



IGU E-NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

URL: <http://www.homeofgeography.org/>

e-mail: g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org



New Series 5

January

2013

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

Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

This Newsletter is circulated to more than 1500 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome.

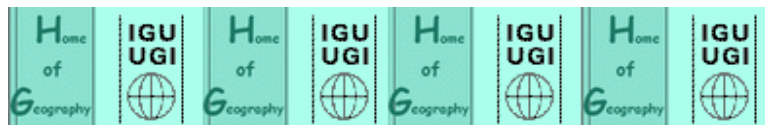
Please send them to g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org or giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it



CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

- 1) Remarks from IGU President Vladimir Kolossov
- 2) Draft Minutes of the IGU EC Meeting in Amsterdam, 21-24 October 2012
 - a) English Version
 - b) Version Française
- 3) IGU 2012 Annual Report
- 4) Tony French, in memoriam
- 5) Forthcoming Events
 - 5.1) Comenius Digital Earth course for European Teacher approved: Salzburg, 24 February-1 March 2013, free participation.

- 5.2) **Innovative Strategies in Management, Commerce, Education, Lucknow, 24-25 February**
- 5.3) **Against Child Abuse and Sexual Assault, New York 19-22 and Dakar (Senegal) 25-28 February**
- 5.4) **Geoinformatics for Biodiversity and Climate Change, Rohtak (Haryana) India, 14-16 March**
- 5.5) **Tourism and the shifting values of Cultural Heritage, Taipei 5-9 April**
- 5.6) **GeoTunis, Tunis, 8-12 April (English, French, Arabic)**
- 5.7) **Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina, Lima, 8-12 April**
- 5.8) **4th International Conference on Information and Communication Systems, Irbid (Jordan), 23-25 April**
- 5.9) **Coastal Islands and Tropical Tourism, Kota Kinibalu, Sabah, 16-18 April**



1) REMARKS FROM IGU PRESIDENT VLADIMIR KOLOSSOV

Dear colleagues,

Last month we tried to gradually implement the decisions taken at the first meeting of the new Executive in late October 2012.

Particular attention in this period was paid to our “external” relations – first of all, with other international and European geographical organizations. I plan to participate this year in the Fourth EUGEO Congress in Rome and the International Cartographic Association (ICA) in Dresden. Many of us still remember that until 1988, International Geographical Congresses and ICA Congresses were held at the same place, one after the other. It is time to update our contacts, and face to face meetings are always useful. We had a very promising exchange with the President of EUROGEO Karl Donert. In a number of European countries geography is gradually losing its place in school curricula, and we really need to intensify our efforts to stop this trend. I am also in touch with our colleagues from the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), who are interested in cooperation with geographers and other organizations.

Participation in international programs is vitally important for the geographical community. This year marks the launch of the *Future Earth* program created jointly by ICSU (the International Council for Science) and the ISSC (International Social Science Council) under the auspices of UNESCO. *Future Earth* will integrate the largest existing international programmes in the field of global environmental and climate change, such as the *International Geosphere-Biosphere Program* (IGBP) and the *Human Dimensions of Global Change* program. Symbolically and characteristically, the *World Social Science Report*, regularly published by the ISSC will be devoted this year to climate change. It will include short contributions describing the role of

geography in studying the problem and, particularly, information on the IGU's IYGU (*International Year of Global Understanding*) initiative led by Professor Benno Werlen of Jena University. Geography depends heavily on both of its two wings—its natural and social components—and the IGU is one of the few international scientific unions that holds membership in both ICSU and ISSC.

The IGU Executive Committee issued a call for nominations to ICSU for service on *Future Earth* that aroused widespread interest among IGU national committees and individual scholars. I am firmly convinced that our community should be represented on the board of this ambitious programme and will submit three or four nominations, in hopes that one or more of the IGU nominees will be selected. And we need a new effort inside IGU to focus the attention of our commissions on interaction between society and environment and we need to establish closer working contacts among the IGU, international programmes, and other scientific unions. In particular, it is possible to use the “*acquis*” of IYGU. In January 2013 I visited the headquarters of the ISSC, and discussed with ISSC Secretary General Heide Hackmann the possibility of inviting the leaders of international programmes to IGU regional conferences as key speakers. Vice-President Aharon Kellerman is organizing a special “geographical” session at the ISSC World Social Science Forum scheduled in October 2013 in Montreal. It will be preceded by the ISSC General Assembly.

I am happy to inform you that thanks to the long term efforts of our Past President Ronald Abler, the IGU received its first corporate support in the form of a donation of 25,000 dollars from *ESRI* (the *Environmental Systems Research Institute*). The IGU Executive Committee agreed to add the gift to the IGU Endowment established in 2003. Let's hope that the *ESRI* contribution is the first of many donations to the endowment, and that our efforts to recruit corporate sponsors will yield additional fruit.

Vladimir Kolosov, *President*
vladimirkolosov@gmail.com



2) MINUTES OF THE IGU EC MEETING PROCÈS-VERBAL DE LA RÉUNION UGI

2.a) English version,

UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM
21st-24th October

Welcome, Meeting Logistics and Introduction

Present: The meeting was chaired by President Vladimir Kolossov, who welcomed Secretary-General Mike Meadows and Vice-Presidents Aharon Kellerman, Dieter Soyez, RB Singh, Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Ron Abler, Yukio Himiyama to the first meeting of the newly established Executive Committee. Attempts to join the meeting via Skype were made by Vice Presidents Qin Dahe and Jarkko Saarinen but proved largely unsuccessful due to technical difficulties.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of an item on JBGIS.

Minutes

The minutes of the Cologne 23-26 August 2012 meeting had previously been approved via email and were tabled for noting.

Organization

Election of the IGU First Vice President

The President suggested that V-P Dieter Soyez be appointed as IGU First Vice-President. This was unanimously endorsed.

Commission and Task Force Liaison Assignments

These were discussed and allocated as attached in Appendix 1. The Commissions are to be reminded that they need to send IGU the contact details of all the Steering Committees and ensure that they are not in violation of the statutes. S-G Meadows will require Commission chairs to provide a full list of steering committee members before December 1st 2012. Communication is a key element of Commission activities and chairs are to be reminded of their responsibilities, for example for the production of annual reports, encouraging young members, the desirability of establishing awards for young scholar and for developing links with the major ICSU and ISSC initiatives. The President is to draft a general letter of introduction highlighting these issues and outlining the expectations of Commissions, this will then be forwarded to the chairs by the liaison EC members who may add their comments as appropriate.

Country Liaison Assignments

The assignments were made as indicated in the attached Appendix 2. The President suggested that he write to the National Committees outlining the IGU priorities for the next four years.

Committee Assignments and Liaisons

The assignments were agreed to as follows:

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| International Council for Science (ICSU)..... | Kolossov, Meadows |
| International Social Science Council (ISSC) | Kolossov, Meadows |
| International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU)... | Kolossov, Singh |
| Earth Science Matters..... | Singh |
| ICSU Africa..... | Meadows |
| ICSU Latin America | Bellezza (Alcantara-Ayala) |
| ICSU Asia | Himiyama |
| CODATA | Abler |
| JBGIS..... | Abler |
| IGU-CIS | Kolossov |

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| IGU-Latin America | Bellezza (Alcantara-Ayala) |
| EUGEO | Bellezza |
| EUROGEO | Bellezza |
| ICA..... | Bellezza |
| Pan-American Institute of Geography and History | Bellezza (Alcantara-Ayala) |
| Beijing Congress Local Organizing Committee | Qin |
| Kyoto Regional Conference LOC liaison | Himiyama |
| Krakow Regional Conference LOC liaison | Kolossov |
| Moscow Regional Conference LOC liaison | Kolossov |

Executive Committee Meeting Calendar 2012-2014

The EC calendar for the forthcoming period was agreed as followed:

Rohtak, India: Arrival 13/14th March; meeting 15/16th March, field excursion 17th March, departures 18th March 2013.

Kyoto, Japan: Arrival 1st August, meeting 2nd, August, Field excursion 3rd August, complete meeting on 4th August 2013, thereafter attend the Regional Conference.

Moscow, Russia: arrival 28th April, meeting 29th, 30th April, excursion 1st May 2014, departures 2nd May 2014.

Krakow, Poland; arrival 14th August, meeting 15th and 17th August, Excursion 16th August, departures 17th August 2014, thereafter attend the Regional Conference.

Executive Committee Internal Communications

It was agreed to continue to use a simple email group for internal communications.

IGU Priorities for 2012-2016

President Kolossov agreed to compile a document that outlines the main priorities for the upcoming period and would circulate this to EC members for additions, amendments and comments.

Relations with Commissions and National Committees

This has been resolved through the identification of EC members as liaison persons for Commissions, National Committees and other parties.

IGU EC Commitments and Responsibilities

AAG, Los Angeles 2013. Abler is to attend on behalf of IGU (IGU has an ongoing arrangement with AAG in respect of an exhibition booth, and Abler is to be assisted there by any other EC members who are present). The question of increasing IGU visibility was discussed. The idea of producing a leaflet or brochure indicating the benefits of membership of the IGU Commissions was supported, highlighting our main activities and the potentials of membership – together with some examples of successful projects. EC members and Commission chairs are to be asked to provide examples of projects that could be used to showcase some of the higher profile projects. Meadows agreed to draft a straw dog, assisted by Abler and Kolossov. It was suggested that some professional design would be necessary prior to production. XIV EGAL meeting of Latin American Geographers in Peru, 8th – 12th April 2013. Alcantara-Ayala to be asked to attend on behalf of the IGU.

World Social Science Forum, in Montreal, October 2013. Kellerman has been nominated and accepted as member of the Scientific Programme Committee and there will be a substantial IGU presence.

IBG-RGS, 28 to 30th August 2013: Droogleever-Fortuijn to attend on behalf of the IGU, distribute marketing material and request a presence at one of the plenary sessions.

Annual meeting of Nordic Geographers, June 2013: Saarinen is an invited keynote speaker and can distribute IGU marketing material. In addition, the IGU Commission on Tourism is organising sessions during the meeting (also at the Los Angeles AAG).

Operations

IGU Country Membership

The latest membership data suggests that the expected total income for 2012 will be similar to that for 2012. Applications for membership are confirmed only by a General Assembly.

