



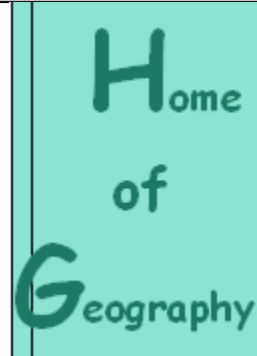
# **IGU E-Newsletter**

## **From the Rome Home of Geography**

Quarterly

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# 19

January

2010

Editor-in-Chief: *Ronald F. Abler*

Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

*This Newsletter is circulated to more than 1300 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome.*

*Please send them to [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org)*



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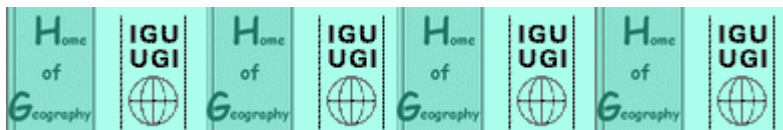
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## PRESIDENT ABLER's REMARKS

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you will have heard, South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak has appointed IGU Secretary General and Treasurer Yu Woo-ik Ambassador to the Peoples Republic of China. Woo-ik took up his appointment and residence at the Embassy of South Korea in Beijing in late December. Woo-ik will continue to fulfill his responsibilities as IGU Secretary General through the Tel Aviv IGU Regional Conference in July 2010 with the assistance of IGU Executive Assistant Sarah Kim and myself. Few practicing geographers in recent history have occupied such a crucial position in such a critical time and place, and I know everyone in the IGU family joins me in wishing Woo-ik great success in his work of applying geography at the highest levels of international relations.

A call for nominations of candidates to succeed Secretary General Yu was sent to the National Committees for the IGU on 9 December 2009. The results of the election, which will be conducted by mail and e-mail, will be announced in late April 2010. Yu's successor will take office after the conclusion of the 12-16 July Regional Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel.

I had the privilege of participating in the events marking the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Geographical Society of China in mid-October, including the great honor of speaking in the Great

Hall of the People at the opening session of the commemorative conference. I concluded my brief remarks as follows:

On behalf of the IGU, I congratulate the Geographical Society of China on its great accomplishments during its first century of existence, and I wish the organization and its present and future members all possible success in its second century. Along with geographers throughout the world, I look forward to learning about the early results of the GSC's second century of work during the 2016 International Geographical Congress in Beijing. And personally and on behalf of the IGU, I look forward to continued and deepening collaboration in the years and decades to come.

In November I visited the International Cartographic Association Congress in Santiago de Chile to meet with members of the Local Organizing Committee for the IGU Regional Conference that will be held in Santiago in early November 2011 (the exact dates should be available in a few weeks). Many of the same individuals in Santiago who organized the ICA Congress will serve on the committee for the IGU Conference. I'm pleased to report that the facilities and organization of the ICA Congress were excellent, and that Santiago is lovely in November, especially for a refugee from the Northern Hemisphere winter. I'm certain delegates to the first IGU meeting held in Latin America in many years will enjoy the venue and the warm hospitality of our Chilean colleagues.

Before Santiago, however, comes Tel Aviv-Jaffa. I have been in frequent contact with the Tel Aviv Local Organizing Committee and am therefore aware of the advanced state of planning for the meeting. Details are available in the Second Circular that can be downloaded at [http://www.igu2010.com/pdf/Second\\_Circular-English.pdf](http://www.igu2010.com/pdf/Second_Circular-English.pdf) (English) or at [http://www.igu2010.com/pdf/Second\\_Circular-French.pdf](http://www.igu2010.com/pdf/Second_Circular-French.pdf) (French). For those who like to think ahead, the dates for the International Geographical Congress in Köln have now been firmly established as 26-30 August 2012. The congress will be held on the campus of the University of Köln. Details are available on the congress web site at <http://www.igc2012.org/>.

I concluded my travels for 2009 by returning to Tunis in December as a guest of *l'Association Tunisienne de l'Information Géographique Numérique* (Tunisian Association for Digital Geographical Information), which had selected me to receive its 2009 *Lauréat scientifique*. In addition to receiving that significant honor and a fascinating tour of Djerba and Southern Tunisia, I was able to meet Adnane Hayder and Ali Toumi and to repeat in person the IGU's appreciation of the hospitality the IGU enjoyed during the 2008 International Geographical Congress. I hope that 2010 is off to a good start for you and I hope to see you in Tel Aviv.

Ron Abler



## 2) NEXT IGU OFFICIAL INITIATIVES

### 2.1) 2010 TEL AVIV REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The IGU Regional Conference Tel Aviv July 2010 is just around the corner, and we are pleased to report that preparations are well under way to ensure a successful conference.

The conference theme is "Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World" and the three plenary sessions will address the main aspects of world diversity. The first deals with world political fragmentation, the second with globalization and socio-cultural diversities and the third with climate change and physical and biodiversities. In addition, a set of sessions on Israeli Geography have been organized. One session will highlight the contribution of Israeli geographers to applied research, planning and environmental control. A second session will focus on the geopolitics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution with the participation of Palestinian and Israeli scholars. A session will also be devoted to the geography of Tel-Aviv-Jaffa the host city of the conference. Twenty eight IGU Commissions have already committed to some form of involvement in the activities of the main conference and numerous field trips, pre and post and during the conference, have been arranged, including trips to the holy places in the north of Israel.. . Daily trips to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv will also be available. A cultural evening, which will include Israeli folklore will be hosted by the municipality of Tel-Aviv-Jaffa.

A positive atmosphere abounds today in Israel, following a wonderful wet winter, which promises beautiful landscapes during the summer. We are confident, that like the two million tourists who visited Israel in the past year, you will enjoy an exciting stay in Israel and in particular in the very lively Tel Aviv-Jaffa, the "city that never sleeps".

Lastly, to those IGU members who have not yet submitted their abstracts, we urge you to do so. To allow for late submissions we have extended the abstract submission deadline to **March 15, 2010**. We would also like to remind you to take advantage of the discounted early registration fee, valid until May 17, 2010.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Tel Aviv in July.

Prof Izhak Schnell

Chair, Steering Committee

IGU Regional Conference, Tel Aviv, July 2010

**P.S.**

**We are pleased to inform you that the Deadline for Abstract Submission has been extended until March 15, 2010.**

**We would appreciate it if all Commission Chairs and all National Committee Chairs could inform their members of the extension.**

**Participants are urged to contact their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Academic Institutions, as many countries have reciprocal agreements with Israel, which may assist in funding for participation at international conferences.**

**Remember that the early discounted registration rate is valid until May 17, 2010.**

All additional information regarding the conference can be found on the conference website: [www.igu2010.com](http://www.igu2010.com)

Information can also be obtained from the Conference Secretariat:

Target Conferences

Tel: +972 3 5175150, Fax: +972 3 5175155

[geography@targetconf.com](mailto:geography@targetconf.com)

## 2.2) 2011 SANTIAGO DE CHILE CONFERENCE



### IGU CONFERENCE IN SANTIAGO, CHILE: “UGI 2011”

Santiago, the capital city of Chile, is your venue for the coming IGU conference in November 2011. The full program of oral presentations by paper authors and keynote speakers, Commission meetings, and a range of complementary activities is now under development. Outside the conference venue, field trips to carefully selected locations will introduce geographers to the cultures of Chile’s society and the landscapes of its territory.

