diplomatically because most of the meteorologists in Africa are Civil Servants. Any of such move will quickly be misconstrued. I will have to discuss in detail with them to know what pertains in each country.

Mr. Chairman, it is our expectation that at the end of the deliberations, you will arrive at decisions and policies that will push the Association forward. As I have told you already, I am currently in New York but I can't come because of financial constraints.

We wish you all successful deliberations.

Rev. Steve Nyarkotey Quao.
(Africa Representative).

Following a discussion on the whole idea of regionalising the IABM, in particular Africa and Asia, members decided that more time was needed to ensure that this far reaching change to the way in which the organisation was constituted required more consideration. The committee were requested to formulate an approach that they could recommend to the AGM in 2006 for adoption.

6. Report of the outgoing Treasurer, Gerald Fleming.

**International Association of Broadcast Meteorology
Income / Expenditure for 2004 (In Euro)**

Carried Forward from 2003			€1,650
Income			
Interest earned	7		
Subscriptions	5,686		
Forum 2004	25,000		
WMO Training Subvention	20,080		
Turisme de Catalunya	9,000	59,773	€61,423
Expenditure			

Printing – Up Front	1,581	1,581		
Mailing and Stationary	537	537		
Website				
Registration Fees / Maintenance	224			
Editorial (12 months)	4,463	4,687		
Meetings and Conferences				
Geneva – WMO Exec. Council	1,199			
Nice – EMS Meeting	858			
Committee Expenses	101	2,158		
Legal Fees				
Credit card / Bank Charges	169	169		
Exhibition Material	726	726		
First World Conference				
TVC Netmedia / Tech Secr.	15,001			
Organising Committee Meetings	8,774	23,775		
WMO Training Course				
Turisme de Catalunya	13,801	13,801	56,498	56,498
	9,000	9,000		
Excess of income over expenditure			3,275	

In account, March 14th 2005

4,925

Made up as follows:

Current Account (" 963)	963
Deposit Account (US\$4,179)	3290
UK Account (£448)	672

N.B. Compiled using the following exchange rates: €1.00 = US\$1.27 = £0.67

Notes to the accounts:

1. The accounts are shown in Euro with the appropriate conversion rates to US Dollars and Pounds Sterling.
2. The IABM holds two bank accounts in the Republic of Ireland; one denominated in Euro and the other in US Dollars. It also has a further account in Pounds Sterling in the UK. This is to facilitate the collection of fees through the PayPal system.
3. Subscription income was very similar to the previous year.
4. Mr John Teather is paid a monthly honorarium of £250 for editing the website and Up Front.
5. The major items of expenditure were connected to the First World Conference on Broadcast Meteorology, and the associated WMO Training Course. Much of the expenditure shown in relation to attendance at Organising Committee meetings was incurred in 2003, but not claimed until 2004.
6. Of the €25,000 paid to the IABM by the Forum Organisation within the year, €15,000 went directly to TVC Netmedia in Barcelona who provided the services of Technical Secretariat to the Conference.
7. Committee meetings during the year were mostly held in conjunction with meetings of the Barcelona Organising Committee and the expenditure shown for other meetings is correspondingly down on previous years.
8. The costs shown against attendance at the meeting of the EMS in Nice were substantially recovered from a EU COST fund; this repayment arrived in June of 2005.
9. Income and expenditure figures shown relating to Turisme de Catalunya relate to their participation in the Exhibition in Barcelona, but are in reality these monies were only "passing through" our accounts for technical reasons.
10. These Forum and WMO funds help to disguise the fact that we took in about €6,000 in subscription income but spent about €10,000 on our day-to-day activities. Obviously we need to increase our membership significantly, and recover the annual subscription fees more effectively from our existing membership.

Gerald Fleming
Treasurer
26th June 2005

Adoption of the financial report was proposed by Steve Swienckowski and seconded by Ed Gross.

7. Election of Directors and Officers

The following committee members were elected following a proposal by Dan Satterfield and seconded by John Toohey Morales

Chairman	Tomas Molina
Secretary	John Teather
Treasurer	Gerald Fleming
Vice-Chairman	Claire Martin
Membership Secretary	Inge Niedek
Publications Secretary	Bill Giles
Ordinary Directors	Dieter Walch, Paul Gross
Non-Director Committee members	Gemma Puig, Tammy Garrison, Stephen Quoa, and Yoshikazu Idesako

8. Resolutions.

There were no resolutions.

9. Any other business.

Paul Gross expressed the thanks of the IABM to the AMS for providing exhibition space and the meeting room for the AGM without any charge.

Paul further suggested a scheme be investigated where members could gain beneficial access to the products available from the Storm Centre, in particular from developing countries.