Developing Countries Membership

Meadows tabled the *aide memoire* of the meeting that was held with African Geographers at the IGC in Cologne. The networking issue is crucial but especially challenging. There is now at least an initial email contact address list and the planned establishment of a *Facebook* page for African Geographers may be of assistance. It was noted that there is interest from Nigeria in hosting a meeting of African Geographers with the tentative theme of 'the state of the discipline' on the continent. IGU could certainly assist by endorsing and supporting such a meeting; this matter needs to be followed up and Meadows will make the appropriate approaches. President Kolossov noted that he would like to pursue the idea of requesting our African colleagues to identify associations in their countries that could be approached to assist in the funding of such a meeting. There is a particular concern about the situation in Francophone Africa. Soyez made the suggestion that IGU consider the idea of a meeting, possibly through encouraging one of the Commissions to arrange it, within one of the Francophone African countries; CODESRIA is a possible funding partner in this. Soyez suggested a number of ways of intensifying IGU efforts to reinvigorate contact with African colleagues and agreed to redouble his efforts in consultation with, for example, Ton Dietz.

With regard to funding, the question of establishing a central fund from which membership fees, and possibly conference attendance support, for African geographers could be drawn via an application process was discussed. President Kolossov agreed to draft a letter outlining his ideas on this suggestion. The problem, of course, extends, beyond Africa. There are definitely active communities of Geographers in, for example in Malaysia, Indonesia and Viet Nam but it has proved difficult to obtain commitments from them regarding membership. Writing off longer-term debts is at least one means by which we can encourage re-establishing membership among African communities.

Commission and Task Force Update

The proposal to establish a new Commission on 'Geomorphology and Society' has been submitted by Irasema Alcantara-Ayala. The EC was favourably disposed to this proposal but noted that the document itself was rather brief. After discussion, it was agreed that the document met the necessary requirements and that the Commission is therefore approved.

IGU Financial Report and Projection

The IGU accounts were tabled and the projection for year-end 2013 indicates that the finances remain in reasonable shape despite the fact that 2012 was a Congress year with a range of additional responsibilities associated with this. In relation to the experience of IGC in Cologne it was discussed, and agreed, to request the Local Organising Committees for Krakow, Moscow and Beijing to sign the Conference and Congress Memorandum of Agreement. It was agreed that President Kolossov would forward the latest version of this document to the responsible parties for their consideration and signature.

Corporate/Institutional Membership

Abler reported briefly on long-term negotiations with a possible corporate sponsor; there is generally not much corporate interest internationally, perhaps due to the economic downturn. Abler agreed to continue to follow up on his key contact.

IYGU

Benno Werlen had distributed reports on the latest activities. There are positive developments and IGU looks forward to news of further progress. The next key step is to obtain the support of UNESCO at their meeting in 2013; the search for a lead applicant continues. The Executive Committee noted the report and continues to follow the initiative with great interest.

Publications

There was discussion around the possibility of IGU establishing a journal, possibly in on-line form. This would provide a significant challenge and warrants further discussion at a future stage. Kellerman suggested that IGU approach Derek Gregory and Anne Buttimer, Paul Claval and Christian Vandermotten with a view to soliciting their views on the matter and Bellezza suggested also to consult someone from beyond the European-North American community. Meadows agreed to make this approach.

IGU Journals Project

Meadows reported on the situation regarding the IGU Journals Project; he has employed a student assistant to update the database and improve the quality of the data. The web-based version is now working well.

Sustainable Cities “OurSus” Business Model

Ton Dietz attended for this item. The launch of the website at Cologne marked the end of the initiation phase. The Business Model is now ready for discussion and endorsement. It is accepted that the project should ‘think big, start small’. The website, now linked to the IGU home page, has four major elements – ‘experiences’, ‘challenges’, ‘campaigns’, ‘cases and products’. This latter element is related to the business model because any advertisement has to be paid for. There is also an endorsement procedure in terms of reviewing the initiatives. Several issues that require consideration. For the English language website, a decision is needed as to how to select the ‘reviewing’ community, i.e. country by country (there could be some legal consequences if there is disagreement). Which new cities can be involved in the Cityhub idea? What about involving other scientists or professionals? What about competition with existing sustainability websites for cities? How should the initiative be phased? Kellerman commented that the project is still in the early stages but is working well within China. He further suggested that there be an ‘international’ core group of experts at the outset and that we issue a ‘call’ for cities to contribute. Abler noted that it would be good to incentivize the involvement of our national committees although we may need to find ways of maintaining control over the revenue – perhaps via a central fund. Soyez noted that the ‘brand’ may be a little confusing – OurSus (note position of capital S) is suggested as a possible iteration. He also would like to see that the local team benefits more than 10% (but the Chinese team itself does not wish to raise more than this). The financial reward element of this for the private companies following endorsement is a very important part of the project. The next steps: IGU should formally endorse the business model and designate two EC members as liaison to the project. Thereafter, there should be a list of ‘experts’ (five for each of the identified related to the seven sustainability ‘colours’ to review the advertisements, initially on a *pro bono* basis. This would be followed by the call for cities to participate. It was agreed that the IGU should endorse the project and that Abler, Bellezza and Soyez would act as liaison Executive Committee members in the interim.

IGU Expansion

This matter was in part considered in the agenda item on developing country membership. However, Kellerman tabled a brief report in which he estimated the ‘footprint’ of the IGU community currently to represent only 10% of the global community of geographers. The question is: why is the visibility of the IGU so low among the global community? In part the answer lies in the fact that a substantial number of geographers are not ‘research active’, for example teachers or University academics with no real interest beyond the local.

The second problem is that the information of the IGU and its related organs is not effectively distributed to individuals – who are missing an opportunity to ‘belong’ to the IGU – bearing in mind that such an association is *de facto* completely free of charge or commitments. Some suggestions: a) ‘exhibit’ at national conferences; b) challenge the commissions to double their membership – perhaps through offering a financial incentive; c) work with the national Geographical Societies via our National Committees to provide a link to the IGU website on their home page; d) request the Societies to agree to help distribute IGU information to their own mailing lists. Droogleever-Fortuijn indicated that there are some other issues: the ‘status’ of IGU is viewed against the high profile of other organizations, such as AAG. There are also difficulties associated with costs of attending meetings and language issues. In respect of academic teaching, perhaps IGU could generate more interest in its activities through, for example, establishing a ‘teaching award’ or organising an academic teaching session at one of its conferences? Droogleever-Fortuijn agreed to prepare a summary of suggestions around this for the next EC meeting and Himiyama agreed to investigate the possibilities of including such an idea in the Kyoto Regional Conference.

Singh suggested that EC members identify the most active Geographical Societies in their liaison countries and attempt to distribute the material through these lists; he also suggested that the Commissions can do more – for example to attempt to get 500 email addresses on each of their distribution lists.

Himiyama suggested that commissions with larger memberships could receive a higher level of financial support (double membership – double subsidy?). President Kolossov noted that he would like to develop an inventory of geographers in each country/region – to begin with a list of academic departments/laboratories/institutes (EUGEO/EUROGEO may be able to assist in this). It was agreed to include these points in the President’s communication with Commission chairs.

One idea would be that the Commissions, in order to get the US\$1000 annual subsidy, would have to share their distributional database with the secretariat. Soyez sees the IGU ‘reputation’ as the main problem, in particular with younger scholars who rather tend to interact with and contribute to their respective specialty groups, and that some of these suggestions will not address this problem. Secondly, the directory *Orbis Geographica* has been discontinued and it would be helpful to re-establish this electronically – even if it includes only the Geographical Societies. The original project had foundered probably because the criteria for listing were too rigid and too political. Bellezza suggested that the newsletter should come via the President as this would give the communication more *gravitas* with specific instructions to distribute further. Abler noted that one of the things badly needed by the IGU is a relational database of all associated individuals.

Geographical Olympiads

There was nothing to report on this matter, the Task Force has the matter in hand.

Regional Networks

The idea emanated from an original suggestion from the late former President Vallega, although with the exception of the MRP, none had ever formally materialised. However, a CIS network is active (Kolossov), as is the network of younger geographers in East Asia (Himiyama) and South Asia (Singh) in this regard and there are initiatives in Latin America (Bellezza to follow up in consultation with former V-P Alacantara-Ayala. S-G Meadows can provide links to all of these relevant activities on the website if the contact details are to be sent to him by the relevant liaison EC member.

Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force

Abler tabled a draft document in which he outlined the role and responsibilities of such a Task Force as follows (among others):

- i. examining the centenary meetings of other international unions to identify events and programs that could be adopted or adapted for the IGU’s Centenary Congress;
- ii. identifying congress and related events and programs specifically appropriate for the IGU’s Centenary Congress;
- iii. identifying possible sources of funding for Centenary Congress events;
- iv. prepare a timetable of events and milestones leading to an EC preliminary report by 2014
- v. working closely with the organizing committee of the Extraordinary Congress to develop a scientific program appropriate to the special occasion;
- vi. working closely with the IGU’s Commissions to foster commission contributions to the Extraordinary Congress program; and
- vii. other duties and responsibilities to be determined in consultation with the IGU Executive Committee.

A number of names were tabled and Abler will follow up and report at the next Executive Committee meeting on the establishment of this Task Force.

IGU Website Update

S-G Meadows is planning some relatively simple but quite important design changes to the website and will report on these at the next meeting. In discussion with Bellezza it was agreed that the ‘news and events’ task performed by Bellezza formerly under the ‘Home of Geography’ banner provides a very valuable service and that this facility should be maintained on the IGU home page. Bellezza is to provide regular information of this sort to Meadows for posting on the site.

IGU Social Networking Potential

The Cologne IGC revealed that there is considerable power and potential in the utility of social networking as a communication tool. Holger Kretschmer, who – together with Carsten Butsch and Franziska Bembenek - organised the social networking facility at the IGC Cologne had noted that there was very considerable interest in this – admittedly sometimes for what could be considered trivial activities. A downside to this is that Facebook and Twitter activities are very temporary and need to be updated consistently; this is a very, very time-consuming process (estimated as between 10 and 20 hours per week). A second problem is that, assuming funding is sourced to pay for this, the person doing the updating has to know as much about the IGU as does the EC members; this is probably not feasible. A third problem is that some of the Commission chairs and National Committee chairs are not as communicative as would be necessary for the specific requirements of social media. Meadows agreed to explore a simpler idea whereby the webpage activity is directly linked with Facebook and Twitter and report at the next EC meeting.

IGU Bulletin and eNewsletter Update

The latest issues of the Bulletin are in the process of being distributed and the volume for 2012 will be produced early in 2013 by Meadows. The IGU *eNewsletter* production is in the hands of Bellezza and remains on track for another issue in 2012.

IGU Archives

Sebastian Lentz has requested that IGU writes officially indicating the formal invitation to the Leipzig institute to take over responsibility for curation of the archives and Kolossov agreed to do this (S-G Meadows to draft the letter). Bellezza is requested to obtain a professional estimate as to the costs of transporting the archives to Leipzig. S-G Meadows to write a letter to the Societa Geografica explaining the IGU decision and authorizing Bellezza to obtain the necessary information. Charlie Withers has suggested that IGU consider supporting the compilation of digital copies of the Geographers' Biobibliographic Studies series to make the contributions more freely available (via the website, perhaps). The 'Dialogue Project' which produced video interviews with well-known geographers around 1980 was discussed. The project was initiated by former IGU President Anne Buttimer and the files are currently in Lund (the archives in Rome also house copies). The IGU community would surely benefit if digital versions of these interviews were freely available on the website. Both initiatives would, of course, be subject to copyright considerations. The Executive Committee agreed to both suggestions and S-G Meadows will take these matters forward.

