

**Co-option:**

**Co-opted Members** – are nominated and elected by the IGS Council, according to the IGS By-laws the council may co-opt up to 5 members. Co-option of members is

available to “ensure that the Council membership will be broadly representative of the different industrial, scientific, or national sectors of the Society;”

*Reported by  
Elizabeth Peggs, IGS Secretary*

## Operating Units of the IGS Council



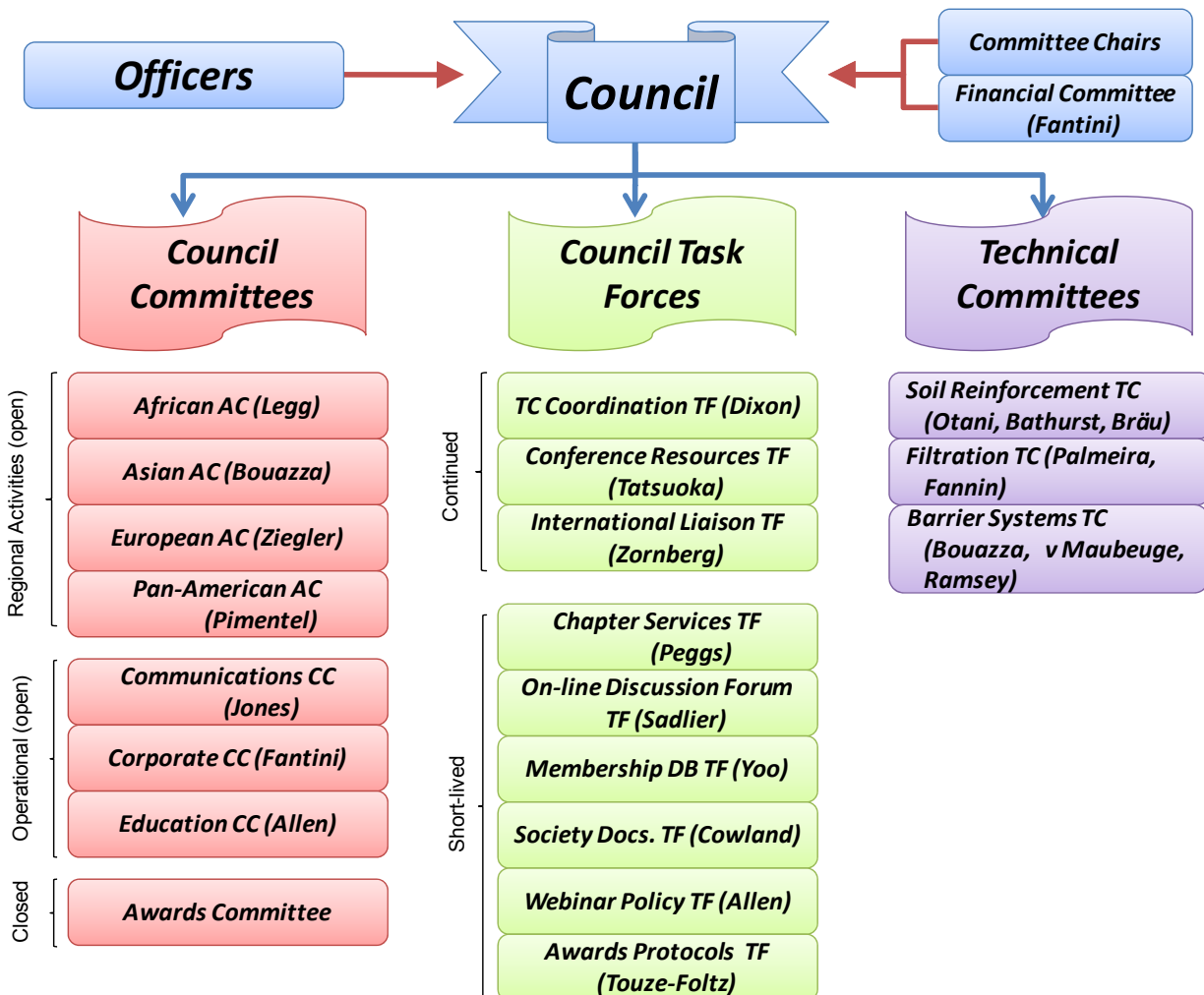
**Jorge Zornberg**

Considering the significance of improved communications (see the “President’s Corner” article in this issue of IGSNews), the IGS Council approved a new structure of operating units aimed at facilitating communications. Compared to the

structure of previous IGS councils, the new structure involves comparatively fewer Council Committees but it now includes a number of formal Task Forces. Under the new structure, the Council Committees, which typically meet before the IGS Council, will evaluate relevant issues and make recommendations for consideration by the council. On the other hand, Task Forces involve a small number of members who will typically meet after the council with the objective of implementing the new council decisions. In addition, a new track of Technical Committees was approved by the

IGS Council. Unlike the Council Committees and Council Task Forces, the schedule of the meetings of Technical Committees will not necessarily conform to that of the IGS Council.

