

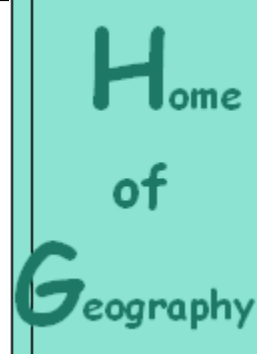


IGU E-Newsletter ***From the Rome Home of Geography***

Quarterly

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Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

This Newsletter is circulated to about 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



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1) PRESIDENT ABLER's REMARKS

Tel Aviv and Beyond

Dear Colleagues,

Barbara and I returned from the 12-16 July IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv a few days ago somewhat discomfited by the eight-hour time change but filled with gratitude to and admiration

of our Israeli colleagues for a fine meeting that was enjoyable as well as stimulating. We experienced top-notch scientific sessions, sumptuous coffee breaks and “light” lunches, a convivial welcome reception, and a disco night at which your President proved conclusively that any folk dancing skills he once possessed have now deteriorated badly. Although I was unable to participate in any field excursions or pre-conference IGU Commission meetings, I heard nothing but rave comments about them. My words at the Closing Ceremony were a meager reward for the dedication and persistence the Israeli geographical community devoted to making an excellent conference possible but they were offered wholeheartedly on behalf of IGU.

It looked at more than one point as if the conference might not take place owing to conflict in the region and concern over the boycotts proposed by some organizations and individuals. As many readers will know the conference was approved by the IGU General Assembly in 2000 and originally scheduled to be held in 2006. In 2004 the meeting was postponed until 2010 at the request of the local organizers and Australia (the runner up in the original competition for the 2006 conference) most graciously renewed its invitation, leading to the fine 2006 conference in Brisbane.

Throughout the decade, however, our Israeli colleagues have been steadfast in their commitment to hold an IGU Conference and the IGU Executive Committee has been adamant in adhering to the IGU’s Statutes regarding the free and open practice of geography. At one point I wrote Izhak Schnell affirming the IGU’s intention that the conference be held, noting that we should “hold the conference even if only 50 delegates register and we have to hold our sessions in tents on the beach” Some 500 delegates attended and they did the Israeli community and the IGU proud. Those who chose not to attend missed a wonderful intellectual and collegial experience.

After the conference I wrote another member of the IGU community that:

. . . from my conversations with many individual Israelis, as well as from the content of the large number of political geography sessions here, it's clear that the majority of Israeli geographers seek a humane and just solution to a bewildering, intractable conflict. In the aftermath [of the conference] I am more strongly convinced than ever that the IGU would have added to the tragedy had it failed to carry through its commitment to hold the 2010 conference. I don't think IGU in any way legitimated current Israeli policy and a cancellation of the conference would have demoralized a domestic community that largely questions current policy.

On behalf of all the delegates and the entire IGU family, I again offer the Israeli geographical community heartfelt and warm thanks for its superb planning and execution of the 2010 IGU Regional Conference. They have made a distinguished contribution to the IGU’s record of conferences and congresses.

On 17 July, the day following the conclusion of the conference, IGU Secretary General Michael Meadows, First Vice President Vladimir Kolossov, Vice President Giuliano Bellezza and I visited the Department of Geographic and Urban Studies at Al Quds University in East Jerusalem. We talked with Al Quds geographers and administrators about ways the IGU might be helpful to Israeli Arab and Palestinian geographers including the possibility of membership for their community in the IGU. Our Al Quds hosts then took us on a brief but informative tour of

the Al Quds campus and the Bethlehem region. The IGU Executive Committee will continue the discussions begun on the 17th in the months to come.



Left to right: Meadows, Abler, Musallam abu Helu, Kolossov, Bellezza

Looking ahead, the IGU will begin a series of annual meetings with the IGU Regional Conference in Santiago de Chile from 14-18 November 2011, followed by the Köln International Congress from 26-30 August 2012. Start planning now for these two events, to be followed by meetings in Kyoto, Krakow, Moscow, and Beijing in subsequent years. I hope to see you at all of them.

Finally, I warmly welcome Michael Meadows to the office of IGU Secretary General and Treasurer, which he assumed at the conclusion of the Tel Aviv Conference. I'm most grateful to him for standing for election to a demanding job, and I know you all join me in wishing him enjoyment and fulfillment in his work on behalf of the IGU.

Ron
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2) INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION

Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC

17-20 April 2010

Present: President Ronald F. Abler; First Vice President Vladimir Kolossov; Secretary General and Treasurer Woo-ik Yu; Vice Presidents Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Giuliano Bellezza, Ruth

Fincher, Aharon Kellerman, Michael Meadows, Dahe Qin, and Dietrich Soye. *Excused*: Vice President Markku Löytönen. *Visitors*: Anthony de Souza (National Academy of Sciences), Ton Dietz (University of Amsterdam), Mark Lange (National Academy of Sciences).

Welcome and Meeting Logistics

Abler called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members to Washington, DC and to the National Academy of Sciences headquarters. Mark Lange of the Committee on Geographical Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences also welcomed the committee.

Adoption of the Agenda

The committee approved the agenda prepared by the President with the addition of an item regarding the effect of the annual conferences and congresses scheduled for 2010 through 2016 on IGU Commission operations.

Minutes

The committee agreed that the minutes of its October 2009 meeting in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges would stand as submitted unless additional changes were proposed by 30 April 2010.

IGU Operations

Membership and Finance.

Secretary General Yu provided the committee with an updated list of country members, a report on IGU income and expenses for 2009, and a financial projection for 2010. He cautioned that the apparent surplus in current operations should be viewed as a temporary situation owing to the large year to year fluctuations in IGU income and expenditures. The committee suggested posting a matrix of dues payments on the IGU web site in order to spur the payment of country dues arrears and sending the IGU income-expense statement to all national committees in addition to placing it on the web site also. Inasmuch as many executive committee members have obtained external support for their travel to meetings, the committee agreed that such contributions and the consequent decreased costs of executive committee travel should be documented for the Cologne meeting of the general assembly. The committee also asked Yu to update the matrix in the dues report for Armenia, Ukraine, and any other country that has moved from Observer to Member status. IGU should also remind IGU commissions and task forces that they must invoice the Secretariat annually for their allocations and that they may apply for extra funds on a competitive basis. Returning to a topic that has been discussed in prior meetings, the committee asked that a draft proposal for fixed dues (as opposed to the current voluntary scheme for country dues) be prepared for consideration at the next executive committee meeting. Abler agreed to do so. The discussion concluded with unanimous approval by the committee of the financial reports prepared by Yu.

United Nations International Year for Global Understanding Initiative (UN-IYGU)

The committee reviewed progress to date on the initiative being led by Benno Werlen, Chairperson of the IGU Commission on the Cultural Approach in Geography who has now raised in excess of €50,000 for support of the IYGU Secretariat and its operations. Committee members reiterated some of the observations made at the October 2009 Saint-Dié meeting including the need to globalize the leadership of the project by establishing a steering committee to guide the

initiative's operations. In response to Werlen's request for funds to demonstrate the IGU's support to other prospective donors, the committee agreed that \$7,000 should be allocated to the initiative and that Werlen should provide the executive committee with a project timeline and a list of prospective steering committee members by 15 May 2010. The steering committee should include representatives from the Mediterranean Renaissance Project and the Home of Geography.

Commission and Task Force Operations

The committee reviewed the reports received (Appendix A) from IGU Commissions and Task Forces in response to Abler's request for reports on their 2008-2009 activities. The reports were reviewed individually and the chairpersons of the bodies that submitted reports will be apprised individually of comments and suggestions made by executive committee members during the discussion. During discussion the question arose of whether the executive committee could replace inactive commission and task force chairperson between general assembly meetings. Abler agreed to investigate the question and suggest an appropriate modification of IGU Statutes. The committee also agreed to schedule a meeting with the chairperson of commissions and national committees in Tel Aviv.

IGU Bulletin

The 2003-2004 and 2004-2006 issues (combined Volumes 53-54 and 55-56) have been printed in Korea and are awaiting the completion of Volume 57-58 for mailing. Executive Secretary Sarah Kim distributed copies of the printed volumes to members of the executive committee. Abler and Kim hope to have the remaining arrears volumes published by the time of the meeting in Tel Aviv.

Mediterranean Renaissance Program

The committee reviewed the program's report and expressed its appreciation for the MRP's active program and the effective leadership of Chairperson Maria Paradiso. A volume based on the MRP's Rome conference is in press and the recent meeting in Tunis attracted a number of geographers from North Africa with whom the IGU has had little contact in recent years. The group will hold meetings in Tel Aviv and Saint-Dié in the future and intends to pursue closer contacts with geographers in Germany.

Geographical Journals Evaluation

Ton Dietz visited the meeting to provide a more detailed description of the initiative on cataloging and evaluating geographical journals he proposes to expand under IGU auspices. The project at the University of Amsterdam has now compiled data on more than 1,000 journals published in more than 50 countries. Dietz would like to expand the project into a global inventory of journals in geography and related specialties. He proposed that the IGU endorse the project and lend its assistance in its efforts to identify geographical journals throughout the world and asked the committee's guidance in deciding how broadly "geography" should be defined. A project web site is scheduled to go live in June 2010. The IGU could help by asking all IGU National Committees to review lists of journals in their regions and to submit information on journals that should be added to the existing database. Dietz will send individual files to members of the IGU Executive Committee for their respective countries for the committee members to review. A major inaugural event for the project will be held at the Congress in Cologne with possibly a smaller launch in Santiago in 2011.

