

Minutes of the ISISA General Meeting, 31 May, 2012, British Virgin Islands

Meeting opened at 4.10 p.m. at Bitter End Yacht Club conference room, on the island of Virgin Gorda.

Meeting Chair: Grant McCall, President of ISISA

Attended by 38 individuals, including 6 Executive Committee members, and 5 Advisory Council members.

Item 1: Apologies for Absence

Rose Marie Azzopardi, Laurie Brinklow, Ray Burnett, Eric Clark, Mark Hampton, Chris McMurray, Graeme Robertson, Elaine Stratford, Guglielmo Tita.

Item 2: Acceptance of Minutes of last General Meeting

(Final version was distributed at the General Meeting.)

Clyde Sakamoto moved approval of the Minutes as distributed.

Cheryl Carmichael seconded the motion.

The Motion to accept the Minutes of the General Meeting at Bornholm, Denmark, 25 and 26 August 2010, as presented at the 31 May 2012 General Meeting, was unanimously approved.

Item 3: Matters arising from Minutes of last General Meeting

The Executive Committee reported at the Meeting that it has been unable to follow through with many of the issues raised in Item 10 of the 2010 General Meeting, because, until the completion of this year's Conference (by HLSCC), there has been no reliable list of actual members. Now that we have this key data, we will approach this item with a renewed sense of purpose.

Item 4: Treasurer's Report. [Stephen Royle]

I was elected Treasurer on Bornholm at Islands XI in 2010, to replace Dr Mark Hampton, whose work as my predecessor I acknowledge here. Many months were taken up with trying to transfer the treasurer's position. Initially there was a delay as Mark was ill; he was unable to come to Bornholm because of illness and there was a period of recuperation after that; then he was off work for the rather more pleasing reason of paternity leave. Thus it was some weeks before I was able to get the paperwork and the books from Mark. Then I hit the incredible hurdle of the British banking system and its provisions against money laundering. We had to keep the account in the same branch, the Nat West in Portsmouth, England, that Mark had originally set up when he lived in Portsmouth. Simply changing treasurer was a nightmare; imagine what taking all the money out would have been like!

There were complicated legal forms that required the signatures of myself, Mark, the old treasurer, Graeme Robertson, the secretary and co-signatory and Grant McCall as President. Wet signatures as the phrase has it, so things had to be posted to Australia. Then I had to get the forms sent, not by me but by my bank to Nat West's Direct Business Banking arm in Wimbledon who had to make checks for money laundering reasons. I live in Northern Ireland and my bank, since 1976, is the Northern Bank. They would do this. But Northern Bank have now no affiliation with a British bank; they used to have until they were bought by Australians and now they are owned by a Danish bank,

Danske. Nat West wouldn't recognise the Northern Bank, I must go to my local branch of the Nat West. I don't have a local branch of the Nat West for Nat West doesn't operate in Northern Ireland. I was told to go to my local branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland; they don't operate in Northern Ireland either. We settled on the Ulster Bank, who sent the forms on the basis that I went in and said I was me. All these instructions were by what, by letter. For the banks in England do not let you communicate with them by email. Letters take time...

On 19 March 2011 I wrote to Nat West in Portsmouth to say that I had had all the forms completed by the Ulster Bank and posted to them. There had been a confirmatory phone message to confirm receipt but now my identity had to be verified by the Ulster Bank, I would be sent a form. I had not been. Could a form be sent? I received a reply the following month with a form, which again I was instructed to take to my local branch of the Nat West or the Royal Bank of Scotland – déjà vu. Meanwhile, Graeme in Scotland was having similar problems, for the Scottish banks are also different. In May Nat West in Portsmouth wrote once more: 'I have been waiting on a stationery order for the new forms which I have to send to Mr Robertson'. Then, Graeme moved house. We had to fill in forms with his new address; would he take them to his local branch of the Nat West. Graeme had moved to North Uist, in the Western Isles, where the banking system is mounted on a lorry, which comes through once a week... It is not a Nat West lorry.

We managed; Nat West 'was sorry for the inconvenience this has caused you', so that's all right then. I am the Treasurer of ISISA.

Since Bornholm, the major business has been the receipt of \$8,000 from the conference on Maui in 2008. This was lodged in October 2010 by Mark and still sits in the current account. The interest rates are now so low that there is really minimal benefit in bothering to move it. I was also able to lodge finally £693.16 in membership fees, which in four different currencies had sat in my drawer since Bornholm.

Another major development was that with the aid of Grant and Clyde Sakamoto, I have set up a Paypal account which is to be found on the ISISA website. I have not yet worked out how to transfer the money from it to a bank account and will have to do that but it does take money in including £5.00 from Grant recently who tested it out.

