

# IAPSO-IUGG

## Activities' Report - Year 2020

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### **1. Introduction**

IAPSO, the International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans, is one of the 8 Associations of IUGG, the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, representing the international community of physical ocean sciences. The IAPSO activity is carried out by organizing biennial conferences, that every four years coincides with the IUGG General Assemblies, and through commissions, committees and workshops on original and up-to-date research themes. IAPSO also participates to the activities of SCOR (Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research), with which it has organized a number of joint working groups. IAPSO provides also basic services to the research community, such as the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level and the IAPSO Standard Seawater Service, the latter being the reference for calibrating seawater salinity measurements. IAPSO has a website (<http://iapso.iugg.org/>) and a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/iapso.iugg.org>).

The activities mentioned above have important implications also at the national scale and the participation of the Italian community to the periodic assemblies, in a higher number when they are taking place in European States, is both an occasion to meet the international reference community and a place to enhance visibility of research activities carried out in national academies or research institutions.

### **2. Main activities carried on by IAPSO during 2020 relevant for Italy and for CNR**

In 2020 the activity has been reduced to a minimum, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All activities have been carried out remotely. Essentially it has been limited to the distribution of news and calls issued by IAPSO through the newly established national IAPSO mailing list ([lista.iapso.it@cnr.it](mailto:lista.iapso.it@cnr.it)). Among these there were the IAPSO calls for nominations for the Early Career Scientist Medals (published on 1st October 2020), Prince Albert I Medal 2021 (published on 3rd August 2020) and the participation to an online voting for the introduction of some changes in the statute (December 2020).

### **3. Activities carried on by Italian Delegate within the Union during 2020 and impact on the Italian scientific community**

With the aim to qualitatively and quantitatively enhance the Italian participation it is necessary to make a better access to information possible. To this end now a mailing list of Italian scientist who are associated to IAPSO exists, to which it is always possible to be added (instructions are published here: <https://www.cnr.it/it/organismo-scientifico-internazionale/38/iapso-iugg-international-association-of-physical-sciences-of-the-oceans>), which will be used by the delegate and the alternate to easily spread information and communications that are relevant for IAPSO, as well as collect contributions for the periodic reports on the Italian scientific activities in the framework of IAPSO. Through this list the most important IAPSO news has been divulged and the potential nominations for the award have been collected.

In addition in 2020 there has been an initial participation to the preparation of the Joint Assembly IAMAS-IACS-IAPSO, which was originally planned to be held in Busan in July 2021, but which has now been cancelled (there will be online events). The meetings that should have followed the event "State of the art and perspectives of the predictability of natural events" (Rome, November 2019) in 2020 (and 2021) on the risks that have been neglected in the 2019 meeting, and the interaction with stakeholders and the communication of the risk, have been postponed with no date yet.

### **4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost**

As the other IUGG Associations, IAPSO is a scientific reference and is fundamental for the internationalization of the Italian community, favouring the openness towards the global community. Through IAPSO the Italian scientific community has the opportunity to participate to scientific initiatives (conferences, scold, working groups, strategic plans drafting), even from the organisational point of view. This enhances visibility of the national community and its authoritativeness in the framework of the Association. The membership costs to IUGG do also have advantages from an economic point of view, given that the Italian participants care eligible to receive support for their participation to the scientific activity through travel grants and funding for the organization of workshops in Italy, thanks to IUGG support programs to scientific meetings.

For instance, the workshop THEMES 2017 (“Physics and biogeochemistry of marine environments: multiscale analysis of past and present variability”, Venezia, November 2017), to which many Italian researchers participated, has been supported by IAPSO-IUGG. Other events that have been organized in Italy thanks to IAPSO support have been: Arctic Subarctic Ocean Flux Study (ASOF), Lerici, March 2016; Past Antarctic Ice Sheet Dynamics (PAIS) Conference, Trieste, September, 2017.

Other similar event can be supported in future, when in person meetings will be possible again. To conclude in my opinion the benefits/cost ratio of the membership is extremely favourable.

## **5. Evaluation of Italians’ attendance and how to improve interest and involvement**

The organization of a national scientific event related to IAPSO or more in general to IUGG and its associations, would help to promote the Association’s activities in Italy and would provide useful contents to the preparation of the biennial report of the Italian activities. In addition, it would create a higher awareness within the national scientific community about the role that Italy could have at the international level, based on the notable scientific expertise and the availability of instruments and observational networks.

## **6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs (if known)**

The Italian community is represented in the committees and the commissions of the Association, and has had representative roles within international organizations on behalf of the Association and the Union. In particular, between 1995 and today:

- Paola Malanotte Rizzoli (USA/Italy) was part of the IAPSO Bureau from 1995 to 2007 as President (1999-2003), Past President (2003-2007) and Deputy Secretary General (1995- 1999).
- Mario Astraldi has been member of the Executive Committee from 1995 to 2003.
- Stefania Sparnocchia has been member of the Executive Committee from 2007 to 2015 and since 2015 she is Secretary General. Furthermore, she has been Liaison Officer of IUGG/IAPSO for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO from 2011 to 2019 and has been member of the Site Comparison Committee that evaluated the proposals for the IUGG G.A. in 2023, and selected Berlin.
- Stefano Tinti is member of the Joint Tsunami Commission (IAPSO/ IASPEI/IAVCEI)
- Christian Ferrarin is member of the Commission on Mean Sea Level and Tides (the commission’s members are all those that participate to the commission’s meetings, C. Ferrarin has participated to the 2019 meeting)

The organization of a national scientific event connected to IAPSO, or more in general to IUGG and it Association, with a biennial recurrence, could be useful to promote the Association’s activities in Italy and would give useful inputs for the preparation of the biennial report of the Italian contributions to IAPSO.

## **7. Conclusions**

As already pointed out in previous occasions, it would be useful to establishing a national award for Italian early career scientists, active on IAPSO themes, that would favour their participation to the General Assemblies

of the Association. This participation should also be encouraged by sustaining young Italian researchers with fellowships and awards, enhancing their international mobility.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katrin Schroeder". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored rectangular background.

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