

# Argo Information Centre Funding Issues

or – 2011 was an interesting year

One year ago we were full of optimism, just perhaps we could get enough income so that at the end of 2011 there would be enough cash on hand to confirm Mathieu's salary for 2012, Australia made a very large one-time payment that seemed to make this inevitable.

Then came the election of Palestine to membership in UNESCO

For that reason, and others:-

- 1) USA failed to make its payment to the IOC
- 2) Canada failed to make its payment to the IOC
- 3) The UK also failed to make a payment

The result is that the Australian contribution only prevented bankruptcy. Had Susan not donated an extra \$80k we would have had insufficient funds to pay the ATC by about October or November. That was disappointing and illustrates our excessive dependence on a single source of funds.

Now the good news...

- 1) Mathieu is now employed by the WMO
- 2) Instead of payments only to the IOC, Argo contributors can now contribute to support the AIC through three sources:-
  - a) IOC – overhead lowered from 13% to 10%
  - b) WMO – overhead set at 7%
  - c) CLS – overhead is zero (sort of)

Tracking accounts is going to be a challenge, but Albert Fischer has agreed to set up a coordinated budget tracking system. There will be three summary statements each year.

It will be relatively easy to move money between any combination of CLS, IOC and WMO.

This should be stable at least until 2015 when Palestine is eligible to apply for membership in the WMO.

For 2012 Australia has already made its annual contribution, through the IOC.

Canada has just completed its contribution deferred from 2011, using the CLS route.

I am promised that USA contributions will resume, through WMO.

I am aware that Japan has requested an invoice.

Different routes will work for *different countries, but I strongly applaud the effort to set up multiple routes.*  
*The system is stronger.*

In recent years we have received funding from:-  
Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India,  
Japan, UK, USA. (US contributions will decrease)

Contributions from smaller Argo members would  
be greatly appreciated, e.g. Argentina,  
Netherlands, Spain.

Can we get a contribution back from Korea?  
(Korea contributed in one year only)  
Also, why not EuroArgo?

Some thoughts:-

- 1) Mathieu Belbeoch would like to talk about a tax on float purchases.
- 2) Could we find an alternate non-Government source of funds? e.g. The Agouron Foundation or the Schmidt Ocean Institute?

But first a round-table:-

Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, EuroArgo, France, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, UK, USA