The environments of Chile are enormously varied in almost all the geographic disciplines you can name; whether the parameter is in geomorphology, climate, vegetation, soil types, urban development, agriculture or industry, Chile presents diverse ranges of features of geographic interest. From the northern deserts to the temperate forests of the south, from the Pacific coastal dunes and cliffs to the peaks of the Andes soaring over 4,000 meters in height, from the vineyards of the central valley to the Patagonian tundra, Chile has it all.

The Chilean population has diverged in its relationships to all of these environments, as well as to ethnic and economic variables, again making this a dynamic society and fertile ground for studies in geography. However, a common feature throughout Chilean society is its welcoming attitude to visitors, so attendees will be made to feel at home in Santiago during IGU 2011.

Your host for IGU 2011 is the Military Geographic Institute of Chile (IGM), headquarters of the IGU National Committee in Chile and also of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for IGU 2011, now set up with the Director of the IGM as its President. The President of the IGU, Ronald Abler, recently met members of LOC in Santiago to plan IGU 2011 (see photo).

The IGM was assigned the task of hosting IGU 2011 at a meeting of the IGU Executive Committee (May, 2008, in Moscow, Russia) because it has built up extensive experience of hosting the conferences of international scientific associations. The last major event was ICC 2009 (in conjunction with the International Cartographic Association) in November 2009 (at which the above-mentioned meeting with the IGU President took place).

IGU 2011 will very soon have its own web site at [www.ugi2011.cl](http://www.ugi2011.cl); and a central e-mail address for queries and correspondence at [info@ugi2011.cl](mailto:info@ugi2011.cl).

The first Call for Papers / Circular Conference Brochure will be issued in April 2010 (including the announcement of the exact date of this event within the month of November 2011 and of the submission deadlines). So, bearing in mind the conference slogan, “United and Integrated with the World”, the geographers of today are invited to submit their abstracts for papers or posters. Professionals in the earth sciences and everyone with an interest in geography, from all over the Americas and the world, are cordially invited to this major event.

*Message from Ron Abler, IGU President*

Dear Colleague,

I most cordially invite you to participate in the International Geographical Union Regional Conference to be held during November 2011 in Santiago de Chile. Having had the privilege of visiting Santiago recently in connection with the International Cartographic Association’s 24<sup>th</sup> Congress, I can testify personally to the effectiveness and efficiency of the local organizers (who will also organize the IGU Conference) and to the charms of Santiago and Chile in November.

The IGU Conference theme—*United and Integrated with the World*—offers a timely and comprehensive organizing framework for the first IGU meeting in many years in Latin America. Please reserve the conference dates on your calendar and start to plan now to join geographers and kindred scholars from the entire world in Santiago. I look forward to seeing you there.

Ronald F. Abler, President, IGU

*Message from Edwin Hunt, LOC Organising Committee*

Dear IGU Commission chairs and other IGU leaders:

Greetings from Chile. For the IGU conference in 2011, we, as local organizers, need to give you the opportunity to state the needs and expectations of your Commissions for this conference.

While we realize that many of you may be more focused on the coming conference in 2010 (Tel Aviv, Israel), nevertheless planning is already under way in Chile for the conference in 2011. The first Call for Papers is being drafted; its content is due to be finalized by mid-March 2010 and it will be distributed in early April. We need your input to define the key aspects of this conference to announce in the CFP, so here we have five issues to raise:

#### 1. Business / organizational meetings of UGI Commissions

UGI 2011 will provide a suitable opportunity for each UGI Commissions to meet, make contacts with the wider community of geographers, recruit new contributors from the Latin American region and advance its mission. So LOC invites and encourages the Commissions and other official groupings within IGU to hold meetings at this conference. Rooms for meetings will be provided to those who request it in advance of the conference. So we recommend that you decide (either now or at your respective meetings in the Tel Aviv, Israel conference) what kind of meeting to set up at UGI 2011 in Santiago.

One point about meetings must be made here. At the previous scientific conferences we have managed here in Santiago there was a strict separation between conference sessions (consisting only of the oral presentation of submitted papers) and round-table organizational/business meetings (with no paper presentations). There may have been events in previous IGU conferences where papers were presented within the meetings, but for UGI 2011, LOC prefers to keep these activities separate. Several potential complications arise if oral presentations of papers (accepted through the submissions procedure) are inserted into the agenda of an organizational/business meeting, so we would prefer this to happen only if (i) this is part of established practice for IGU conferences and if (ii) the IGU Commissions request this explicitly.

#### 2. Conference themes

So far the only conference themes established are those derived from the names of the Commissions; we can add a few more extra themes to make the conference more relevant and interesting to geographers and the public in general. So if any of you have a proposal for a separate theme, please let us know. A theme will need to be able to attract enough submissions to be viable, either by having a wide enough scope (not too specific) or by dealing with a very topical and “popular” issue. Alternatively, a Commission could request the suppression of its own name as a conference theme in order to replace it with a theme title determined by that Commission. LOC may also add a few more themes to the list. Later, we will determine how to structure the sessions which have these themes as titles; we might have just one kind of session for all the themes, or alternatively separate them into “main/special/general/Commission/keynote/technical” sessions and seminars, etc as has been done in previous IGU conferences.

#### 3. Advance knowledge by the Commissions of the conference papers.

For UGI 2011, the Scientific Sub-Committee of LOC will manage the initial submissions in a logical, fair and systematic procedure, deciding which abstracts need to be rejected (hopefully not many of these) and then informing the rest of their acceptance for the conference. If the Commissions need to know in advance of the conference the list of papers and posters accepted, particularly those associated with the Commissions through the theme titles, then LOC could provide this information but would in turn need to know how much advance information is needed; we could provide the submission titles, their thematic classification and authors, possibly the abstracts too.

#### 4. Moderators for conference sessions

During the conference the Commission chairs (plus some additional responsible persons named by those chairs and by the IGU E.C.) will be able to Moderate those sessions with the papers linked – through the thematic classification – with their respective Commission. For each session, the IGU Moderator will be paired with a local Moderator assigned by the Scientific Sub-Committee. For example, the chair or coordinator of the “Coastal Systems” Commission, would moderate – together with his/her local counterpart - the first session scheduled under the theme “Coastal Systems”; possibly with another IGU Moderator taking over at the second or third session if there happen to be many papers in that theme and more than one session is scheduled under the “Coastal Systems” theme. If the chair or coordinator of a Commission is not able to be present in Santiago at this conference, then he/she could nominate a representative active in that Commission to act as Moderator of the corresponding session. So we would like to know if you plan to attend UGI 2011 and, if so, if you are willing to moderate one or more sessions.