Endowment/Corporate Membership Program

Dietz's wide consultation with prospective corporate sponsors suggests that corporations are not willing to undertake such sponsorship unless there are clear benefits for them. An idea Dietz would like to pursue is that of matching the abundant world data on countries with data on cities, which are largely nonexistent or chaotic where they do exist. He suggested that the IGU help

develop electronic information on cities (*The IGU World of Cities*). Each city in member countries could have its own pages on the IGU web site and could sell advertising space there. Revenues could be divided three ways, to the university involved, the country's national committee, and the IGU Endowment. **One** way to begin would be to focus on data for sustainable cities as the basic data provided. Dietz proposed starting with ten to fifteen countries to be highlighted at the Cologne Congress. The IGU has a comparative advantage with respect to existing sustainable cities program because of its *global* perspective and reach. Dietz will develop before the end of 2010 a proposal for implementing the idea, which may require assignment to an IGU Task Force if it is pursued. Abler will provide the existing IGU Endowment Resolution to members of the executive committee for their background information.

IGU Web Site

Assuming that Michael Meadows (the sole nominee) is elected IGU Secretary General and Treasurer he intends to undertake a redesign of the IGU web site at the time it is transferred to Cape Town from Seoul. He will engage as professional for that purpose, possibly the individual who recently updated his department's web site. The VULA software at the University of Cape Town is suitable for regular communication among a group of individuals but would not work well for the IGU web site. Meadows also continues to investigate the possibility of incorporating a custom made Google Toolbar on the new site.

Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

The committee confirmed the dates of its meetings for Beijing (1-5 November 2010) and Cologne (16-19 May 2011).

IGU Annual Report

The committee agreed with Abler's suggestion that a brief annual report would be a valuable addition to the IGU's publicity efforts. Abler and Meadows will prepare a draft for the committee's review for the Tel Aviv meeting if possible, but for the Beijing meeting if for certain.

IGU Dues Structure Revision

The IGU has discussed the possibility of formulating a fixed country dues scheduled based on gross domestic product and some measure of how equally it is distributed within each country for several years but has been waiting to see how ICSU and ISSC progress with their plans to adopt a similar dues structure. The ICSU and ISSC planning has not progressed as rapidly as was hoped. The IGU will continue to pursue the idea in concert with ICSU and ISSC and independently.

Centennial (2022) Task Force

Abler noted that 2021 will be the 150th anniversary of the first International Geographical Congress in Antwerp and that 2022 will mark the centenary of the formal establishment of the IGU. He suggested that a task for charged with planning appropriate commemorations or a combined commemoration of the anniversaries be appointed at the Santiago Regional Conference in 2011 or at the Cologne Congress in 2012. In the meantime it would be helpful to consult other international unions that are holding centennial celebrations for ideas and examples of how to proceed.

Cooperation and Outreach

International Council for Science (ICSU). Abler reviewed the agenda of the recently concluded meeting of ICSU member unions and reported the substance of the discussions that took place at the meeting. Much of ICSU's effort is now being devoted to establishing the multi-disciplinary Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) in which geographers often play prominent roles. IGU Vice President Irasema Alcantara-Ayala is a member of the ICSU Committee on Scientific

Planning and Review (CSPR), which is ICSU's key committee for its scientific programs. Qin reported briefly on his participation in the recent meeting in Grenoble of the IGBP (International Geosphere-Biosphere Program) Scientific Committee (Qin is a member of the committee). IGBP is sponsored by both ICSU and ISSC. The IGBP framework is working well and geographers should continue to collaborate with IGBP whenever possible.

ICSU GeoUnions

Abler reviewed the meeting of the ICSU GeoUnions that preceded the ICSU Unions meeting in early April. The GeoUnions consortium is an informal group of eight ICSU international unions with earth science foci that have met often in recent years to develop common strategies and cooperation within ICSU. A major topic of discussion at the most recent meeting was whether the GeoUnions should move beyond coordination to pursuing active collaborative research on topics of common interest. The discussion will continue at subsequent meetings. Abler arranged for Benno Werlen to give a presentation on the UN-IYGU initiative at the GeoUnions meeting which was well received. Participants made a number of helpful suggestions and offered support for the initiative as it is further developed.

International Social Science Council (ISSC)

The ISSC is making solid progress under its dynamic President Gudmund Hernes and its recently-appointed Secretary General Heide **Hackman**. The ISSC will issue its next World Social Science Report in June 2010. ISSC plans to issue the reports **every** three years. Its next general assembly will be held in Nagoya in December 2010. Abler and Meadows plan to attend. ISSC will hold its next World Social Science Forum in Shanghai in 2012.

Festival International de Géographie (FIG).

Kolossov reported on Christian Pierret's visit to Moscow and on their joint planning for IGU participation in FIG 2010 in October. Russia will be the **2010 pays d'honneur**. The IGU invitation to IGU Commissions to nominate their members to give presentations at FIG yielded a poor response; only two replies were received. Kolossov is now working to integrate their proposed papers into the FIG program. Soyez volunteered to present a paper in French on conflicts over forest resources in Canada and Russia, a topic he has been investigating for several years. The offer was gratefully accepted.

Bellezza noted that the Municipality of Florence, Italy, in the aftermath of a recent election, has decided not to hold a geography festival in 2010. Communications between the IGU and the organizers of the Mirandela Festival in Portugal seem to have broken down. He will attempt to restore contact.

International Cartographic Association (ICA). Abler reported on his visit to the ICA Executive Committee meeting in Santiago in November. The ICA is not interested in establishing a joint ICA-IGU Commission on Place Names at this time. Abler and ICA President William Cartwright agreed to encourage their respective commission chairs with interests in cartography and related topics to invite members from each other's cognate commissions to their respective meetings.

JB GIS (Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies). The IGU was a member of this informal consortium of international organizations when it was launched five years ago. IGU ceased participating in its meetings after the death of President Adalberto Vallega and the transition of the Secretariat from Abler to Yu. IGU asked to be reinstated and that was agreed to by the members of the consortium at its meeting of 13 April 2010. Additional information regarding JBGIS is available at <http://www.fig.net/jbgis/>

International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences

Tunis, 2008 International Geographical Congress. The IGU has still not received the funds due to the IGU Promotion and Solidarity fund for the support of young scholars at future IGU Conferences and Congresses, despite a personal appeal during Abler's visit to Tunis in December 2009 and promises that the funds would be transmitted to the Secretariat promptly. He will ask again that the funds be remitted.

Tel Aviv Regional Conference 2010. The Local Organizing Committee reports a total of 570 abstracts received as of 14 April. Three plenary session speakers are confirmed who will address broad topics in geography. Abler and Meadows will visit Al Quds University in East Jerusalem on 17 July to meet Palestinian geographers.

Santiago, Chile Regional Conference 2011. Abler visited the conference venue and met the conference organizers in November. The announced Local Organizing Committee lacks adequate representation from academic geographers in Chile and neighboring countries. Abler will take the matter up with those responsible for organizing the conference.

Köln, Germany International Geographical Congress 2012. Soyez provided an update on plans for the 2012 Congress, which are on schedule. The congress dates are now confirmed as 26-30 August 2012. A call for session proposals will be issued in July 2010 with proposals due on 31 December 2010. The Local Organizing Committee will send representatives to the Tel Aviv and Santiago meetings. The local committee will now focus on formulating a suite of field excursions for the next issue of the congress brochure. Exhibit space at the congress will be limited to sixteen booths.

Kyoto, Japan Regional Conference 2013. A Local Organizing Committee has been formed and preparation of the web site is underway. A conference representative will attend the Tel Aviv conference.

Krakow, Poland Regional Conference 2014. The executive committee did not request a report at this early date.

Moscow, Russia Regional Conference 2015. Kolossov reported that the conference will be held in late July 2015 on the campus of Moscow State University. He also noted the revitalization of the Russian Geographical Society (RGS) with exceptionally generous support from the Russian government, which intends to use the RGS to diffuse geographical knowledge intensively and extensively. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin now serves as the Chairman of the RGS Board of Directors.

Beijing, China International Geographical Congress 2016. Qin reported that the 2016 Congress organizing committee is now established and that it has developed a preliminary plan for the congress. A separate committee has been formed to prepare a 2015 publication on China for congress delegates. A series of special events, including commemorative envelopes and stamps is planned.

“Best of the IGU” Conference/Congress Publication. The committee took up a draft proposal for a publication series that would print outstanding papers presented at each IGU conference and congress prepared in advance of the meeting by Fincher. A number of questions and suggestions arose in the discussion concerning financing such a publication, procedures for selecting and editing the contents, publication language(s), and possible pre-emption of regular publication in refereed journals. The committee agreed that IGU Commissions chairpersons should be consulted regarding these questions before any further planning was done. The committee agreed that publication in either English or French should be encouraged.

Interactive Short Paper Format. The Interactive Short Paper format combines aspects of the traditional read paper and poster presentations. It is being used by increasing numbers of

scholarly organizations with good results. Abler will suggest the use of the format to the organizers of the Santiago conference.

IGU Congress and Conference Memorandum of Agreement. In continuation of a discussion that began in the committee's October meeting in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges Abler proposed that a compromise regarding the division of costs for the IGU Executive Committee at IGU Conferences and Congresses be observed for the meetings in Tel Aviv, Santiago, and Cologne: the traditional understanding regarding local support for the executive committee's expenses should be respected *de jure*, but all members of the executive committee should be encouraged to continue their commendable and so far largely successful efforts to obtain employer or government support for their IGU expenses. In the meantime, where executive committee members cannot obtain support the IGU will cover the costs traditionally borne by local committees, and the IGU will formulate a new policy regarding the division of responsibility for such costs between the IGU and local committees. The committee endorsed the suggestion, with the provisos that the expected meeting contribution to the IGU Promotion and Solidarity Fund remain at a minimum of \$10.00 per full registered delegate at each meeting, and that the revised policy clearly specify that the responsibility for the formulation of each meeting's scientific program is joint between the Local Organizing Committee and the IGU.

