The mission of the Association is the advancement of geodesy.

IAG implements its mission by:

- advancing geodetic theory through research and teaching,
- collecting, analysing and modelling observational data,
- stimulating technological development, and
- providing a consistent representation of the figure, rotation and gravity field of the Earth and planets, and their temporal variations.

Since the predecessor of the IAG, the 'Mitteleuropäische Gradmessung', was established back in 1862, IAG is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2012. Celebrations will climax in September 2013 at the IAG Scientific Assembly in Potsdam, Germany. This location is particularly significant since the first ever meeting, in April 1862, was organised by General Baeyer, as representative of the Kingdom of Prussia, in Berlin. The participants were several geodesists from the Kingdom of Saxony and the Austrian-Hungarian Empire.

GNSS Service Analysis Workshop Held in Poland

From 23 to 27 July 2012, the IGS – a service of the International Association of Geodesy that addresses the needs of precise positioning GNSS users – organised the International GNSS Service Analysis workshop. The event was hosted by the University of Warmia & Mazury in the town of Olsztyn, situated approximately 200km north of Warsaw, Poland, and attracted approximately 230 participants. Containing a mix of plenary sessions, poster sessions and parallel 'splinter group' meetings, the workshop offered an update on the progress of IGS activities, reports on challenges and achievements associated with the various IGS products, and talks by stakeholders and users from outside of the IGS. In the splinter group sessions, Analysis Centers (ACs) and Working Groups (WGs) exchanged information, debated technical issues and drafted plans and recommendations on how IGS products could be improved, as well as proposing new products.

The event was held in the Polish town of Olsztyn.

Despite challenging circumstances, the IGS WGs continue to deliver product improvements, with notable achievements including:

- The launch of the M-GEX (Multi-GNSS Global Experiment), with a global tracking network of about 55 stations. Analyses of the data collected so far were also presented.
- Progress in generating and disseminating real-time GPS orbit and clock products by the Real-Time Pilot Project. Many of the technical issues have been sufficiently well addressed that a Real-Time Service (RTS) will be launched by the end of this year.
- The new IGS Site Guidelines have been finalised, and can be accessed from the IGS website.
- Most ACs will start 'reprocessing' all of the IGS archived data using the latest data models in 2013, with the output files contributing to the new ITRF2013 reference frame.
- The IGS is active within RTCM SC104, promoting several new message types that are needed for RTS and for Precise Point Positioning (PPP) users.
- The IGS reaffirmed its commitment to transitioning as quickly as possible to the new RINEX 3.0x format, suitable for multi-GNSS constellation measurement data.

The IGS Governing Board also met twice during the workshop. It received reports from the ACs and WGs and made several decisions, including:

- The IGS appointed Dr Oliver Montenbruck to chair the GNSS WG, responsible for overseeing M-GEX.
- The IGS approved the extension of the M-GEX project until the end of 2013, with clear goals that by that time M-GEX stations would be merged with the current IGS tracking network, and that there would be as much analysis (and generation of products) as possible. Acquisition and analysis of QZSS, Galileo and BeiDou tracking data is to be a high priority.
- The IGS approved the RTS to start in November 2012, subject to several conditions being met. The initial service will support sophisticated GPS users (those with their own PPP software). The generation of GLONASS orbit and clock products is expected to begin sometime in 2013.

The papers, together with video recordings of the presentations, are available for download from the IGS website [1]. ◂

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www.iag-aig.org
1. http://igs.org/presents