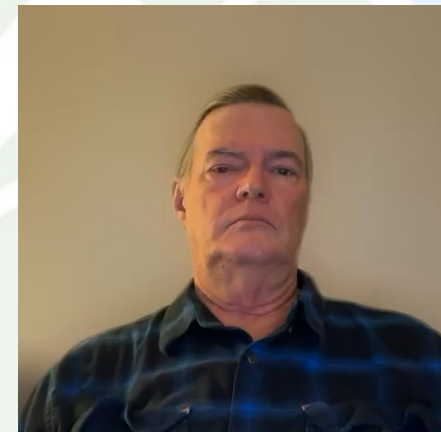


GGOS Africa Workshop 2026

IAG Welcome Address

presented by
Richard S. Gross
President, International Association of Geodesy

Nairobi, Kenya
October 5-7, 2026



International Association of Geodesy

- **Voluntary federation**
 - Hundreds of agencies, universities, research institutes
 - Thousands of people in over 100 countries/regions
 - Working together to advance geodesy
 - Through data collection, analysis, research and development
- **Scientific Organization**
 - Promotes geodetic research and cooperation
 - Founded in 1862
 - One of constituent Associations of IUGG

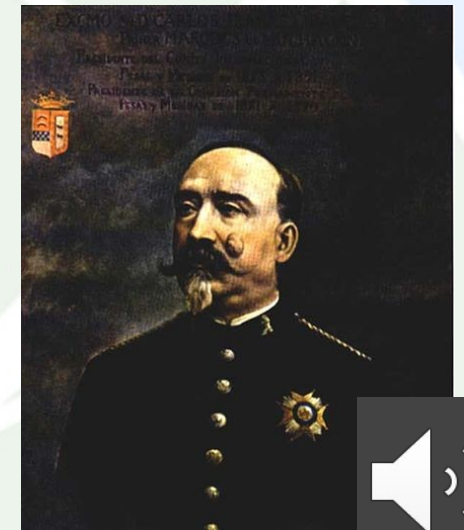


Origins of the IAG

- Central European Arc Measurement
 - Established in 1862
 - By General Johann Jacob Baeyer of Prussia
 - Objective
 - Determine anomalies in Earth's curvature in Central Europe
 - Deflection of vertical; Relative structure of geoid
 - Interpret observed anomalies
 - Structure and composition of Earth
- First Conference of Representatives
 - Held in 1864 in Berlin
 - Created
 - Permanent Commission; Central Bureau; Triennial meetings of General Conferences
 - Considered forerunner of IAG and IUGG General Assemblies
- International Geodetic Association
 - Established at General Conference of 1886 in Berlin
 - First President: General Carlos Ibáñez de Ibero
 - First Director General of Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN) Spain
 - Incorporated into International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
 - Established in 1919 by International Research Council



General Johann Jacob Baeyer



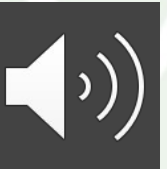
General Carlos Ibáñez de Ibero



Global Geodetic Observing System

<https://geodesy.science/ggos>

- Established by IAG
 - 2003 as IAG Project; 2007 as full component of IAG
- *The observing system of the IAG*
 - Organize the technique-specific Services under one unifying umbrella
 - Form a comprehensive geodetic observing instrument
 - Integrate the hitherto separate pillars of geodesy (shape, rotation, and gravity) into one consistent observing system
- Provide the geodetic expertise and infrastructure needed to monitor the Earth system and to conduct global change research
 - IAG Commissions and Services are the backbone of GGOS



GGOS Affiliate

- National or regional organization
 - That coordinates space-geodetic activities there
- Established to increase participation in GGOS
 - Particularly from under-represented areas
 - Africa, Asia, South and Central America
- Is a component of GGOS
 - With representation on GGOS Governing Board
 - Each GGOS Affiliate has 1 representative to Governing Board
- First GGOS Affiliate
 - GGOS Japan
 - Established in 2013
 - Provides forum for multi-technique, space-geodetic discussions within Japan
 - Strives to improve quality of observations & encourage collaboration in Japan
- Encourage others to become GGOS Affiliates
 - D-A-CH (Germany, Austria, Switzerland; established in 2021)
 - IberAtlantic (Spain, Portugal; established in 2024)
 - Africa (African continent; established in 2026)