Finally, Islands XII has set up a system which automatically levies \$20 membership from those in attendance. Grant has sent a mail to those on the ISISA list who are not here asking for them to rejoin by Paypal donation

ISISA May 2012 Current Account:

£5,726.07 (including the US\$8,000 from Maui)

Business Reserve Account:

August 2010

£10,855.51

Interest £1.37+ £1.37 + £1.34 + £1.34+£1.35 +£1.44=£6.87

Subscriptions £15.00

Subscriptions from Bornholm: £693.16

Balance: £11,571.91

Paypal balance: £93.00

Total assets: £17,390.98 (US\$27,308.64)

Roy Smith moved approval of the Treasurer's Report as distributed.

Joie Taylor seconded the motion.

The Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was approved by the meeting.

Item 5: Secretary/President's Report. [Grant McCall]

President Grant McCall reported on activities of his office and the activities of Secretary Graeme Robertson.

Graeme Robertson sends his apologies for not being able to attend Islands XII. Graeme has done an excellent job since Bornholm keeping the Executive and Advisory on track with reminders about needed discussions.

For most members of ISISA, the reality of the organisation comes about every two years with the Islands of the World Conference. There were a number of places that asked about being considered to hold Islands XIII in 2014 but, in the end, it came down to two definite offers. That does not mean that there is not activity such as the building of the website – a task for which we are grateful to Clyde Sakamoto and his team at the University of Hawaii at Maui. Bruce Potter moderates the ISISA discussion list where people may post news and opinion. I am hoping that now that we have, after Islands XII, a definitive membership list, that the ISISA discussion list may become more active.

All of us on the Executive and Advisory should be active in promoting ISISA as a useful and interesting organization. Should I hear about research or conference on islands, I always write, offering our website and discussion list as incentives to join. Other members should do the same.

With that idea of publicity in mind, I opened an ISISA Facebook page and there has been some activity on that. Perhaps there is a member who might be willing to take on an ISISA Twitter as well as manage the Facebook page?

For 2010 to 2012, I trialed the use of a generic email address with the idea to facilitate communications especially with named office bearers. I commenced using isisapresident@gmail.com and encouraged other specific office holders to do the same. It was not successful, one writing that they wished to use their institutional email as a way of publicising their role in ISISA to their university. I shall discontinue the presidential gmail account in the next few weeks.

Recurring but not yet resolved is the registering of an ISISA domain name. This has proven complicated as ISISA is not registered legally anywhere. It does not have a secretariat in a single place. ISISA's strength is its multi-disciplinarity and international character, but it means that we do not have a secure place from which to operate with such features as domain names that are country specific for registration. Whilst we may have come close to living in Marshall McLuhan's global village, we are divided in legal terms still into local neighbourhoods .

A major accomplishment over the last two years is the publication by the CRT on Bornholm of the proceedings of Islands XI held there in 2010. Proceedings have been published as a special edition of a journal and, of course, many papers read at Islands conferences find their way into the professional literature as people place their work in their respective journals. But the CRT publication is the first time that proceedings have appeared as a single, stand-alone and readily available volume.

An innovation proposed and trialed for Islands XII was an ISISA Scholarship Program for students who have had their papers accepted for the conference. A small subcommittee was formed from the Executive to examine the candidates and abstracts submitted. Five awards were made and these were accompanied by printed certificates, awarded at a public function of Islands XII. Given that success, the Executive proposes to continue these scholarship awards in future Islands conferences, encouraging organisers to supplement these as they can with scholarship support of their own for students.

A small step for ISISA came out of the Islands XII local organizing committee requesting that an ISISA flag be made and displayed during the conference. The flag was made and displayed at all plenary events. It was passed to the organizing committee for Islands XIII, along with the plaque that was made a few years ago. The flag and the plaque will continue to be part of the ritual of the announcement of the next Islands of the World conference.

At the end of this report, I ask for contributions from the floor regarding activities that might be carried out. Of greatest interest was an inter-conference activity, a small conference that could carry the ISISA badge, but without being a full Islands conference in the numbered series and this is being explored.

There are, I believe, other cooperative activities that people have been discussing and I have been encouraging, but I will let those persons speak for themselves when they are ready, preferably on the ISISA discussion list.

Finally, I want to remind members that elections for the Executive and Advisory bodies are coming up at the General Meeting at Islands XIII. In that regard, I advise that I shall not be standing for the position of President. It is time for another member to take on that post as I have been doing it since I was nominated and elected in 1998.

I wish to thank the members of the Executive Committee and Advisory Council for their fine work over the last two years and I look forward, with them, to more achievements in the two years remaining of our tenure.