**Figure 1.** shows the structure of the Council Committees, Council Task Forces and Technical Committees of the IGS Council. The chairpersons selected by the council to lead each one of these operating units are shown in parenthesis in the figure. The group of Committee Chairs will form an operating unit that will meet regularly in order to facilitate implementation of activities



**Figure 1:** Structure of the Council Committees, Council Task Forces and Technical Committees of the IGS Council. Chairpersons of the various Operating Units are shown in parenthesis.

that bridge multiple committees. The Financial Committee, (the only committee required by the IGS by-law), will provide advice on financial matters to the IGS Council.

Included in the Council Committees of the IGS Council are the Regional Activities Committees, the charge of which includes: promoting the activities and presence of the IGS in a given region, assisting in the formation of new IGS Chapters, assisting in the organization of regional conferences of the IGS, and facilitating the distribution in the region of material to promote technical and educational events that will benefit the geosynthetics discipline. I would like to emphasize that these are **open committees**, so representatives of the IGS chapters are encouraged to participate in the meetings and activities of these committees. Another group of committees are the Operational Committees of the IGS Council, which are also open to participation by any IGS member. These include the Communications Committee, which is tasked among other activities to compile this issue of *IGSNews*, the Corporate Committee, which serves the needs of the corporate membership of our Society, and the Education Committee, which has generated a wealth of educational documents at multiple levels and in multiple languages

over the years. Finally, the Awards Committee is a closed committee serving the IGS Council in identifying and recognizing the most deserving technical contributors to our industry.

While individual members of the IGS Council have diligently worked to accomplish a myriad of important activities, recent experiences have indicated that tasks are often implemented more effectively when the effort is organized under formal Task Forces of the IGS Council. Consequently, the new structure of the IGS Council now includes a number of Task Forces. A number of these Task Forces will conduct continued operations. This includes the TC Coordination Task Force, which aims at organizing the new Technical Committees of the IGS, the Conference Resources Task Force, focused on consolidating the rich experience gained so far in IGS conferences, and the International Liaison Task Force, which focuses on the interaction with our sister learned societies. In addition, a number of additional Task Forces are short-lived, with an expected completion of their activities in approximately one year. These include the Task Forces on Chapter Services, On-line Discussion Forum, Membership Database, Society Documents, Webinar Policy,

and Awards Protocols Task Forces. These Operating Units have been assigned well-defined tasks, which are expected to be completed and delivered to the Council by the time of the next meeting of the IGS Council.

The brand new additions to the structure of Operating Units of the IGS Council are the Technical Committees (TCs) of the IGS. We are pleased to report that the IGS already has three operational TCs: Soil Reinforcement, Filtration, and Barrier Systems. The leaders of these new TCs initiated their operation after having compiled proposals that were approved by the IGS council and outlined the possible activities of these TCs. These possible activities include interacting with conference organizers to lead technical sessions at upcoming conferences, with designers to produce technical documents, with academics to offer short courses, and with special emphasis on young professionals who are expected to stimulate the use of geosynthetics among the new generation of engineers.

I encourage you to contact the chairs of any of the operating units in order to clarify any questions that you, as an IGS member, may have. You can obtain the contact information of the chairpersons by visiting

**Table 1:** Relevant contact information for some of the Operating Units of the IGS Council

<b>If you are interested in...</b>	<b>Please contact:</b>	<b>E-mail address:</b>
... representing a chapter in Africa	Peter Legg, Chair, African Activities Committee	<a href="mailto:peterlegg@telkomsa.net">peterlegg@telkomsa.net</a>
... representing a chapter in Asia or Australasia	Malek Bouazza, Chair, Asian Activities Committee	<a href="mailto:malek.bouazza@eng.monash.edu.au">malek.bouazza@eng.monash.edu.au</a>
... representing a chapter in Europe	Martin Ziegler, Chair, European Activities Committee	<a href="mailto:ziegler@geotechnik.rwth-aachen.de">ziegler@geotechnik.rwth-aachen.de</a>
... representing a chapter in the Americas	Victor Pimentel, Chair, Pan-American Activities Committee	<a href="mailto:victor_pimentel@uol.com.br">victor_pimentel@uol.com.br</a>
... organizing a new Technical Committee	Neil Dixon, Chair, TC Coordination Task Force	<a href="mailto:n.dixon@lboro.ac.uk">n.dixon@lboro.ac.uk</a>
... contributing to the planning of technical activities about Soil Reinforcement	Jun Otani, Richard Bathurst, or Gerhard Bräu, Co-chairs, Reinforcement Technical Committee	<a href="mailto:junotani@kumamoto-u.ac.jp">junotani@kumamoto-u.ac.jp</a> , <a href="mailto:bathurst-r@rmc.ca">bathurst-r@rmc.ca</a> , <a href="mailto:Gerhard.Braeu@bv.tu-muenchen.de">Gerhard.Braeu@bv.tu-muenchen.de</a>
... contributing to the planning of technical activities about Barrier Systems	Malek Bouazza, Kent von Maubeuge, or Boyd Ramsey, Co-chairs, Barrier Systems Technical Committee	<a href="mailto:malek.bouazza@eng.monash.edu.au">malek.bouazza@eng.monash.edu.au</a> , <a href="mailto:kvmaubeuge@naue.com">kvmaubeuge@naue.com</a> , <a href="mailto:boydramsey@comcast.net">boydramsey@comcast.net</a>
... contributing to the planning of technical activities about Filtration	Ennio Palmeira or Jonathan Fannin, Co-chairs, Filtration Technical Committee	<a href="mailto:palmeira@unb.br">palmeira@unb.br</a> , <a href="mailto:jonathan.fannin@ubc.ca">jonathan.fannin@ubc.ca</a>

