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## 15) Next conference site

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### Topic:

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**Topic author:** rjellison

**Subject:** 15) Next conference site

**Posted on:** 28 Jan 2008 07:15:36

**Message:**

The selection of the next conference host/site should be begun.

I am strongly in favor of meeting as part of SIL's Capetown conference in 2010. After GSL2008 we will have had 3 conferences in N. America, 2 in Australia, 2 in Asia, and one in each of Europe and S. America. While there might be several other excellent options, the SIL meeting presents the opportunity for a successful meeting in Africa with little planning and preparation as it would be organized by SIL with us just organizing special sessions and perhaps a post-conference trip.

If we want to consider other venues, we need to solicit proposals that could be presented at a business meeting at GSL2008. How do you want to proceed?

### Replies:

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**Reply author:** aoren

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 09:17:40

**Message:**

I have never been in Capetown yet, but I hope to get there the coming September for the Extremophiles meeting. I will let you know then whether I like the place.

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**Reply author:** btimms

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 11:52:57

**Message:**

Should we continue as we have done in the past, I would expect proposals from Javier for Mexico and from Mianping for China. There could be spirited discussion at the GSL conference, which should be after a Futures Meeting as the result of this will influence the choice.

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**Reply author:** shurlbert

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 13:27:52

**Message:**

Capetown sounds excellent, and a way of killing two birds with one stone. Useful for the unfunded!

Brian, maybe you could contact Jenny Day or others there and see if they might like to organize a salt lake trip - for which Namibia might be a possibility. Not sure whether Jenny has retired or not.

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**Reply author:** btimms

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 16:29:40

**Message:**

Jenny Day changed workplace awhile ago and I do not have her current address. Any offers?

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**Reply author:** rjellison

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 16:40:16

**Message:**

I'm sure we could organize a field trip from Capetown, but it seems a bit premature to contact anyone pending a decision concerning the next locale.

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**Reply author:** btimms

**Replied on:** 28 Jan 2008 21:35:34

**Message:**

Of course.

Brian

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**Reply author:** jalcocer

**Replied on:** 29 Jan 2008 13:53:34

**Message:**

Dear friends,

Before deciding the next place to organize the congress, I guess we should think about the advantages and disadvantages of joining SIL congresses. If we think a joint congress will benefit our society, then there will be no problem. However, if we found that it is better to keep our congress separate from SIL, then we could move forward choosing the place.

javier

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**Reply author:** rjellison

**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2008 06:58:42

**Message:**

In the past we've accepted proposals for the next conference at the business meeting. Are we still going to do this? If so we should solicit proposals prior to the meeting to allow persons to prepare proposals.

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**Reply author:** aoren

**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2008 07:23:39

**Message:**

If you want to solicit proposals now, you need a mailing list of potential candidates. Will this be the list of members of ISSLR "in good standing" who have paid their membership fee in the past years?

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**Reply author:** shurlbert

**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2008 18:36:20

**Message:**

I suggest a call for proposals go out now, that they be submitted in writing to the board before the GSL meeting, AND THAT THEY BE SUBMITTED IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL TO ALLOW RATIONAL CHOICE BETWEEN COMPETING PROPOSALS.

Serious proposers then need to identify a specific site/facility, give approximate costs

(registration, meals, lodging, field trip) that are more than mere guesses, and approximate itinerary of a proposed post-symposium field trip.

I think we should insist on this. We might also codify the format of this request and put it on our website. We have been reinventing this wheel - not always successfully - for a few decades now.

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**Reply author:** rjellison

**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2008 19:28:27

**Message:**

I agree. Stuart you have more experience with this than anyone. Could you put together such a sheet and I'll convert it to a web page.

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**Reply author:** mcoleman

**Replied on:** 31 Jan 2008 21:05:22

**Message:**

I think it is difficult to get detail but I agree. Mark

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**Reply author:** Zhengmianping

**Replied on:** 04 Feb 2008 19:14:35

**Message:**

We are still interested in hosting the next salt lake conference in Beijing. The conference in Beijing will be supported by institutions, universities, and universities in China, as well as some agencies of the Chinese government. At the upcoming GSL conference, we will make the formal application.

