

Message from the President

IAVCEI Futures

Introduction

In this article an analysis of IAVCEI and its possible futures is outlined. This has been up to now a discussion document for the Executive Committee, but in this Newsletter the debate is opened up amongst the members. I encourage members of IAVCEI to send their ideas to the Executive Officers on how IAVCEI might grow, what initiatives IAVCEI should be developing and about how funds to achieve these objectives might be found. I first of all summarize what IAVCEI is about just to set the scene and then carry out a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats). Our aim is to develop a broad strategy and the ideas in this article are part of the current thinking. However the Officers recognise that we are unlikely to have thought of everything and that are very open to inputs from the membership.

What is IAVCEI?

The International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) is the major international scientific organisation for volcanology. IAVCEI represents over 700 scientists from 60 countries world-wide and has national correspondents from 56 countries. The Association was founded in 1927 and is a member association of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), which is itself part of the family of international scientific unions (ICSU). IAVCEI has established some independence as a scientific organization through establishment of personal membership.

The main objectives of IAVCEI are to promote scientific understanding of volcanism and to apply this knowledge to the mitigation of volcanic hazards. The Association perspectives are very much international and IAVCEI supports co-operation and collaboration within the scientific community. These objectives are principally met by holding scientific meetings and publication of new scientific results. IAVCEI has fifteen scientific Commissions which are concerned with more specialist aspects of volcanology. Included amongst the Commissions is the World Organisation of Volcano Observations (WOVO). IAVCEI has also developed strong interests in education, matters relating to the

scientific input to the management of volcanic crisis, and professional issues for volcanologists, such as safety and protocols for scientists working on erupting volcanoes. IAVCEI places a great deal of emphasis on supporting young scientists and scientists from economically deprived countries.

This article discusses the future of IAVCEI. While in general IAVCEI seems rather successful in terms of fulfilling its main mandate through the traditional ways of meetings and publication it is limited in a number of ways in its abilities to develop new initiatives, particularly in areas relating to education, public understanding of science, and in contributing to the mitigation of volcanic hazards. There is also a desire to improve its services

to members. The most important limitation is financial resources, so any aspiration to expand IAVCEI activities and services must first address the issue of how to increase capital funds and income. One view is that IAVCEI does not need to expand because it is already fulfilling its main function satisfactorily. Another view is that expansion is desirable so that IAVCEI can do better in its traditional areas (for example having the financial resources to support more young and developing world scientists and to take on new roles (for example by making education a more important aspect of IAVCEI activities). Realistic plans to expand need to balance aspirations with financial resources.



Steve Sparks, President

Resources

The two principal resources of IAVCEI are human and financial. Like many scientific organisations IAVCEI relies very much on the goodwill, commitment and dedication of its members. With the exception of a part-time membership secretary, all Executive Officers, Commission leaders and IAVCEI members involved in working groups, conference organization and editorial work are unpaid volunteers. This human resource is critical to the success of IAVCEI and to a very large extent the organisation thrives exceedingly well.

The funding of IAVCEI comes from two major sources: membership fees and an annual subvention of funds from the IUGG which depends on the numbers of IAVCEI members attending the IUGG General Assembly held every four years. There is also minor income from sales of calendars and videos. Taken together these sources of income amount to about \$US40K per year. The main expenditure involves the salary of a part-time membership secretary, production of a newsletter, some travel expenditure for Executive Officers and Executive Committee members to attend meetings, seed funds for scientific meetings and working group activities, and grants for young scientists and scientists from economically deprived countries.



Steve McNutt,
Secretary General

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IAVCEI HOMEPAGE: <http://www.iavcei.org/>

Message from the President

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The main scientific publication of IAVCEI is *Bulletin of Volcanology*, which is published by Springer Verlag. This publication is self-financing and members get low cost subscriptions to the *Journal* as one of their benefits.

Organisation

IAVCEI is run by two Executive Officers (the President and Secretary General) and an Executive Committee comprising the two officers, four members, the editor of *Bulletin of Volcanology*, the past President (ex-officio) and two Vice-Presidents. The President, Secretary-General and two Vice Presidents make up the Bureau of IAVCEI. The Officers and Committee are elected by the membership every four years. The President serves one four year term, but the Secretary General normally serves two terms, providing important continuity. The Executive Committee meets if possible once a year, but much of its business is pursued electronically. Office support and activities such as newsletter production and WEB-site management are usually based at the institution of the Secretary General, although there is no requirement for this arrangement, which is based on convenience. There is a part-time membership secretary whose main responsibilities are to collect fees, maintain an up-to-date membership list, and to circulate the newsletter.