#### 5. Other activities at UGI 2011

LOC 2011 is open to suggestions for other types of activities at UGI, for example training workshops, field trips, parallel meetings run by other organisations recognised by IGU, and so on. Any proposal will need to consider how much general appeal it has and how likely it is to attract

a sufficient number of participants, also to consider how to sustain any logistical needs arising. Regarding field trips, LOC is currently developing a set of trips outside the conference venue and any proposal for a trip associated with a specific Commission or a specific research topic will need to adapt to LOC’s arrangements for the full program of field trips.

Your comments on these issues will be extremely useful to the UGI 2011 Local Organizing Committee and its Scientific Sub-Committee; in the long run this will help shape UGI 2011 as a major opportunity for your Commission to fulfil its mission. All of your suggestions to us by e-mail

should be copied to IGU President Ronald Abler, who is acting as liaison between LOC and IGU. If it is an important issue, for example if you wish to make a significant alteration to the plans made so far, you should discuss this first with Ronald Abler before contacting us. We will need your suggestions about key matters by March 1st in time for us to assess and then include in the first CFP. However, if you are going to attend the IGU conference in Tel Aviv, Israel, there will be opportunities for you discuss further details with the IGM delegation due to attend that event. Please reply to this address with copies to [rabler@aag.org](mailto:rabler@aag.org); [ehunt@igm.cl](mailto:ehunt@igm.cl) and [hmanriquez@igm.cl](mailto:hmanriquez@igm.cl).

Yours sincerely,

*Edwin Hunt*

*Communications Sub-Committee of the Local Organising Committee for UGI 2011  
Phone: (56) – 2 - 4109314*

### **2.3) TRAHEL VARDANIAN NEW CHAIRPERSON OF THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

After the loss of Professor Lemuel Valessian, the Armenian National Committee appointed as Chairman Doctor Trahel Vardanian. Born in Armenia, on April 20 1960, in 1988 he graduated



with distinctions from the Faculty of Geography at Yerevan State University. In 1992 he accomplished post-graduate studies at the same university. In addition, he graduated from the Faculty of Voluntary Professions, Yerevan State University in 1987, specializing in the field of tourism.

In 1995 Dr. Vardanian defended his dissertation on "The Minimal Runoff of Rivers in the Republic of Armenia and the Runoff Calculation" and was entitled the scientific degree of PhD in Geography Sciences. In 2009 he defended his thesis for (full) Doctor's Degree on "The Change of the Runoff of Rivers in Armenia and Runoff Forecasting Under the Global Change of Climate". In 2004 Dr. Vardanian received the title of Associate Professor.

In 1988-1989 Dr. Vardanian was employed at Armenian Geographical Society as an engineer. Since 1989 he has been working at the Faculty of Geography at Yerevan State University (in 1989-1991 he was the Head of Laboratory at the Department of Hydrology and Cartography; in 1991-1996 he was an Assistant at the same Department; in 1996-2000 he was a Lecturer at the Department of Physical Geography; in 2000-2009 he held the position of Associate Professor at the same department; in 1997-2001 he also held the position of the Deputy Dean at the Faculty of Geography, Yerevan State University). Since February 2009 Dr. Trahel Vardanian holds the position of the Head of Department of Physical Geography.

**Since 2003 Dr. Trahel Vardanian is the President NGO "International Scientific-Research Center on Water, Climatic and Recreational Resources". Since 2005 he has been the Vice-President of Armenian Geographical Society (in the field of Hydrology and Climate Science).**

Dr. Vardanian is a full member at a number of other international and national scientific, scientific-research organisations and NGOs. In particular, he is a Member of the Scientific Council at the Faculty of Geography and Geology, Yerevan State University; Chair of Educational-Methodical Council at the Faculty of Geography and Geology, Member of Scientific-Technical Council of the Hydrometeorological Department of the Republic of Armenia, Member of Society of Armenian Hydrologists and others.

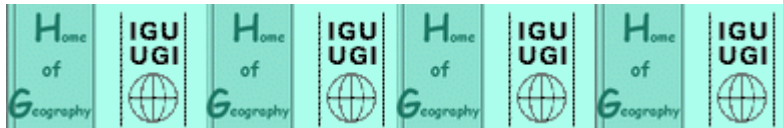
Dr. Trahel Vardanian's research interests are in the scope of geography, water resources, global warming of climate, and geoecology.

In the course of years Dr. Vardanian has lead research on the following projects: "The Definition of Water Resources and Hydro-Energetic Potential of Unexplored Small Rivers in the Republic of Armenia" (1997-2002); "The Assessment of Vulnerability of Water Resources and the Development of Ways of Adaptability for Water Bodies in the Republic of Armenia under Conditions of the Global Warming of Climate" (since 2008). In 1989-1994 he was a researcher for the project "The Determination of Water Resources of Syunik-Zangezour Region and Elaboration of the Policy of Their Short-Term and Long-Term Use".

Dr. Vardanian has been also awarded with international grants. In particular, he received an Individual Research Grant from MacArthur Foundation, to implement the project "The Dynamic Changes of the River Runoff in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and Their Evaluation Under the Conditions of the Global Climate Change (in the Republic of Armenia)". He also received a grant to carry out a NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Natural Disasters and Water Security: Risk Assessment, Emergency Response, and Environmental Management (held in 2007, sponsored by NATO).

Dr. Vardanian has participated in many national and international scientific conferences, workshops, symposia, and trainings held in different countries, as well as in the International Geographical Congress (Tunis, 2008).

Since 2000 Dr. Tarhel Vardanian has been in close collaboration with the International Geographical Union. In 2000-2002 he became a Corresponding Member of the of International Geographical Union Study Group on Water Sustainability; 2002-2004 he was a Member of International Geographical Union Commission for Water Sustainability. From 2004 he is a Member of Steering Committee of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission for Water Sustainability, where he represents the interests of the CIS and the Middle East countries, and cooperates with the other structures of the IGU.



### 3) GREAT EVENT FOR THE RUSSIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

#### **Russian Authorities Recognized the Importance of Geography: Vladimir Putin will Chair the Council of Trustees of the Russian Geographical Society**

The Russian Geographical Society (RGS) is the oldest academic association in Russia and the fourth oldest geographical society in the world: it was founded in 1845. It played a leading role in the exploration of the enormous spaces of Siberia, the Arctic, Caucasus, Central and North-East Asia. The Society also supported expeditions in many regions of the world, in particular, in the Antarctic and Oceania. These studies led to discoveries of the world importance, resulted in the first geographical, ethnographic and statistical descriptions of vast territories and largely contributed to the progress of geographical theory. They stimulated the development of the economy and trade. The Society coordinated all studies of the Russian Empire's territory. In the early 1850s the RGS established a network of regional branches: the first were organized in Siberia (Irkutsk) and Caucasus (Tiflis, now Tbilisi); in few years regional branches were opened in Orenburg, Vilno (Vilnius), Kiev, Omsk, Khabarovsk, Tashkent, etc.

