The Seventh Meeting of the International Committee on GNSS (ICG) was held in Beijing, China from 5 to 9 November 2012. The meeting was hosted by the Government of the People’s Republic of China. IAIN was represented by Elisabeth Fischer (OVN). The 7th ICG meeting had around 190 participants; China, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Russian Federation, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, and the European Union, as well as the following intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations: Civil Global Positioning System Service Interface Committee (CGSIC), European Space Agency (ESA), Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI), International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), International Association of Institutes of Navigation (IAIN), International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and IAG Reference Frame Sub-Commission for Europe (EUREF), International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS), International GNSS Service (IGS) and Interagency Operations Advisory Group (IOAG). Representatives of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) also participated. Australia and Canada were invited to attend as observers. The representatives of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea and Thailand, as well as the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization (APSCO), the African Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education - in French Language (CRASTE-LF), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) also participated.

The following members of the Providers Forum were present at the meeting: China, the European Union Japan, the Russian Federation, and the United States.

In the frame of the ICG meeting several meetings of the Providers Forum and of each working group took place:

**WG A: Compatibility and Interoperability**

- The WG A addressed all four areas of its current work plan through an intersessional meeting held in July 2012 in conjunction with the ICG Workshop, Olsztyn, Poland and additional presentations and discussions are conducted during ICG-7.
- The Compatibility and International GNSS Monitoring and Assessment (IGMA) subgroup of WG-A provided reports at the intersessional meeting that formed the basis for recommendations on spectrum protection and open service performance monitoring.
- WG A organized and completed the first ICG Interference Detection and Mitigation Workshop, held in Vienna in June 2012. The next workshop will take
place in April 2013 immediately preceding the ION Pacific PNT Meeting, where an interoperability workshop involving users and manufacturers will also be held.

**WG B: Enhancement of GNSS service performance**

- The group discussed the benefits of an interoperable GNSS Space service Volume. The group believe that a fully interoperable GNSS Space Service Volume will result in significant benefits for future space users. WG B will continue to work on an interoperable GNSS SSV.
- Concepts allowing for maritime integrity by exploiting the arising multiplicity of new satellite navigation signals were discussed. The value of multi-GNSS application demonstrations was identified.
- Application subgroup meeting: A first App. SG meeting on “Location Based Service and Mass Market Application” was held 2012. The 2nd App. SG meeting will be held in February during the margin of Munich Satellite Navigation Summit. ICG participants and satellite navigation industry representatives are invited to attend the meeting and propose presentations regarding GNSS applications on Personal Navigation and Transportation (Road, Rail and Water) by end of Jan. 2013.

**WG C: Information Dissemination and capacity-building**

- The group addressed education and training programmes related to GNSS for purposes of building capacity in developing countries through the Regional Centres affiliated to the United Nations and centers of excellence, such as an International Centre of GNSS Science Technology and Education at the Beihang University of China. These centers might grow into a network of centers and provide a major springboard for the transfer and enhancement of skills and knowledge in GNSS research and applications.
- A new item on information dissemination, including web-presence materials, was introduced in the Working Group’s workplan.
- The current ICG website is maintained by UNOOSA. The ICG participants are invited to:
  - review the ICG website and provide, to the next meeting of WG-C, specific details and how the content and format should be revised.
  - Consider and provide proposal for the revision and hosting of the website
- ESA has launched Navipedia. Navipedia is freely accessible on the internet via [www.navipedia.org](http://www.navipedia.org) and is conceived as a collaborative GNSS encyclopaedia with the objective to foster the transfer of knowledge in the field of GNSS. ICG participate are invited to contribute to Navipedia.

**WG D: Reference Frames, Timing and Applications**

- WG D noted significant continued progress on the geodetic and timing reference for the GNSS.
- The descriptions on timing references of "GPS time", "Galileo System time" and "IGS time V1.0" templates on Geodetic References will be made available on the ICG website.
Discussions concerning the “Future of ICG”
At the 7th meeting of the Providers’ Forum held in conjunction with the 6th meeting of ICG in Tokyo 2011, the topic of the future of ICG was raised and discussed. Considerations on the future of ICG were also given during different meetings in 2011 and 2012.

Report from the Provider Forum about the Review of the Future of ICG:
The ICG as such is not questioned but there is a need to strengthen the ICG and to clarify the role and progress of the working groups.
Today the ICG only consists of Sharafat Gadimova and the workload for her is very high.

A few points from the discussion that followed the meeting:
• Should/could ICG recommendations be binding or voluntary?
The Providers want to keep the informal messages from ICG. There are also views that the decisions should be more binding but this would need a change of the structure of ICG and the Providers are not sure that this is where they want to go. ICG as forum where providers, observers and associate members can meet and discuss to create a greater understanding is very successful. A mechanism to stimulate providers to fulfil the recommendations was discussed.
• A discussion was also about the limiting the number of working groups.
• The providers urge the working groups to provide the recommendations in advance. It is difficult to prepare recommendations in advance. For observers and associate members it is not easy to meet more than once per year. Another matter is the need to hear what the providers suggest and discuss during ICG and formulate any reactions.

The 8th meeting of ICG will be hosted by the United Arab Emirates in Dubai, from 10 to 14 November 2013. The European Union expressed interest to host the ninth meeting of ICG in 2014.