SWOT Analysis

Here the position of IAVCEI in the context of its potential to expand its resources and activities is analysed in terms of SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats).

Strengths

Volcanoes are fascinating to the general public and in particular the young. Hardly a week goes by without a TV documentary on volcanoes, and eruptions are always newsworthy. IAVCEI is thus associated with one of the most exciting, dramatic and glamorous topics in the natural world, providing an immense opportunity for educating the public about the World we live in and science. There is no doubt that IAVCEI has a product which in principle is high profile and of very wide interest.

IAVCEI has fantastic resources and potential in terms of its members. Most of the World's experts in volcanoes are members of IAVCEI and many are also professional educators. The success of IAVCEI and a key strength are the voluntary contributions of its members. IAVCEI holds many excellent scientific meetings, promotes an international perspective on the science, and provides key support for young and developing world scientists. The international character of IAVCEI is a critical and a key strength.

Weaknesses

Any organisation that relies almost entirely on voluntary work is inevitably weakened by the fact that sometimes promises of help and work are not fulfilled. Every IAVCEI member is employed elsewhere and has commitments that sometimes have to take priority over voluntary activities.

For a whole variety of understandable reasons individuals sometimes cannot meet commitments for IAVCEI and important tasks are not done. It is thus quite hard for IAVCEI to be entirely efficient and wholly professional. There is thus a strong argument for supporting a limited secretariat, who are paid to carry out critical tasks as their main activity. This issue is explored further below.

IAVCEI is severely limited by its current finances. Probably about a third of the income is spent on essential running costs (Membership Secretary, Executive Committee meetings, newsletter), one third on support of scientific meetings, and one third on supporting young and developing world scientists to attend scientific meetings. There is little room for supporting new initiatives. There is a huge demand to help scientists with limited resources to attend meetings and develop science in their country, which are often countries particularly vulnerable to volcanic disasters. There is thus also a case for much larger resources to provide such assistance and to develop new ideas.

Opportunities

There are many opportunities and in many ways the possibilities are considerable and exciting.

(i) *Membership.* The number of scientists interested in volcanoes are without doubt several times greater than the current IAVCEI membership. Evidence comes from the internet information service (Volcano List-Serve) with 2000 members and membership of volcano-interest groups in national scientific societies. A target of doubling membership is not unrealistic. IAVCEI will be greatly strengthened by increased membership because it will be more representative and due to increased income. However, here is an example of where an expanded secretariat would help IAVCEI by pursuing campaigns to recruit more members.

(ii) *Support for Scientists.* Most volcanoes are in the developing world, yet most of the scientific work is carried out in the wealthy developed world. While such an imbalance is inevitable, a major opportunity and indeed moral obligation of IAVCEI is to engage and support developing world scientists to participate in the international scientific effort. There is a huge demand to provide assistance to scientists from poorer regions for their education, participation and contribution to volcanology. If IAVCEI income increased by ten-fold there would be little difficulty in using this resource effectively just for this purpose.

(iii) *Education.* The internet and communications revolution provides a fantastic opportunity for IAVCEI in its educational role, by providing easily accessible, authoritative information on volcanoes and volcanology. There are multiple targets: the general public particularly those in areas threatened by volcanic activity, children who find volcanoes exciting and learn some science thereby, public officials who have to deal with volcanic emergencies, and scientists who need easy access to the latest scientific information, ideas and techniques. IAVCEI, with all its human resources, could play a major role in education as a means to promote its main objectives, in particular by exploiting the potential of multimedia platforms and the internet. IAVCEI is already involved in some projects and initiatives, but these are limited by financial resources.

Threats

IAVCEI is part of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, part of the ICSU family. These organizations have

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very limited financial resources and, with some justification, are widely perceived as debilitated by bureaucracy and conservative influences. Some see these organisations as hopeless and incapable of serious reform. The scepticism and disillusion with international scientific organisations is quite widespread, and so some scientists, mostly from the developed world, are antagonistic to involvement with organizations like IAVCEI, preferring to pursue their professional interests through strong and well-resourced national organizations like the American Geophysical Union or European Union of Geosciences. While personal membership gives IAVCEI some independence from these tides of opinion, the Association would benefit from being seen by all volcanologists as the most important scientific organisation for this community. The limited resources of IAVCEI prevent it being as effective as it might, and therefore counteracting the view that it has limited relevance.

Complacency, conservatism and aversion to change are all traits that can threaten any Organisation. The number of highly active members of IAVCEI are quite limited in fact. One opinion is that IAVCEI is a clique of the same old faces with little interest in widening involvement and developing. If a negative view of IAVCEI were to become widespread then the organization would be threatened. Fortunately this is not the case as most of the prominent figures in international volcanology are members and supportive. IAVCEI, however, needs to make sure it is dynamic, inclusive and open to new ideas.