Before 1917 the RGS was called "Imperial", and its formal head was always a member of the imperial family, which was evidence of its importance. The first Chair of the RGS was Great Prince Konstantin, the second son of Nicolas I, who had a brilliant education. Despite this high official status, the RGS embraced a great number of progressive, liberal intellectuals. The Society was proud to have among its leaders such outstanding geographers and scholars as Petr Semenov-Tian-Shansky, Petr Kropotkin, Vladimir Obruchev and many others. Unlike most national institutions, its headquarters did not moved in March 1918 when the Communist government left Saint Petersburg for Moscow. The RGS is still located in its large historical building in the very centre of the city, near Saint Isaac Cathedral. This building was erected for the RGS in 1908 due to the donations of its members and it now hosts the RGS library which is one the largest geographical libraries in Europe (about 500,000 volumes), the archives, the museum, the office of the journal "Newsletter of Russian Geographical Society" published since 1865, a printing house etc. The library and the archives hold 136 personal funds of important geographers and travelers, and 115 collections. These documents and artifacts are particularly appreciated by foreign scholars studying the history of science.

In the Soviet era the Society took the name of the "All-Union" and in 1938 was included in the structure of the Academy of Sciences which sponsored its activities. By the late 1980s the Society was the largest social association of this kind in the former USSR and counted about

40,000 members. It was opened not only to scholars working in different fields but also to school teachers, regional and urban planners and all those who were interested in geography. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the RGS took back its historical name and was registered as an independent NGO. All state subventions were withdrawn, and the financial situation of the Society drastically worsened. Since the early 1990s it did not have adequate funding to maintain properly the central office in Saint Petersburg with its unique archives, and to sustain relations with its regional branches. However, due to the enthusiasm of its leadership and members, the RGS kept most of its members in Russia and even in the other post-Soviet countries. At present the largest regional branches function in Moscow and Vladivostok.

In late 2009 important events occurred in the life of the RGS. Senior state officials realized the potential role which the historical organization could play in unifying the scholars studying the environment and in understanding the territorial structures of a large country like Russia. They concluded that it was necessary to pay more attention to geographical and environmental education and to the diffusion of the geographical knowledge that is critically important in many fields. As a result, Extraordinary Congress of the RGS was held in Moscow on November 18-19. It established a Statutes for the Society. This document allows the RGS to undertake many new activities that could considerably improve the financial situation of the Society and at the same time contribute to the popularization of geography.

The congress elected Sergei Shoigu as the new President of the RGS. M. Shoigu is a well known statesman, who founded in 1994 the Ministry of Emergencies and transformed it in a powerful new type of governmental structure. It is able to and to act efficiently in the most remote parts of the country and the world in all kinds of catastrophes and to forecast and prevent natural and technical disasters. It is not by chance that he is the only Russian minister who has kept his position since that time. The ministry employs a great number of geographers and widely uses GIS.



*Honorary President of RGS, academician Vladimir Kotlyakov, Mr. Shoigu, newly elected President of Russian Geographical Society and Minister of Emergencies, Prime-Minister Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, academician Yuri Osipov, former President of RGS, admiral Anatoly Komaritsyn, Vice-President of RGS Professor Vladimir Razumovsky.*

The RGS asked Prime-Minister Vladimir Putin to chair the newly created institution of the Society – its Board of Trustees. M.Putin accepted this invitation and attended the last session of the Congress held in the grand conference hall of the Russian Academy of Sciences in the presence of M.Shoigu, M. Osipov, President of the Academy, other officials and in front of the cameras of all national TV channels. For the first time in the history of Russian geography the head of the government spoke at a geographical congress. Mr. Putin stressed the role of geography and of the RGS as a link and a platform for dialogue between the state and the society at large, and in the development of practically all branches of the national economy. The Prime Minister stressed that the RGS should unite specialists of different profiles and simply “the people who like our country”. Geography should contribute to better use of natural resources and the planning of transport, the development of internal tourism, the settlement of environmental problems and the promotion of environmental consciousness.

It is of great importance that the Prime Minister indicated a number of objectives for human geography. Traditionally in the former USSR and even today in Russia physical geography dominates, whereas geography as a whole belongs both to earth and to the social sciences, which often put human geographers in an unequal and uncomfortable minority position among geologists, climatologists, geophysicists, etc.



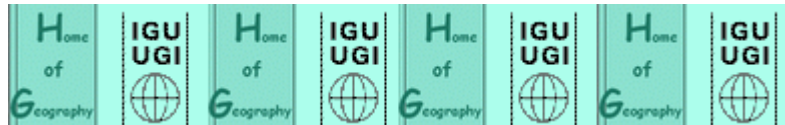
*Left, Mike Meadows with Sergei Shoigu, who in the right photo is greeting, during the reception, from the left: Professor K.Diakonov (Moscow State University), Professor A.Chibilev (Director of the Institute of Steppe of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Orenburg), Professor K. Chistyakov (Vice-President of RGS, Saint Petersburg State University), academician V.Kotlyalov (Honorary President of RGS, Director of the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow).*

Vladimir Putin proclaimed the creation of the RGS Media Council. It should “formulate certain tasks for the TV channels which are funded by the state”. The objective is to produce special movies on Russian nature. Perhaps, later even a special TV channel can be established. The science fiction journal “Nature and People” that the RGS published before 1917 may be restored. M.Putin declared that the government will offer to the RGS 50 million rubles (about 1.8 million US dollars) for ten grants that the Society should distribute in 2010 for research, expeditions and other purposes. The funding of expeditions should become again a significant feature of the RGS as it will have more money for this activity. M.Putin said that it was only the beginning and that he “will do his best to help our organization.”

Interestingly, for the first time the delegates and the guests of the congress could buy such souvenirs as T-shirts, bags etc. decorated with such reproductions from the RGS archives as drawings by Nikolai Miklukho-Maklai (Russian traveler, geographer and cultural anthropologist who spent several years in expeditions to Papua-New Guinea in 1871-1877). The very fact that

the popular and influential Prime-Minister heads the RGS Board of Trustees could strengthen the positions of geography in research and higher education. The Russian geographical community hopes that the new leadership of the RGS will halt the reduction of the geography courses in secondary school curricula which could in turn, undermine higher geographical education and environmental consciousness in Russia.

*Vladimir Kolosov and Mike Meadows*



#### **4) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

4.1) IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity, Conference in Bilaspur, Chattisgarh, India, 7-9 October 2009

An International Conference on Land Use Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Resource Management was organized and hosted by the Department of Geography, C. M. Dubey P. G. College, Bilaspur.



*Opening Ceremony: right Dr. R.B. Singh (University Delhi IGU Commission Vice Chair)*

Joint co-organizers have been the IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change, the IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity, the Environmental Monitoring Society, and

the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation. The Conference was supported by the UGC Regional Office-Bhopal, Department of Space, Department of Earth Sciences and CSIR of the Government of India for financial support. We are very grateful to Dr. V. K. Tiwari (Convener), Chairman and Principal of the college, Dr. G. S. Chauhan (Education Officer-UGC) and the local organizing team for the commitment to making this conference successful and a memorable one.