the membership directory in the IGS website. In particular, please stay tuned for upcoming information about joining the Technical Committees of the IGS. In the meantime, and for your convenience, I list in Table 1 the contact information of

the chairpersons of both the Regional Activities Committees and the Technical Committees, as I expect that these are the operating units in which IGS members may be particularly interested in participating. We are counting on your par-

ticipation and direct involvement in the activities of the IGS Council.

*Reported by  
Jorge G. Zornberg, IGS President*

## Report about the IGS Council Meetings May 2010, Guarujá, Brazil



**Secretary:  
Elizabeth  
Peggs (USA)**

At the 9<sup>th</sup> ICG in Guarujá there were in fact two sets of council meetings. Prior to the conference were the final meetings of the Officers and Council whose term concluded in 2010. After the conference we held the inaugural meetings of the newly elected council. It was a very busy and very productive week for IGS business.

### **23 May 2010 – Final Session of the 2006 - 2010 Council**

The majority of the business conducted in this plenary meeting related to the wrap-up and transfer of various projects to be passed to the new council. Key items included on the agenda were:

Discussion regarding the previously approved Guidelines for Technical Committees/Technical Working Groups the council agreed to adopt the more current version of the document prepared by Neil Dixon and Jun Otani. In addition, the Council voted and agreed to adopt the name "Technical Committee" eliminating the nomenclature "Technical Working Groups".

The IGS Corporate Committee had previously begun an effort to create an IGS Corporate Recognition Award, the details of which are currently being established. It was agreed during this meeting that the award, when established, will be named in honour of Bernard Myles. This is intended to be a recognition of his long-standing contribution to

the IGS and specifically its corporate membership.

The review of the established process and procedure relating to the RFP (Request for Proposals) for the IGS Secretariat's Office was given by Sam Allen, Task Force Chairman.

A nomination of founding member and long standing IGS Council Member and Secretary Peter E. Stevenson for the IGS Honorary Membership award was made. A unanimous vote in favor of this award was made by the council.

A nomination of IGS Secretariat Rosemary Stevenson for the IGS Plaque was made. It was recognized that before becoming a paid full-time employee of the IGS Rosemary volunteered as administrative assistant and bookkeeper to the IGS. As such Rosemary contributed to the foundation of the IGS. A unanimous vote in favor of this award was made by the council.

Member Alan Bamforth put forth (in writing) a request for IGS participation in TARIC (Integrated Tariff of the European Communities) code dealings, this request was moved to the purview of the European Activities Committee.

Each of the four Regional Activities and Council Committees prepared a report and presented it to the group commenting on status of projects and identifying the need for work to be done by the newly elected council. If you would like to read a detailed report of these minutes or of the committee minutes please contact the Secretariat's Office ([IGSsec@geosyntheticsociety.org](mailto:IGSsec@geosyntheticsociety.org)) for complete copies of the minutes.

### **Council Meetings**

**27 May 2010 17:00-19:30 – Initial Plenary Meeting of the New**

### **Council**

The council discussed the need to co-opt members - council member co-option is available to "ensure that the Council membership will be broadly representative of the different industrial, scientific, or national sectors of the Society;" 5 nominations for co-option were made and by vote of the council co-opted. Those members are: P. Abad (Spain), G. Vivar (Peru), K. Rajagopal (India), X. Tang (China), C. Yoo (Korea).

The officers nominated, and the council elected, member E. Peggs as Secretary.

The officers nominated, and the council elected, member J. Cowland as Treasurer.

Via a presentation by Sam Allen, Chairman of the Secretariat RFP Task Force, the council was updated on the status of the RFP project, its associated deadlines and processes.

President Zornberg led a discussion addressing the organization of committees, task forces and the newly developing technical committees. The council worked together to hone the proposed format of these groups and established a working plan to move forward during the next two days of meetings and throughout the year. Please refer to article on page 6 in this issue of the IGS News for detailed explanation of this revised structure.

Chairmen for each of the task forces, committees and technical committees were proposed and confirmed. Please refer to the IGS Web site *Directories>Committees* for a complete list of committees and members.

**28 May 2010 – 08:00-10:00 am – Plenary Part II – Strategic Planning**