

## SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE ORGANISATION OF THE ICRS ACTIVITIES WITHIN IAU DIVISION I

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This discussion (chaired by T. Fukushima) was related to the organization of Division I in the framework of the upcoming IAU by-laws on Commissions and Working Groups.

The focus of the discussion was where to put the activities of the Division I Working Group on ICRS that, although it was considered as being a successful WG, was disabled in 2003 to comply with the new IAU rules on Commissions and Working Groups.

The ICRS Working Group was actually disabled at the IAU GA in 2003 with the plan that the most topical tasks of the former WG (see the list below) will be included into the future terms of reference of certain IAU commissions (namely Commission 8 and Commission 19).

The ICRS Working Group for the period 2000-2003 (Chair: F. Mignard) was composed of the following tasks (the name of their corresponding chair being between parentheses)

- $T_1$  : Maintenance and extension of the ICRS (C. Ma)
- $T_2$  : Densification at optical and IR (S. Urban)
- $T_3$  : Space astrometry and reference frames (F. Mignard)
- $T_4$  : Link to the dynamical system (M. Standish)
- $T_5$  : Computational tools (P. Wallace)
- $T_6$  : Astronomical standards (T. Fukushima)
- $T_7$  : Relation with IERS (F. Arias)

The objectives of the above tasks being, respectively:

- $T_1$  : Checks of the sources already included and monitoring of additional sources that would be included in the future,
- $T_2$  : Survey of optical sources to be included in the optical counterpart alongside the Hipparcos and Tycho stars,

- $T_3$  : Starting a reflection on the impact of space astrometry missions on the ICRS,
- $T_4$  : Relationship between the ICRS and the dynamical frame(s) used in solar system dynamics,
- $T_5$  : Establish and maintain a reference set of constants, algorithms and procedures in fundamental astronomy,
- $T_6$  : Consequences of the adoption of the ICRS on standards, precession, celestial pole,
- $T_7$  : To maintain a constant connection with the IERS and its activities.

The terms of reference of the IAU commissions being about to be discussed by the IAU Executive Committee at the time of the Journées 2004, this was an appropriate time to discuss this issue and to have the most possible exchanges between (i) people involved in the ICRS/ICRF studies as well as the former Chairs of the ICRS WG tasks and (ii) the former, current and future IAU relevant commissions and Division I Presidents. As many of those people participated in the Journées 2004, it could be expected that such a discussion would be an opportunity to make some progress with this problem.

The points to be discussed were 1) the most important tasks regarding the ICRS issue and 2) the best way to include them into the terms of References of the IAU Commissions.

Several solutions for organizing the activities of the previous ICRS Working Group were debated.

One was a possible distribution of the seven tasks of the former ICRS WG into the most appropriate Division 1 commissions according to their recently revised terms of reference.

Another solution was the creation of a new commission to embrace all the activities of the seven tasks.

An intermediate proposal was to expand Commission 31 (Time) to include reference systems in general, and to make each of the seven tasks a WG in that expanded commission.

It was concluded that these different options needed to be further discussed within the Division I Special group, chaired by the current Division I President, T. Fukushima, that is looking at ways to rationalize the current structure and advise on future arrangements.