The conference aimed at addressing the issue of land use change and biodiversity of the world in general and India in particular. It is imperative to have a common platform where scientists and subject experts of all disciplines come together and discuss various issues related to land use change, biodiversity, and impacts of climate change. The focus was on global change due to land use change, biodiversity, and sustainable resource management with special reference to India, complemented by studies of human responses to various ecological, biological, and physical changes. It further focused on all aspects of sustainability of natural resource use. Special guests from foreign countries during the inaugural session included Professor Dr. Udo Schickhoff from the University of Hamburg (Chair-IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity), Professor Yukio Himiyama from Hokkaido University of Education (Founder Chair, IGU Commission on Land Use and Cover Change, Professor Kimoto of Hiroshima University. The Honorable Minister Agarwal of the State Government inaugurated the Conference.

The sub-themes were addressed by 170 papers during the conference. The sub-themes included:

- (1) Geoinformatics in biogeography and land use science ;
- 2) Land use and cropping patterns;
- (3) Land degradation;
- (4) Water resources;
- (5) Forest resources;
- (6) Population and demographic resources;
- (7) Climate change;
- (8) Mineral resources;
- (9) Agricultural resources;
- (10) Biodiversity; and
- (11) Sustainable management of natural resources.

The Conference aimed in particular at

- Disseminating information on land use change, biodiversity and sustainable resource management
- Environmental protection
- Livelihood system enhancement (land and water management, production system management)
- Programme management and implementation
- Reaching out to develop collaboration through strengthening network groups
- Facilitating the exchange of information across disciplines and among individuals, groups and institutions
- Highlighting the positive contribution of land use change, biodiversity and sustainable resource management, research policy and practice
- Raising environmental awareness and responsibility, and empowering the human community in order to strengthen the capability of planning, implementing and managing

their own development and negotiating with relevant authorities to harness the necessary resource

More than 300 participants (scientists, geographers, botanists, hydrologists, community people, practitioners, technicians, academicians, NGO's, researchers, and representatives from other academic institutions attended this grand international conference. The conference was a unique platform for national and international experts on the above subjects. The programme included oral presentations, talks, and discussions followed by deliberations for recommendations. A book publication containing accepted papers is forthcoming.

The Conference also approved Cotton College, Guwahati as the location for the next IGU conference during December 11-13, 2010.

*Dr. R.B.Singh*  
*Secretary General, NAGI, and Vice-Chairman of the*  
*IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity. e-mail: rbsgeo@hotmail.com*

#### **4.2) 24th INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE – Santiago de Chile, 15-21 November 2009**

Cartography, a science closely allied to geography, has recently been celebrated at a world-level event, the 24th International Cartographic Conference (ICC 2009), held over the 15th to the 21st of November, 2009, in Santiago, Chile. This event was organised by:

- International Cartographic Association (ICA); organiser at international level and owner of the ICC series of conferences, of which this was the 24th.
- Military Geographic Institute of Chile (IGM); host of the event in Chile and headquarters of the ICC 2009 Local Organising Committee (LOC).
- FISA S.A.; firm responsible for logistics, event production and commercial management of ICC 2009



The success of this major event is evident in the results, summarised here in these statistics:

- Registered attendees: 737
- Local short-stay visitors to the exhibitions only: 1,160
- Papers published in conference proceedings: 421
- Oral presentations of papers actually given: 339
- Scientific Posters displayed: 55
- Maps displayed: 430

- Atlases displayed: 70
- Children's map designs displayed: 160
- Work meetings held: 43 (approximate)
- Number of exhibitors running trade show booths: 35
- Technical Visits (away from the venue): 5
- Keynote speakers in plenary sessions: 6
- Sponsors: 5
- Patrons: 15



*Santiago de Chile, Escuela Militar*

IGM/LOC, in addition to setting up all of the above activities, also provided to attendees several complementary events, including inaugural and closing ceremonies, a display of equestrian skills, an orienteering competition, and social events.

The ICA, for its part, assisted attendance by means of a travel award program for young paper authors, successfully managed a Refereeing process (a first for the ICC conferences) for improving some of the papers submitted, and ran a competition in the context of the Cartographic Exhibition with awards for several maps.

The International Geographic Union was represented by IGU President Ronald Abler, who was invited into a meeting of the ICA Executive Committee in order to discuss ways in which the IGU and the ICA can cooperate and work together in the future.

Full information about this conference (including photos) can be seen at the ICC 2009 web site, [www.icc2009.cl](http://www.icc2009.cl), which will remain available for some time to come. The conference proceedings and other documentation is available for download at the ICA web site, [www.icaci.org](http://www.icaci.org).

The successful conclusion of ICC 2009 has left IGM better prepared than ever to host its following conference in Santiago, the upcoming UGI 2011 in conjunction with the IGU.



### **4.3) 31<sup>st</sup> Indian Geography Congress, Jabalpur, 19-21 November 2009**

The National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI) Organised its 31<sup>st</sup> Indian Geography Congress at Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, India during November 19-21, 2009. The Congress was hosted by Department of Geography, Rani Durgawati University, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh under guidance of Prof. Ashutosh Shrivastava, Prof. Kamlesh Mishra (Chairman) and Dr. Lokesh Shrivastava (Convener). The focal theme of the 31<sup>st</sup> congress was “Environment, Culture and Development”. The conference was organized with the objective of bringing together geographers, geoscientists, social scientists, environmentalists, policy makers, planners and community leaders to put their head together to come out with appropriate suggestions and policy recommendations.

The programme included an inaugural session on 19 November 2009 followed by Panel Discussions on (1) Environment, Culture and Development and (2) Transformation of Tribal Economy and Society. Foreign participants include Professor B. L. Sukhwal (USA), Dr. R. Hietala and Ms. Rebecca (Finland) and few from Iran. During the Congress, meetings of IGU Commissions/Plenary Sessions were also conducted. The themes included (1) United Nations International Year of Planet Earth (2) IGU Initiative-Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development, and (3) IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity. Two Memorial Lectures were organized during the congress: Professor A. N. Bhattacharya Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor H. S. Sharma and Professor C. P. Singh Memorial Lecture by Professor Sudipto Adhikari. Under the Professor N. P. Ayyar Young Geographers Award Scheme many papers were presented.

More than 600 participants attended the congress. All the abstracts were divided into 7 different themes depending upon the topic and objective of the papers and accordingly papers were presented.

Theme: 1 - Physical Geography, Earth System and Climate Change- Several papers related to mitigation of climate change, Ground water contamination, geomorphologic aspects, Indian monsoon etc were presented.

Theme: 2 - Environment, Biogeography and Biodiversity- Under this theme the papers related to environmental change, Air quality, soil and pollution were presented.

Theme: 3 - Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS in Geographical Studies- Application of Remote Sensing in several fields, GIS Modeling etc. were kept in this theme.

