

## ETsC Presidential Address Ottawa 2004

Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome you to the 15<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Earth Tides held in Ottawa, Canada. I thank you for your participation! Special thanks go to Dr. Robert Ryerson as our Canadian host: He is Director General of the Canadian Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS), Earth Sciences Sector, of the Department of Natural Resources Canada. I thank you for your welcome address.

I also thank the Local Organising Committee for the preparations! We meet in an interesting city and in an attractive meeting place. After the symposia in New York, 1981, in Beijing, 1993, and Mizusawa, 2000, it is the fourth symposium outside Europe and, consequently, the second symposium in North-America.

During the last General Assembly of the IUGG in Sapporo, 2003, I was appointed President of the Earth Tide Commission. But, more importantly, in Sapporo the structure of IAG was changed: Now the ETC belongs to Commission 3 (former Comm. 5) of IAG with the topic Geodynamics and Earth Rotation, chaired by Veronique Dehant. The ETC is *sub-commission 3.1*, and the other two are *3.2 Tectonics and Crustal Deformation* chaired by Markku Poutanen, and *3.3 Geodynamics (including loading and post-glacial rebound)* chaired by Richard Gross. We are – as before – encouraged to name working groups on specific problems which have to report to ETC.

Commission 3 also promotes the *Global Geodynamics Project* chaired by David Crossley, and it relies on the IERS (International Earth Rotation and Reference System Services) as well as on ICET (International Center of Earth Tides, Brussels). Finally, it is related to Commission 19 of the IAU (International Astronomical Union), chaired by Veronique Dehant.

The program of this symposium reflects the present state of our research area: We condensed earlier classical experimental and theoretical topics to (1) Earth based instrumentation, as well as (5) Tilt, strain, connected to aperiodic and long period signals, and (3) Earth and ocean tides. We also kept (2) Space geodetic techniques and tides. In continuation of the ideas of our Japanese colleagues responsible for the symposium in Mizusawa, we now put emphasis to (4) Interplanetary tidal interactions and gravity, as well as to (6) Environmental processes and gravity, and (7) Geodynamics. We also added a workshop on the Global Geodynamic project.

New is the Open Forum scheduled for this afternoon with the title: *Earth Tides Research on the Crossroads*. This title reflects the fact that, in the meantime, most of our work is related to non-tidal effects. Therefore, we feel the need for a re-definition of tidal

research with regard to the scientific problems we work on, and, thus, to put our activities on an improved basis. One proposal we have to discuss also in the resolution committee is the completion of the name of our commission with a term that reflects our activities, like *temporal gravity variations* or *geodynamics*.

I would like to report about a very pleasant duty which I had to fulfil: Our friend and former President of the Earth Tide Commission, Prof. Houtze Hsu, celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday; I should better say, the Chinese Academy of Sciences celebrated his birthday in Wuhan, and it was a great festival which showed the power and success of modern China. I was invited to present a talk on modern developments in Earth Tide research which was also printed in a 11-hundred pages birthday volume.

Although tidal research started during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which means it is more than 125 years old, the tidal community was born 1954 with the first Symposium on Earth Tides organised by Prof. Paul Melchior in Brussels. This means, this year our fairly small Earth Tides community now celebrates 50 years of successful co-operation. On the other hand, this also means that at every symposium we have to deplore the loss of valuable colleagues who passed away. To my knowledge came the names of four colleagues: Christian Le Provost, Christian Poitevin, Tadeusz Chojnicki, Hans-Jürgen Dittfeld. We will keep their memory.

I wish all of us an interesting and successful symposium. Thank you very much.

Gerhard Jentzsch  
Friedrich-Schiller-University  
Jena, Germany