Cooperation and Outreach

Festivals (including Festival International de Géographie, FIG)

Abler attended FIG and represented IGU interests. The festival was regarded as a success. It was suggested that IGU considers again hosting one of its future EC meetings in association with the festival. Yi Fu-Tuan was presented with the Vautrin Lud Prize. There is an ongoing plan to establish a School of Applied Geography in St Die and it was suggested that the President write and request further information on this initiative. IGU is committed to remain involved in FIG and there should be attendance by one or more EC members in 2013.

International Council for Science (ICSU)

The next Unions meeting is in Paris in March-April 2013 and IGU will be represented (Kolossov, possibly Meadows or alternate). The letter compiled by Abler and submitted on behalf of the GeoUnions to ICSU administration had finally solicited a response from the new CEO, Steve Wilson. Alcantara-Ayala is preparing a project application on a landslide consortium and this will be submitted by December. It was suggested that she be encouraged to find ICSU National Committee co-applicant among the supporting applicants. In respect of CODATA, Abler will be attending the forthcoming meeting. It was agreed to invite Mike Goodchild be approached to act as IGU representative on CODATA in future. JBGIS is a related grouping of chairs of organizations, including IGU, with GIS interests and expertise that is working with the UN on some important issues. Bill Cartwright is the current chair. Abler was requested to remain as the IGU point of contact with this group.

International Social Science Council (ISSC)

IGU has been requested to provide a very short piece for the 2013 *World Social Science Report* on environmental and climate change, providing the IGU perspective. It was agreed to ask Qin Dahe to draft this. Former V-P Ruth Fincher remains on the Council.

Affiliation with the ICPHS

Nothing to report at this stage

EUROGEO/EUGEO

EUGEO is the Association of Geographical Societies in Europe and aims to coordinate activities and communication among the societies. The chair is currently Henk Ottens from the Netherlands. Biennial meetings are organized. They should be encouraged to cooperate with EUROGEO and to attend the Krakow meeting. EUROGEO is group of active geographers, with strong connections to the teaching community, under the direction of Karl Donert and most recently met at the IGC Cologne. They should be encouraged to cooperate with EUGEO and to attend the IGU Krakow regional conference.

Earth Science Matters

Professor Ed de Mulder attended for this item. The mission of the Earth Science Matters Foundation (ESMF) is to bring knowledge of the earth to everyone. The International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) prompted continuation of outreach activities for member countries and ESMF was the result. At the moment ESMF is extending its activities via focal points in countries and there are also projects to try and bring the complexities of some earth science issues to a broader audience. ESMF (and IUGS) is already very active in the Global Geoparks initiative of UNESCO. The secretariat of the initiative is proposed to remain within UNESCO in Paris but this is undecided and it may be that one or more Unions could take over this responsibility. Whatever the case, there are obvious potential synergies with the equivalent IGU Commission. IUGS would be happy to co-host an important session on Geoparks at the Beijing Congress. There are also potential links via Megacities for ESMF (and IUGS) in terms of, for example, water resources and 'underground' cities. Soyez raised the question if the current 'natural heritage' focus (i.e. Geoparks) could not be complemented by a 'cultural heritage' approach (including even the, more often than not, resource-based 'industrial heritage' issue), thus establishing a broader 'Geoheritage' thinking. President Kolossov agreed to write to the President of IUGS and propose a joint Geoparks session at IGC Beijing. The establishment of a new Chinese Geopark in 2016 could, perhaps, be timed to coincide with IGC 2016. Bellezza agreed to ensure that the IGU Geoparks Commission is in contact with IUGS and ESMF to share information. Saarinen noted (via email) that the Global Geoparks Network will have their International Conference in Oulu and/or Rokua, Finland, in 2015 which will potentially provide an opportunity to raise IGU visibility (and also a co-role), especially in regard to the designated Study Group. The timing in 2015 is still open and can hopefully be coordinated after the precise dates of the Moscow Regional Meeting are known.

International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences

Köln, Germany, International Geographical Congress 2012

Soyez presented a summary of a tabled preliminary report; the full final report is still under production and will be available early in 2013. It appears that, with 2865 delegates, Cologne was the largest ever International Geographical Congress, with 90 countries represented. No-shows were considerably reduced in comparison with previous congresses (11.7%). Participation in individual sessions averaged 33. The 'back to the University' philosophy appears to have been very successful, albeit thanks to the generous underwriting by the University of two full-time staff members. It was agreed that the academic content was of much higher quality than had prevailed in previous events and the President commented that the

addition of special themed sessions (the four key topics, comprising almost half of total presentations) was an especially important innovation, in particular as it drew new geographic communities that traditionally were not particularly close to the IGU.

Some negative aspects: difficulties of communicating with Chairs of Commissions and National Committees were noted. The Conference and Congress Memorandum of Agreement would have been helpful had it been available ahead of time. The lack of press and media coverage generally was a disappointment. There were also problems with fluctuating exchange rates in respect of refunds. There were frustrations especially in relation to delegates not reading information available on the congress website and emails fully. On the other hand, it has to be acknowledged that the delegates were rather relaxed with some problems of the university venue, in particular ongoing construction work and constraints. It was suggested that Soyez compile a brief document on 'Experiences from Cologne' for the information of upcoming local organising committees. The EC congratulated the Local Organising Committee on an outstanding effort.

Kyoto, Japan, Regional Conference 2013

All EC members will attend and the registration fees and accommodation is fully paid for by the LOC. A travel grant programme needs to be initiated as with previous Regional Conferences. S-G Meadows is to follow up with Himiyama regarding closing dates and procedures etc.

Krakow, Poland, Regional Conference 2014

The LOC will be provided with the Cologne report in due course. It was suggested that the President make an on-site visit to Krakow and a report from the LOC should be tabled, both in time for the EC meeting in Delhi. LOC representative/s should be available at the Kyoto regional conference to meet with the EC on Sunday 4th August 2014.

Moscow, Russia, Regional Conference 2015

There is nothing new to report at this stage, although the LOC is aware of the need to promote the meeting at the forthcoming regional conferences.

Beijing, China, International Geographical Congress 2016

There is nothing further to report at this stage.

Regional Conference 2018

The Local Organising Committees are to be invited to resubmit their proposals in response to the requirements of the Memorandum of Agreement. The final decision will be resolved at a future EC meeting.

Istanbul, Turkey, International Geographical Congress 2020

Nothing further to report

Extraordinary International Geographical Congress 2022

The Task Force is to be established as per the agenda item above.

Other Business

IGU Lauréat d'Honneur

It was suggested that a Lauréat d'Honneur be awarded to a particular Geographer (name withheld from the minutes) who has distinguished himself in respect of IGU activities. Kellerman is to prepare a formal nomination and submit in time for the award to be presented at the Kyoto Regional Conference.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 18h00 on Tuesday 23rd October 2012.

2.b) Version Française par Yves Boquet

UNIVERSITÉ DE AMSTERDAM, PAYS-BAS 21-24 Octobre 2012

Bienvenue, déroulement de la réunion et introductions

La réunion a été présidée par le président Vladimir Kolossov, qui a accueilli Mike Meadows, secrétaire général ,et les vice-présidents Aharon Kellerman, Dieter Soyez, RB Singh, Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Ron Abler, Yukio Himiyama à la première réunion du nouveau comité exécutif. Les tentatives de participation à la réunion, par Skype, des vice-présidents Qin Dahe et Jarkko Saarinen se sont révélées infructueuses en raison de difficultés techniques.

Adoption de l'ordre du jour

L'ordre du jour a été adopté avec l'ajout d'un point sur JBGIS

Procès-verbal

Pékin (RPC) – réunion de Mars 2012.

Le procès-verbal de la réunion de Cologne (23-26 Août 2012) avait déjà été approuvé par courriel et a été enregistré.

Organisation et fonctionnement

Election du premier vice-président de l'UGI

Le Président a suggéré que le vice-président Dieter Soyez soit nommé premier vice-président de l'UGI. Cela a été approuvé à l'unanimité.

Répartition des tâches de liaisons avec les commissions et groupes de travail

Elles ont été discutées et réparties comme joint en annexe 1. Les commissions doivent se rappeler qu'elles doivent envoyer à l'UGI les coordonnées de tous les comités de pilotage et de s'assurer qu'ils ne sont pas en violation des statuts. Le secrétaire général Meadows demandera aux présidents de commissions de lui fournir une liste complète des membres des comités de pilotage avant le 1er Décembre 2012. La communication est un élément clé des activités des commissions et il faut rappeler aux présidents leurs responsabilités, par exemple pour la production de rapports annuels, l'encouragement aux jeunes membres, l'opportunité d'établir des prix pour jeunes chercheurs et pour nouer des liens avec les grandes initiatives de l'ICSU et ISSC . Le Président va rédiger une lettre d'introduction générale mettant en relief ces points et précisant les attentes envers les commissions, qui sera ensuite transmise aux présidents par les membres du Comité Exécutif qui peuvent ajouter leurs commentaires, le cas échéant.

Missions de liaisons avec les comités nationaux

Les missions ont été attribuées comme indiqué dans le document joint (annexe 2). Le Président a proposé d'écrire aux comités nationaux pour mettre en avant les priorités de l'UGI pour les quatre prochaines années.

Travaux de liaison du comité exécutif

Les responsabilités ont été réparties comme suit:

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Conseil international pour la science (CIUS) | Kolossov, Meadows |
| Conseil international des sciences sociales (CISS) | Kolossov, Meadows |
| Année internationale de la compréhension globale (IYGU) | Kolossov, Singh |
| Fondation sciences de la terre | Singh |
| ICSU Afrique | Meadows |
| ICSU Amérique latine | Bellezza (Alcantara-Ayala) |
| ICSU Asie | Himiyama |
| CODATA | Abler |
| JBGIS | Abler |
| UGI-CIS | ;Kolossov |
| UGI-Amérique latine | ;Bellezza (Alcantara-Ayala) |
| EUGEO | Bellezza |
| EUROGEO | Bellezza |
| ICA | Bellezza |
| Institut panaméricain de géographie et d'histoire | Bellezza (Alcantara-Ayala) |
| Comité local d'organisation du Congrès de Beijing | Qin |
| Comité local d'organisation de la conférence régionale de Kyoto | Himiyama |
| Comité local d'organisation de la conférence régionale de Cracovie.... | Kolossov |
| Comité local d'organisation de la conférence régionale de Moscou.... | Kolossov |

Réunions du Comité exécutif : Calendrier 2012-2014

Le calendrier du CE pour la période à venir a été fixé comme suit:

Rohtak, Inde (2013) : Arrivée 13/14 Mars; réunion 15/16 Mars, excursion de terrain 17 Mars, départs 18 Mars 2013.