Annual Conferences in Relation to IGU Commission Operations. Anton Gosar asked the executive committee to examine the effects of annual conferences and congresses on commission operations. The committee agreed to survey commission chairpersons informally in Tel Aviv and perhaps formally thereafter to ascertain their opinions by asking in which of the next several conferences they plan to participate. Mistakenly or not, the executive committee views the more frequent IGU meetings as an opportunity for commissions rather than an imposition. Commissions are welcome to participate in all meetings they can but the executive committee should try to find incentives for their participation.

Organization

2010 Secretary General and Treasurer Election. Vice President Michael Meadows is the only nominee. Forty countries are eligible to vote. Ballots will be sent out immediately after the executive committee meeting with a return date of 20 May 2010.



IGU Secretary General Michael Meadows speaking in the Tel Aviv Conference

Proposed Commission on the Geopolitics of Sub-Alternate Knowledge. The proposal for the commission originated in Peru but it does not conform in objectives or presentation to IGU practice. Ayala has provided the organizers with advice. Abler will provide some additional guidance in the form of the proposal for the recently recognized IGU Commission on Transportation. If necessary, a meeting could be scheduled at the Santiago conference to clarify the proposer's objectives.

Commission on Toponymy. A group led by Helen Kerfoot may submit a proposal for a commission on place names.

Commission on Landscape and Landscape Analysis. The proposal should be clarified and the proposed steering committee broadened geographically and by adding human and cultural geographers. Abler will follow up with chairperson.

Request to Change the Geoparks Task Force to a Commission. The committee received a request from Wei Dongying to designate the Geoparks Task an IGU Commission. After discussion of the history and current focus of the group, the committee agreed in principle to the change pending a formal proposal that includes a description of the new commission's mission and the membership of its steering committee.

Honors and Awards

IGU Planet and Humanity Medal. Negotiations continue with the individual selected to receive the Medal to identify a suitable date for a presentation ceremony as he will not be able to come to Tel Aviv. Thought might now be given to identifying another medallist to be recognized at the Cologne Congress.

Laureats d'honneur. A call for nominations will be issued to IGU National Committees in October 2010 with nominations due on 1 July 2011. After discussing the pros and cons of the number of *lauréats* to be awarded the committee voted unanimously to restrict the number to three at each IGU Congress.

IGU Honors Committee. Continuing an ongoing discussion, the committee agreed that an IGU Honors Committee should be established to solicit and screen nominations for the IGU's Honors and Awards with the goal of launching the committee before 2012 if it is approved by postal ballot.

Other Business

Priorities 2010-2012. Soyez suggested that the summary of the discussion of IGU priorities contained in the minutes of the committee's Saint-Dié meeting be reworked for inclusion in the 2008 issue of the *IGU Bulletin* and the *IGU E-Newsletter*. The committee agreed unanimously.

ICSU Grant. The IGU has been informed that the application submitted by IGU in the ICSU 2010 Grants Competition by the IGU and the Australian Academy of Sciences has been funded at €30,000. The committee expressed warm congratulations to proposal author and Project Director Margaret Robertson on the success of her proposal entitled "Strengthening the Bonds between Scientific Literacy and Human Understanding: Local Area Networks to Help Build Cross-Border Solutions for Disaster Management."

Haiti Earthquake. In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti the committee considered whether the IGU could establish an emergency reaction team to provide assistance in similar instances in the future. Ayala and Soyez agreed to formulate a proposal for further consideration by the committee.

IGU Archives. Bellezza asked that the chairpersons of IGU Commissions and Task Forces be reminded of their obligation to place in the IGU archives in Rome information regarding the structure of their commissions (founding documents, steering committee lists, *etc.*) as well as copies of their newsletters and annual reports, conference and meeting announcements, and meeting reports. The materials should be sent to him at giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it

Collaboration with Springer Verlag. Ian Hay (Australia) queried Kolossov about serving on the editorial board of a *Handbooks on Human Geography* series devoted to specific topics in geography, many of which closely match the foci of IGU Commissions. Committee members noted that as currently formulated the publication program seems strongly Anglophone, but the IGU could contribute by suggesting non-Anglophone editors. Kolossov will obtain more information and forward it to members of the committee. If the project seems viable it will also be referred to commission chairpersons for evaluation and action.

Adjourn

Having completed the agenda Abler adjourned the meeting at 15:30 on 20 April 2010.

Appendix A

2008-2009 Commission and Task Force Reports		
<i>Number</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Report</i>
C08.01	Applied Geography	Received
C08.02	Arid Lands, Humankind, and Environment	No Report
C08.03	Biogeography and Biodiversity	Received
C08.04	Climatology	No Report
C08.05	Coastal Systems	No Report
C08.06	Cold Region Environments	Received
C08.07	Cultural Approach in Geography	Received
C08.08	Dynamics of Economic Spaces	No Report
C08.09	Environment Evolution	Received
C08.10	Gender and Geography	Received
C08.11	Geographical Education	Received
C08.12	Geographical Information Science	Received
C08.13	Geography of Governance	Received
C08.14	Geography of the Global Information Society	Received
C08.15	Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change	Received
C08.16	Geomorphic Challenges for the 21st Century	Received
C08.17	Global Change and Human Mobility	Received
C08.18	Hazard and Risk	Received
C08.19	Health and Environment	No Report
C08.20	History of Geography	Received
C08.21	Indigenous Knowledges and Peoples' Rights	Received
C08.22	Islands	Received

C08.23	Karst	No Report
C08.24	Land Degradation and Desertification	No Report
C08.25	Land Use and Land Cover Change	Received
C08.26	Local Development	Received
C08.27	Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses	Received
C08.28	Modeling Geographical Systems	Received
C08.29	Mountain Response to Global Change	Received
C08.30	Political Geography	Received
C08.31	Population Geography	No Report
C08.32	Sustainability of Rural Systems	No Report
C08.33	Urban Commission: Emerging Urban Transformations	Received
C08.34	Water Sustainability	Received
C08.35	Transportation	Received
C08.36	Landscape and Landscape Analysis	No Report
C08.37	Geoparks	Received
T08.02	Megacities	No Report
T08.03	Olympiad	No Report

2a) UNION GÉOGRAPHIQUE INTERNATIONALE

Compte-rendu de la réunion du Comité Exécutif

Académie Nationale des Sciences, Washington DC 17-20 avril 2010

(Version française par Yves Boquet, boquet.yves@wanadoo.fr)

Présents: Président Ronald F. Abler; Premier Vice-Président Vladimir Kolossov; Secrétaire Général et Trésorier Woo-ik Yu; Vice-Présidents Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Giuliano Bellezza, Ruth Fincher, Aharon Kellerman, Michael Meadows, Dahe Qin, and Dietrich Soyez.

Excusé: Vice-Président Markku Löytönen.

Invités: Anthony de Souza (National Academy of Sciences), Ton Dietz (Université d'Amsterdam), Mark Lange (National Academy of Sciences).

Accueil et logistique de la réunion

Abler a ouvert la séance et accueilli les membres du comité à Washington et à l'Académie Nationale des Sciences. Mark Lange, du Comité pour les Sciences Géographiques de l'Académie Nationale des Sciences, a également souhaité la bienvenue aux membres du comité exécutif.

Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Le comité a approuvé l'ordre du jour préparé par le président Abler, avec l'ajout d'un point concernant l'effet sur le fonctionnement des commissions UGI des conférences annuelles et congrès programmés de 2010 à 2016.

Comptes-rendus

Le comité a approuvé l'adoption du compte-rendu de la réunion d'octobre 2009 à Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, sans modifications, sauf si une rectification est proposée avant le 30 avril 2010.

Activités de l'UGI

Cotisations et finances.

Le secrétaire général Yu a fourni au Comité une liste actualisée des pays membres, un rapport sur les recettes et dépenses de l'UGI pour 2009, et une projection financière pour 2010. Il a souligné que le surplus apparent dans les opérations actuelles de l'UGI devait être considéré comme une situation temporaire, en raison des importantes fluctuations des recettes et dépenses de l'UGI d'une année sur l'autre. Le comité a suggéré que soit posté sur le site web de l'UGI un tableau des montants des adhésions, de façon à encourager le paiement des arriérés de cotisations de certains pays, et que le rapport sur les dépenses et recettes de l'UGI soit aussi placé sur le site web, en plus de l'envoi aux comités nationaux. Étant donné que de nombreux membres du comité aient obtenu un soutien extérieur pour leurs déplacements aux réunions, le comité s'est mis d'accord pour que ces financements extérieurs, et la réduction des coûts de déplacement des membres du comité exécutif qui s'en suit, soient présentés lors de l'Assemblée Générale de Cologne. Le comité a également demandé à Yu de mettre à jour le tableau des cotisations pour l'Arménie, l'Ukraine et tout autre pays passant du statut d'observateur à celui de membre à part entière. L'UGI devrait aussi rappeler aux commissions et groupes de travail de l'UGI qu'elles doivent chaque année envoyer une facture au Secrétariat pour leurs allocations, et qu'elles peuvent solliciter des financements complémentaires, dont la pertinence sera évaluée. Revenant à une question déjà évoquée lors de précédentes réunions, le Comité a demandé qu'un texte préliminaire pour des droits d'adhésion fixes (plutôt que le modèle actuel de contributions volontaires) soit préparé pour examen à la prochaine réunion. Abler a accepté de le faire. La discussion s'est achevée avec une approbation unanime par le Comité des rapports financiers préparés par Yu.

