

URSI/IAGA Joint Working Group on VERSIM (VLF/ELF Remote Sensing of the Ionosphere and Magnetosphere)

Business meeting - Saturday 30 September 2006

There was a meeting of the VERSIM working group during the 2nd VERSIM Workshop 2006, held at the Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory, Sodankylä (Finland), at 0900 on Saturday 30 September 2006.

Present: Craig J. Rodger (New Zealand; IAGA co-chair), János Lichtenberger (Hungary; URSI co-chair) jointly in the chair, and a significant percentage of the participants of the 2nd VERSIM Workshop 2006, as listed at the end of this report. There were a total of 26 individuals present at the Business meeting.

Chairman's Report:

Craig Rodger (the IAGA co-chairman), described the purpose of the working group, and outlined the overall activities of the working group. He reported on the recent change to a fully moderated email listing, and apologized to the community for the quantity of email "spam" which has been previously passed through the VERSIM mailing listing. This was entirely an issue with IT support time at the University of Otago (New Zealand), and took a very very long time to get fixed. Craig was happy to report that the list is now fully moderated, and that he will be approving (or otherwise) all the posts which will go out through the listing. This should ensure the percentage of Spam or inappropriate messages drops to zero. Craig also mentioned that in early-mid November he will start contacting people for material to appear in the yearly VERSIM newsletter. This is an excellent opportunity to keep the community informed as to your activities, and is actively read by many VERSIM researchers.

Upcoming Assemblies of IAGA and URSI

Craig also detailed the dates and locations of the upcoming primary meetings of VERSIM's parent body, IAGA and URSI. These are:

[24th IUGG General Assembly](#), Perugia, Italy, 2-13 July 2007. Abstract deadlines: 15 January 2007 (postal), 31 January 2007 (electronic).

[XXIX General Assembly of URSI](#), Chicago, USA, 7-16 August 2008. [First Announcement](#)

Recall that the [International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics](#) (IUGG) encompasses the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA), and as such a IUGG General Assembly will contain many IAGA sessions relevant to VERSIM researchers. There was a discussion on the planned sessions at Perugia. At that stage it was unclear which part of the 2 week-IUGG meeting would be occupied by IAGA. Umran Inan (USA) reminded the meeting that at the previous IAGA meeting in Toulouse it was decided to move to a 1 week format irrespective of the length of the overall IUGG. Craig has now confirmed with the IAGA secretariat that the IAGA dates at Perugia are Sunday 1 July (business meetings) to Saturday 7 July 2007.

In addition to discussing the XXIX General Assembly of URSI in Chicago (USA), Craig also mentioned next years [AP-RASC Conference](#), to be held in Perth (Australia) from 17-20 September 2006. The Asia-Pacific Radio Science Conference is in some senses URSI's answer to AGU's Western Pacific Geophysics Meetings.

Future VERSIM Workshops

A significant part of the VERSIM Business Meeting was taken up with discussing the possibility of a follow-on VERSIM Workshop. It was agreed that the 2006 Workshop had been a large success, and that the community has gained new momentum on the basis of the 1st and 2nd VERSIM Workshops. As such, it was felt that the VERSIM community should meet again in the near-term.

János Lichtenberger (Hungary), the URSI co-chair, offered to host the 3rd VERSIM Workshop in 2009, immediately after the IAGA meeting which will occur in Sopron. However, it was felt that this timing would be nearly worthless, as most people would end up presenting the same material at the IAGA and VERSIM Workshops. The meeting also discussed the idea of having the meeting in Hungary in 2010, but it was felt this was too far away in time, and the momentum of the previous Workshops would be lost. After much discussion it was decided to meet again in late 2008, even though the URSI General Assembly is already timetabled for mid-2008. Umran Inan (USA) noted that even a delay of a month would allow people sufficient time to have new material to present at the VERSIM Workshop. In addition, it was noted that some European and international scientists may have difficulty in attending the Chicago URSI meeting, with US visa regulations being mentioned by several participants. While I am hopeful this will not be an issue for our colleagues, I am pleased to report that the community accepted the invitation of Dr. János Lichtenberger, the URSI co-chair of the working group to host the 3rd VERSIM Workshop in Tihany, Hungary. This is now planned for the week starting 15 September 2008, on the shores of Lake Balaton.

Vote of thanks for the 2nd VERSIM Workshop

A unanimous vote of thanks to our Finnish collaborators was agreed, as the two Workshops they have hosted have brought a new vibrancy to the VERSIM working group. The Local Organising Committee was active at all times, from arranging pickups (or shared rides) to and from the airport to ensuring we always had enough coffee!

List of those attending

NAME	AFFILIATION
Don Carpenter	Stanford University
Umran Inan	Stanford University
Michael Rycroft	Cambridge UK
Mikhail Gushchin	Institute of Applied Science RAS
Ondrej Santolik	Charles University
Frankisek Nemec	Charles University

Jaroslav Chum
Janos Lichtenberger
Jyrki Manninen
Mark Clilverd
Antonio Saraiva
Tero Riata
Jean Pierre Raulin
Vida Zigman
Davorka Grubor
Desanka Sulic
Yuto Katoh
Sushil Kumar
Yuval Reuveni
Andrei Demekhov
Elena Titova
Boris Kozelov
Olga Kozyreva
Natalia Kleimenova
Jacob Bortnik
Peter Steinbach
Craig Rodger

Institute of Atmospheric Physics
Eotvos University
Sodankyla Geophysical Observatory
British Antarctic Survey
National Insitute for Space Research
Sodankyla Geophysical Observatory
Presbyterian Mackenzie University
University of Nova Gorcia
Faculty of Mining and Geology
Faculty of Military
Tohoku university
School of Engineering and Physics
Tel-Aviv University
Insitute of Applied Sciences
Polar Geophysical Institute
Polar geophysical Institute
Institute of Earth Physics
Institute of Earth Physics
University of California
Eotvos University
University of Otago