

# Preface

The International Association of Geodesy IAG2009 “Geodesy for Planet Earth” Scientific Assembly was held 31 August to 4 September 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The theme “Geodesy for Planet Earth” was selected to follow the International Year of Planet Earth 2007–2009 goals of utilizing the knowledge of the world’s geoscientists to improve society for current and future generations. The International Year started in January 2007 and ran thru 2009 which coincided with the IAG2009 Scientific Assembly, one of the largest and most significant meetings of the Geodesy community held every 4 years.

The IAG2009 Scientific Assembly was organized into eight Sessions with Sub-Sessions in five of them. Four of the Sessions of IAG2009 were based on the IAG Structure (i.e. one per Commission) and covered Reference Frames, Gravity Field, Earth Rotation and Geodynamics, and Positioning and Applications. Since IAG2009 was taking place in the great Argentine city of Buenos Aires, a Session was devoted to the Geodesy of Latin America. A Session dedicated to the IAG’s Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), the primary observing system focused on the multidisciplinary research being done in Geodesy that contributes to important societal issues such as monitoring global climate change and the environment. A Session on the IAG Services was also part of the Assembly detailing the important role they play in providing geodetic data, products, and analysis to the scientific community. A final Session devoted to the organizations ION, FIG, and ISPRS and their significant work in navigation and earth observation that complements the IAG. This volume contains the proceedings of the eight Sessions which are listed below:

**Session 1: Reference frames implementation for geosciences’ applications: From local to global scales**

**Convenors:** Zuheir Altamimi, Claudio Brunini

**Session 2: Gravity of the Planet Earth**

**Convenors:** Yoichi Fukuda, Pieter Visser

**Session – 2.1:** Physics and Geometry of Earth: Focus on satellite altimetry and InSAR

**Convenors:** Cheinway Hwang, José Luis Vacaflor

**Session – 2.2:** Gravity – An Earth Probing Tool: Focus on CHAMP/GRACE/GOCE missions, relative/absolute/superconducting gravimetry, and their applications

**Convenors:** Roland Pail, Leonid F. Vitushkin

**Session – 2.3:** Modern Height Datum: Focus on definition and realization of GPS-levelling and gravity-base height datum

**Convenors:** Sílvio R.C. de Freitas, Dru A. Smith

**Session – 2.4:** Gravity and Geoid Modelling: Focus on global and regional gravity and geoid modelling

**Convenors:** Urs Marti, Yan Ming Wang

**Session 3: Geodesy and Geodynamics: Global and Regional Scales**

**Convenors:** Mike Bevis, Sylvain Bonvalot

**Session – 3.1:** Rotation of the Planet Earth

**Convenors:** Richard Gross, Rodrigo, Abarca del Rio

**Session – 3.2:** Sea level changes and post-glacial rebound

**Convenors:** Juan Fierro, Michael Bevis

**Session – 3.3:** Ocean loading and global water distribution / geophysical fluids

**Convenors:** Tonie van Dam, Richard Gross

**Session – 3.4:** Geodesy, crustal motions and geodynamic processes

**Convenors:** Juan Carlos Baez, Sylvain Bonvalot, Arturo Echalar

**Session – 3.5:** Geodesy and the near-field solid earth response to cryospheric mass changes

**Convenors:** Jim Davis, Gino Casassa

**Session 4: Positioning and remote sensing of land, ocean and atmosphere**

**Convenors:** Sandra Verhagen, Pawel Wielgosz

**Session – 4.1:** Technology and land applications

**Convenors:** Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska, Xiaoli Ding

**Session – 4.2:** Modelling and remote sensing of the atmosphere

**Convenors:** Marcelo Santos, Cathryn Mitchell, Jens Wickert

**Session – 4.3:** Multi-satellite ocean remote sensing

**Convenors:** Shuanggen Jin, Ole Baltazar Andersen

**Session 5: Geodesy in Latin America**

**Convenors:** Denizar Blitzkow, Claudia Tocho

**Session 6: JOINT ION/FIG/ISPRS session on Navigation and Earth Observation**

**Convenors:** Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska, Charles Toth

**Session – 6.1: Navigation (FIG, ION)**

**Convener:** Dorota Grejner-Brzezinska

**Session – 6.2: Earth Observation (ISPRS)C**

**Convener:** Charles Toth

**Session 7: The Global Geodetic Observing System: Science and Applications**

**Convenors:** Richard Gross, Hans-Peter Plag, Luiz Paulo Fortes

**Session – 7.1: Past Progress and Future Plans**

**Convenors:** Hans-Peter Plag, Richard Gross, Luiz Paulo Fortes

**Session – 7.2: Science and Applications**

**Convenors:** Richard Gross, Hans-Peter Plag, Luiz Paulo Fortes

**Session 8: The IAG International Services and their role for Earth observation**

**Convenors:** Ruth Neilan, Rene Forsberg

The number and quality of contributions for the eight Sessions clearly demonstrated the important and vital role that Geodesy plays in understanding the earth and its dynamical processes. Satellite, airborne, and terrestrial systems and networks are

continually measuring and analyzing the earth for global change. For this reason the name of these proceedings is “Geodesy for Planet Earth” which reflects the role four-dimensional geodesy plays in understanding the changes to Planet Earth.

The 2009 Assembly attracted nearly 500 oral and poster presentations from 370 geodesists from 45 countries and clearly shows the interest and importance of geodesy globally. The approximately 130 papers that are included in these proceedings (about 25% of the total) are intended to cover much of the latest research and projects on-going in the field.

These proceedings would not be possible without the tremendous work by the Convenors of each of the Sessions and Sub-Sessions. They devoted a enormous amount of time and energy in organizing the reviews and final acceptance of the papers for their Sessions. We are very grateful to IAG Secretary General Hermann Drewes and IAG President Michael Sideris for all their guidance and help with these proceedings. The Local Organizing Committee in Buenos Aires was invaluable in helping arrange a very memorable Assembly and provided essential support in the development of these proceedings. And lastly, sincere thanks go out to all the participating scientists and graduate students who made the IAG 2009 “Geodesy for Planet Earth” Scientific Assembly and these proceedings a tremendous success.

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<http://www.springer.com/978-3-642-20337-4>

Geodesy for Planet Earth

Proceedings of the 2009 IAG Symposium, Buenos Aires,  
Argentina, 31 August 31 - 4 September 2009

Kenyon, S.; Pacino, M.C.; Marti, U. (Eds.)

2012, XIX, 1046 p. 691 illus., 156 illus. in color.,

Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-20337-4