Theme: 4 - Land use and Cover Change and Agriculture and Rural- Regional disparity in Agricultural Development, Agricultural Innovation etc, were presented under the theme.

Theme: 5 - Population, Resources and Development- Fertility pattern, Inter-state disparity in Illiteracy and other aspects related to population were presented.

Theme: 6 - Urban and Regional Development- Urban sprawl, Migration pattern, Tribal issues etc had been put under this theme.

Theme: 7 - Indian Geography: Imaging Vistas- Issues of slum, water management, micro- level planning etc. have been presented.

The congress concluded that Geography should expand its horizons involving assimilation and interaction between global change problems and national issues and initiatives on the matters pertaining to Environment, Culture and Development; integrating conventional and modern techniques like geoinformatics. Global environmental change study requires analysis of phenomena, processes and their interaction throughout space, time and culture. Geographers should focus for capacity building in contributing towards the growth of sustainability science.

NAGI Business Meetings were also held during the congress. NAGI executive members gathered for NAGI Executive Committee Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009. NAGI General Body Meeting was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009. NAGI also distributed the Annals of 2008 and 2009 to all its life members. The General body approved Punjab University, Chandigarh as the next venue for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Indian National Congress during November 19-21, 2010.

*Dr. R.B.Singh, Secretary General,  
National Association of Geographers, India  
e-mail: [rbsgeo@hotmail.com](mailto:rbsgeo@hotmail.com)*

#### **4.4a) 4th Session of the International Congress “GEOTUNIS 2009”**

Under the High Patronage of His Excellency the President of Tunisia Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the International Congress Geotunis 2009 took place from 16 to 20 December 2009 at the International Center of Environmental Technologies in Tunis, hosted by the Tunisian Association of Digital Geographic Information in cooperation with several scientific institutions and international organizations, under the theme "Contribution of Geomatic Technologies in the Study of Water Resources and Monitoring of Desertification."

The Congress was inaugurated by His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, and attended by hundreds of eminent scientists from 57 countries, representatives of organizations, and a large number of media and diplomatic missions accredited in Tunis.

During the opening ceremony the Tunisian Association of Digital Geographic Information honored Professor Dr. Ronald F. Abler, President of the International Geographical Union, by giving him the scientific prize of the congress as a high consideration for researchers that contribute to geographic research and who support research throughout the world. This award is considered among the most important the organization confers, and it is awarded to scientists and experts from top regional and international levels.

Professor Dr. Ronald F. Abler President of the International Geographical Union, chaired the first scientific session that included the following speakers:

- Her Highness the Princess Dr. Al Saud of Saudi Arabia
- Professor Dr. Obaidat Mutawakal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Dr. Nouri Soussi, Tunisia
- Dr. Jean Jacques Mezzarobba of Italy

The Congress program included 32 scientific sessions with 152 researchers and specialists from over than 57 countries discussing issues related to water resources, desertification, environment, climate change and try to find scientific and practical solutions to risks generated and the role of geographers in this context. Many companies and laboratories participated in the International Congress and presented their latest technological innovations. It should be noted that all communications are based on GIS technology, remote sensing, numerical modeling and allied disciplines.



*From left to right: Mohamed Ayari, Geotunis Congress president; Zohair Jaid, director of the House of Journalists; Ronald F. Abler, president of the International Geographical Union; Her Highness Princess Mashael Al Saud; Abdessalam Mansour, Tunisian Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources; M. Karim Abdel Aziz, advisor to His Excellency the President of the Republic; Lutfi Momani, general coordinator of the Scientific Committee (Jordan); and a representative of the Province of Tunis.*

During the congress, scientific expeditions and explorations were organized in which participants have discovered some examples of scientific and practical solutions. Recommendations were made by the members of the Congress during the closing ceremony, which was chaired by the Minister of Infrastructure, Housing and Land Planning of Tunisia. The recommendations stressed the importance of this congress and the organizers and the role of geographers in the adoption of digital geography as a method to find studies and research variables with changes in our territories.

Some of the recommendations adopted during the congress are:

1. Review of research presented and leading to their enrichment in order to extract scientific practices. We recommend publishing a booklet covering the experiences and applications in different areas and organizations in the fight against desertification and conservation of water resources.
2. Preparation of the 5th edition of the International Congress Geotunis2010 under the theme "GIS and remote sensing and their role in sustainable development" in Hammamet from 14 to 18 December 2010.

#### **4.4b) Le Congrès Internationale GéoTunis 2009, Quatrième session (texte français)**

Sous le Haut Patronage de Son Excellence le Président de la République Tunisienne Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, le Congrès Internationale GéoTunis 2009 a eu lieu du 16 au 20 Décembre 2009

au centre international des technologies de l'environnement à Tunis, organisé par l'Association Tunisienne de l'Information Géographique Numérique en coopération avec plusieurs institutions et organismes scientifiques internationaux, sous le thème : «**Apport des Technologies Géomatiques dans l'étude des ressources en eau et le suivi du phénomène de la désertification** »

Le Congrès a été inauguré par Son Excellence le Ministre de l'Agriculture et des Ressources en eau, en présence de centaines d'éminents scientifiques de 57 pays, des représentants d'organisations, d'un grand nombre de médias et de représentants de missions diplomatiques accrédités à Tunis.

Au cours de la cérémonie d'ouverture. L'Association Tunisienne de l'Information Géographique Numérique a honoré le Professeur Docteur Ronald F. Abler directeur de l'Union Géographique Internationale en lui accordant le prix scientifique du congrès suite à sa considération parmi les chercheurs qui contribuent à la recherche géographique et qui soutiennent la recherche à travers le monde. Ce prix est considéré parmi les plus importants, il est attribué aux scientifiques et aux experts de haut niveau régional et international.

Le Professeur Docteur Ronald F. Abler Directeur de l'Union Géographique Internationale a présidé la première session scientifique dont voici quelques conférenciers qui y ont fait parti :

- Son Altesse la Princesse Dr. Al Saoud de l'Arabie saoudite
- Prof Dr. Mutawakal Obaidat du Royaume Hachémite de Jordanie
- Dr. Nouri Soussi de la Tunisie
- Dr. Jean Jacques Mezzarobba de l'Italie



*Ron Abler au microphone, pendant la Cérémonie d'Inauguration*

Le programme du Congrès a englobé 32 sessions scientifiques tout au long du Geotunis avec 152 chercheurs et spécialistes en sciences et en géographie de plus de 57 pays qui ont discuté des problématiques des ressources en eau, de la désertification, de l'environnement, du changement climatique et de trouver des solutions scientifiques et pratiques aux risques générés et le rôle des géographes dans ce contexte.

De nombreuses entreprises et laboratoires de recherche internationaux ont participé au congrès et ont présenté leurs dernières innovations scientifiques et technologiques.

Il convient de noter que toutes les communications présentées s'appuient sur la technologie SIG, la télédétection, la modélisation numérique et les sciences annexes.