Kyoto, Japon (2013) : Arrivée 1er Août, séance 2 Août, excursion de terrain 3 Août, réunion complète le 4 Août 2013, pour ensuite participer à la Conférence régionale.

Moscou, Russie (2014) : arrivée 28 Avril, séances les 29 et 30 Avril, excursion 1er mai 2014, départs le 2 mai 2014.

Cracovie, Pologne (2014) : arrivée 14 Août, réunions les 15 et 17 Août, excursion le 16 Août, départs 17 Août 2014, pour ensuite participer à la Conférence régionale.

Communication Interne du Comité exécutif

Il a été convenu de continuer à utiliser un simple courriel de groupe pour les communications internes.

Priorités de l'UGI pour la période 2012-2016

Le président Kolossov a accepté de rédiger un document qui décrit les principales priorités pour la période à venir et il le transmettra aux membres de la CE pour ajouts, modifications et observations.

Relations avec les commissions et comités nationaux

Ce problème a été résolu grâce à l'identification de membres du CE comme agents de liaison pour les Commissions, les Comités nationaux et autres partenaires.

Engagements et responsabilités du Comité Exécutif de l'UGI

- AAG, Los Angeles 2013. Abler y assistera, au nom de l'UGI. L'UGI est en train de conclure un accord avec l'AAG pour un stand d'exposition, et Abler sera assisté par les autres membres du CE présents à Los Angeles. La question de la visibilité croissante de l'UGI a été discutée. L'idée de produire un dépliant ou une brochure indiquant les avantages de l'adhésion aux Commissions de l'UGI a été soutenue, en soulignant nos principales activités et les potentialités de l'adhésion -

ainsi que quelques exemples de projets réussis. Les membres du CE et les présidents de Commissions doivent être invités à fournir des exemples qui pourraient être utilisés pour mettre en valeur certains des projets d'envergure plus élevés. Meadows a accepté de rédiger un épouvantail rhétorique, assisté par Abler et Kolossov. Il a été suggéré que l'apport de concepteurs professionnels sera nécessaire avant la production.

- Réunion EGAL XIV des géographes d'Amérique latine au Pérou, 8 - 12 Avril 2013. On a demandé à l'ancienne vice-présidente Alcantara-Ayala d'y à participer au nom de l'UGI.

- Forum mondial des sciences sociales, à Montréal, Octobre 2013. Kellerman a été proposé et accepté comme membre du Comité du programme scientifique et il y aura une présence importante de l'UGI.

- IBG-RGS, 28 au 30 Août 2013: Droogleever-Fortuijn y assistera au nom de l'UGI, avec distribution de matériel publicitaire et demande de présence à l'une des séances plénières.

- Réunion annuelle des géographes nordiques, juin 2013: Saarinen est un conférencier invité et peut distribuer du matériel de marketing UGI. En outre, la Commission de l'UGI sur le tourisme organise des sessions au cours de cette conférence (également à l'AAG Los Angeles).

Fonctionnement

Adhésion Pays UGI

Les dernières données d'adhésion indiquent que le revenu total prévu pour 2012 sera similaire à celui de 2012. Les demandes d'adhésion ne sont confirmées que par une Assemblée Générale.

Adhésion des pays en développement

Meadows a déposé l'aide-mémoire de la réunion qui s'est tenue avec les géographes africains lors de du CIG de Cologne. La question des réseaux est cruciale, mais particulièrement difficile. Il y a maintenant au moins une première liste d'adresses e-mail de contact et le projet de création d'une page Facebook pour les géographes africains peut être utile. On a noté l'intérêt du Nigeria pour accueillir une réunion des géographes africains avec comme thème provisoire «l'état de la discipline» sur le continent. L'UGI pourrait certainement aider en parrainant et en soutenant une telle réunion ; cette question doit être suivie et Meadows fera les démarches appropriées. Le président Kolossov note qu'il aimerait poursuivre l'idée de demander à nos collègues africains d'identifier les associations dans leurs pays qui pourraient être sollicitées pour contribuer au financement d'une telle réunion. Il est particulièrement préoccupé par la situation en Afrique francophone. Soyez a suggéré que l'UGI envisage l'idée d'une réunion, peut-être en encourageant l'une des commissions de l'organiser, dans l'un des pays d'Afrique francophone ; CODESRIA est un partenaire éventuel de financement dans ce domaine. Soyez a suggéré un certain nombre de moyens d'intensifier les efforts pour relancer les contacts de l'UGI avec des collègues africains et il va redoubler d'efforts, en consultation avec, par exemple, Ton Dietz.

En ce qui concerne le financement, la question de la création d'un fonds central à partir duquel les frais d'adhésion et peut-être le soutien à la participation à conférences des géographes africains pourraient être payés, dans un processus de candidature sélective, a été discutée. Le président Kolossov a accepté de rédiger une lettre expliquant ses idées sur cette suggestion. Le problème, bien sûr, s'étend, au-delà de l'Afrique. Il y a certainement des communautés actives de géographes, par exemple en Asie du Sud-Est (Malaisie, Indonésie, Vietnam...), mais il s'est avéré difficile d'obtenir des engagements de leur part quant à l'adhésion. L'annulation de la dette à long terme est un des moyens par lequel nous pouvons encourager le rétablissement de l'adhésion au sein des communautés africaines.

Mise à jour des Commissions et groupes de travail

La proposition de création d'une nouvelle Commission "Géomorphologie et société" a été présentée par Irasema Alcantara-Ayala. La CE a été favorable à cette proposition mais a noté que le document lui-même était assez bref. Après discussion, il a été convenu que le document satisfait aux exigences nécessaires et que la Commission est donc approuvée.

Rapport financier de l'UGI et projections

Les comptes de l'UGI ont été présentés et la projection pour fin 2013 indique que les finances restent en assez bon état malgré le fait que l'année 2012 a été une année de Congrès avec toute une série de charges supplémentaires liées à ce sujet. En ce qui concerne l'expérience du CIG à Cologne, il a été discuté et convenu, de demander aux comités locaux d'organisation pour Cracovie, Moscou et Pékin de signer le protocole d'accord pour Conférence et Congrès. Il a été convenu que le président Kolossov ferait parvenir la dernière version de ce document aux parties responsables de leur examen et signature.

Adhésion d'entreprises

Abler a brièvement rendu compte des négociations à long terme avec un mécène potentiel. Il n'y a généralement pas beaucoup d'intérêt de la part des entreprises au niveau international, peut-être en raison du ralentissement économique actuel. Abler a accepté de continuer à assurer le suivi de ses contacts principaux.

IYGU - Année internationale pour la compréhension globale

Benno Werlen a distribué des rapports sur les derniers événements. Il y a des développements positifs et l'UGI s'en réjouit. La prochaine étape-clé est d'obtenir le soutien de l'UNESCO lors de son Assemblée Générale en 2013 : la recherche d'un chef de file pour la candidature continue. Le Comité exécutif a pris note du rapport et continue à suivre l'initiative avec beaucoup d'intérêt.

Publications

On a discuté de la possibilité pour l'UGI de lancer une revue, peut-être en ligne. Ce serait un défi de taille qui mérite une discussion plus approfondie dans le futur. Kellerman a suggéré que l'UGI contacte Derek Gregory, Anne Buttimer, Paul Claval et Christian Vandermotten en vue de recueillir leurs points de vue sur la question et Bellezza a également suggéré de consulter quelqu'un hors de la communauté européenne ou nord-américaine. Meadows accepte d'entreprendre cette démarche.

Projet de l'UGI sur les revues

Meadows a présenté un rapport sur la situation du projet "revues" de l'UGI. Il a recruté un assistant étudiant pour mettre à jour la base de données et en améliorer la qualité. La version en ligne fonctionne bien désormais.

Modèle d'affaires "Our Sus" Villes durables

Ton Dietz était présent pour ce point. Le lancement du site web à Cologne a marqué la fin de la phase d'initiation. Le modèle d'affaires est maintenant prêt pour examen et approbation. Il est admis que le projet devrait « penser grand, commencer petit ». Le site, désormais liée à la page d'accueil de l'UGI, comporte quatre éléments principaux - « expériences », « défis », « campagnes », « cas et produits ». Ce dernier élément est lié au modèle d'affaires parce que toute publicité doit être payée. Il y a aussi une procédure d'approbation pour le suivi de ces initiatives. Plusieurs questions doivent être examinées. Pour le site en langue anglaise, une décision doit être prise quant à la façon de choisir les communautés d'examineurs, à savoir pays par pays (il pourrait y avoir des conséquences juridiques en cas de désaccord).

Quelles nouvelles villes peuvent être impliqués dans l'idée Cityhub ? Quid de la participation de scientifiques ou de professionnels ? Quid de la concurrence avec les sites existants de

développement durable pour les villes ? Comment développer progressivement l'initiative ? Kellerman a fait remarquer que le projet en est encore à ses débuts, mais qu'il fonctionne bien en Chine. Il a en outre suggéré qu'il y ait un groupe "international", noyau d'experts dès le début, et que nous émettions un « appel » aux villes pour contribuer. Abler a fait remarquer qu'il serait bon d'inciter à la participation de nos comités nationaux, bien que nous puissions avoir besoin de trouver des moyens de maintenir le contrôle sur les revenus - peut-être par l'intermédiaire d'un fonds central. Soyez note que la « marque » peut être un peu déroutant - OurSus est proposé comme une itération possible. Il aimerait aussi que les équipes locales bénéficient à plus de 10% (mais l'équipe chinoise elle-même ne souhaite pas faire plus que cela). L'élément "récompense financière" de cette opération pour les sociétés privées après leur approbation du projet en est une partie très importante.

Les prochaines étapes : l'UGI devrait formellement approuver le modèle d'affaires et désigner deux membres du CE comme agents de liaison pour le projet. Par la suite, il devrait y avoir une liste d'experts (cinq pour chacune des 7 «couleurs» identifiées de la durabilité) pour examiner les publicités, d'abord sur une base pro bono. Cela serait suivi par l'appel de villes à participer. Il a été convenu que l'UGI devrait approuver le projet et que Abler, Bellezza et Soyez agirait comme membres de liaison du Comité Exécutif dans l'intervalle.