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**Reply author:** aoren

**Replied on:** 04 Feb 2008 20:53:20

**Message:**

Perfect. China is very active in this field. Beijing will also host the next meeting on halophilic microorganism, after Sevilla 2001, Ljubljana 2004 and Colchester 2007. Yanhe Ma will be in charge of the organization of Halophiles 2010. Having been a guest teacher for a few weeks in Hangzhou last September and having visited scientific institutions in Shanghai and Beijing at the occasion, I am impressed both by the level of science and by the enthusiasm of many of my colleagues.

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**Reply author:** shurlbert

**Replied on:** 05 Feb 2008 12:49:56

**Message:**

Hello Mianping old friend!

We all have seen Beijing already! How about arranging for the conference to be held in a giant yurt on the shores of Niulang Zhinu Lake (555 g/L; 1 sq km)!

This would also allow a more efficient methodology for determining officers of the society. We have a swimming race across this lake. The officers then would be:

President - he/she who finishes first

VicePresident - he/she who finishes second

Secretary/Treasurer - he/she who finishes third

Members-at-Large - all other competitors who survive

The non-survivors, stiff, silent and well-embalmed with salt, should all be given honorary life

membership as they are unlikely to create dissension or unnecessary chatter at our meetings. They also would provide a needed gravitas to our meetings, something always in short supply when Australians are present.

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**Reply author:** btimms

**Replied on:** 05 Feb 2008 19:08:04

**Message:**

Well we Aussies will stay home ---we have enough salt lakes of our own! And their gravity is increasing with secondary salinisation. To be more serious Mianping, how about having the conference away from Beijing? We have been to Beijing before, many conferenecs are held there, its too polluted, so how about some coastal breezes or mountain basin salt? Certainly you have wonderful opportunities for post conference trips. But too many people in Beijing without us joining them.

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**Reply author:** mcoleman

**Replied on:** 21 Apr 2008 05:58:57

**Message:**

Stuart has circulated his code for submission and it is a good effort.

I think that it would be very difficult to provide estimated costs of the conference. These were still being finalised for the Australian conference right to the end as numbers changed the equation. Perhaps key costs such as accom rates and meals in the town may give enough indication of overall costs.

Again with trips costs would be very hard to provide in my experience unless much work is done solciting potential sponsors and if you dont get the conference all to no avail. More importantly the sponsors are disheartened. I think that the confernece should specify certain events such as trips, and banquets. The option of 'if any' should be avoided. The scope should include options for the above. Some of this is already included in the 'code'.

Local scientific interest and 'catchment of scientists' may be more important to the ISSLR as an organisation.

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**Reply author:** shurlbert

**Replied on:** 21 Apr 2008 21:12:23

**Message:**

Clearly changes due to inflation/exchange rates are difficult to predict three years in advance.

Aside from that, costs can be pretty accurately roughed out for any location - and I would argue that any proposer unwilling to do that is not likely to produce a good conference at no more than moderate cost. And on-site costs can, and have, varied SEVERAL-FOLD from one venue to another. (In Bolivia, you got meals, lodging, banquet, a conference, a 1400 km field trip, a hard bound volume - 2 weeks worth - for \$600).

We should want to know whether a proposer's institution is going to subsizize costs in any way? (Some institutions will view these sorts of things as a money-making enterprise, others will not) and whether the proposer is COMMITTING to seek supplemental funding from outside sources?

The sine qua non for a Capetown venue will be a chief organizer with fire-in-the-belly who is willing to do 90% of the planning, even if there is a "committee" to assist.... We haven't ignored Africa completely, of course, the 1985 conference was in Kenya. I think a Capetown proposer needs to do a lot of work prior to SLC.....!

At the Kenya meeting there was no organized post-meeting trip, yet many people organized their own small group safaris to various places afterward. But I agree a group excursion to lakes, etc., is always nice if not too costly.

This should be done in a business-like manner, otherwise we court excessively high costs and/or weak organization...or both.

Also the best meetings in my experience have been where "accom rates and meals in town" were not relevant because the meeting was held at a convent (Barcelona), retreat (Adelaide), scientific institute (Beijing), or hotel (Bolivia) where meals and lodging were included in the registration fee. Best meeting places have generally been far outside large cities.

I've suggested to Enrique Bucher that he put in a proposal for Mar Chiquita. Argentina, but have not heard back from him. I've been there and it really is an IDEAL - and inexpensive - possibility. Small, very pleasant town - Miramar - on edge of 6000 sq km salt lake.

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