



**Report on the Business Meetings of
Commission J
during the
XXXth URSI General Assembly and
Scientific Symposium
Istanbul, Turkey, August 13-20, 2011**

Chair: S. Ananthakrishnan
Vice-Chair: Justin Jonas

Commission J business sessions were chaired by Prof Ananthakrishnan on the following two days:

Meeting 1: Monday, 15 August, 17:20 – 18:40

Meeting 2: Wednesday, 17 August, 17:20 – 18:40

Profs Ananthakrishnan and Jonas co-chaired the final business session:

Meeting 3: Friday, 19 August, 17:20 – 18:40

COMMISSION J BUSINESS SESSION 1 – 15 August

1.1 Memorial Talk

Prof Ken Kellerman paid tribute to Commission J colleagues who had passed away during the preceding triennium. A number of the early pioneers and prominent radio astronomers died over this period, and amongst them was the Chair-elect for Commission J, Prof Don Backer.

1.2 Election of Vice-Chair

Because of the tragic passing of Don Backer, Justin Jonas was nominated as past Vice-Chair (Jonas was a candidate for Vice-Chair in 2008)

Candidates for Vice-Chair at this GASS were:

(1) Richard Bradley – USA

(2) Willem Baan – Netherlands

Votes were received from:

Brazil, France, India, Italy, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, USA, UK

Dr Willem Baan was elected as Vice-Chair for the next triennium

1.3 Comission J Budget, Report on 2008-2011 triennium

Income:

(1) Comm J activities grant	€ 9000
(2) GASS travel support grant	€ 3000
TOTAL INCOME	€12000

Expenditure:

Financial support of meetings:

(1) 3 rd Workshop on RFI Mitigation in Radio Astronomy Groningen, Netherlands, 17-19 March 2010	€ 750
(2) 3 rd Asia-Pacific Radio Science Conference Toyama, Japan, 22-25 September 2010	€ 1000
(3) "Towards Exploring the Equatorial" – 2011 International Conference on Space Science and Communication Malaysia, 12-13 July 2011-10-31	€ 600
SUBTOTAL	€ 2350

Travel support for Young Scientists (Post-docs):

(1) Dr Wei Wang (China)	€ 1000
(2) Dr Urvashi Rao (USA)	€ 1000
(3) Dr S Wijnholds (Netherlands)	€ 1000
(4) Dr Sarah Spolaor (Australia)	€ 1000
(5) Dr Aaron Parsons (USA)	€ 550
SUBTOTAL	€ 4550

Travel support for Young Scientists (Graduate Students):

(1) Ronny Levanda (Israel)	€ 900
(2) Rurik Primiani (USA)	€ 900
(3) A. Raghunathan (India)	€ 900
(4) Parisa Noorishad (Netherlands)	€ 900
(5) Siemion Andrews (USA)	€ 750
(6) Filiba Terry (USA)	€ 750
SUBTOTAL	€ 5100

TOTAL EXPENDITURE € 12000

1.4 Issues arising from URSI Council (14 August 2011)

- (1) Concern was raised about fall in attendance and papers at GASS. Suggestions for making the GASS more attractive were solicited. The current format of the URSI sessions, which is very rigid, may be a detractor.
- (2) The election of the URSI President and Vice-Presidents was noted. Commission J has a representative on the Board now that Prof S. Ananthakrishnan is a Vice-President.

1.5 Resolutions discussed in the council

Some reservations were expressed about the two proposed Resolutions, and it was thought that more discussions were needed.

- 1.6 IUCAF
Dr Ohishi briefed the meeting on the activities of IUCAP for the period 2008-2011.
- 1.7 Long Range Planning Committee
Dr Schilizzi briefed the meeting on discussions and recommendations of the LRPC.
- 1.8 Publications in the Radio Science Bulletin
(1) "The Square Kilometre Array (SKA) Radio Telescope: Progress and Technical Directions", Hall, P.J., Schilizzi, R.T., Dewdney, P.E.F. and Lazio, T.J.W., Radio Science Bulletin, No. 326, p3, Sept., 2008
It was noted that Commission J papers are not being submitted to the RSB and corrective actions were discussed. A call was made for a volunteer to be Associate Editor of RSB.
- 1.9 Emerging Issues
Topics for emerging issues in radio astronomy were solicited for discussion at the Business Session on 17th August.
- 1.10 Other items
(1) Triennial reports were only received from the following countries: China, France, India, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, UK.
(2) A total of 134 Commission J presentations were presented at the 2011 GASS: 74 oral papers, 21 observatory reports and 39 posters.

COMMISSION J BUSINESS SESSION 2 – 17 August

- 2.1 Issues arising from URSI Council (16 August 2011)
(1) The acceptance of Profs Justin Jonas and Willem Baan as incoming Chair and Vice-Chair of Commission J was noted.
(2) Issues around inter-GA meetings, publication of GASS proceedings and the New Results session were discussed.
- 2.2 Commission J Resolutions
No conclusion on topics.
- 2.3 Associate Editor for Radio Science Bulletin
Dr Jaap Baars accepted nomination as Associate Editor for Commission J
Various papers are in preparation, and new topics were proposed for papers.
- 2.4 GVWG
Based on the findings of a report by Prof Steven Tingay the GVWG was disbanded.
- 2.5 URSI Long Range Issues
- 2.6 Emerging Issues in Commission J
The existing list of issues was reviewed and further inclusions were considered.
- 2.7 Other items
Discussion on how to improve URSI GASS attendance, particularly amongst young scientists.
- 2.8 Awards

Dr Jocelyn Bell-Burnell would be presented with the Grote Reber Gold Medal at 8 am on Friday 19 August, and the presentation would be followed by a lecture by her.

COMMISSION J BUSINESS SESSION 3 – 19 August

- 3.1 Issues arising from URSI Council (18 August 2011)
 - (1) There was support for a “hybrid model” for the GASS, allowing more flexibility in the sessions.
 - (2) There was support for making Powerpoint slides available on a website, given that permission was obtained from authors.
- 3.2 GASS 2014, Commission J Programme
 - (1) The list of emerging issues was reviewed and used as a basis for suggesting sessions.
 - (2) Suggestions for joint sessions, invited speakers and general lectures were solicited.
- 3.3 Meetings to be supported by Commission J, 2011-2014
Suggestions for meetings to be supported were solicited.
- 3.4 Communication with Commission J members
The need for an updated e-mail database of members was identified.
- 3.5 Council Presentation
Commission J highlights to be presented at the final Council Meeting were discussed. A key message was that Radio Astronomy is a vibrant field, and a high participation rate in Commission J activities at the GASS was proof of this.