Expansion de l'UGI

Cette question a été en partie prise en compte dans l'ordre du jour sur le développement de pays membres. Cependant, Kellerman a présenté un bref rapport dans lequel il estime «l'empreinte» de la communauté UGI ne représente actuellement que 10% de la communauté internationale des géographes. La question est : pourquoi la visibilité de l'UGI est-elle si basse au sein de la communauté mondiale? Une partie de la réponse réside dans le fait qu'un nombre important de géographes ne sont pas en « recherche active », par exemple les enseignants du secondaire ou des professeurs universitaires qui n'ont aucun intérêt réel au-delà du local. Le deuxième problème est que l'information de l'UGI et ses organes connexes ne sont pas effectivement diffusées aux personnes individuelles qui manquent ainsi une opportunité d'« appartenir » à l'UGI - , en gardant à l'esprit qu'une telle association ne comporte de facto aucun engagement.

Quelques suggestions:

- a) « se montrer » à des conférences nationales;
- b) mettre les commissions au défi de doubler leurs adhésions - peut-être en offrant une incitation financière;
- c) travailler avec les Sociétés nationales géographiques par l'intermédiaire de nos Comités nationaux, pour qu'elles mettent un lien vers le site de l'UGI sur leur page d'accueil,
- d) demander aux sociétés de se mettre d'accord pour aider à diffuser l'information UGI dans leurs propres listes de diffusion.

Droogleever-Fortuijn indique qu'il y a d'autres questions à soulever : le « statut » de l'UGI est mis en comparaison avec celui, prestigieux, d'autres organisations, telles que l'AAG. Il y a aussi des difficultés liées aux coûts de participation à des réunions et à des questions linguistiques. En ce qui concerne l'enseignement universitaire, peut-être l'UGI pourrait générer plus d'intérêt dans ses activités par le biais, par exemple, l'établissement d'un « prix d'enseignement » ou l'organisation d'une session d'enseignement universitaire lors de l'une de ses conférences ? Droogleever-Fortuijn accepte de préparer un résumé des suggestions autour de cela pour la prochaine réunion du CE et Himiyama d'étudier la possibilité d'inclure une telle idée à la Conférence de Kyoto régional.

Singh a suggéré que les membres de la CE identifient les sociétés géographiques les plus actives dans leurs pays de liaison et tentent de distribuer le matériel à travers ces listes ; il a également

suggéré que les commissions peuvent faire davantage - par exemple pour tenter d'obtenir 500 adresses e-mail sur chacune de leurs listes de distribution . Himiyama suggère que les commissions avec de nombreuses adhésions puissent recevoir un plus haut niveau de soutien financier (doublement des adhésions = doublement de la subvention ?). Le président Kolossov note qu'il souhaite développer un inventaire des géographes dans chaque pays / région - à commencer par une liste de départements universitaires / laboratoires / instituts (EUGEO / EUROGEO peut être en mesure d'aider à ce sujet). Il a été convenu d'inclure ces points dans la communication du Président avec les présidents de commissions.

Une idée serait que les commissions, afin d'obtenir la subvention annuelle de 1000 dollars américains, auraient à partager leur base de données de distribution avec le secrétariat. Soyez voit la « réputation » de l'UGI comme le principal problème, en particulier avec les jeunes chercheurs qui ont plutôt tendance à interagir avec et de contribuer à leurs groupes de spécialités respectives, et que certaines de ces suggestions ne permettront pas de s'attaquer à ce problème. D'autre part, le répertoire Orbis Geographicus a été abandonné et il serait utile de le rétablir sous forme électronique - même si il ne comprend que les sociétés de géographie. Le projet initial avait échoué probablement parce que les critères d'inscription étaient trop rigides et trop politiques. Bellezza a suggéré que le bulletin devrait venir par l'intermédiaire du président, car cela donne plus de solennité dans la communication avec des instructions spécifiques pour distribuer davantage. Abler a noté que l'une des choses absolument nécessaires pour l'UGI est une base de données relationnelles de toutes les personnes associées.

Olympiades géographiques

Il n'y avait rien à signaler à ce sujet, le Groupe de travail a les choses en main.

Réseaux régionaux

L'idée émanait d'une proposition initiale de l'ancien président Vallega, mais à l'exception du MRP, rien ne s'est formellement concrétisé. Toutefois, un réseau CEI est actif (Kolossov), comme le réseau de jeunes géographes en Asie de l'Est (Himiyama) et en Asie du Sud (Singh) , et il y a des initiatives en Amérique latine (Bellezza va assurer le suivi en consultation avec l'ancienne vice-présidente Alacantara-Ayala). Le secrétaire général Meadows peut fournir des liens vers l'ensemble de ces activités pertinentes sur le site si les coordonnées lui sont envoyées par les membres de liaison compétents du comité exécutif.

Groupe de travail Sesquicentennial et Centennial

Abler a déposé un projet de document dans lequel il expose le rôle et les responsabilités d'un tel groupe de travail :

- i. examen des réunions du centenaire d'autres unions internationales pour identifier les événements et les programmes qui pourraient être adoptés ou adaptés pour le Congrès du Centenaire de l'UGI;
- ii. identifier les congrès et les événements connexes et des programmes spécifiquement appropriés pour le Congrès du Centenaire de l'UGI;
- iii. identifier les sources de financement possibles pour les événements du Congrès du Centenaire;
- iv. préparer un calendrier des événements et des jalons conduisant à un rapport préliminaire CE en 2014
- v travailler en étroite collaboration avec le comité d'organisation du Congrès extraordinaire pour développer un programme scientifique approprié à la circonstance particulière;
- vi. travailler en étroite collaboration avec les commissions de l'UGI pour encourager les contributions des Commissions au programme du Congrès extraordinaire, et

vii. déterminer d'autres fonctions et responsabilités en consultation avec le Comité Exécutif de l'UGI.

Un certain nombre de noms ont été proposés et Abler assurera le suivi et fera rapport à la prochaine réunion du Comité exécutif sur la mise en place de ce groupe de travail.

Potentiel de réseau social de l'UGI

La CIG de Cologne a révélé qu'il existe un potentiel considérable dans l'utilisation des réseaux sociaux comme outil de communication. Holger Kretschmer, qui - avec Carsten Butsch et Franziska Bembenek - a organisé l'installation de réseaux sociaux au CIG de Cologne avait noté qu'il y avait un intérêt considérable dans ce domaine - certes parfois pour ce qui pourrait être considéré comme des activités banales. Un inconvénient est que les activités Facebook et Twitter sont très temporaires et doivent être mises à jour régulièrement, ce qui est un processus très, très long (estimé entre 10 et 20 heures par semaine). Un deuxième problème est que, en supposant que le financement soit assuré, la personne qui effectuerait la mise à jour doit en savoir autant sur l'UGI que les membres du CE, ce qui n'est probablement pas réalisable. Un troisième problème est que certains présidents de Commissions et ou de comités nationaux ne sont pas aussi communicatifs que nécessaire pour les besoins spécifiques des médias sociaux. Meadows est convenu d'explorer une simple idée selon laquelle l'activité de la page web serait directement liée à Facebook et Twitter et il va faire rapport à la prochaine réunion du CE.

Le point sur le Bulletin de l'UGI et le bulletin électronique

Les derniers numéros du Bulletin sont en train d'être distribués et le volume pour 2012 sera produit début 2013 par Meadows. La production du Bulletin électronique UGI est entre les mains de Bellezza et reste sur la bonne voie pour une autre publication en 2012.

Archives de l'UGI

Sebastian Lentz a demandé que l'UGI rédige officiellement l'invitation formelle à l'institut de Leipzig pour assumer la responsabilité de conservation des archives et Kolossov a accepté de le faire (le secrétaire général Meadows rédigera une version préliminaire de la lettre). Bellezza est chargé d'obtenir une estimation professionnelle des coûts de transfert des archives à Leipzig. Le secrétaire général Meadows va écrire à Società Geografica pour expliquer la décision de l'UGI et autoriser Bellezza à obtenir les informations nécessaires. Charlie Withers a suggéré que l'UGI envisage de soutenir la compilation des copies numériques de la série des Études Bibliographiques de géographes pour en faciliter l'accès (via le site web, par exemple). Le "Projet de dialogue" qui a produit des entretiens vidéo avec des géographes renommés vers 1980 a été évoqué. Le projet a été lancé par l'ancienne présidente de l'UGI Anne Buttimer et les fichiers sont actuellement à Lund (les archives de Rome en ont aussi des copies). La communauté de l'UGI serait certainement bénéficiaire si des versions numériques de ces entretiens étaient disponibles gratuitement sur le site web. Ces deux initiatives seraient bien entendu sujettes à des considérations de droits d'auteur. Le Comité exécutif accepte ces suggestions et le secrétaire général Meadows va faire avancer ces dossiers.

Coopération et sensibilisation

Festivals (y compris Festival International Géographie de St Dié, FIG)

Abler a assisté au FIG et y a représenté les intérêts de l'UGI. Le festival a été considéré comme un succès. Il a été suggéré que l'UGI considère d'organiser de nouveau une de ses futures réunions du CE en association avec le festival. Yi Fu Tuan a reçu le Prix Vautrin Lud. Il y a un projet en cours visant à créer à St Dié une école supérieure de géographie appliquée, et il est suggéré que le président fasse une lettre pour demander des informations supplémentaires sur

cette initiative. L'UGI s'est engagée à continuer de participer au FIG et il devrait y avoir la présence de plusieurs membres du CE en 2013.

Conseil international pour la science (CIUS)

La prochaine réunion se tiendra à Paris en Mars-Avril 2013 et l'UGI sera représentée (Kolossof, peut-être Meadows ou un autre). La lettre préparée par Abler et soumise au nom des GeoUnions à l'administration du CIUS avait finalement obtenu une réponse du nouveau directeur général, Steve Wilson. Alcantara-Ayala prépare une demande de projet sur un consortium consacré aux glissements de terrain, qui sera soumis en Décembre. Il a été suggéré qu'elle soit encouragée à trouver un partenaire de l'ICSU parmi les candidats. En ce qui concerne CODATA, Abler sera présent à la prochaine réunion. Il a été convenu d'inviter Mike Goodchild pour agir en tant que représentant de l'UGI auprès de CODATA à l'avenir. JBGIS est un regroupement connexe de présidents d'organisations, y compris l'UGI, avec des intérêts et de l'expertise en SIG, qui travaillent avec l'ONU sur des questions importantes. Bill Cartwright est le président actuel. Abler a été prié de rester comme le point de contact de l'UGI avec ce groupe.

Conseil international des sciences sociales (CISS)

L'UGI a été priée de fournir une contribution très courte pour le rapport mondial 2013 sur les sciences sociales, à propos de l'environnement et du changement climatique, en fournissant les perspectives de l'UGI. Il a été convenu de demander à Qin Dahe de rédiger ce texte. L'ancienne vice-présidente Ruth Fincher reste au CISS.