Au cours du congrès, des expéditions scientifiques et d'exploration individuelle et collective à travers ont été organisées, dans lesquels les participants ont découvert des exemples de solutions scientifiques et pratiques.

En plus les membres du congrès ont présenté des recommandations au cours de la cérémonie de clôture, qui a été présidée par le ministre de l'Équipement, du Logement et aménagement du territoire de la Tunisie.

Les recommandations ont souligné l'importance de ce congrès et de ceux qui l'organise et le rôle des géographes dans l'adoption de la géographie numérique comme une méthode pour aider à trouver des études et des recherches variables avec les changements de nos territoires.

En voici quelques recommandations adoptées au cours de ce congrès :

- 1- Réexaminer des recherches présentées et mener à leur enrichissement pour y extraire des pratiques scientifiques. Nous prévenons de publier un livret englobant les expériences et les applications de différentes régions et organisations dans le domaine de la lutte contre la désertification et la conservation des ressources en eau.
- 2- Préparation de la 5<sup>ème</sup> édition du Congrès International Geotunis2010 sous le thème « SIG et télédétection et leur rôle dans le développement durable » à Hammamet du 14 au 18 Décembre 2010.
- 3- Projet de l'Atlas Géographique Numérique du monde Arabe : vu l'importance d'achever ce projet, son rôle dans l'étude de l'environnement économique et social et ses perspectives de coopération et d'investissement, l'Association Tunisienne de l'Information Géographique Numérique a décidé de créer un comité scientifique responsable de la réalisation de ce projet avec une confiance renouvelée dans l'octroi de l'Association Tunisienne de l'Information Géographique Numérique l'accord de mise en œuvre technique. Un autre comité d'étude du contenu sera réuni le printemps 2010 à Amman au Royaume Hachémite de Jordanie et l'Association Tunisienne de l'Information Géographique Numérique accueillera le comité exécutif en automne 2010.
- 4- Organisation d'un Salon International des applications géographiques numériques de l'environnement : Suite au succès de la 4<sup>ème</sup> édition du congrès et de l'exposition nous organiserons le salon International des technologies de l'environnement pour la 5<sup>ème</sup> édition et nous inviterons les experts et les spécialistes dans ce domaine, en particulier les entreprises Américaines et européennes. Le salon comprendra aussi des ateliers scientifiques et une journée sur l'investissement dans le domaine de l'environnement.

Suite à la réussite de Géotunis2009, l'Association Tunisienne de l'Information Géographique Numérique sollicite les géographes, les scientifiques et les organisations à travailler ensemble pour le succès de la 5<sup>ème</sup> édition du Congrès International Geotunis2010.

#### **4.5) Bäschlin Lecture: Feminist and Gender Geographies, Bern, 15-16 January 2010**

The first „Bäschlin Lecture: Feminist and Gender Geographies“ took place in Bern from 15th until 16th of January 2010. On the one hand the Lecture was dedicated to the work of one of the first feminist geographers in Switzerland, Elisabeth Bäschlin. On the other hand, the Lecture aims to institutionalise a platform within the German-speaking community to discuss commonalities, differences and intersections of feminist and gender geographies.

The intergenerational exchange of experiences and academic debates was seen as an overall advantage of the Lecture. Around 50 participants from Switzerland, Austria and Germany discussed the importance and challenges of feminist approaches as well as the current developments of feminist and gender geographies.

The first day of the lecture was dedicated to presentations by (post)graduate students: An introductory presentation by Jeannine Wintzer and Carolin Schurr (both Bern), who exemplified the relations and intersections between feminist and gender geographies with their own PhD research, framed the Lecture. Later on, Melanie Kappler (Karlsruhe) showed with her results the difficulties women have in top positions in spite of the positive changes regarding gender equality in work spaces due to feminist demands. Marc Thielen (Frankfurt a.M.) discussed the experiences of homosexual refugees from Iran within the German spaces of asylum. While Ronja Wagner (Osnabrück) looked at Au Pairs in their identity construction processes within and outside the family spaces, Judith Schmolke (Eichstätt) addressed the obstacles migrant women with low qualification face in their labour integration process in Germany. Corinne Corradi (Bern) presented findings from her ethnographic studies in Mauretania, where she looked at the gender relations in regard to health issues. Finally, Josefine Haupt (Kassel) critically questioned the (historical) development of feminist geographies in the German-speaking community.

The first day finished with a discussion about future activities in regard to feminist and gender geographies. An increasing interest in feminist and geographers by young academics and the increasing institutionalisation of gender geographies in Bachelor and Master Programmes lead to some hope that gender geographies will move from the margin to the centre of mainstream geography within the German-speaking academic world.

For the second day, Elisabeth Bäschlin (Bern) invited feminists working in Academia (Stefanie Bock, Berlin; Elisabeth Aufhauser, Wien, Herta Kurig, Berlin), politics (Doris Stump, Swiss National Parliament) and international development cooperation (Annemarie Sancar, DEZA) in order to discuss both the success and challenges of feminist movements. All of them spoke about the tense relationship between their feminist ideologies and their everyday practices of gender mainstreaming within the institutions. The Lecture concluded with a presentation by Elisabeth Bäschlin around her work within and outside of academia.

In the evening we gathered for a feminist party” and kept on exchanging experiences and ideas, accompanied by fine wine and Swiss food.

Due to the positive resonance both participants and organizers hope to be able to organise a second “Bäschlin Lecture” in 2011.

*Carolin Schurr, Bern*

#### **4.6) Geographical education conference at University of Waikato, 19-22 January 2010**

On January 19-22, 2010 approximately 80 delegates took part in the 'Positioning Geography: Strategic Issues in Geographical Education' conference at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand. Countries represented included Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Slovakia, Taiwan, United Kingdom, United States and of course New Zealand. The conference was supported by three IGU Commissions - the Commission on Geographical Education (co-ordinated by Lex Chalmers), Gender and Geography (co-ordinated by Robyn Longhurst), and Tourism, Leisure and Global Change (co-ordinated by Anne-Marie d'Hautesserre) as well as by the New Zealand Geographical Society, and the Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning at the University of Waikato. Delegates were welcomed with a powhiri (Maori welcome) at the University marae (meeting house).

The four day programme included fieldtrips, keynote presentations, workshops, round-tables and paper presentations. On the first day delegates were offered a choice of three fieldtrips: 1) 'natural processes' ('volcanic and fluvial environments'); 2) 'sustainable use of resources' (delegates could chose either 'sustainable dairying' or 'bringing nature into the city: urban planning in Hamilton); or 3) 'cultural processes' ('a critical look at tourism in Rotorua' which included a gendered deconstruction of the spaces visited). The field trips were attended by secondary school teachers keen to focus on key interests in New Zealand Geography Year 11-13 curricula and academics keen to extend their knowledge base for lecturing and research. From all accounts people found these various field trips to be engaging and a useful way to learn. Some of the field trips covered an extensive part of the central North Island; a good opportunity for international visitors to explore the country in the warmth of summer.



