

C12.14 Geography of the Global Information Society
Activities 2012-13

The Commission on Geography of Global Information Society has had a productive period during the past year with active plans for future events and activities. This report summarizes the Commission's steering committee and general membership, past and future events, and collaborations.

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1. Steering Committee

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Membership

Currently, there are more than 200 members on the Commission mailing list.

2. Meetings 2012-13

Traditionally, in years when the IGU holds meetings (generally even years 2008, 2010) the Commission participates through special sessions. With the move to annual IGU meetings the Commission has been able to develop sessions annually. Building on a strong tradition of specialized commission meetings every two years, however, we have not been able to maintain an additional meeting while an annual IGU conference is planned. Despite the frequency of IGU meetings, the Commission has been able to include dedicated sessions at other conferences to maintain interest and access to the Commission's core focus on information society. Commission sessions tend to average 20-30 participants at IGC and AAG meetings. Past and future meetings include:

- 2012 February – Commission organized three sessions as part of the AAG annual meeting in New York
- 2012 August – Commission organized 6 sessions as part of the IGC in Cologne
- 2013 April – Commission organized one session at AAG Los Angeles in collaboration with the Communications interest group of the AAG.

- 2013 August – Commission organized 10 sessions for the IGC in Kyoto and two field trips related to information society. Sessions focused on information society as it relates to: tradition and culture; quality of life and health care; knowledge and creativity; media; space and place; business applications of ICT; urban perspectives; and mega event planning. The IGC Kyoto sessions for the Commission underscored the importance of media and entertainment industries as part of the economic geography of ICT, as well as interest in health and quality of life issues.
- 2013 October – Commission sponsored session at the World Social Science Forum. Five papers were presented on the significance of geography in a digital world.

Future Meetings 2014

Meeting plans for the future include:

- 2014 April – AAG Tampa. Two sessions on Mega Event Planning proposed in collaboration with the University of Zurich and the Universidade Federal Fluminense.
- 2014-August – Proposed Commission sessions with IGU Congress in Krakow, Poland. The Commission proposed three sessions on information society, one session on Mediterranean information society with the Commission on the Mediterranean Basin, and one session on digital culture with the Commission on Cultural approach in Geography. In addition, three session on mega event planning were proposed in collaboration with Commissions on Cultural Approach in Geography, Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change, Urban Geography, and the Mediterranean Basin

3. Networking

Collaboration occurs with scholarly groups and with two journals. Details include:

- IGU collaboration has been with a number of Commissions including the Commissions on Cultural Approach in Geography, Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change, Urban Geography, and the Mediterranean Basin
- *NETCOM* is the official Journal of the IGU Commission on the Geography of Global Information Society, and is published under the auspices of the Study Group MTE (CNRS) and Université of Montpellier III, the International Geographical Union, and the French National Committee on Geography. *NETCOM* takes an interdisciplinary perspective on networks, communications, and space.

- *Journal of Urban Technology*, which has commission members on its editorial board and publishes articles, and when possible, special issues drawn from Commission, AAG and IGU conference sessions.

4. Publications

Information is disseminated regularly to Commission members via e-mail, including updates on Commission activities, meetings and publications of interests, and requests for information for scholars studying information society. The Commission also uses its websites to inform members of activities. The Commission website is www.igu-informationsociety.org, and the meeting website for special events is www.digitalcommunities.info

5. Archival Contributions

N.A.