Affiliation avec le CIPSH

Rien à signaler à ce stade

EUROGEO / EUGEO

EUGEO est l'Association des Sociétés de Géographie de l'Europe et vise à coordonner les activités et la communication entre les sociétés. Le président est actuellement Henk Ottens des Pays-Bas. Des réunions biennales sont organisées. Ils doivent être encouragés à coopérer avec EUROGEO et à assister à la conférence UGI de Cracovie. EUROGEO est un groupe de géographes actifs, avec des liens solides avec la communauté enseignante, sous la direction de Karl Donert, qui se sont récemment réunis au CIG de Cologne. Ils doivent être encouragés à coopérer avec EUGEO et à assister à la conférence régionale de l'UGI à Cracovie.

Fondation Sciences de la Terre

Le professeur Ed de Mulder était présent pour ce point. La mission de la fondation Sciences de la Terre est d'apporter des connaissances de la terre au grand public. L'Année Internationale de la Planète Terre (AIPT) a incité à poursuivre des activités de sensibilisation pour les pays membres et la fondation en est le produit. À l'heure actuelle la fondation développe ses activités par l'intermédiaire des points focaux dans les pays et il ya aussi des projets pour essayer de montrer la complexité de certains problèmes sciences de la terre à un vaste public. La fondation est déjà très active dans l'initiative mondiale des géoparcs de l'UNESCO. Il est proposé que le secrétariat de l'initiative reste au sein de l'UNESCO à Paris, mais ce n'est décidé et il se peut qu'une ou plusieurs unions assument cette responsabilité. Quoiqu'il en soit, il y a de toute évidence des synergies potentielles avec les Commissions correspondantes de l'UGI. L'Union internationale des géosciences souhaiterait co-organiser une importante session sur les géoparcs, lors du Congrès de Pékin.

Il y a aussi des liens potentiels via les mégapoles en termes de, par exemple, en eau et les villes «souterraines». Soyez a soulevé la question de savoir si la focalisation actuelle sur le « patrimoine naturel » (géoparcs) ne pourrait être complétée par une approche « patrimoine culturel » (y compris même, patrimoine industriel basé sur l'exploitation des ressources), établissant ainsi une réflexion plus large sur le «géo-patrimoine». Le président Kolossof a accepté d'écrire au

président de l'Union Internationale des géosciences et de lui proposer une session conjointe sur les géoparcs au CIG de Pékin. La création d'un nouveau Géoparc chinois en 2016 pourrait peut-être être programmée pour coïncider avec le CIG 2016. Bellezza est convenu de veiller à ce que la Commission UGI géoparcs reste en contact avec l'UIGC et la fondation Sciences de la Terre pour échanger des informations. Saarinen a noté (par courriel) que le Réseau mondial des géoparcs tiendra sa conférence internationale à Oulu et / ou Rokua, en Finlande, en 2015, ce qui pourrait fournir une occasion d'accroître la visibilité de l'UGI, en particulier en ce qui concerne le Groupe d'étude précité. Le calendrier 2015 est toujours ouverte et on peut espérer une coordination une fois connues les dates précises de la Conférence régionale UGI de Moscou.

Congrès géographiques internationaux et l'UGI Conférences régionales

Köln, Allemagne, Congrès International de Géographie 2012

Soyez a présenté un résumé d'un rapport préliminaire, le rapport final complet étant toujours en cours de production et disponible au début de 2013.

Il semble que, avec 2865 délégués, Cologne est le plus important Congrès international de géographie de l'histoire, avec 90 pays représentés. Les défections ont été considérablement réduites par rapport aux congrès précédents (11,7%). La participation aux séances individuelles a été en moyenne de 33 personnes. La philosophie de "retour à l'Université" semble avoir eu beaucoup de succès, grâce entre autres à la généreuse subvention de l'Université de Cologne pour le recrutement de deux personnels à temps plein. Il a été convenu que le contenu académique était de bien meilleure qualité que ce qui avait prévalu dans les événements précédents et le Président a fait remarquer que l'ajout de séances spéciales à thèmes (les quatre thèmes clés, comprenant près de la moitié des présentations au total) a été une innovation particulièrement importante, en particulier car elle a attiré de nouvelles communautés géographiques qui, traditionnellement, n'étaient pas vraiment proches de l'UGI.

Certains aspects négatifs : des difficultés de communication avec les présidents des commissions et comités nationaux ont été notées. Il aurait été utile de disposer à l'avance du Mémorandum d'accord sur conférences et congrès. L'absence de la presse, et de façon générale la couverture médiatique, a été une déception. Il y a eu aussi des problèmes avec la fluctuation des taux de change à l'égard des remboursements. Il y a eu des frustrations en particulier en ce qui concerne les délégués ne lisant pas complètement les informations disponibles sur le site du congrès et les courriels. D'autre part, il faut reconnaître que les délégués ont été plutôt compréhensifs avec des problèmes de locaux universitaires et les contraintes liées aux travaux de construction en cours.

Il a été suggéré que Soyez compile un bref document sur l'expérience de Cologne pour informer les futurs comités d'organisation locaux. Le CE a félicité le comité d'organisation local pour son effort exceptionnel.

Kyoto, Japon, Conférence régionale 2013

Tous les membres du CE seront présents et leurs frais d'inscription et d'hébergement entièrement pris en charge par le COL. Un programme de bourses de voyage doit être initié comme avec les précédentes conférences régionales. Le secrétaire général Meadows assure le suivi avec Himiyama en ce qui concerne les dates-butoir, les procédures, etc

Cracovie, Pologne, Conférence régionale 2014

Le COL recevra le rapport de Cologne en temps voulu. Il a été suggéré que le Président effectue une visite sur place à Cracovie et un rapport du COL doit être remis, les deux avant la réunion du CE à Delhi. Un représentant du COL devrait être présent à la conférence régionale de Kyoto pour répondre au CE le dimanche 4 Août 2014.

Moscou, Russie, Conférence régionale 2015

Il n'y a rien de nouveau à signaler à ce stade, bien que le COL soit conscient de la nécessité de promouvoir la réunion au cours des prochaines conférences régionales.

Beijing, Chine, Congrès International de Géographie 2016

Il n'y a rien d'autre à signaler à ce stade.

2018 Conférence régionale

Les comités locaux d'organisation doivent être invités à présenter leurs propositions en réponse aux exigences du protocole d'accord. La décision finale sera prise lors d'une réunion future du CE.

Istanbul, Turquie, Congrès Géographique International 2020

Rien d'autre à signaler

Congrès International extraordinaire de Géographie 2022

Le Groupe de travail doit être mise en place selon l'ordre du jour ci-dessus.

Questions diverses

Lauréat d'Honneur de l'UGI

Il a été suggéré que le "Lauréat d'honneur" soit décerné à un géographe particulier (nom supprimé du compte rendu) qui s'est distingué dans ses activités au sein de l'UGI. Kellerman va préparer une proposition formelle à soumettre à temps pour la présentation du prix lors de la conférence régionale de Kyoto .

Ajournement

La séance est levée à 18h00 le mardi 23 Octobre 2012.



3) IGU 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

The IGU was founded under the auspices of the International Research Council in 1922 in Brussels, having been conceived some years earlier in Paris. Its debut as a formal, continuing organization was preceded by ten International Geographical Congresses, the first of which was held in Antwerp in 1871. Early congresses addressed such specific topics as the international standardization of the prime meridian for mapping and agreement on the world's time zones. In later years up to 1922 the congresses became more general in scope, establishing commissions to address salient facets of geography and cartography. The IGU was established as part of the broader organization of international science that occurred in the early decades of the last century.

The IGU was a founding member of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and remains an active member of that organization, in addition to its membership in the International Social Science Council (ISSC).

Today's IGU is comprised of a General Assembly, 41 Commissions, a Task Force, one Special

Committee, and the IGU Executive Committee. IGU membership is by country, and the general assembly consists of a delegate from each member country. The assembly normally meets every fourth year at an IGU Congress and indeed met in 2012 in Cologne, Germany (see below). Commissions and task forces are, respectively, the research and action components of the IGU. The IGU Executive Committee and General Assembly form commissions, task forces, and special committees in response to the changing needs of international geography. The elected executive committee guides the IGU between the IGU's International Geographical Congresses (held every four years) and Regional Conferences (held every fourth year midway between congress years).

Aside from their substantial participation in the Cologne International Geographical Congress, most of the IGU's commissions were active in other meetings and in developing publications during the year in question (see below). The IGU Executive Committee keeps its community informed via the quarterly IGU E-Newsletter, which launched as a new series in 2012. The IGU relies mainly on dues from member countries to support its operations, supplemented by grants from outside organizations (especially ICSU) for specific projects and donations. Dues payments fluctuate from year to year depending on national funding cycles. Payments for 2012 similar to those of 2011 and, despite increased expenditure on issues relating to the Congress (e.g. an extensive travel grants programme) a modest surplus of income over the year's expenses was achieved.

IGU Secretary-General Mike Meadows

32nd International Geographical Congress, Cologne, Germany, 26th to 30th August 2012

From 26th to 30th August 2012, the IGU held in Cologne (Germany) its 32nd International Geographical Congress. It was the largest in the almost 150-years history of International Geographical Congresses and gathered 2865 participants from 90 countries. The number of participants was limited mainly by the results of abstracts' peer review by a special International Scientific Committee. It included well known experts from all over the world. Its creation and a rigorous selection policy were one of numerous innovations in the organization of the Congress. The relatively large participation of geographers from the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America was particularly important because they have so often been under-represented at the IGU events. The programme of the Congress included a special meeting of about 60 participants from 12 African countries aimed to promote cooperation of African geographers with IGU Commissions and Task Forces.

The motto of the Congress was «Down to Earth». It had a double meaning. On the one hand, it indicated the relevance of its main theme: the relation between sustainable development and the processes of globalization, urbanization, climate change, biodiversity and "green" economy. The importance of this theme was stressed by Professor Ann Glover, Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission. Her emotional greetings at the opening ceremony provoked a vivid reaction of participants. She called them "to shout" about the results of their studies. On the other hand, the motto underlined the intention of organizers to make the Congress open, cheaper and accessible for everybody. Indeed, for the first time since many years its venue was a university, and not an expensive congress hall, and it was entirely organized by German geographers and students-volunteers, and not by a special company.



Co-chairs of the Local Organising Committee, Professors Frauke Kraas and Dieter Soyez at the opening ceremony of the Cologne International Geographical Congress.