A Possible Future

From the above discussion and analysis this is a strong case to expand and develop IAVCEI and to find ways of increasing the funding base to allow this expansion to take place. The case for expansion can be summarised as the need to provide improved services and products for our members, the need to support scientists and volcanology in the developing world to a much greater extent than can be achieved at present, and the opportunities for education to several different audiences exploiting the information technology revolution in particular. An attainable goal would be to: expand the professional secretariat and to raise money to expand our activities for supporting scientists and educational initiatives.

IAVCEI could explore ways of increasing funds to support two full-time staff as a secretariat. Position 1 would be a Membership Secretary whose expanded role would be to actively recruit members and give IAVCEI a much wider profile. The current part-time appointment would be involved in marketing IAVCEI at meetings, and developing improved communications with members. The position would thus turn from a relatively passive role (collecting fees, distributing members cards and the newsletter) to an active role in which IAVCEI was promoted to encourage expanded membership. The second position would be a Communications Officer. The main role of the Communications Officer would be proactive, commissioning articles, extracting information from, for example, commission leaders, encouraging and helping commissions to keep their own WEB-site dynamic. Another role of the Communications Officer would be to develop educational initiatives based on the WEB. A long-term goal would be to make the IAVCEI web site an exciting place to visit to learn about volcanoes and as a hub for information on

Ways to Find the Money

The expansion is not feasible unless income increases. Two full-time posts require an annual income of about \$US70K, an increase of \$US30K and a substantial expansion of support for scientists from the developing world requires a major increase. By its nature as largely an organisation of scientists IAVCEI does not have the skills and expertise at fund-raising. Further fund-raising is a time-consuming occupation and, given the voluntary character of IAVCEI, it is doubtful that IAVCEI would have the time to commit to a vigorous fund-raising campaign. Increase in membership would help, but is limited and is unlikely to provide additional resource of the amount required. The main source of funds is likely to be Corporate or Philanthropic Foundations. IAVCEI is considering seeking the advice of a professional fund-raiser.

Key Ideas for Attracting Funds

Volcanoes are very exciting, a symbol of raw nature, and are often beautiful. Thus these attributes must have potential value to sponsors. Volcanoes cause great distress, loss of life and destruction. They particularly affect poor countries. Philanthropic organisations should be attracted to the humanitarian dimension of volcanology.

How IAVCEI Members Can Help

First of all IAVCEI members are asked to think about this discussion article and let the Executive Officers know their views and ideas. Any thoughts on the analysis and the possible way forward would be very welcome. Another way might be to suggest specific projects that might be developed into a portfolio of ideas for potential sponsors. Short proposals from members that could ultimately be developed into projects and initiatives would be very welcome.

R S J Sparks
President

Calendar Ordering

THE 2002 VOLCANO CALENDAR IS NOW ON SALE.

You can place your orders at the follow websites:

<http://www.volcanostore.com/pages/calends.html>

<http://www.browntrout.com/>

<http://www.calendars.com/>

*This issue was edited by
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Rocks on the Box

By Stuart Carter

A response to the article published in IAVCEI News, No. 2, 2001, by Steve Sparks.

In his article about our television documentary *Volcano!*, a 2-hour special first broadcast in November 2000 in the UK on Channel 4 and broadcast around the world by Channel 7 in Australia and TLC in the US, Dr. Steve Sparks laid various criticisms against the style and information in the program. I was the Executive Producer of those programs and felt that a constructive response would be to write a more general review about the role of the science television producer in the popularization of science.

Who am I? I gained my doctorate in volcanology and geochemistry from Oxford University and duly went on to the L-DGO at Columbia University on a postdoctoral fellowship. I then left academic research and joined the BBC. After 7 years producing there I joined the growing band of independent producers and through Pioneer Productions make programs for broadcasters around the world, including Discovery Channel. All in all I have spent the last 22 years producing science programs for mass audiences. I was the Executive Producer of series, such as *Raging Planet*, *Storm Force*, *Extreme Machines*, *Universe*, and numerous other programs on popular topics, such as *The Science of Shark Attacks* and more scientific programs such as *Killer Earth*. Pioneer Productions has played a key role in helping to popularize the natural sciences, particularly weather and Earth Sciences.

Television has played a vital role in improving the public's perception of science and its role in our lives. Science and technology will always be questioned, particularly when issues such as cloning are in the news. Today's audiences are far more scientifically aware than before, and it is television that has played a vital role in that sea change. The science television producers have spearheaded the fight against the scientific malaise that used to exist.