Initiative des Nations Unies pour l'Année Internationale du Rapprochement des Cultures (UN-IYGU). Le comité a examiné les progrès sur cette initiative menés par Benno Werlen, président de la commission de l'UGI sur l'approche culturelle en géographie, qui a déjà collecté plus de 50.000 Euros de soutien au secrétariat de l'IYGU et à ses opérations. Les membres du comité ont réitéré leurs observations de la réunion de St Dié en octobre 2009 sur la nécessité de mondialiser la direction du projet en établissant un comité de pilotage qui guiderait les activités sur cette initiative. En réponse à la demande de Werlen pour un financement qui démontrerait le soutien de l'UGI auprès d'autres donateurs éventuels, le comité a accepté d'allouer 7000 dollars pour cette initiative, et Werlen devrait soumettre au comité exécutif un calendrier du projet et une liste prospective de membres d'un comité de pilotage avant le 15 mai 2010. Ce comité de pilotage devrait comprendre des représentants du Projet Renaissance méditerranéenne et de la Maison de la Géographie.

Activités des Commissions et Groupes de travail. Le comité a examiné les rapports reçus (Annexe A) des commissions et groupes de travail UGI en réponse à la demande de Ron Abler pour un rapport sur leurs activités 2008-2009. Les rapports ont été examinés individuellement et les présidents qui ont soumis ces rapports seront informés en personne des commentaires et suggestions des membres du comité exécutif. La question a été soulevée de savoir si le comité

exécutif pouvait replacer des présidents de commission ou de groupe de travail inactifs entre deux réunions de l'Assemblée générale. Abler a accepté de se pencher sur la question et de suggérer une éventuelle modification des statuts de l'UGI. Le comité a aussi accepté d'organiser une réunion avec les présidents de commissions et les présidents de comité nationaux à Tel Aviv.

Bulletin de l'UGI. Les éditions de 2003-2004 et 2004-2006 (volumes doubles 53-54 et 55-56) ont été imprimés en Corée et attendent l'achèvement du volume 57-58 pour envoi. La secrétaire administrative Sarah Kim a distribué des copies des volumes imprimés aux membres du comité. Abler et Kim espèrent que les volumes en attente pourront être publiés d'ici la conférence de Tel Aviv.

Programme Renaissance Méditerranéenne. Le comité a examiné le rapport sur le programme et exprimé son appréciation pour l'activité déployée et la direction efficace de sa présidente Maria Paradiso. Un volume issu de la conférence du PRM à Rome est sous presse, et la récente conférence de Tunis a attiré de nombreux géographes d'Afrique du Nord avec lesquels l'UGI avait eu peu de contacts ces dernières années. Le groupe va se réunir à Tel Aviv et Saint-Dié dans le futur et souhaite développer des contacts plus étroits avec des géographes allemands.

Évaluation des Revues de Géographie. Ton Dietz a assisté à la réunion pour fournir une explication détaillée de l'effort de recension et d'évaluation des revues de géographie qu'il propose d'intensifier sous l'égide de l'UGI. Le projet à l'Université d'Amsterdam a maintenant recueilli des données sur plus de 1000 revues publiées dans une cinquantaine de pays. Dietz aimerait développer le projet et construire un inventaire mondial des revues en géographie et disciplines connexes. Il a proposé que l'UGI soutienne le projet et lui prête assistance dans ses efforts pour repérer les revues de géographie à travers le monde, et a demandé au comité des conseils pour décider comment définir de façon générale "la géographie". Un site web devrait être opérationnel en juin 2010. L'UGI pourrait apporter une aide en demandant à tous les comités nationaux de dresser une liste des revues dans leur région, et en soumettant des informations sur des revues qui devraient être ajoutées à la base de références. Dietz enverra des fichiers individuellement aux membres du comité exécutif pour les pays dont ils sont responsables. Une cérémonie inaugurale importante se tiendra lors du congrès de Cologne, avec peut-être un démarrage plus modeste à Santiago en 2011.

Programme de mécénat et adhésion d'entreprises. Les entretiens conduits à vaste échelle par Dietz avec d'éventuelles entreprises donatrices montrent que les entreprises ne sont pas prêtes à s'engager dans du mécénat de ce type, à moins qu'elles n'y trouvent clairement des avantages pour elles. Une idée que Dietz aimerait approfondir est celle d'associer les abondantes données sur les pays avec des données sur les villes, qui sont inexistantes ou très disparates quand elles existent. Il a suggéré que l'UGI contribue au développement d'informations numériques sur les villes (*Le monde des villes de l'UGI*). Chaque ville dans les pays membres pourrait avoir ses propres pages web sur le site de l'UGI, et pourrait y vendre de l'espace publicitaire. Les revenus pourraient être distribués en trois : l'université concernée, le comité national du pays, et le fonds de mécénat de l'UGI. On pourrait commencer en se concentrant sur les données pour la ville durable comme informations de base à fournir. Dietz a proposé de démarrer avec 10 à 15 pays qui seraient mis en avant au Congrès de Cologne. L'UGI a un avantage initial par rapport aux programmes existants sur les villes durables, en raison de sa perspective *globale* et de sa dimension *mondiale*. Dietz mettra au point avant la fin 2010 une proposition pour mettre en oeuvre cette idée, qui pourrait exiger la constitution d'un groupe de travail si elle est poursuivie. Abler fournira aux membres du comité la résolution existante de l'UGI sur le mécénat, pour leur information.

Site web de l'UGI. En supposant que Michael Meadows (le seul candidat en lice) soit élu Secrétaire général et trésorier, il a l'intention d'entreprendre une refonte en profondeur du site de l'UGI lorsque celui-ci aura été effectivement transféré de Séoul au Cap. Il embauchera à cet effet un webmestre professionnel, peut-être la personne qui a récemment actualisé le site web de son département de géographie. Le logiciel VULA de l'Université du Cap est disponible pour des communications régulières entre quelques individus, mais ne fonctionnerait pas bien pour le site web de l'UGI. Meadows va aussi continuer à explorer la possibilité d'incorporer au nouveau site une barre d'outils Google spécifique.

Calendrier des réunions du Comité exécutif. Le comité a confirmé les dates de ses prochaines réunions à Pékin (1er au 5 novembre 2010) et Cologne (16 au 19 mai 2011).

Rapport annuel de l'UGI. Le comité a approuvé la suggestion d'Abler de publier un bref rapport annuel d'activité pour améliorer les efforts de visibilité de l'UGI. Abler et Meadows vont préparer une ébauche pour examen par le comité lors du congrès de Tel Aviv si possible, mais en tout cas d'ici la réunion de Pékin.

Révision du tableau des contributions à l'UGI. L'UGI a discuté depuis plusieurs années de la possibilité d'établir des montants fixes de contribution des pays en fonction de leur PNB et d'une évaluation de sa répartition au sein du pays, mais a attendu de voir comment l'ICSU et l'ISSC progressaient dans leurs projets pour adopter des structures de contributions similaires. L'ICSU et l'ISSC n'ont pas progressé aussi rapidement qu'on l'espérait. L'UGI va continuer de réfléchir, de concert avec l'ICSU et l'ISSC, et aussi indépendamment.

Groupe de travail sur le centenaire (2022). Abler a fait remarquer que 2021 sera le 150^e anniversaire du premier Congrès Géographique International (Anvers) et que 2022 marquera le centenaire de l'établissement formel de l'UGI. Il a suggéré qu'un groupe chargé des commémorations appropriées, ou d'une commémoration conjointe des deux événements, se mette en place lors de la conférence régionale de Santiago en 2011 ou au congrès de Cologne en 2012. D'ici là il serait opportun de consulter d'autres unions internationales qui célèbrent des centenaires, pour y glaner des idées et exemples de la façon dont on pourrait procéder.

Coopération et Ouverture sur la Société

Conseil International pour les Sciences (ICSU). Abler a présenté le compte-rendu d'une récente réunion des unions membres de l'ICSU et relaté la substance des discussions qui y ont eu lieu. L'essentiel de l'effort de l'ICSU se porte actuellement sur la mise en place d'un partenariat multidisciplinaire sur les sciences du système terre (ESSP), dans lequel les géographes jouent souvent un rôle éminent. La vice-présidente de l'UGI Irasema Alcantara-Ayala est membre du comité de l'ICSU sur la planification et l'évaluation scientifique (CSPR), qui est le comité fondamental de l'ICSU pour les programmes scientifiques. Qin a fait un bref rapport sur sa récente participation au comité scientifique – dont il est membre – du programme international géosphère-biosphère IGBP qui s'est tenu à Grenoble. L'IGBP est soutenu à la fois par l'ICSU et l'ISSC. La cadre de l'IGBP fonctionne bien et les géographes devraient continuer à collaborer avec l'IGBP aussi souvent que possible.

GéoUnions de l'ICSU. Abler a rendu compte d'une rencontre des géoUnions de l'ICSU qui a précédé la conférence des unions de l'ICSU au début Avril. Le consortium des Géo-Unions est un groupe informel de huit unions internationales centrées sur les sciences de la terre, qui se sont souvent réunies ces dernières années pour développer des stratégies communes et des coopérations au sein de l'ICSU. Un thème de discussion majeur lors de la rencontre la plus récente a été de savoir si les Géo-Unions devaient avancer au-delà de la simple coordination

pour s'engager dans des collaborations actives de recherches sur des thèmes d'intérêt commun. La discussion se poursuivra lors des futures réunions. Abler a organisé une présentation par Benno Werlen de l'initiative UN-IYGU lors de la rencontre des Géo-Unions, présentation qui a été appréciée. Les participants ont fait diverses suggestions intéressantes et offert leur soutien pour l'initiative dans son développement à venir.