The scientific programme of the Congress was much diversified and included more than 400 sessions organized “from the top” - by IGU Commissions and “from the bottom” – on the initiative of separate scholars who submitted their propositions to the International Scientific Committee. All IGU Commissions held in Cologne their business meetings. Every day two keynote lectures were offered by leading academics and practitioners. They were devoted to such problems as “Society and Environment”, “Risks and Conflicts”, “Urbanization and Demographic Change”, etc.). These proved to be massively popular with the delegates – indeed, the largest university conference hall could not accommodate all those who wished to attend them although all of them were streamed live on the internet and, indeed, can still be uploaded at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/IGCCologne2012?feature=watch>

A pre-Congress conference discussed the development of geography in Europe. A number of special sessions concerned the needs of practitioners, and others devoted to the main IGU projects and initiatives such as the International Year of Global Understanding, Sustainable Cities and the World Data Base on Geographical Journals.



Congress delegates at one of the poster sessions

Particular attention was paid to geographical education and young scholars. School teachers came to the Congress for a full day of sessions and lectures. The programme “School at the IGC and the IGC at school” was supported by the federal and regional ministries of education and sponsored a series of lectures of well-known geographers at high schools of North Rhine–Westphalia. As usually, the Congress hosted the World Geographical Olympiad which reunited 128 high school’s pupils from 32 countries. Its agenda consisted of written and multimedia tests and a field tour. Besides that, the participants of the Olympiad had to prepare a presentation on water resources and problems of water use. The winners were honoured by high officials at the opening ceremony of the Congress.



Olympiad winners receive their medals at the opening ceremony of the Cologne Congress.

Scholars from all over the world participated in the pre-congress ‘iGeo’ competition. The Youth Forum embraced a number of interactive workshops on such important themes as “The Management of a Research Project”, “Publications in English: Where, When and How?”, “The Art of an Academic Text”, “Steps of a University Carrier” and so on. But the main event of the Youth Forum was the day devoted to poster sessions which passed in an informal environment and attracted the attention of many participants of all ages. Special grants for young scholars established by IGU and the Local Organizing Committee contributed to the success of this Forum.

The Congress traditionally included an exhibition of geographical literature, maps, atlases and multimedia products with the participation of some world known publishing houses and companies. All major national geographical societies and associations prepared books, collections of papers and CDs on the development of geography in their countries.

A part of each Congress is the IGU General Assembly held once every four years. It considered the results of the Executive Committee’s work in 2008-2012, the main directions of IGU activity for next four years and elected the new President and three Vice-Presidents. The General Assembly confirmed the next Congress will be in Beijing in 2016 and, in the meantime there are

three Regional Conferences (in Kyoto, 2013, in Krakow, 2014 and in Moscow, 2015). The Assembly also decided that the city of Istanbul will host the 34th International Geographical Congress in 2020 and that, on the occasion of its centennial, IGU will organise in 2022 an extraordinary Congress.

President Vladimir Kolossov

IGU General Assembly, Cologne

The General Assembly was held as part of the proceedings of the International Geographical Congress and was attended by delegates from 48 IGU Member Countries. The meeting was chaired by outgoing President Ron Abler who reminded the assembly of the 'Priorities' document that had been developed following the Tunis congress and widely circulated. The IGU Executive Committee had concluded a long discussion of how the IGU should position itself, geographers, and geography for the coming years. In addition to continuing its core functions of convening meetings, promoting research, placing geographers in key international positions, and recognizing outstanding achievement with its awards, the committee focused on four priorities:

- . Working with local hosts to upgrade the IGU's congresses and regional conferences.
- . Upgrading the quality and utility of the IGU web site to make it a premier resource for geographic information and contacts for the global geographic community;
- . Taking more vigorous steps to recruit young scholars. Too many geographers encounter the IGU only in mid- or late career.
- . Finding additional sources of sustainable funding for IGU operations. The IGU now operates on an average annual budget of about €75,000, which barely covers its basic operating expenses. To be more effective in promoting geography, the members of the IGU Executive Committee must continue to attempt to find additional sources of funding while also reducing the expenses of executive committee operations. To that end, the committee has experimented with holding one of its meetings virtually and will endeavor to continue this practice.

In a question from the assembly, the President was challenged to offer a view as to how successfully the outgoing committee had been in addressing these priorities. President Abler responded that he felt that, with the exception of the fund-raising issue, there had been progress on the other fronts. With regard to the website, the representative for France suggested that it could host a 'glossary' of geographical terms that would be useful in particular for those who did not use English as a first language. There were several comments, including those representing Finland and the Netherlands, relating to the difficulties faced by national committees in persuading their members as to the value of IGU membership. President Abler responded by informing the assembly as to the important role that IGU plays within the international scientific (through ICSU) and social science (through ISSC) communities but that there were undoubtedly improvements that could be made in getting this message across more frequently and efficiently to IGU national committees. President Abler also agreed to suggest that the incoming executive committee should again explore the possibility of affiliate membership for Geography Departments and Societies.

Report of the President for the Period 2008-2012

Outgoing President Ron Abler summarized the major activities of the IGU over the inter-congress period. IGU Commissions and Task Forces maintained good productivity with respect to meetings and publications during the period, with very few exceptions that are evident in the executive committee's recommendations regarding the continuation and retirement of commissions and task forces. President Abler noted the excellent leadership that had characterised the IGU in the past and that this had assisted greatly over the last four years which had proved an exciting and exhilarating period. Highlights of this term of office had been the development of the International Year of Global Understanding proposal through the efforts in particular of the Commission on Cultural Geography, the launch of the newly designed IGU website and related facilities, and the initiation of the Sustainable Cities project. There is a strong sense that the IGU is in good shape and is particularly well placed within ICSU and ISSC to facilitate participation in the major global research agendas relating to the environment. President Abler commented on the issue of the frequency of regional conferences, which – commencing in 2010 - are now annual through to 2016. He remarked that judgement on the wisdom of this or otherwise would only be possible with hindsight; suffice for now to say that the conferences in 2010 and 2011 had been good, although not without controversy due to their locations (Tel Aviv, Israel and Santiago, Chile, respectively). Concern over the location of conferences had led the executive committee to present a special session at the Cologne congress entitled 'Contested Lieux de Mémoire' and it was hoped that open debate and discussion of the problems around some meeting venues would have a positive effect. The President then expressed his sincere thanks to members of the executive committee with whom he has had the pleasure of working and appreciated their unfailing diligence; he remarked that he was looking forward to continuing to work with the new committee in his capacity as Past President.

Report of the Secretaries General and Treasurers for the Period 2008-2012

Professor Woo-ik Yu was Secretary General from the conclusion of the Tunis Congress in August 2008 until, following his enforced resignation due to career commitments, Professor Mike Meadows was elected to the position in August 2010. The IGU Secretariat was relocated to Cape Town towards the end of 2010 and continued to operate at minimal cost to the IGU. Outgoing Secretary-General Yu had made a generous personal donation to the IGU to help smooth the transition. The finances of the IGU are now fully based in Cape Town and, despite South African exchange control regulations that necessitate the funds being held in South African Rand, the revenue and expenditure arrangements are proving satisfactory. Secretary-General Meadows introduced the assembly and made a brief demonstration of the newly established Journals Database which is now fully accessible from the IGU website at www.igu-online.org and which, through the kind intervention of Professor Ton Dietz and colleagues at the University of Amsterdam, now provided information on more than 1,000 Geography journals from across the globe. Meadows is committed to further improving the quantity and quality of journal information in the database which, he hoped, would prove to be a very valuable resource for geographers seeking ways to make their publications more accessible. The situation regarding publication of the IGU Bulletin was now largely back on track. During

the inter-congress period, volumes dating back to 2004 had been published and, indeed, the volumes covering 2007-8 and 2009-10 were available to the assembly and would be mailed to the usual circulation list following the congress. The 2011-12 issue would be published at the beginning of 2013, whereafter it was expected to resume annual volumes. Vice-President Bellezza produces the IGU e-Newsletter several times a year and this is made available electronically to, among others, all national committees, commissions and task forces via their appropriate contact persons. In addition, the IGU website is regularly updated with news items.

The IGU's financial status is stable. As of 31st December 2011, the IGU had cash on hand of US\$ 183,164. The IGU operates on a cash accounting basis and has no liabilities, so the cash on hand represents the organization's entire net worth.

Election of the 2012-2016 IGU President and Executive Committee Members

Nominations for vacancies on the IGU Executive Committee were solicited from the chairs of national committees in July 2011 to be received at the IGU Secretariat no later than 31 December 2011. One nomination was received for president (Vladimir Kolossov, Russia) and ten individuals were nominated for four vice presidential seats on the IGU Executive Committee. In the secret ballot, Kolossov was elected President 2012-2016 through the Beijing International Geographical Congress. The election for four Vice President vacancies resulted in Professors Singh (India), Soyez (Germany), Droogleever-Fortuijn (The Netherlands) and Saarinen (Finland) duly being elected.



Newly elected President of the IGU, Professor Vladimir Kolossov of the Russian Academy of Sciences addresses the audience at the Cologne Congress

IGU Honors and Awards

President Abler announced the IGU awards to be conferred in 2012 as follows: **IGU Planet and Humanity Medal:** Mr Lester Brown, President and Senior Researcher at the Earth Policy Institute in Washington, DC USA. **IGU Lauréat d'Honneur:** Larry S. Bourne (Canada), Mohammad S. I. Makki (Saudi Arabia), Janice J. Monk (USA), and Hiroshi Tanabe (Japan).



