

**INTERNATIONAL SUBCOMMISSION ON
STRATIGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION (ISSC)
OF
IUGS INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON
STRATIGRAPHY**

CIRCULAR NO. 94

May 24, 1999

**INTERNATIONAL SUBCOMMISSION ON STRATIGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION OF
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I. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF ISSC FOR TERM 2000-2004

The term of the present officers of the ISSC ends in a year, at the time of the 31th International Geological Congress (Rio de Janeiro, August 6-17, 2000). It is time, therefore, to start the procedure for the election of officers of the Subcommittee for the next term. O. Michelson, the ICS Secretary, has sent the following indications: "According to ICS Statutes (8): (8.5.2) Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons of Subcommissions of ICS shall be elected by the Voting Members of the Commission by ballot to be mailed by the ICS Secretary not later than twelve (12) months prior to the next IGC. (8.5.3) ...Chairpersons...of the Committees shall be elected by the Voting Members of the respective bodies at the time of election of Chairpersons of Subcommissions. The election of... Chairpersons...of Committees is subject to approval by the ICS Chairperson".

As in the past, the election procedure will comprise the following steps:

1. A nominating Form is distributed with this circular to all members of the Subcommittee for the nomination of a candidate for Chairman and a candidate for Vice Chairman. The Nominating Form should be returned to me so I receive it before June 9, 1999, on which date the nomination period will be considered closed.

2. Any member proposed by two or more voters will be considered a nominee. I will at that time ask each of the nominees if they accept their nomination and if they would be willing to serve if elected.

3. After hearing from the nominated, the final list of nominees and a Ballot Form will be distributed to the Members. The ballot form should be returned to me so it is received before June 28, 1999.

4. The results of the ballot will be transmitted to the membership of the ISSC in a Subcommittee circular, and to the Chairman of the IUGS International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS).

I realize that this schedule is rather tight, but I will very much appreciate your prompt action on this important matter.

According to the ICS statutes Chairpersons of the Subcommissions are reelectable only for one more four years term after their elections for the initial term of office. Maria Bianca Cita and I, therefore, are available and will to serve as officers of the ISSC for the next term of office (2000-2004).

To help in the selection of nominees for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee, I include with this circular an up-to-date list of ISSC members. The Subcommittee is now composed of 71 members: 29 individual members, 20 ex officio members, and 22 organizational members.

II. MEETING OF THE ISSC AT THE 31ST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST, 2000

On January 15th, 1999, I applied by letters to the Secretary General of the Congress, with copy to the Secretaries of IUGS and ICS, for time and space for a business meeting of the Subcommittee in Rio de Janeiro and inclusion in the Congress General Programme. Thus far I have had no reply but trust that there will be no difficulty in scheduling the meeting.

III. SHORT VERSION OF THE GUIDE

Amos Salvador is presently holding conversations with Glenn Caldwell, Chairman of the IUGS Advisory Board for Publications, in order to have the abridged version of the Guide published in the near future.

IV. SEQUENCE STRATIGRAPHY

The WG on Sequence Stratigraphy has been quite active. Amos Salvador, Co-Chairman of the WG has distributed, Memo 11 (November 11, 1998), Memo 12 (January 11, 1999), Memo 13 (January 29, 1999) and Memo 14 (March 19, 1999). Through them the WG has been discussing definitions proposed for a number of terms and a draft of conclusions and recommendations on the subject. As soon as I receive a set of recommendations, they will be included in an ISSC circular for discussion.

V. DRAFT OF A POSTER ON GUIDELINES FOR NEW LITHOSTRATIGRAPHIC UNITS

Appendix B to ISSC Circular No. 91 of July 5, 1996, included a proposal by J.B. Waterhouse for a poster on lithostratigraphic principles. Comments and suggestions were requested then and in ISSC Circular No. 92 & 93. In the latter it was asked if there was agreement to go ahead with the poster. Besides the one included in ISSC Circular No. 93, I did not receive any other comment. Should we drop this project?

VI. GLOSSARY OF STRATIGRAPHIC TERMS

In ISSC Circulars No. 92 & 93 it was mentioned an old project of the Subcommittee, i.e. to produce a glossary of stratigraphic terms in several languages. As a result some comments in favour of such a project were received from I. Chlupáč, F. Etayo Serna, I.G. Sapunov and F.F. Steininger. As soon as we have a preliminary list it will be circulated.