Conseil International des Sciences Sociales (ISSC). L'ISSC a solidement progressé sous la direction de son dynamique président Gudmund Hernes et de sa nouvelle secrétaire générale Heide Hackman. L'ISSC publiera son prochain rapport mondial sur les sciences sociales en juin 2010. L'ISSC envisage de publier ses rapports tous les trois ans. Sa prochaine assemblée générale se tiendra à Nagoya en décembre 2010. Abler et Meadows ont prévu d'y assister. L'ISSC organisera son prochain Forum Mondial des Sciences Sociales à Shanghai en 2012.

Festival International de Géographie (FIG). Kolossov a fait un compte-rendu de la visite de Christian Pierret à Moscou et des efforts combinés pour une participation de l'UGI au FIG d'octobre 2010. La Russie sera le *pays d'honneur* en 2010. L'invitation de l'UGI aux commissions UGI pour envoyer des représentants donner une conférence à St Dié lors du FIG n'a pas reçu le succès attendu, avec seulement deux réponses. Kolossov travaille maintenant à l'intégration des conférences proposées dans le programme du FIG. Soyez s'est porté volontaire pour présenter une communication en français sur les conflits à propos des ressources forestières en Russie et au Canada, un sujet sur lequel il travaille depuis plusieurs années. Cette offre a été acceptée avec gratitude.

Bellezza a fait remarquer que la Municipalité de Florence, Italie, à la suite d'une récente élection, a décidé de ne pas organiser de festival de géographie en 2010. Les communications entre l'UGI et les organisateurs du festival de Mirandela (Portugal) semblent avoir été interrompues. Il va essayer de reprendre contact.

Association Cartographique Internationale (ICA). Abler a rendu compte de sa visite à la réunion du comité exécutif de l'ICA à Santiago en novembre. L'ICA n'est pas intéressée actuellement par la mise en place d'une commission commune ICA-UGI sur les noms de lieux. Abler et le président de l'ICA William Cartwright se sont mis d'accord pour encourager leurs présidents de commissions respectifs intéressés à la cartographie et aux questions proches à s'inviter mutuellement à leurs prochaines réunions de commissions.

JB -GIS (Bureau commun des sociétés d'information géospatiale). L'UGI était membre fondateur de ce consortium informel d'organisations internationales lorsqu'il a été lancé il y a cinq ans. L'UGI a interrompu sa participation aux réunions après le décès du président Adalberto Vallega et la transition du Secrétariat Général d'Abler à Yu. L'UGI a demandé à être réintégrée et cela a été accepté le 13 avril 2010 par les membres du consortium. Des informations complémentaires sur le consortium JB-GIS sont accessibles sur le site <http://www.fig.net/jbgis/>

Congrès géographiques internationaux et conférences régionales de l'UGI

Tunis - Congrès géographique international 2008. L'UGI n'a toujours pas reçu la somme due au fonds UGI de promotion et de solidarité internationale pour le soutien à la venue de jeunes chercheurs aux prochains congrès et conférences de l'UGI, ceci en dépit d'une visite d'Abler à Tunis en décembre 2009 et de promesses selon lesquelles les fonds seraient rapidement transférés au Secrétariat. Il demandera à nouveau que cet argent soit versé.

(note du Rédacteur: pendent la réunion du Comité à Tel Aviv, le Président Abler à communiqué que Tunis avait déjà versé l'argent)

Tel Aviv - Conférence régionale 2010. Le comité d'organisation local indique avoir reçu 570 résumés de communications à la date du 14 avril. Trois orateurs de session plénière sont confirmés, ils évoqueront des thèmes géographiques de grande ampleur. Abler et Meadows se rendront le 17 juillet à l'Université Al Quds de Jérusalem Est pour rencontrer des géographes palestiniens.

Santiago du Chili - Conférence régionale de 2011. Abler a visité les installations de la conférence et rencontré les organisateurs en novembre. Le comité d'organisation annoncé n'assure pas une bonne représentation des géographes universitaires du Chili et des pays voisins. Abler va s'occuper de la question avec les responsables de l'organisation de la conférence.

Cologne, Allemagne - Congrès géographique international 2012. Soyez a fourni des précisions sur les préparatifs pour le Congrès 2012, qui sont dans les temps. Les dates du congrès sont confirmées : 26 au 30 août 2012. Un appel pour l'organisation de sessions thématiques sera lancé en juillet 2010, avec des propositions à retourner avant le 31 Décembre 2010. Le comité local d'organisation enverra des représentants aux conférences de Tel Aviv et Santiago. Le comité local va maintenant se pencher sur l'organisation d'excursions scientifiques, qui seront annoncées dans la prochaine brochure du congrès. L'espace de présentation lors du congrès sera limité à 16 stands.

Kyoto, Japon - Conférence régionale 2013. Un comité local d'organisation a été formé et un site web est en cours de préparation. Un représentant de la conférence de Kyoto sera présent à Tel Aviv. **Cracovie, Pologne - Conférence régionale 2014.** Le comité exécutif n'a pas demandé de rapport d'étape à ce stade précoce.

Moscou, Russie - Conférence régionale 2015. Kolossov a indiqué que la conférence se tiendrait à la fin de juillet 2015 sur le campus de l'Université d'État de Moscou. Il a aussi noté une renaissance de la Société Géographique de Russie (RGS), qui a bénéficié d'un soutien financier exceptionnellement généreux du gouvernement russe, qui souhaite utiliser le RGS pour diffuser de la connaissance géographique de façon intensive et extensive. Le Premier Ministre Vladimir Poutine est actuellement président du conseil d'administration de la RGS.

Pékin, Chine - Congrès géographique international 2016. Qin a indiqué que le comité d'organisation pour le congrès 2016 était maintenant constitué et qu'il avait élaboré un plan préliminaire pour le Congrès. Un comité séparé a été formé pour préparer une publication sur la Chine en 2015 pour les délégués au congrès. Une série d'événements spéciaux, et d'enveloppes et timbres commémoratifs, est prévue.

Publication d'un "Best-of" des Conférences/Congrès de l'UGI. Le comité a examiné une ébauche de proposition préparée par Fincher pour une série de publications qui diffuseraient les meilleures communications préparées avant les congrès et conférences de l'UGI. De nombreuses questions et suggestions sont apparues durant la réunion, concernant le financement de ces publications, les procédures de sélection et d'édition des communications, la/les langue(s) de publication, et les possibles conflits avec des publications prévues dans des revues à comité de lecture. Le comité s'est mis d'accord pour que les présidents de commissions soient consultés sur ces questions avant toute autre avancée éventuelle du projet. Le comité s'est également prononcé pour encourager des publications soit en français soit en anglais.

Format de courtes présentations interactives. Le format de courtes présentations interactives combine des aspects des communications lues traditionnelles et des présentations de posters. Il est de plus en plus utilisé par un nombre croissant d'organisations scientifiques avec de bons résultats. Abler suggérera ce format aux organisateurs de la conférence de Santiago.

Protocole d'Accord pour les Congrès et Conférences UGI. Poursuivant une discussion entamée lors de la réunion du comité exécutif à Saint-Dié-des-Vosges en octobre 2009, Abler a

proposé qu'un compromis à propos des coûts de déplacement des membres du comité exécutif pour les congrès et conférences régionales de l'UGI soit institué pour les rencontres de Tel Aviv, Santiago et Cologne: le soutien traditionnel des organisateurs pour les frais des membres du comité exécutif devrait toujours être respecté *de jure*, mais tous les membres du comité exécutif sont invités à poursuivre leurs efforts louables, et souvent efficaces, pour obtenir un soutien financier de leur employeur ou gouvernement. Dans le même temps, lorsque les membres du comité exécutif ne peuvent pas obtenir de soutien financier, l'UGI couvrira les coûts traditionnellement supportés par les comités locaux, et l'UGI formulera une nouvelle politique de division des responsabilités sur ces coûts entre l'UGI et les comités locaux d'organisation. Le comité a approuvé ces suggestions, indiquant cependant que la contribution des congressistes au fond de promotion et de solidarité UGI soit toujours d'au moins 10 dollars par conférence, et que la politique révisée spécifie clairement que la responsabilité de la formulation du programme scientifique soit partagée entre le comité local d'organisation et l'UGI.

Liens entre les conférences annuelles et le fonctionnement des commissions de l'UGI.

Anton Gosar a demandé au comité exécutif d'examiner l'impact des conférences et congrès chaque année sur les fonctionnements des commissions. Le comité a accepté de sonder de façon informelle les présidents de commissions à Tel Aviv, et peut-être de leur demander ensuite de façon formelle de préciser leurs intentions en leur demandant à quelles conférences ils prévoient de participer. De façon erronée ou non, le comité exécutif pense qu'une fréquence accrue des conférences est une opportunité pour les commissions plutôt qu'un fardeau. Les commissions sont les bienvenues pour participer à chacune des conférences, mais le comité exécutif devrait chercher à trouver des incitations pour leur participation.

Fonctionnement et organisation de l'UGI

Élection 2010 d'un Secrétaire Général et Trésorier. Le vice-président Michael Meadows est le seul candidat nommé. Quarante pays sont autorisés à prendre part à l'élection. Les bulletins de vote seront envoyés immédiatement après la réunion du comité exécutif, et doivent être retournés avant 20 mai 2010.

Proposition d'une Commission sur la géopolitique de la connaissance subalterne. La proposition de cette commission est venue du Pérou mais elle ne correspond pas aux critères d'objectifs et de présentation de l'UGI. Ayala a donné des conseils aux promoteurs de cette éventuelle commission. Abler y ajoutera des conseils supplémentaires en leur transmettant la proposition récemment acceptée de la nouvelle commission UGI des Transports. Si besoin est, une rencontre pourrait être organisée pendant la conférence de Santiago pour clarifier les objectifs des proposant.

Commission sur la toponymie. Un groupe dirigé par Helen Kerfoot envisage de soumettre une proposition pour l'établissement d'une commission sur les noms de lieux.