I am grateful to Bruce Potter for taking on the task of recording secretary in the absence of Graeme Robertson.

Grant McCall
Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands
31 May 2012

Bruce Potter, acting recording secretary moved approval of the Secretary/President's report as presented.

Joern Ficke seconded the motion.

The Motion to accept the Secretary/President's Report was approved.

Item 6: Amendment to Foundation Charter: Creation of 'Honourary Life Membership' and nomination of Dr Peter Meincke as the first holder.
[Godfrey Baldacchino]

Godfrey Baldacchino proposed the creation of a category of 'Honourary Life Membership' to the ISISA Charter, to be extended to deserving individuals who would have made a significant contribution to island studies scholarship, policy and /or practice.

He also proposed Dr Peter Meincke as the first beneficiary of this category.

6a. Calbert Douglas moved to Amend the ISISA Charter to add a new Membership Category of "Honourary Life Membership" at no cost to the honouree.

The Amendment was approved without objection.

6b. Beate Ratter moved to name Peter Meincke as the first ISISA Honourary Life Member, based on the nomination statement prepared by Vice-President Godfrey Baldacchino.

That nomination follows below:

Nomination for Electing Dr. Peter Meincke, PhD, as

**Honourary Life Member
of
ISISA – The International Small Islands Studies Association**

Dr. Peter Meincke served as President of the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, from 1978 to 1985, and was among the first 60 recipients recognized with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal during the inaugural presentation ceremony on February 6, 2012, at Rideau Hall, in Ottawa.

Recipients of this prestigious award are described as having made Canada a better place, and have called on others to also act out of goodwill. Dr Meincke was recognized specifically for his commitment and expertise in promoting the technological innovations necessary for sustainable development worldwide.

Dr Peter Meincke has been a Life Member of ISISA since 1994 and a regular member of its biennial conferences until 1998.

Dr Meincke was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada in 1936, graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada in 1958, obtained a degree in Engineering Physics from Queen's University Kingston, and a Master's and Ph.D. from the University of Toronto in Low Temperature Solid State Physics. In 1972, he was appointed Vice-Provost of the University of Toronto, with responsibility for the professional faculties and all the information resources including libraries, academic and administrative computing and the instructional media

During Meincke's time at the University of Prince Edward Island, he took it upon himself to increase awareness and understanding of the crucial role that technology plays in our daily lives, and to discover how society can best encourage these innovations, which are necessary for sustainable development. Specifically, in 1992, Meincke created the **Small Islands Information Network** for UPEI's Institute of Island Studies, to provide an opportunity for even the world's smallest islands to build a virtual infrastructure to support their sustainable development. In 1996, he co-founded **Island Web Creations** to make it possible to continue the design and maintenance of web pages to support the sustainable development of even the world's smallest islands. In 2009, Dr Meincke instituted a Can\$5,000 annual award for a student registered with the Master of Arts Program in Island Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island, and writing a thesis that focused on islands and environmental sustainability. The first beneficiary of this award, Ms Erin Kielly, graduated MA(IS) in May 2012.

At the request of the UNDP, Dr Meincke prepared a discussion paper on networking Small Island Developing States for the UN Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in Barbados in 1994. He was one of five senior consultants asked by the UNDP to prepare a feasibility study on SIDSnet, the Small Island Developing States Network. In 1996, he was asked by the UNDP to prepare an update on the 1994 SIDSnet feasibility study for the Alliance of Small Island States. In 1997, Island Web Creations designed a prototype web site for SIDSnet.

To conclude this brief resume, Dr Meincke is a scholar and senior administrator who early on recognized the huge potential of the new information and communication technologies bursting on the scene in recent decades. He was prescient of the power of the world wide web in bridging distances and reducing prejudices, and certainly in making islands and islanders less remote and marginalised. One of the UPEI campus plazas is now named in his honour.

Therefore, this general meeting moves to elect Dr Peter Meincke as Honourary Life Member of ISISA.

Message from Peter Meincke:

Thank you so much for this honour and glowing citation. I am so sorry I cannot be there to receive it in person but there are other meetings this week which I cannot miss. Perhaps I could try to Skype you at an appropriate time.

It is wonderful to see ISISA continue to flourish when so many organizations are struggling to survive. The great success of ISISA is due to the dedication and vision of those individuals who share the belief in the importance of understanding all aspects of small islands. Some are convinced that the rest of the world has much to learn from small islands. I continue to struggle with a question posed in a paper I gave in 1978 "What is the Right Size".

Bruce Potter seconded the nomination of Peter Meincke as the first ISISA Honourary Life Member.

That nomination was Approved by Acclamation of all those attending the General Meeting with special regards and thanks to Dr. Meincke.