*Left: A guide at TePuia - the New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute – explains to delegates some of the intricacies of Maori weaving on the tourism field trip to Rotorua. Right: Cherie Todd, a PhD student from Waikato, presents her research on mature women who enjoy playing online games*

On the second day each of the three Commissions offered a range of activities. The Commission on Geographical Education offered virtual meetings for colleagues on EVO; first for the Americas and then for those in Asia and Europe. The Commissions on Gender and Geography, and Tourism, Leisure and Global Change joined forces to take a group of delegates on a walking tour of Hamilton. The tour included stops at various buildings, shops, and monuments of potential interest to geographers teaching and researching gender and tourism. It was followed by a visit to the Waikato Museum to see the exhibition 'Assume Nothing: Celebrating Gender Diversity' and a screening of the New Zealand movie 'Top Twins: Untouchable Girls'. The second day of the conference also included a session 'Implementing the NZ National Curriculum' coordinated by the NZ Board of Geography Teachers and Ministry of Education.

The third and fourth days of the conference were devoted mainly to the presentation of research papers and workshops on teaching geographies. Paper sessions included 'geographies of place', 'geography and technology', 'new cultural geographies', 'mapping spaces', 'indigenous geographies', 'planning and public education', and 'feminist geographies'. Interesting research was presented by students and academic colleagues alike in these sessions. Time was allocated for discussion at the end of each paper and certainly in the sessions we attended it was lively and thought-provoking.

What made this conference different from so many that each of us has attended over the years was the valuable input from secondary school teachers. The opportunity provided over the space of four days, and through a variety of different types of activities, for school and university teachers and researchers alike resulted in some closing of the gap that so often exists between these institutions. But not only was it useful having school and university teachers come together for the conference, it was also useful having three commissions come together. It enabled a sharing of knowledge on topics such as 'otherness', 'cultural difference' and technology across different subdisciplinary areas. This was a real strength of the conference. Interacting with others outside of one's own usual group was productive. Dissolving some of the boundaries between school and university teachers and between different commissions fostered learning which is after all what the conference was all about.



*The volcanic/fluviial field trip at the Geological and Nuclear Sciences Centre with host Dr Gill Jolly (second from left, front row).*

*Lex Chalmers and Robyn Longhurst*



## 5) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2009)*

**5.1) CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION METHODOLOGIES: RESEARCHING IN ASIA, SINGAPORE, 8-9 MARCH**

**5.2) MEDITERRANEAN TOURISM AND GLOBAL CRISIS, TUNIS, 9-11 MARCH**



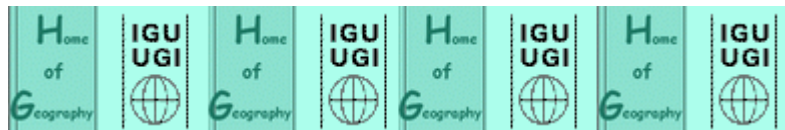
**5.3) TO STUDY GENDER IN ASIA, DELHI, March 2010**

**5.4) GENDER AND WATER CONFERENCE, SYRACUSE, 29-30 MARCH**

**5.5) 4th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD GEOGRAPHERS (ICIWG), ZAHEDAN, 14-16 APRIL**

**5.6) INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING GEOGRAPHY, WORKSHOP IN WASHINGTON, 12-13 APRIL**

**5.7) AAG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON. 14-18 APRIL**



## **6) OBITUARY FOR PROFESSOR GEORGE ANGLADE**

### **George Anglade**

**(July 18, 1944 – January 12, 2010)**

It was with great sadness that the International Geographical Union learned of the death of distinguished Haitian-Canadian academic, politician and author, George Anglade following the tragic earthquake that occurred in Haiti on January 12. His wife, Ms. Mireille Neptune, a vocal feminist, french teacher and United Nations diplomat, also perished in the quake.

Professor Anglade, upon completing degrees in his hometown of Port-au-Prince at the École Normale Supérieure and the Faculty of Law, went on to obtain his PhD at the Center for Applied Geography of Strasbourg, in France in 1965. In 1969, he and his wife immigrated to the province of Quebec and Anglade went on to become a professor of social geography at l'Université du Québec à Montreal (UQAM) where he enjoyed an illustrious career up until his retirement in 2002.

Anglade, a renowned political activist, was twice imprisoned and exiled from Haiti under its former dictatorship, but that did not prevent him from maintaining strong ties with his homeland over the years. Anglade not only helped to lead Haiti's democracy movement but also served as the Minister of Public Works in the Aristide government and was an advisor to current president René Preval. Anglade is the author of over 30 books (both fiction and non-fiction), in which Haiti occupies a central place.

Dr. Anglade liked to define himself as “a man in three pieces”: a geographer, politician and writer. He, and Mireille, who are survived by their two daughters (Dominique and Pascale), will be remembered as a compassionate couple who strove to make a difference in this world.

*Ellen Avard, on behalf of the Société de géographie de Québec*



**Professor Georges Anglade**



## 7) HOME OF GEOGRAPHY UPDATE

There are only two news items from the Home of Geography, as in the prestigious Palazzetto Mattei the SGI reclaimed the physical space formerly used to host the Home of Geography. In any event, whoever wants to make use of the library or to organize a Meeting in Villa Celimontana will always be welcome by the Società Geografica Italiana (SGI).

The first news item concerns the visit of Joseph Saluvkadze, on behalf of the Georgia National Committee for the IGU, on 12 November 2009. Georgia is one of the countries relying on me as liaison person for the IGU, and Professor Saluvkadze reported his intention to restore the Commission on Landscape Analysis, approved by the Assembly in the Glasgow Congress in 2004. Very unluckily, the founder, Professor Niko Berutchasvili, untimely died on 23 March 2006. The Commission remained without a leader and no activity was undertaken thereafter. I encouraged this attempt to restore the Commission, inviting the Georgian geographers to submit a request to the IGU EC. The formal request arrived in December, and I soon forwarded to the EC. The renewed Commission will most likely be approved in the next Meeting.

In December Volume IX of the Home Series, *Using GeoInformation in European Geography Education* edited by Karl Donert, was printed, appearing in December 2009.

***Using GeoInformation in European Geography education***

*Using GeoInformation in European Geography education* illustrates the importance of the knowledge, skills and competences provided during the study of Geography and specifically the importance of geographical information to society. It has been produced by members of the HERODOT Thematic Network for Geography in higher education.

In late 2002 the HERODOT network (<http://www.herodot.net>) was established for higher education Geography and related subjects. It was created in response to prospective university reforms in Europe. Since this time, HERODOT has been working to meet the target of making European higher education a world-class standard. The network has allowed collaborative activity and comparative research to take place concerning the state of Geography and geographical education in Europe.

HERODOT has established the European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO, <http://www.eurogeography.eu>), in order to enhance the status of Geography and to represent geographers in Europe.

*Using GeoInformation in European Geography education* has been funded with support from the European Commission. This volume reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Karl Donert, November 30<sup>th</sup> 2009,  
Coordinator HERODOT Network, President EUROGEO