

DIVISION I
COMMISSION 7

**CELESTIAL MECHANICS &
DYNAMICAL ASTRONOMY**
*(MECANIQUE CELESTE &
ASTRONOMIE DYNAMIQUE)*

PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
PAST PRESIDENT
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Zoran Knežević
Alessandro Morbidelli
Joseph Burns
Evangelia Athanssoula, Jacques Laskar,
Renu Malhotra, Seppo Mikkola,
Stan Peale, Fernando Roig

PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS SESSIONS, 28 August 2012

President of Commission 7 Zoran Knežević opened the business meeting at 18:40 and proposed the agenda which was accepted without change.

Then, he gave a detailed report of the activities in the past period, emphasizing the following issues:

- Successful preparation of the Commission's Terms of Reference, subsequently approved by the Division I Organizing Committee;
- Remake and transfer of the Commission's web site;
- Initiative for co-affiliation of Commission 7 with Division III;
- Proposal for Asteroid Dynamic Site (AstDyS) to become a permanent IAU service;
- Participation of Commission 7 officers in the activities of the Division I Organizing Committee;
- Proposal for an IAU Symposium in Finland in 2012, which, unfortunately, was not accepted by the IAU;
- Election of the new Commission officers;
- Preparation of the Triennial Report and of this Business Meeting.

According to the current list of members maintained by the IAU Secretariat, Commission 7 has 293 members. There are as much as 55 new IAU members who expressed their wish to become members of Commission 7, and the recommendation by the IAU to accept all of them was approved by the Commission members present at the Business meeting.

A minute of silence was called by the President to pay respect to the 8 members of Commission who had passed away in the past three years.

The new officers of the commission for the 2012–2015 triennium are: President: Alessandro Morbidelli (France); Vice-President: Chrisitan Beaugé (Argentina); Organizing Committee (OC): Alessandro Celletti (Italy), Nader Haghighipour (USA), Piet Hut (USA), Jacques Laskar (France), Seppo Mikkola (Finland), Fernando Roig (Brasil). Roig will continue to act as the Commission's secretary. Knežević, on behalf of the members of

Commission 7, expressed gratitude to the outgoing members of the Organizing Committee: Joseph A. Burns, Evangelia Athanassoula, Renu Malhotra and Stanton J. Peale.

Summaries of the other reports presented at the meeting follow.

JOURNAL “CELESTIAL MECHANICS AND DYNAMICAL ASTRONOMY”

The report on the journal “Celestial Mechanics and Dynamical Astronomy” has been given by R. Dvorak, on behalf of the absent Editor-in-Chief S. Ferraz-Mello.

- The mean impact factor was 1.663 in the triennium;
- Two special issues, on “Extrasolar Planetary Systems” and “Resonances in N-body Systems”, were published in 2011 and 2012 with C.Beaugé and R.Dvorak as guest editors;
- 50 percent of the submitted papers are accepted for publication. The turnaround time (average time between submission and first decision) is about 9 weeks. The typical time (median) between submission and final decision, for accepted papers, is about 5 months;
- CMDA is currently reaching, through electronic and hard copy subscriptions, more than 7,000 institutions.

— Rudolph Dvorak

FUTURE ACTIVITIES - LETTER OF THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

The incoming president Alessandro Morbidelli was not attending the General Assembly for personal reasons, thus he sent a letter with his address, which was read by Knežević. The letter is reproduced here in full:

Dear members of Commission 7

I have decided not to come to this General Assembly in China for the reasons explained on my web-page, that I will not repeat here.

With this letter, I would like to briefly describe my main four priority actions for the upcoming three years, when I will be the president of the Commission, with the help of Christian Beaugé, Vice-President, Fernando Roig, secretary and the members of the OC.

But first, I would like to thank the out-going President, Zoran Knežević, for the work done over the past three years. Working with him has been very instructive for me and I hope to use this experience to act equally well and effectively during my term.

The first priority action of my term will be to co-affiliate Commission 7 to Division III. During the past term, the OC of Commission 7 has voted with a large majority in favor of this step. Contacts have been taken with the head of Division III but the dialog has been slow. During my presidency I will renew and intensify this dialog with the new officers of Division III to bring this process to a successful outcome. I am confident that the procedure of co-affiliation will be completed in a short timescale.

The second action of my presidency will be to propose and promote the AstDys service (managed by Andrea Milani at Pisa University) as new IAU service. This action was already the object of some discussions during the past term but was not pursued further because it is convenient to wait until Commission 7 is officially co-affiliated with Division III. In fact, the Minor Planet Center -an already existing IAU service- is promoted

by Commission 20 and Division III and therefore we need to discuss and come to an agreement with these bodies on how the AstDys service could become complementary to the MPC rather than in competition with it.

The third action will be to promote an IAU symposium in Dynamical Astronomy in the next term. During the past term, Commission 7 proposed one symposium to be held in Finland this year, but it was not approved. So, there have been no Commission 7 symposia over the past three years. This situation needs to be corrected. It is already too late to propose symposia in 2013 and 2014, but we are on time for 2015. I will propose a dynamical astronomy symposium for the IAU General Assembly in 2015 in Hawaii. I think that it is important that there is a Commission 7 symposium joined to the General Assembly -unlike this year- in order to mark a strong presence of our Commission within the IAU and encourage Commission 7 members to come to the Assembly.

The fourth action will be to promote Commission 7 in the community of dynamical astronomers. There are many very good and high- reputation dynamicists who are not affiliated to our Commission, particularly in the US. We need to approach these people, explain to them the role of our Commission and invite them to join, lifting their reticence, so that our Commission can really become representative of the whole community. I invite all members of Commission 7 to join in this effort, approaching their colleagues who have not yet been affiliated.

Of course, these actions will come on top of other more regular business activities like: updating the terms of reference of our Commission, in particular in view of the co-affiliation to Division III; preparation of the triennial report; contacts, consulting and discussions with General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary of the IAU and with presidents and OCs of Divisions I and III; etc. I hope in an active participation of the members of our Commission and I encourage everybody to make propositions and suggestions of actions by contacting me via email.

Having said this, I wish you a good General Assembly and successful research over the next three years!

— Alessandro Morbidelli

7. CLOSING REMARKS

Two more items were discussed, which were raised by the colleagues present. The first pertained to the meeting in Celestial Mechanics, under the auspices of the IAU, to be organized in the next period. The dilemma was whether it is more promising to ask for an IAU Symposium in 2014, as this may be easier to get, or in 2015, as part of the next General Assembly in Honolulu, as proposed by the incoming President of Commission 7, Alessandro Morbidelli, in order to foster more substantial participation of the C7 members at the next GA . Several possible meetings were mentioned, to be either proposed as an IAU symposium (like the one in 2014 in Namur), co-proposed (in 2015, together with Commissions 20 and 53, for example), or only supported by the C7 (ACM meeting in Helsinki in 2014). The general agreement was that we should put maximum effort in an attempt to have an IAU symposium. It should cover broad enough scientific program, attractive enough for a wide range of astronomers and acceptable for the IAU executives. In this enterprise we shall have a full support of incoming President, Sergei Klioner, and Vice-President, Jacques Laskar, of the IAU Division A.

The second topic had to do with the general dissatisfaction of Commission 7 members with the current name for Division A (former Division I). After a long discussion the

present members unanimously adopted a common statement in this regard: “The participants of the business meeting of Commission 7 unanimously disagree with the new name proposed for division A as they are not represented by this name.” Incoming Division officers will work on this in the next period.

After this president Knežević closed the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Report submitted 29 November 2012

Zoran Knežević, Past President