Science programs are now a staple of many major television channels. Ratings for documentaries, and science documentaries in particular, are excellent. Witness the success of the BBC's *Walking with Dinosaurs*. Because of the existence of the BBC,

many of the best programs are made here in the UK, some by independents and some by the BBC science department. The *Volcano!* programs reached a peak of 3 million viewers and *Universe* almost 4 million viewers when they were first shown in the UK.

In Dr. Sparks' article there is an assumption that scientists can only be found in University departments and research institutions. I think the definition must be broadened to include many others, including those in commercial industries and even science television producers. Many of the best television producers have gained high level scientific qualifications. For example, the director who made *Killer Earth* has a degree in geology. The special effects director in both *Universe* and *Volcano!*, David Barlow, has a Ph.D. in biology. He filmed most of the internal footage in our series *Body Atlas* and in the BBC's series *Human Body*. In fact, we hire more researchers and directors with science degrees than we do with arts or media degrees.

It is a well worn joke in the television community that American scientists make better interviewees than their British cousins. Needless to say, this opinion is rather unfair, but there is a grain of truth, but not because American scientists are more lucid or more knowledgeable. It's simply because they are more enthusiastic, because they see science communication as part of their job. Indeed many of them, for example those who work at NASA, are encouraged by contractual obligations to help communicate their work. Even the most esoteric researcher in the U.S. will at some time be required to explain why he or she is doing the work they are doing. In Britain, too many scientists feel it is none of anyone's business to interrogate the meaning of their work. Sometimes they forget their research grants come from taxation and that the public has a right to know what they are doing. I am also a great believer that scientists who have to publicly justify their work are the ones who conduct the best research. I can hear many of you shouting at me already and I must acknowledge there are MANY notable exceptions who work hard to communicate - and yes, Dr. Sparks is one of those!

In recent years a number of bold series have helped to revolutionize the image of science to the public. Science has long broken out from the ghettos of *Horizon*, *Equinox*, *Tomorrow's World*, *Nova*, *Quantum*, and the like. *Walking with Dinosaurs*, *Raging Planet*, *Space*, *Human Body*, *The Planets*, *Volcano!* and *Universe* have, in their different ways, made science seem more normal and more

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acceptable. No program or series is perfect. Even I - an undergraduate that could never tell one end of a fossil from another - laughed at some of the assumptions in *Walking with Dinosaurs*. But to criticize misses the point; series like these will inspire the next generation of scientists.

Earth Scientists, particularly volcanologists, have within their power the information and the imagery to inspire a new generation of scientists. Dr. Spark's idea that scientists should analyze critically television programs won't work. If the broadcasters felt that for one moment their editorial control could be usurped, then they would stop making science programs. No, the best way to get the right programs is for scientists to get involved and be prepared to do battle with producers like myself. Only this kind of interaction will give us the ammunition of exciting research topics and stories that we can take to the broadcasters to win new commissions.

Until the next eruption....

Stuart Carter

Managing Director of Pioneer Productions.

**The International Conference on Disaster Management
August 6-10, 2001 at Orlando, Florida, USA**

Reported by David Johnston

Over 640 participants attended the International Conference on Disaster Management in Orlando, Florida, in August. The vast majority were from the United States, with only 30 attending from other countries. The conference covered a wide range of disaster management issues, including both natural and technological hazards. A session on volcanic hazards was included in the program, following an approach to the organizers one month prior to the conference. This session was very successful with over 50 people in attendance. David Johnston gave an overview of the impacts of volcanic hazards and discussed issues related to their management during both non-crisis and crisis periods. A second talk by Simon Young presented a series of case studies expanding on the issues outlined in the first talk, with the principle focus on the recent Monserrat crisis. Both talks attracted a large number of questions from the audience, which lasted well beyond the allotted time. This level of interaction

was very pleasing and highlighted both the interest in the topic and the lack of understanding of volcanic phenomena amongst the US emergency management community. Following the session David Johnston and Simon Young were both approached by people wanting more information.

A number of the other (non-volcanic) sessions provided a useful insight into disaster management issues that are relevant to those responsible for managing a volcanic crisis. Several speakers presented talks on evacuation planning and it was evident from these talks that much can be learned from previous experience with hurricanes and tornadoes. The moving of large populations from urban areas presents many challenges for a number of cities on volcanoes, and sharing of knowledge with those with experience from other hazards would be of benefit. The issues stemming from public response to weather and other hazard warnings is also highly relevant and was covered in talks at the conference.