- 6c. The membership** attending the General Meeting, by consensus, **requested the Executive to study the qualifications for Honourary Life Membership**, and to submit at the next General Meeting (Jersey, 2014) a set of criteria for such nominations for future candidates for this honour.

Item 7: Amendment of ISISA Protocols: Introduction of ‘Student Awards’ - central fund levels permitting - for future conferences. [Joie Taylor]

Based on the presentation by Joie Taylor of the experience with the Student Awards presented at the initiative of the Organizing Committee of ISISA XII conference, Kinsey Potter moved to amend the ISISA Protocol to add “Student Awards” to the Association’s possible expenditures, especially for travel subventions to enable quality student presentors to attend ISISA meetings.

Cheryl Carmichael seconded the Motion.

The Protocol amendment was approved without objection.

Item 8: Proposal for *Island Studies Journal* to become official journal for ISISA [Godfrey Baldacchino].

Godfrey Baldacchino (ISJ Executive Editor) and Irene Novaczek (Director, Institute of Island Studies, University of Prince Edward Island, Canada, which is the Journal’s institutional home) addressed the meeting.

They explained the synergies to be enjoyed by a well-established organisation without its own scholarly journal; and by a well-respected scholarly journal that remains unaffiliated to any organisation. They also explained that the Journal would maintain its strict independence from the running of ISISA, and vice-versa, as is the practice with various similar set-ups.

Clyde Sakamoto moved to approve the motion that *Island Studies Journal* (ISSN: 1715-2593) become the official journal of ISISA, and initially for a 2-year trial period.

Cheryl Carmichael seconded the Motion.

The proposal was approved without objection.

Item 9: Proposal for *Islands Cookbook* to be endorsed by ISISA [Anna Baldacchino]

Anna Baldacchino explained the rationale behind this publication (being co-edited by Anna and Godfrey Baldacchino and to be published in 2012 by Island Studies Press, at the University of Prince Edward Island, Canada). The target is to showcase around 50 ‘chapters’, with each giving an account of a traditional island dish, inclusive of recipe, followed by glimpses of the origins and transformations of the dish.

Grant McCall moved for ISISA to endorse the island cookbook – tentatively titled *A Taste of Islands* - being edited by Anna and Godfrey Baldacchino.

Ilan Kelman seconded the Motion.

The proposal was approved without objection.

Item 10: Ideas/suggestions for improving ISISA services and resources should be sought from the floor, and remain a priority concern for on-going communication among the membership. [Joern Fricke]

Based on a discussion led by Advisory Council member Joern Ficke, the following were identified by the membership as “issues of interest” to promote the interests and involvement of ISISA’s actual and potential members:

- 1 Publish a list of conference attendees and their contact details, if possible.
Stephen Royle and Dana Lewis-Ambrose will work to establish this within a month or less, based on the records for Islands of the World XII.
- 2 Anna Baldacchino volunteered to revive the Association’s newsletter.
- 3 As part of his activities under this Item 10, Joern Ficke will provide an evaluation of the 2012 Conference and General Meeting.
- 4 Godfrey Baldacchino suggested that ISISA could be involved with regional or thematic island workshops that could be used to promote ISISA membership and interests, preferably in areas somewhat distant from the venue of the immediately preceding and/or immediately forthcoming ISISA biennial conferences.
Suggestions should be submitted to the Executive Committee. Such proposals may include considerations for extending some targeted financial support from ISISA. towards such activities or events.

Item 11: Presentation of host for Islands XIII 2014 conference. [Beate Ratter]

Beate Ratter explained the selection process that the Executive Committee went through to reach their conclusions and recommendations to the membership. There were at least four different candidates who had expressed some interest in hosting the Islands of the World XIII conference due in 2014, including an inquiry from Madeira, a one-page concept presented by a representative of the 4000-inhabitant Kangaroo Island in Australia, a major presentation (meeting all the ISISA guidelines) and welcoming statement from the people of the Pengu archipelago, and a presentation from Jersey, which also met the ISISA criteria.

Following due deliberation, the Committee's final recommendations were: (1) To accept the submission from the island of Jersey to host the meeting in Jersey from May 27 to 30th, 2014; and (2) to recommend that consideration for the following conference (Islands XIV in 2016) give priority to an Asian site.

Grant McCall moved to approve the Executive Committee recommendation to hold ISISA's 2014 *Islands of the World XIII* Conference on the island of Jersey from May 27th to May 30th, 2014.

Roy Smith seconded the Motion.

The proposal was approved without objection.

Michael Entwistle presented a brief overview of Jersey and its facilities for supporting ISISA XIII. The powerpoint presentation will be available on the ISISA web site.

There being no other business, the Meeting was closed by President Grant McCall at 6:30pm.