Lester Brown, President of the Earth Policy Institute and recipient of the IGU's highest award: The IGU Planet and Humanity Medal (photo credit: www.isaachernandez.com)

IGU Executive Committee Meetings and Decisions

The 2012-2014 IGU Executive Committee consists of eleven elected members:

President

Professor Vladimir Kolosov, Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Staromonetny per., 29, 119017 Moscow Russia

Vox: +7 495 959 0029; Fax: +7 495 959 0033; E-Mail: vladimirkolosov@rambler.ru

Past President:

Professor Ronald F. Abler, 525 Pennsylvania Avenue, Unit 301, Sheboygan WI 53081-4666 USA

Vox: +1 202 431 6271; Fax: +1 920 208 3452; E-Mail: rabler@aag.org

Secretary General and Treasurer:

Professor Michael Meadows, University of Cape Town, Private Bag X3, Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, South Lane, Upper Campus, Rondebosch 7701 South Africa

Vox: +27 21 650 2873; Fax: +27 21 650 3456; E-Mail: mmeadows@mweb.co.za

First Vice President:

Professor Dietrich Soye, University of Köln, Department of Geography, Albertus-Magnus-Platz

D-50923 Köln, Germany

Vox: +49 221 470 2261; Fax: +49 221 479 4917; E-Mail: d.soyez@uni-koeln.de

Vice Presidents:

Professor Giuliano Bellezza,

Via di Brava 121, 00163 Rome Italy

Vox: +39 06 9761 0171; Mobile: +39 392 951 5439; E-Mail: giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it

Professor Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Department of Geography, Planning and International Development Studies, University of Amsterdam, Plantage Muidergracht 14, 1018 TV Amsterdam - The Netherlands

Vox: +31-20-5254012; E-mail: j.c.droogleeverfortuijn@uva.nl

Professor Yukio Himiyama, Institute of Geography, Hokkaido University of Education, Hokumoncho, Asahikawa 070-8621, Japan

Vox: +81 (0)166 59 1283; Fax: +81 (0)166 59 1283; E-mail: himiyama.yukio@a.hokkyodai.ac.jp

Professor Aharon Kellerman, University of Haifa, Department of Geography, Haifa 31905 Israel

Vox: +972 4 824 2816; Fax: +972 4 826 2134; E-Mail: akeller@univ.haifa.ac.il

Academician Dahe Qin, China Meteorological Administration, 46, Zhongguancun Nandajie - Beijing 100081 China

Vox: +86 10 6840 8926 and 6840 7926; Fax: +86 10 6217 4797; E-Mail: qdh@cma.gov.cn

Professor Jarkko Saarinen, University of Oulu, Department of Geography, PO Box 3000 Oulu, Finland

Vox: +358 40 48 40 777; Fax: +358 8 553 1693; E-Mail: jarkko.saarinen@oulu.fi

Professor RB Singh, University of Delhi, Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics

Delhi-110007 India

Vox: 91 11 27666783; E-mail: rbsgeo@hotmail.com or rbsgeo1@yahoo.com

The IGU Executive Committee held three meetings in 2012, viz. Beijing, China, in March, Cologne, Germany in August and in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in October. The approved minutes of the 2012 IGU Executive Committee meetings are made available via the IGU E-newsletters at: www.igu-online.org

International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU)

<http://www.global-understanding.de/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/globalweblogo.png>

One of the IGU's current key initiatives is to establish a UN International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) in 2016. Global action towards resolving the problems arising from global social and climate change requires a global level of understanding. This initiative aims to bridge the gap in awareness between local actions and global effects. IYGU aims to facilitate understanding of global processes, to encourage everyone to make daily decisions in light of global challenges and to contribute to bottom-up initiatives that connect individual, local action to global sustainability. The IYGU intends to strengthen collaboration between natural, social, and cultural sciences, to identify how local actions yield results on a global scale, and to empower individuals to manifest local-scale change with global effects. It should enable people to move from simply knowing about sustainability to actually living sustainably.

Human actions play a part in creating such worldwide challenges as climate change. However, human actions must also bring solutions. If individual people are aware of what their day-to-day routines mean for the planet, they can take appropriate action. Therefore, the IYGU prompts a transdisciplinary perspective, starting from the logic of everyday actions rather than from traditional scientific disciplines, learning firstly how human actions produce ecological problems and then seeking appropriate science-based solutions. Consequently the IYGU focuses on actual embodied individual human activities performed by each person, each day, everywhere in the world. This IGU initiative has already obtained the support of ISSC, ICSU, and CIPSH as well as significant private sector partners. The project is being led by Professor Benno Werlen, chairperson of the IGU Commission on the Cultural Approach in Geography. More information about this is available at: <http://global-understanding.info/>

The IGU Journals Database

There are many journals globally that deal with the broad church that is the discipline of Geography. In recent years the domination of major publishing houses in the scientific journal market has become much stronger and it is clear that many geographical journals are published that have a much lower profile and yet could provide a very valuable resource for geographers – researchers and teachers alike - in particular national or regional contexts. It was for this reason that the IGU embarked on a project to establish a searchable global database of geographical periodicals. Information, including contact details, impact factor (where appropriate) and website addresses of more than 1000 journals from more than 80 countries worldwide are now available online (follow the link from the IGU homepage at: www.igu-online.org)

Sustainable Cities: The IGU ‘OurSus’ Project

Cities are growing everywhere. As complex organisms, they are all different, yet face similar challenges in terms of sustainable features, such as green R&D, environment-friendly consumption, green campaigns, challenges, and education, etc. Initiated by Prof. Ton Dietz in 2010, the IGU organized a group of volunteers to develop a global sustainable information network, GSCIN to tackle such challenges.

The voluntary group, as a subsidiary of the Research Center for Internet Information Services (ReCIIS), Hunan University, China, works in light of the fact that China is shifting to a low carbon economy and society. China is one of the fastest growing economies in the world with more than 10% annual growth rate over the last 30 years. This high economic growth, accompanied by tremendous pressure from constantly deteriorating pollution scenario and intensifying ecological degradation in recent years has made China’s traditional development models clearly futile. Therefore, transformation of the economy and society to a low carbon one is necessary according to China’s leadership. China is expected to soon develop into a society which is not only environmentally sustainable, but also creates favorable conditions for more job opportunities, greater resource efficiency and energy security, enhanced food security, and better health outcomes for its people; a society which is in line with China’s own Xiaokang (well-being) vision, is well balanced and moderately prosperous.

ReCIIS, also the undertaker of Hunan Official Web Portal has brought together the best minds in website design and language processing. It has developed two pilot websites www.oursus.org and zh.oursus.org (OurSus refers to sustainability for all) as the project’s collaborative platform. The websites adopt location-based services (LBS), social networking services (SNS) and a mass collaboration system (MC). They were successfully launched at IGU 2012 Assembly in Cologne in August.

Communication and Outreach

The main communication tools of the IGU are its quarterly newsletter, compiled by Vice-President Giuliano Bellezza and its website, maintained by Secretary-General Mike Meadows. Four issues of the new series of the e-Newsletter were published in 2012 and can be downloaded from the website by following the newsletter link from www.igu-online.org

Forthcoming IGU Conferences

August 4th to 9th 2013, Kyoto, Japan Regional Conference

<http://www.igu-online.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/Kyoto-2013.jpg>

Members of the Kyoto Regional Congress in Cologne and preparing to welcome IGU delegates to Japan in August 2013

18th to 22nd August 2014, Krakow, Poland Regional Conference

20th to 26th August 2015, Moscow, Russia Regional Conference

August 2016: People's Republic of China International Geographical Congress, Beijing

More details at www.igu-online.org



4) TONY FRENCH, IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD ANTONY (TONY) FRENCH, 1929-2012

At the age of 83, Dr. Tony French died peacefully in his sleep on 24 November, after a long period of failing health. He was the British expert on the geography of Russia, publishing books and articles on its historical and socio-economic geography. Unlike most other western geographers who wrote about Russia, Tony visited the country's libraries and archives, and interacted with Russians in order to ensure the rigour of his work. He came to University College London in 1950, having gained a first-class degree in geography at the University of Liverpool, where one of his tutors was Bill Mead (later head of geography at UCL). Professor H.C. Darby also left Liverpool for UCL at that time, and was well aware of Tony's scholarly potential. Between 1950 and 1953, Tony researched his MA thesis on the historical geography of Russia, learning Russian, living with expatriate Russian families, and using specialist libraries in Paris, Helsinki and London; the USSR was closed to western scholars at this time of the Cold War. Military service in the intelligence corps followed, with further intensive instruction in Russian language. In 1955, Tony was appointed lecturer in geography at UCL, and would remain on the academic staff until he retired in 1994. He spent a year on the Soviet Studies Program at Harvard University (1955-56) before starting his teaching career. Later research and exchange periods would involve Moscow State University (1959-60), the University of Wisconsin (1971), the University of Minnesota (1985, 1993), the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies in Washington DC (1988), and various Russian universities once the Cold War had thawed.

His lectures at UCL focused on the human geography of the USSR (later Russia and adjacent territories), with special attention being paid to historical geography which was his first academic love. His initial research was on the drainage of Russian marshland (very much a Darby theme), and his doctorate was on the historical geography of Belorussia in the 16th century. ‘Once a historical geographer, always a historical geographer’ was one of his favourite sayings. Tony’s classes were researched meticulously and his lectures were delivered with great clarity, always challenging his audience to evaluate the source material being used and to assess the claims being made, especially those by Soviet politicians and scholars, or by ‘fellow travellers’ in the West who took propaganda statements at face value. Once the Berlin Wall had fallen, Tony’s lectures concentrated rather more on social geography. Jointly with Frank Carter, he delivered an extremely popular second-year course on Eastern Europe and Russia in his final years on the academic staff. He also taught undergraduates and masters students at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

As a scholar, Tony set the agenda for future geographical studies of Russia by British researchers. As a tutor, he was extremely encouraging toward students judged to have potential but he gave short shrift to time wasters. As an author, he was a perfectionist both in terms of conducting research and committing his findings to paper. He insisted that his doctoral students should be similarly rigorous. His main books were: *The Socialist City* (edited with F.E.I. Hamilton, 1979), *Studies in Russian Historical Geography* (2 volumes, edited with J.H. Bate, 1983), *The Development of Siberia* (edited with A. Wood, 1989), and *Plans, Pragmatism and People: the legacy of Soviet Planning to today’s cities* (1995). Beyond UCL, Tony served as Honorary Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society between 1986 and 1994, employing his skills of diplomacy to good effect during the challenging period prior to the merger of the RGS with the Institute of British Geographers.

Once retired, Tony spent part of each year (the British winter) in New Zealand, where his artist wife, Vivian, has a house. On several occasions, he was guest lecturer on inland cruises between Moscow and St Petersburg. For all his intellectual rigour, Tony was always great fun to be with and was a true ‘gentleman’. He was a kind, supportive teacher and colleague, who held the collegial community of UCL in great affection. He will be missed greatly, but not forgotten.
Hugh Clout, UCL



5) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2012)

5.1) COMENIUS DIGITAL EARTH COURSE FOR EUROPEAN TEACHER APPROVED: SALZBURG, 24 FEBRUARY-1 MARCH 2013, FREE PARTICIPATION.

- 5.2) **INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES IN MANAGEMENT, COMMERCE, EDUCATION, LUCKNOW, 24-25 FEBRUARY**
- 5.3) **AGAINST CHILD ABUSE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT, NEW YORK 19-22 AND DAKAR (SENEGAL) 25-28 FEBRUARY**
- 5.4) **GEOINFORMATICS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, ROHTAK (HARYANA) INDIA, 14-16 MARCH**
- 5.5) **TOURISM AND THE SHIFTING VALUES OF CULTURAL HERITAGE, TAIPEI 5-9 APRIL**
- 5.6) **GEOTUNIS, TUNIS, 8-12 APRIL (ENGLISH, FRENCH, ARABIC)**
- 5.7) **ENCUENTRO DE GEÓGRAFOS DE AMÉRICA LATINA, LIMA, 8-12 APRIL**
- 5.8) **4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, IRBID (JORDAN), 23-25 APRIL**
- 5.9) **COASTAL ISLANDS AND TROPICAL TOURISM, KOTA KINIBALU, SABAH, 16-18 APRIL**

