

Dear A1 Commission member,

June 22<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear all,

I hope that the Covid-19 does not affect too much your everyday life.  
This is a newsletter dealing with two topics for our A1 commission

- Renewal of the A1 Commission Organizing Committee
- IAU General Assembly 2021 postponed to 2022
- Business meeting of IAU commission A1 in August 2021

Best Regards

Jean Souchay

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• **RENEWAL OF THE A1 COMMISSION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Below are the members of the new Organizing Committee of the Commission A1, after elections in which 91 votes were recorded, which correspond to 44% of the affiliated people. This new Organizing Committee will take place on August 2021, for the next triennial period (2021-2024).

President: Christopher S. Jacobs (United States)

Vice-President : Aletha de Witt (South Africa)

At-large members (elected) :

Dana Ioana Casetti (United States)

Patrick Charlot (France)

Laurent Eyer (Switzerland)

Lennart Lindegren (Sweden)

Rene Alejandro Mendez Bussard (Chile)

Second-term members :

Jennifer Lynn Bartlett (United States)

François Mignard (France)

Advisor (past president) :

Jean Souchay (France)

- **IAU GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021 POSTPONED TO 2022**

The IAU Officers, together with the Local Organising Committee (LOC), have decided to postpone the XXXI General Assembly to August 2022. The meeting, which was originally scheduled for 16–27 August 2021, will take place in Busan, South Korea. Exact dates and detailed decisions about the programme of the meeting are yet to be finalised.

While there has been much promising news regarding effective COVID-19 vaccines, a great deal of uncertainty remains around how the situation will evolve over the next year. In particular, the safety of events as large as the IAU General Assembly is still unclear, as are the travel restrictions that will be in place in August next year.

In light of the tremendous amount of work that goes into arranging a General Assembly, the decision on whether to go ahead with the event next year or to postpone it to 2022 had to be made with plenty of notice. Since vaccination programmes will take time to be implemented on a global scale, a meeting in August 2021, less than a year from now, would likely still be subject to some disruption caused by the pandemic. For these reasons, the IAU Officers and the LOC in South Korea came to the decision that the meeting should be postponed.

The meeting is now scheduled to take place in August 2022, although exact dates are yet to be confirmed. The IAU is hopeful that immunisation programmes will have allowed a return to normality by then. The triennial Business Meetings, including the elections for the next three years as set out in the IAU Bye-Laws, will take place in August 2021 as virtual meetings. Decisions are in progress regarding the General Assembly scientific programme, including Symposia and Focus Meetings, that had been planned for the meeting in 2021. The IAU will publish these decisions as soon as they have been finalised by the IAU Executive Committee.

The IAU would like to thank colleagues in the LOC in South Korea, who, in addition to the difficult task of organising a General Assembly, have dealt admirably with all the unexpected disruptions arising from the pandemic. We appreciate all their efforts and look forward to attending a fruitful meeting in 2022.

[IAU General Assembly website]

- **BUSINESS MEETING OF IAU COMM. A1 SCHEDULED IN AUG. 2021**

A virtual business meeting of the A1 commission is scheduled, probably using the IAU zoom license. It will occur at a date still not decided, between Aug.16<sup>th</sup>. and Aug.27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. More precise information to be given soon. [JS]