Public education was another major theme covered in many sessions. Key issues identified included the important role of schools in community education, the need to build effective partnerships between government agencies and local communities (this includes private and public partnerships), and the need to integrate specific hazard messages into wider hazard and environmental education. Accompanying the conference was a trade display with over 30 exhibitors covering a variety of products and services. Few, if any, of the exhibitors had products or services related specifically to volcanic hazard management. However, there was interest amongst them about volcanic hazard management, and so it would be useful to get the private sector more involved in volcanic hazards. Prior to the conference a one-page information sheet on IAVCEI was prepared and participants took over 200 copies from a table at the trade display and from the volcanic hazards session.

Conclusion: The conference was of great value and hopefully helped raise awareness of the range of volcanic hazard issues that the emergency management community may have to face in the future. It was clear from the meeting that volcanic hazard issues do not rate highly on the agenda of most agencies in the USA and other countries. Therefore, it is important that IAVCEI participate in such events and our members be encouraged to integrate their activities into a wider environmental and disaster management framework.

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Travel Funds

Some limited travel funds are available for the May 2002 IAVCEI meeting in Martinique. The intention is to assist young scientists and scientists from developing countries. Some funding will come from the conference organizing committee and some from IAVCEI. Please contact gouin@ipgp.jussieu.fr for further information.

The second (and final) circular is available in full at the following addresses:

In English:

<http://www.ipgp.jussieu.fr/anglais/rub-actualites/seminaire/MtPelee2002.html>

In French:

<http://www.ipgp.jussieu.fr/francais/rub-actualites/seminaire/MtPelee2002.html>

Wager Prize

The IAVCEI Awards Committee, chaired by President Steve Sparks, recently announced the winners of the 2002 Wager Prize. The two winners are Andrew Woods (UK) and James Gardner (USA). The awards will be presented at the Mount Pelee 1902-2002 conference in Martinique in May 2002.

A total of six young scientists were nominated this year. Past winners are listed on the IAVCEI web page at www.iavcei.org. The citations and acceptance speeches of the winners, as well as photographs, will be printed in a later issue of IAVCEI News. Congratulations to the winners!

Future Meetings

Some Future IAVCEI/Volcanology Meetings:

1. IAVCEI 1902 Centennial Workshop, Mount Pelee, Martinique May 8, 2002; contact: cheminee@ipgp.jussieu.fr
2. 3rd Biennial Workshop on Subduction Processes in the Kurile-Kamchatka-Aleutian Arcs, Fairbanks, Alaska June 9-15, 2002, contact: eich@gi.alaska.edu
3. Chapman Conference on Volcanism and the Earth's Atmosphere, Santorini, Greece June 20-24, 2002. contact: robock@envsci.rutgers.edu
4. IUGG General Assembly in Sapporo, Japan June 30 - July 11, 2003; contact: iugg2003@ics-inc.co.jp
5. State-of-the-Arc, Cascades, 2003 (tentative)
6. Cities on Volcanoes 3, Hawaii, 2003 (tentative)
7. International Geological Congress, Florence, Italy August 16-26, 2004 contact: www.iugs.org
8. IAVCEI 2004 General Assembly, Chile November/December 2004 (planning under way)
9. IAVCEI 2005 China, Continental Basalt Volcanism (tentative)
10. IAVCEI 2006 General Assembly, Alaska (tentative)

Further information may be found on the IAVCEI web site at www.iavcei.org

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- Individual postal voting rights for elections and changes to IAVCEI Statutes and By-Laws (assuming your country is a member of IUGG)
- Discounted cost of *Bulletin of Volcanology*
- Discounted registration fees at IAVCEI General Assemblies
- Automatic mailing of IAVCEI conference circulars and registration forms
- Receipt of *IAVCEI News*
- Name added to membership list and published on IAVCEI Home Page

Please print the following details *clearly*:

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Your Given name _____

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Can IAVCEI publish your E-MAIL ADDRESS on the web site? YES or NO?

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Volcanism & the Earth's Atmosphere

Explosive Volcanism

Mitigation of Volcanic Disasters

Remote Sensing

World Organisation of Volcano Observ.

Granites

Chemistry of Volcanic Gases

Volcanic Lakes

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Other interests:

IMPORTANT

Send this form and your remittance made payable to 'IAVCEI Membership' in Australian dollars by credit card or international bank draft only - NO PERSONAL CHEQUES PLEASE - to:

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Telephone: +61 2 62487407 Facsimile: +61 2 62487407 E-mail: members@iavcei.org

You will be sent a membership card plus issues of the IAVCEI News.

IAVCEI encourages groups of people from individual countries to send their remittances as a single payment, together with their individual application forms

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