Commission sur le paysage et l'analyse du paysage. La proposition devrait être clarifiée et le comité de pilotage envisagé devrait s'élargir, géographiquement et en faisant appel à des géographes humains et culturels. Abler restera en contact avec le président.

Demande de transformation du groupe de travail Géoparcs. Le comité a reçu une demande de Wei Dongying pour que le groupe de travail Géoparcs devienne une Commission de l'UGI. Après avoir discuté de l'histoire et des objectifs actuels du groupe d'étude, le comité s'est mis d'accord sur le principe, moyennant une proposition formelle qui inclurait une description de la mission de cette nouvelle commission et les noms des membres d'un comité de pilotage.

Prix et récompenses

Médaille UGI Planète et Humanité. Les négociations se poursuivent avec la personne choisie comme lauréat de cette médaille pour trouver une date qui lui convienne, car elle ne peut pas venir à Tel Aviv. On pourrait désormais songer à honorer une autre personne au congrès de Cologne.

Lauréats d'honneur. Un appel à nominations sera envoyé aux comités nationaux de l'UGI en octobre 2010, les nominations devant être parvenues le 1er juillet 2011. Après avoir discuté des avantages et inconvénients du nombre de lauréats à honorer, le comité a voté à l'unanimité pour se limiter à trois lauréats lors de chaque congrès UGI.

Comité des Honneurs de l'UGI. Poursuivant une discussion déjà entamée, le comité s'est mis d'accord pour la mise en place d'un comité des honneurs de l'UGI pour solliciter et filtrer les nominations pour les honneurs et récompenses de l'UGI, avec l'objectif de lancer le comité avant 2012 s'il est approuvé dans un vote par courrier.

Questions diverses

Priorités 2010-2012. Soyez a suggéré que le résumé de la discussion des priorités de l'UGI inclus dans le procès-verbal de la réunion du comité à Saint-Dié soit modifié pour apparaître dans l'édition 2008 du *Bulletin de l'UGI* et de la *Lettre de l'UGI*. Approuvé à l'unanimité.

Financement ICSU. L'UGI a été informée que la demande déposée par l'UGI dans l'appel d'offres 2010 de l'ICSU et de l'Académie des Sciences australienne a été financée pour 30.000 euros. Le comité exprime ses chaleureuses félicitations à Margaret Robertson, auteur de la proposition et directrice du projet intitulé "Renforcer les liens entre connaissance scientifique et compréhension des hommes : les réseaux locaux pour l'aide au développement de solutions transfrontalières pour la gestion des catastrophes".

Séisme en Haïti. Suite au tremblement de terre désastreux qui a frappé Haïti, le comité s'est demandé si l'UGI pouvait mettre sur pied une équipe d'intervention rapide pour fournir une assistance dans des conditions analogues futures. Ayala et Soyez ont accepté de rédiger une proposition qui sera ultérieurement étudiée par le comité.

Archives de l'UGI. Bellezza a demandé que les présidents des commissions et groupes de travail de l'UGI se voient rappeler leur obligation de fournir aux archives de l'UGI à Rome les informations concernant la structure de leurs commissions (documents fondateurs, listes des membres des comités de pilotage, ...) ainsi que des copies de leurs lettres d'informations, rapports annuels, annonces de conférences et colloques...Les pièces constitutives devraient lui être envoyées directement à giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it

Collaboration avec Springer Verlag. Ian Hay (Australie) a interrogé Kolossov pour participer au comité éditorial d'une série de *manuels de géographie humaine* consacrés à des thèmes spécifiques en géographie, dont beaucoup seraient proches des intérêts dominants des commissions de l'UGI. Les membres du Comité ont remarqué que dans sa formulation actuelle le programme de publication semble très anglophone, mais que l'UGI pourrait contribuer en suggérant des non-anglophones. Kolossov va demander des informations complémentaires qui seront transmises aux membres du comité. Si le projet semble viable il sera alors soumis aux présidents de commissions pour évaluation et action.

Ajournement

L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, Abler a levé la séance à 15h30 le 20 avril 2010.

Annexe A

Rapports 2008-2009 des Commissions et Groupes de Travail		
<i>Numbe r</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Report</i>
C08.01	Géographie appliquée	Reçu
C08.02	Terres arides, humains et environnement	Pas de rapport
C08.03	Biogéographie et Biodiversité	Reçu
C08.04	Climatologie	Pas de rapport
C08.05	Systèmes littoraux	Pas de rapport
C08.06	Environnement des régions froides	Reçu
C08.07	Approches culturelles en Géographie	Reçu
C08.08	Dynamiques des espaces économiques	Pas de rapport
C08.09	Évolution de l'environnement	Reçu
C08.10	Genre et Géographie	Reçu
C08.11	Éducation géographique	Reçu
C08.12	Science de l'Information Géographique	Reçu
C08.13	Géographie de la gouvernance	Reçu
C08.14	Géographie de la société de l'information mondialisée	Reçu
C08.15	Géographie du tourisme, des loisirs et du changement global	Reçu
C08.16	Défis géomorphologiques pour le 21e siècle	Reçu
C08.17	Changement global et mobilité humaine	Reçu
C08.18	Dangers et risques	Reçu
C08.19	Santé et environnement	Pas de rapport
C08.20	Histoire de la géographie	Reçu
C08.21	Connaissances autochtones et droits des peuples	Reçu
C08.22	Îles	Reçu
C08.23	Karst	Pas de rapport
C08.24	Dégradation des terres et désertification	Pas de rapport
C08.25	Utilisation des terres et changement dans le couvert des terrains	Reçu
C08.26	Développement local	Reçu
C08.27	Marginalisation, mondialisation, et réponses locales et régionales	Reçu
C08.28	Modélisation des systèmes géographiques	Reçu
C08.29	Réponses des montagnes au changement global	Reçu
C08.30	Géographie politique	Reçu
C08.31	Géographie de la population	Pas de rapport
C08.32	Durabilité des systèmes ruraux	Pas de rapport
C08.33	Commission urbaine : mutations urbaines émergentes	Reçu
C08.34	Durabilité de l'eau	Reçu
C08.35	Transport et géographie	Reçu
C08.36	Paysages et analyse du paysage	Pas de rapport
C08.37	Géoparcs	Reçu
T08.02	Mégacités	Pas de rapport
T08.03	Olympiade	Pas de rapport



3) NEXT IGU OFFICIAL INITIATIVES

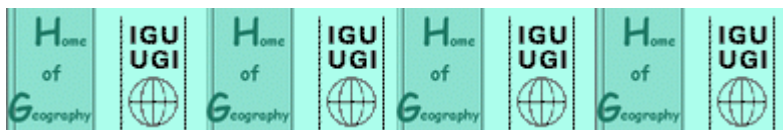
3.1) 2011 SANTIAGO DE CHILE CONFERENCE

During the IGU Regional Conference 2010 in Tel Aviv, Coronel Juan Vidal Huidobro (Director of the Instituto de Geografia Militar and President of the Local Organizing Committee for UGI 2011) presented the next IGU Regional Congress to be held in Santiago, Chile. He outlined briefly the activities and facilities of the Institute of Military Geography, which will host the 2011 meeting, and especially the role played in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake.

He then proceeded to introduce the conference, details of which are constantly updated, and can be found at: www.ugi2011.cl

3.2) 2012 KÖLN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

During the IGU Regional Conference 2010 in Tel Aviv, Professor Frauke Kraas outlined the plans for the Congress to be held from 26th to 30th August 2012 under the theme 'Down to Earth'. The intention is to have a clear scientific profile, always keeping in mind the general theme. As a first example, the LOC decided to go 'back to the University', reducing fees to encourage fair access (young participants and those from developing economies), maximizing cost efficiency and willingness to transcend boundaries. The conference website is available at: <http://www.igc2012.org/>. Chairs of Commissions and National Committees are encouraged to register their interest as soon as possible and to publicise the meeting. In addition to traditional Commission involvement, there are a number of key topics and also a forum for postgraduate students. Suggestions as to international scholars to participate in the Scientific Committee are being sought and nominations are strongly encouraged.



4) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

4.1) Tel Aviv 2010, IGU Regional Conference (Summary)

The regional IGU conference took place this year in Tel Aviv, Israel during the middle of July. About 500 scholars participated in the conference. The main theme of the conference was

'Bridging world diversity'. We set three main themes to be discussed in three main plenary sessions: Climate change and physical and biological diversity, Globalization and diverse socio-cultural impacts and political fragmentation. In addition two sessions concentrated on Israeli matters. The opening session focused on the performance of Israeli geography. Four aspects were dealt with. An evaluation of Israeli geography and the contribution of geographers to national planning, business information and preservation of biodiversity in Israel have been offered. The last plenary session focused on the geopolitics of the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The preconference field trips emphasized professional aspects exposing the visitors to the main problems the state faces. For example, tours were directed at the separation wall, Arab and Jewish neighboring towns in the Galilee, The settlers' blocks and their hold in the town of Hebron, The unauthorized settlements of the Beduins in the south etc. All these tours were guided by geographers opening discussion around conflicting narratives of the relevant stories. Parallel, some more touristic routes were chosen for the post-conference tour and day tours to Jerusalem. Along the conference the visitors were exposed to several sessions on Israel like the session on the planning and structure of Tel Aviv etc. Overall, I believe that the visitors to the conference got a solid picture of the country from a professional and a critical perspective in addition to a fruitful conference. My greatest satisfaction stems from the enthusiastic responses of the participants. The conference was well organized and met high academic standards. The feelings of the participants was that the success of the conference represented a strong message in favor of free and open science that cross boundaries and political disputes.