VII. CYCLOSTRATIGRAPHY

As indicated in ISSC Circulars No. 92 & 93, there is a need to explore other possible units of stratigraphic classification (e.g. chemostratigraphy, cyclostratigraphy, event stratigraphy, etc.).

Since then I began to organize a small WG on Cyclostratigraphy. Thus I invited W. Schwarzacher, F. Hilgen and A. Strasser to participate. I have requested them to prepare a proposal to be discussed by the ISSC members.

VIII. ISC NEWS

Relevant information produced by the ISC Bureau, mainly as a result of its April 1999 meeting, is reproduced below:

Boundary problems

The Bureau discussed some boundaries which are problematic for different reasons:

- The mid-Carboniferous boundary was formally defined by a GSSP in 1996 and has been ratified by IUGS. The Bureau stated that the problem of the nomenclature to be used for the two major subdivisions of the Carboniferous is still unresolved.

- The essential problems in defining the Paleocene/Eocene boundary were very close to a solution in January 1998 (meeting at Paris). The Bureau is concerned by the lack of progress since that date.

- The Plio/Pleistocene boundary was defined by a GSSP at Vrica (Italy) in 1984, near the top of the Olduvai magnetic event (1.8 Ma). The demand of Quaternary stratigraphers to abandon the Vrica GSSP, placing the boundary at the Gauss-Matuyama magnetic reversal (2.5 Ma, base of the Gelasian stage) has failed. It did not obtain the necessary majority in a joint vote of the Quaternary and Neogene Subcommissions of ICS. This decision to reconfirm the existing GSSP at Vrica was ratified by the IUGS Executive Committee in its meeting in Florence, January 1999, with one abstention and no opposing vote. The decision will be published in Episodes.

Election of new Bureau members

According to the statutes, the Chairperson, 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairperson of ICS for the period 2000-2004 have to be elected by the Full Commission of ICS. The full Commission in a postal ballot has now elected the Nominating Committee, which is to select the candidates for the above-mentioned positions. The following persons were elected to the Nominating Committee of the ICS: F.P. Agterberg, Ottawa, Canada; D. Guy-Ohlson, Stockholm, Sweden; F. Steininger, Frankfurt, Germany; Jin Yugan, Nanjing, China, and B.D. Webby, Sydney, Australia.

IGC in the 31st IGC (Rio de Janeiro, August 2000)

The ICS Bureau discussed the new way to organize symposia at the IGC in Rio. Those who are interested in actively participating in these symposia, please contact 1st Vice Chairman H.R. Lane.

Distribution of Subcommissions newsletters

The Bureau asks ICS bodies to seriously consider the possibility of using e-mail for their newsletters.

ICS home page

The Bureau decided to establish an ICS home page with links to the IUGS home page and to home pages of individual Subcommissions and Committees.

GSSP

The ICS Bureau distributed a ballot on the GSSP defining the base of the Zanclean Stage and of the Pliocene Series, as proposed by the Subcommission on Neogene Stratigraphy.

The Global Stratigraphic Chart

The Chart is currently at the publisher and will be published this year. Responsibility for publication is up to the UNESCO and IUGS, who must agree on the copyright, place and date of publication.

IX. PUBLICATIONS ON STRATIGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION, ETC.

Following is a list of publications on stratigraphic matters kindly sent to me by some ISSC members:

Chlupáč, I., Storch, P., eds., 1997. Principles of Czech stratigraphic classification. 3rd. Edition. Bull. Czech Geol. Surv., 72: 193-204. [In Czech].

Rey, J., Ed., 1997. *Stratigraphie Terminologie Francaise*. Bull. Centres Rech. Explor.-Prod. Elf Aquitaine, Mém. 19, 164 pp., 63 fig., 8 tab., Pau. [This book includes 8 chapters on: Principles and perspectives, Litho-, Chimio-, Magneto-, Bio-stratigraphy, Geochronology, Stratigraphy on specific problems (metamorphic and plutonic rocks, Precambrian Geochronometry, surface formations, Quaternary, volcanic rocks) and Chronostratigraphy. It is completed by a glossary, an English-French index and a bibliographic list for each chapter].

