

Minutes of SSS Business Meeting

Wien, Austria, Thursday, April 23, 2009, Room 25, 12:15 – 13:15

Agenda

1. Welcome and agenda
 2. Report on SSS activities 2008/2009
 3. EGU Structure
 4. Changes in SSS structure
 5. Union Awards and Medals (P. Duchaufour, OYSA, etc.)
 6. SSS strategy & scientific program for EGU 2010
 7. Recommendations for EGU 2010
 8. Additional items
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1. Teodoro Miano, SSS president, opened the meeting, **welcomed** all the participants and followed the program according to the approved **agenda**. Approximately 50-60 colleagues attended the Business Meeting in Room 25 (approx. 150 seats).
 2. **SSS annual activities** were reported by Teodoro Miano. At EGU 2009 36 final sessions were organized by SSS, against 26 at EGU 2007 (plus a number of sessions organized jointly with HS, NH, GM, GMPV, BG, co-listed and in different Divisions, ES for example). About **752** papers were presented at all SSS sessions, with respect to the 586 presented in 2008 (increase of approximately **30%**). SSS Division reached the 5th place in the list of the most attended Divisions in 2009. The assembly was largely satisfied of the results reached by the Division and a new effort has been promised for next year.
 3. The President illustrated the **actual structure of EGU** and explained that the Division should possibly follow the same structure and organization of the Union. 7 Committees, Council, Secretaries, EONS activities, etc.
 4. Proposals for **changes in the SSS structure** have been shown to the audience. The proposal contained the introduction of Science and Outreach Secretaries, a Programme Committee, a new Division Medal Committee. No significant or additional proposal was received during the Business meeting. Teodoro Miano and Artemi Cerdà were confirmed in the office of EGU SSS Division President and EGU SSS Division Vice-President for the second term, 2009-2011. As previously mentioned, the Vice-

President will assist SSS President in all current activities of the division, he will be a member of EGU Program Committee, and if necessary, he will be ready to substitute SSS President in Council meeting or any other activity.

The new web page was presented to the Division associates and comments were made and discussed. Few colleagues proposed to send comments and suggestions by e-mail.

5. **The Philippe Duchaufour Medal for 2009** was awarded to Prof. Fiorenzo Cesare Ugolini during the meeting and the related Ceremony celebrated accordingly. Information for the next year award was given and it is available on the web site (www.egu.eu). The Division associates decided to confirm the Medal Committee for next year giving mandate to the President to reduce the component to a maximum of five members plus the President as an ex-officio member.

The President also proposed a **new Award** for the SSS Division in order to recognize the scientific activity of renowned scientists of middle age. The idea was unanimously accepted and the President will produce a proposal to be circulated and then presented for decision at the next Council Meeting.

Further, the President stimulated the audience to more pro-active in the Division Business and participate more actively in the **Union and SSS Division Award** activities.

The participation of SSS colleagues to the Outstanding Young Scientist Award (**OYSA**) has been not very intense in the past. The President encouraged all participants to present applications and to push young scientists to participate to the very important and prestigious award. Also, the President reminded the audience of the strict deadlines to forward applications and to look at the EGU web site for the award information and rules.

6. A wide discussion and many questions arised on various items presented by the President in his report. In particular, few colleagues expressed their willings of having **more oral blocks** to match authors requests. On the other hand, other colleagues considered the actual **ratio between poster and oral presentation** rather equilibrated. Few suggestions were made in order to receive more abstract and also to optimize the integration and the development of future sessions and programme plannings. Few colleagues would also like **more discussion** time during the oral sessions, therefore proving few indications and recommendations for the next editions of the meeting. The strategy for next year will remain more or less the same. Most

sessions were already proposed at the meeting and a **skeleton structure** of next SSS Division programme already presented to the assembly. The scientific programme looks very exciting and younger scientists attendance has apparently increased. A specific effort will be devoted to the selection of conveners and co-conveners to be involved.

7. After some comments and general recommendations, the President mentioned to the assembly that most of the issues were already in the **agenda of the Council** and that some other issues will be faced in next Council meetings. Significant issues concerned: i) the decision of keeping the **four oral blocks structure steady** plus a 5th poster session as already experimented in past years; ii) the request to the Council that the Division uses directly **the financial support** for speakers and invited participants, and to receive some more financial support; iii) the interest in having **a Divisional web page** ready soon.
8. Additional items concerned a **closer cooperation with national soil science societies** was proposed, especially overseas ones and a more intense activity in **publishing and promoting special issues** of scientific journals.

Other businesses were neither proposed nor discussed.

Teodoro Miano
SSS President

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