Izhak Schnell

**Dept. of Geography and Human Environment, Tel Aviv University
Head of the Steering Committee**

4.2) Special Sessions during the Tel Aviv Regional Conferences

4.2.a) Meeting of the IGU Executive Committee with the Chairpersons of National Committees, Commissions and Task Forces at the IGU Regional Conference 2010, Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv, 14th July 2010

President Ron Abler in the Chair introduced those IGU Executive Members who were present, along with a number of Chairs of National Committees, Commissions and Task Forces and local organisers of future meetings and ongoing IGU initiatives (50 in all).

The President outlined the main aim of the meeting, which was to encourage comments and suggestions from the assembled company, present new initiatives from the IGU EC and to outline ongoing projects and future meetings.

General

The issue of the annual sequence of meetings that is current practice in the IGU was raised as a possible problem. There is certainly a view that perhaps the Conferences and Congresses are beginning to compete with each other and, given the obvious need for commissions and task forces to meet also independently of the main congresses, there has been a substantial increase in IGU-related meetings that seems to be resulting in smaller participation. It was also noted that the current conference appears to have discouraged the attendance of younger Geographers and

that perhaps the registration costs had been too high to facilitate this. It was suggested that IGU should vigorously encourage reduced student registration rates and perhaps allow local students to attend some of the sessions for a minimal charge or even for free. For students especially, a best paper award would seem like a good innovation; this could take the form of an award that is endorsed or named after past-Presidents of the IGU. International (IGU) recognition for research networks and summer schools was also proposed (IHDP could serve as a model for this). The problem of standards in respect of scientific presentations was raised as this is often in conflict with the realities for Local Organising Committees (LOCs) who need the registrations to ensure the financial viability of the meeting; some means of dealing with this issue need to be considered.

The President made some brief observations in response, leading to further discussion. The annual cycle of meetings has evolved as a result of a series of very strongly motivated requests from host country delegations to the EC and recognised the need to 'spread' the regional conferences further for a trial period of four years. It had seemed to the EC as though the so-called 'regional' conferences had become less focused on the 'region' and that a greater frequency of meetings might encourage activity in places (e.g. South America) not regarded as traditional IGU strongholds. Indeed, the EC does not expect every commission to be represented at every one of these annual meetings but obviously encourages participation where it fits with their calendars. The EC shares the concern around the low number of student delegates and sees this also as a priority: the key to an exciting future for IGU lies in the incorporation of young scholars. LOCs have in fact attempted to provide reduced fees for students, indeed the Santiago meeting will have a registration fee of less than 50% of the regular fee and there are also grants available for attendance by selected candidates out of the IGU Promotion and Solidarity Fund. Some members of the Tel Aviv LOC had paid registration fees for students out of their own research funds. The arrangements for the Cologne meeting are also designed to facilitate attendance of young scholars. Networking practice in the case of the young scholars especially may be very different and perhaps 'virtual participation or even 'virtual conferences' could be a consideration for the future (e.g. Facebook could be used as a platform for such virtual presentations). However, the value of the 'personal' contact should not be under-estimated and we should not forget the purpose of our meetings which is to network with scholars. It was pointed out that the responsibility for organisation of meetings is vested entirely in the LOCs who bear the entire financial risk and this tends to make them cautious. Implementing the network endorsement idea will be put on the agenda for the EC meeting in Beijing in November 2010. The suggestion was also made that each Commission and Task Force should consider a 'best paper' award and they are further encouraged to publish papers arising from their meetings in the peer-reviewed journals or as proceedings. The EC would certainly support any initiative on behalf of the commissions to establish their own awards. The EC needs the support of the Commissions and sometimes the communication leaves a lot to be desired. The idea of producing a series of publications on 'The Best of IGU' is a case in point and this, along with the proposed Springer 'handbook' series has been communicated to the Commissions, Task Forces and National Committees but has elicited very little response. Suggestions for co-editors of these volumes are very welcome.

The President encouraged the Chairs of National Committees to share information regarding what is happening in relation to Geography within their particular countries. Giuliano Bellezza is available at any time to receive such information for inclusion in the quarterly *IGU E-Newsletter*. The Home of Geography website and newsletter are under-utilised by the Commissions and National Committees in terms of organising and reporting on their events.

The attempted boycott of the Tel Aviv conference was noted and there was support from those assembled regarding the determination of both the IGU EC and the LOC to pursue the meeting in trying circumstances.

Journals Project

The conference documentation included an information sheet on this project, under the direction of Ton Dietz, which is to develop a database of Geography journals globally that will in due course be available on the IGU website once the information has been ratified.

International Year of Global Understanding

Benno Werlen presented the meeting with an overview of this project, which is also to be presented to the main conference in due course. He elaborated upon the basic idea, which arises out of the late President Vallega's initiative in 2005. He outlined the importance of International UN-years in general as a tool for promoting disciplinary perspectives and setting long-term scientific agendas. In the presentation, Werlen addressed three questions: what is the IYGU? (Geography is at its core); why the IYGU? (the need for a new geographical understanding of the human condition); what are the components of the IYGU? (a joint initiative of ICSU and ISSC, to translate research results into useful curriculum content and for mass media communication). There are three levels of action: research, outreach and political support and three panels are planned to address each of these three aspects. Werlen envisages operational centres to give effect to this action at global, continental and regional/national level. There is already considerable financial support for the idea from a range of government and non-governmental bodies and this is expected to be significantly expanded as the initiative gets underway. The support of the National Committees and Commissions is considered vital to its success. Further details at: www.global-understanding.org; email: iygu_igu@uni-jena.de

IGU-2011 Santiago, Chile

Coronel Juan Vidal presented the next IGU Regional Congress to be held in Santiago, Chile. He outlined briefly the activities and facilities of the Institute of Military Geography, which will host the 2011 meeting, and especially its role in relation to the 2010 earthquake. He then proceeded to introduce the conference, details of which can be found at: www.ugi2011.cl

IGU-2012 Cologne, Germany

Frauke Kraas outlined the plans for the Congress to be held from 26th to 30th August 2012 under the theme 'Down to Earth'. The intention is to have a clear scientific profile, to go 'back to the University', to encourage fair access (young participants and those from developing economies), cost efficiency and to transcend boundaries. The conference website is available at: <http://www.igc2012.org/>. Chairs of Commissions and National Committees are encouraged to register their interest as soon as possible and to publicise the meeting. In addition to traditional Commission involvement, there are a number of key topics and also a forum for postgraduate students. Suggestions as to international scholars to participate in the Scientific Committee are being sought and nominations are strongly encouraged.

IGU-2013 Kyoto, Japan

Yukio Himiyama and Yoshitaka Ishikawa introduced the proposals for this Regional Conference. Meeting dates are August 4th to 9th 2013 at the Kyoto Convention Centre under the theme

'Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth's Future'. An official website is already established at www.igu-kyoto2013.org/

Mike Meadows

IGU Secretary General

4.3) Visit of IGU EC members to the Al Quds University, East Jerusalem

President Ron Abler and some members of the IGU Executive Committee (Vladimir Kolossov, Mike Meadows and Giuliano Bellezza) had the opportunity to visit the University of Al Quds in East Jerusalem. We were privileged to meet Professor Musallam abu Helu, Head of the Department of Geography, and several of his colleagues.

They showed us around campus, seeing students (females as many as males, if not more), leading us in a visit to the Abu Jihad Museum for Prisoners Movement Affairs and hosted us to a delicious lunch.



Left: murales on the east side of the wall – Right: a check point on the east-west border

Soon in the afternoon, they gave us a tour of part of the West Bank including Bethlehem. Members of the department spoke about their experiences and the challenges of academic and student life on the West Bank.

Palestinian Geographers are keen to make contact through the IGU with other geographers globally. President Abler and colleagues discussed ways in which this could be effected, one of them might include affiliating through a 'National' Committee (the precedent exists for affiliation of committees that do not necessarily represent formal 'nations' as such). President Abler also pointed out that membership of commissions is in essence open and free of charge and that attendance at commission meetings may well lead to representation on the Steering Committees. It is clear that members of a University such as Al Quds have problems raising money to attend meetings and they are also hamstrung in terms of research funds but there are certainly active researchers and students in the department who would benefit from closer ties with other geographers throughout the IGU. All in all it was a fascinating visit and one that helped me to put into context the difficulties that the geopolitical situation has given rise to - on both sides of the wall.

Mike Meadows

IGU Secretary General



5) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

5.1) INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SOIL SCIENCES, CONFERENCE IN BRISBANE, 1-6 AUGUST

5.2) SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH AND OPEN SCIENCE CONFERENCE, BUENOS AIRES, 3-6 AUGUST

5.3) COMMISSION ON ISLAND CONFERENCE: FINDING THEIR PLACE, ISLAND OF VEN, SWEDEN, 27-30 AUGUST

5.4) GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION CONFERENCE, JOHANNESBURG, 31 AUGUST-3 SEPTEMBER

5.5) IGU C08.15 COMMISSION: GLOBAL CHANGE AND ECONOMIC CRISIS IN TOURISM, STELLENBOSCH, 5-9 SEPTEMBER

5.6) STORM, SURGES CONGRESS, HAMBURG, 13-17 SEPTEMBER

5.7) MEDCOAST: INTERNATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT, DALYAN (TURKEY), 14-30 SEPTEMBER

5.8) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "MASCULINE/FEMININE: NEW ISSUES FOR GEOGRAPHY", 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2010

5.9) XIX CONGRESS OF THE CARPATHYAN-BALKAN GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, THESSALONIKI 23-26 SEPTEMBER 2010

5.10) GLOBAL CHANGE AND MOUNTAIN RESPONSE, PERTH, SCOTLAND, 23-26 SEPTEMBER

5.11) 10TH WOMEN IN ASIA CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

5.12) FESTIVAL INTERNATIONALE DE GÉOGRAPHIE, SAINT DIÉ DES VOSGES, 7-10 OCTOBER

5.13) JERUSALEM, 14-16 OCTOBER, JOINT INITIATIVE CHRISTIAN, HEBREW AND PALESTINIAN: THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE

5.14) 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON IMAGE AND SIGNALS PROCESSING, YANTAY (CHINA), 16-18 OCTOBER

5.15) SPACES FOR DIFFERENCE, MILAN, 18-20 OCTOBER

5.16) SPACE AND POWER IN ITALY, SIENA, 19 OCTOBER

5.17) APPLIED GEOGRAPHY CONFERENCE, FORT WORTH, 20-23 OCTOBER



1) REPORT 2010 FROM THE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION OF IGU

Since the opening of 2010, the Egyptian National Commission of the **IGU** mobilized all its abilities to embark on fulfilling the broad outlines of its activities which aim primarily at ascertaining the role of Geography as a development oriented discipline. The following is a review of the main pivots of its development program for 2010:

1) Strengthening relations and contacts with the IGU and its Specialized Commissions:

This has been manifested in analyzing thoroughly many of the constructive conclusions attained by the **IGU** Specialized Commissions. The maximization of the conclusions reached by these commissions in their annual reports and their periodical newsletters, represented a well of materials and rich sources of geographical knowledge. Our commission firmly believes that the specialized commissions of the **IGU** represent a renewable source of the new discoveries, approaches and methodologies related to all specialized commissions of the **IGU**. We are undoubtedly convinced that the reports of these commissions represent invaluable sources, landmarks, new approaches, relevant methodologies and research techniques particularly in the field of informatics and their adaptation to the prerequisites of geographical research. This will ultimately lead to exploring new and extensive horizons for developing geography into a utilitarian and applied discipline.

The achievements of the specialized commissions of the **IGU** represent wonderful references for recognizing the latest directions and trends of geography and its role in confronting the present day world problems and challenges.

I suggest in this connection, that the **IGU** should select a group of eminent geographers to discuss ways and means for maximizing the role played by the specialized commissions of the **IGU**.

The IGU functions as a catalyst between the National Commissions and the International organizations:

Notifying our national commission with the different activities performed by the International Social Science Council (ISSC), particularly as regards the interdisciplinarity relationships between social sciences and the ongoing international scientific programs. The International program of Global Environmental Change is a vivid example of International cooperation between all Global Institutions for working together in confronting the major World priorities particularly in facing the tripartite world crisis of food, water and energy.

The Egyptian National Commission of the IGU extends its gratitude to Prof. R. Abler, the IGU President who drew its attention to the World Social Science Report published by the ISSC in cooperation with UNESCO.

The Egyptian National Commission downloaded the full text of the ISSC and made it available to its members.

Strengthening relations and ties with Egyptian scientific institutions:

Stressing the vital importance of spatial dimensions in fulfilling the ultimate objectives of regional and national development, geography has become a positive ingredient for spatial planification.

The Egyptian National Commission participated in increasing the effectiveness of the Egyptian Geographical Society which has actually become the major apparatus for fulfilling its objectives. Accordingly, the Egyptian Geographical Society has actually become not only the meeting place for the members of the National Commission of the IGU, but has also become the headquarters and the rostrum of advocating the achievements and findings of Egyptian Geographers. The computerization of the E.G.S library which has an acquisition of over thirty thousands titles and the scanning of approximately 12000 maps and charts...have contributed to a positive utilization of resources for the Egyptian Geographical Community.

2) Building bridges of cooperation with foreign establishments and institutions located in Egypt:

- Cooperation with the "Institut Français d'Archeologie Orientale" "IFAO" is a vivid example manifested in the original and priceless assortment of publications donated to the E.G.S library which exceeded 300 titles. The E.G.S, is the co-sponsor with IFAO of a scientific symposium entitled "Landscape Archaeology in Egypt and the Mediterranean" which will be convened in the auditorium of the E.G.S from 19th - 21st September 2010.
- Cooperation with the "Centre d'Etudes Diplomatiques, Economiques et Juridiques" CEDEJ represents another successful and positive association which concentrated on issues pertaining to the negative aspects of urban sprawl and its geographical determinants.
- Building bridges of contacts through the Chinese cultural center which aims at exploring the nature and the activities of the universities geography departments in China. The Chinese center in Cairo donated some references about the geography of China and updated orographic map of China.

3) Coexisting with the Major issues confronting Egypt locally, regionally and globally:

The Egyptian National Commission spares no efforts in activating the cultural objectives of Geography through the intelligent familiarization with current problems confronting Egypt locally regionally and globally.

This is manifested in participating in all academic programs of scientific and cultural exchange of publications and academic personnel. Geographers are playing a very important role in developing the academic ties with all the Arab Geographical Societies, in addition to calling upon them to extend relations with the IGU and its specialized Commissions.

The Egyptian National Commission is diligently embarking upon seeking new venues for solidifying relationships with the Arab geographical community.

4) The relentless efforts of the IGU Egyptian Commission and the E.G.S to increase their publications:

The historical "**Bulletin de la Société de géographie d'Egypte**" which dates back to 1876 is considered the sole specialized Journal exchanged with a vast number of similar Journals of the World. The 2010 annual Bulletin has been vastly distributed in many parts of the world through a large number of publication exchange agreements. In addition, "**The biannual Arab Geographical Journal**" (first published in 1968) has ascertained its academic status and represents the most widespread geographical journal in the Arab World. These two geographical journals represent together a respected and appreciated contribution between members of the Arab Geographical community.

A third category of publications started only few years ago under the title of "Geographical Research Series". It is an occasional publication of recent Egyptian contributions in the field of geographical research. Its primary aim is to foster and encourage current researches carried out by Egyptian Geographers. Contributions are based on original field investigations and the stimulation of topics on the methodological nature of geography. So far thirty researches in this series have been published embracing a vast number of geographical issues covering many aspects of geographical researches.

The Egyptian Geographical Society and the IGU National Commission both have instigated the convening and overall Arab Geographers meetings biennially to be held in an Arab capital. The first was held in Sanaa in 1998 the second hosted by Egypt in 2000, the third in Riyadh in 2003, the fourth in Rabat in 2006, the fifth in Kuwait in 2009, and the sixth is scheduled to be held in Damascus in 2011. The proceedings of these meetings have been published comprising a vast number of contributions by Arab Geographers.

5) The Annual Cultural programs :

Throughout the last two decades the E.G.S, organizes regularly an annual cultural program comprising topics of public interest which stress the applied and utilitarian horizons of geography. The 2010 cultural program covered topics of vital importance such as:

- The future production of biogas in Egypt and the rest of the world : A geonomic analysis.
- The hazards facing maritime navigation in the Red Sea .
- Some aspects of the sprawl of Cairo in the last two decades.
- Climatic change and the Nile Delta.
- The economic geography of natural gas in Egypt.
- Precious minerals in Egypt.
- The food problem and agricultural development in the Arab world.
- Egypt and water disputes in the Nile Basin.

Professor Safey Abulezz

President of the Egyptian Geographical Society

Message from the Editor: Yesterday afternoon I received Cc from Professor. Safey Abulezz the Report 2010 of the Egyptian National Commission of IGU, and I asked President Abler about the possibility to post it in the website. In the night I receive, once again Cc, the following mail:

Dear Professor Abulezz,

Many thanks for the comprehensive report on the 2010 operations of the Egyptian National Commission of the IGU. Congratulations on the active and effective measures you and your colleagues have undertaken on behalf of Geography and the IGU. Your efforts and your report are models of what the IGU Executive Committee hopes all national committees would undertake and accomplish. We will certainly give your report wide circulation, both to the commission and national committee listserves, and in a forthcoming issue of the IGU E-Newsletter.

With warm best wishes and deep appreciation for you dedication to our work,

Ron Abler

Given my old friendship with Professor Abulezz (and Egypt as a whole) I spent some more time in the in the night and this morning, so I am able to diffuse now the Newsletter 21, as to give the widest circulation to this example of what IGU wishes to receive from all National Commissions.



7) HOME OF GEOGRAPHY UPDATE

In his “remarks” President Abler informs that “It looked at more than one point as if the conference might not take place owing to conflict in the region and concern over the boycotts proposed by some organizations and individuals”. The EC remained adamant in rejecting the boycott calls and in trying to encourage debate, trusting the *bona fides* of the Israeli Local Organising Committees. I listened to the Session “A Geopolitical View of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” with great interest. I was especially impressed by the presentations of Professor S. Hasson (the best I heard during the Conference, personal opinion of course) and Professor B. Khamaisi (an Israeli arab and University academic). It was an impressive Session, and at its conclusion I offered to say a few words, commenting that, after listening to these presentations, I was more than ever convinced that the IGU EC had made the correct decision and had hopefully helped in some small way the Conference Organizers to take some tentative steps towards promoting peace in this troubled part of our world. I felt really honoured some minutes later when both Professors Hasson and Khamaisi came to tell me how they had appreciated my words.

Once back in Italy I received a mail from Professor Hasson and I am pleased to reproduce it here:
Dear Professor Giuliano Bellezza,

I enjoyed very much our conversation yesterday.

Your courageous statement regarding the boycotting of the IGU conference went into my heart, and I very much appreciate it.

I am attaching to this email a draft invitation to our coming international conference on Jerusalem. As you may see this is trilateral initiative of Lassalle Institute, Palestinian and Israeli think tanks.

With all best wishes,

Shlomo Hasson

I immediately posted the invitation in www.homeofgeography.org/events2010: may peace on earth prevail everywhere. My efforts are now directed to ensure that the Italian National Committee will take up the responsibility of paying the fees of the Palestinian entity to enable them to join IGU.

Giuliano Bellezza