Teslenko, Yu. V. et al., ed., 1997. *Stratigraphic Code of Ukraine*. National Stratigraphic Committee of Ukraine. Kyiv. [It accepts Chrono-, Litho-, Bio-, Petro-, Magneto-, Climato-, Seismo- and Cyclostratigraphic units. Petrostratigraphic units are “a rock association, which in part or total has forfeited signs of primary layering”. Cyclostratigraphic units “are stratigraphic units which compose rhythmically constructed geological bodies - cyclites”. Lithostratigraphic units include Series and Suites. Climathostratigraphic units include Climatolith, Pedohorizon and Stadial. Seismostratigraphic units include Seismocomplex and Seismohorizon-marker. Cyclostratigraphic units include Cyclites of different ranks and Petrostratigraphic units include Polycomplex and Complex].

X. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

A. Death of Professor Gunnar Hennigsmoen. It is with regret I have to inform that Professor Gunnar Hennigsmoen, and Individual Member of ISSC, died in 1998. Professor Hennigsmoen had been a member of the Subcommission for more than forty years, and was an active participant in all aspects leading to publication of both editions of the International Stratigraphic Guide.

B. Membership Committee: Last year I thought advisable to appoint a Membership Committee in order to take advantage of the advice and ideas of a new group of members. Therefore, I invited individual members Charles Holland and Zhang Shou Xin and M.R. Johnson, representative of the South African Committee for Stratigraphy to assist Vice Chairman Maria Bianca Cita and me in handling ISSC membership matters.

C. Application for Individual Membership - Dr. Fritz F. Steininger. The ISSC received a letter from Dr. Fritz F. Steininger, of the Forschungsinstitut und Naturmuseum Senckenberg, Germany, expressing his interest in becoming an individual member of the Subcommission. Dr. Steininger, a well known stratigrapher, has been very active in ISSC affairs, as Chairman of the ICS Working Group on the Paleogene-Neogene Boundary and, since 1983 as representative for the Austrian Geological Society. The ISSC Membership Committee has considered Dr. Steininger's application and has approved it. Following the usual procedure for election of members, his name is herewith submitted to the ISSC members for their consideration before recommending Dr. Steininger to the Bureau of the IUGS International Commission on Stratigraphy for final approval.

D. Comité Français de Stratigraphie, France (Organizational Member). Professor Jacques Rey has kindly informed me that the new Chairman of this Committee is Professor Jacques Thierry, Centre des Sciences de la Terre, Université de Bourgogne, 6, Bd. Gabriel, 21000 Dijon, France. We thank Prof. Rey for his contributions to ISSC activities.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS

Professor Henk de la R. Winter has requested circulation of his document “Response to ISSC Circular No. 93, May, 1998” (11 pp. with bibliography). As the main topic of that document is Sequence Stratigraphy it has been handled to the WG dealing with that matter. Copies are available upon request.

**INTERNATIONAL SUBCOMMISSION ON STRATIGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION
(ISSC)**

**Nomination for Chairman and Vice Chairman for Term 2000-2004
(Attachment to Circular No. 94 of May 24, 1999)**

I nominate for Chairman of ISSC

Comments:

I nominate for Vice Chairman of ISSC

Comments

Name (print or type)

Signature

Date

Please check one box only and fill out blanks to indicate in what capacity you are making nomination:

..... Individual Member

..... Organizational Member Representative to ISSC from

.....

..... Ex officio Member, Chairman, Secretary of IUGS Commission, Subcommittee,
Committee on

.....

PLEASE RETURN ONE COPY OF NOMINATING FORM TO REACH ME NOT LATER THAN JUNE 8, 1999:

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ISSC Chairman
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INTERNATIONAL SUBCOMMISSION ON STRATIGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION

APPENDIX A (TO ISSC CIRCULAR NO. 94)

LIST OF MEMBERS

May, 1999

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Interdepartmental Stratigraphic Committee of Russia
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Subcommission on Jurassic Stratigraphy

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Subcommission on Cretaceous Stratigraphy

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Subcommission on Paleogene Stratigraphy

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Subcommission on Quaternary Stratigraphy

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