

C12.22 Islands

Annual Report

by

Professor Chang-Yi Chang

Chair, IGU Commission on Islands

December 1, 2013

1. The ***Commission on Islands*** is a Commission approved by the IGU Executive Committee at the IGU Brisbane Regional Conference in July, 2006.
2. The ***Inaugural Meeting*** of the IGU Commission on Islands was held on October 29- November 3, 2007 at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan. (about 150 participants from 23 countries)
3. The Recent ***IGU Commission on Islands meeting took place at Penghu Archipelago, Taiwan From September 30 to October 6, 2013.*** (More than 200 participants from 25 Countries)

- **The Steering Committee Members**

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5. Membership and Election

5-1 Membership: There is no formal list of membership. The participants of each conference and meeting are automatically on the mailing list for upcoming events. The number on mailing list is about 150, covering 25 countries (December, 2013)

5-2 New Members and Partnership: Everybody is welcome. (no membership fee)

6. Meetings organized and participated (2007-2013)

6-1 The Inaugural Meeting of the Commission was held on October 29- November 3, 2007 at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan (about 150 participants)

6-2 The 31st IGC Tunis ,Tunisia in August, 2008: Three sessions were organized: (i) *Island vulnerability and complexity*, (ii) *Island environmental history and development*, (iii) *Island culture, place and identity*. 20 papers from 8 countries (Russia, Netherlands, Sweden, UK, Ireland, Canada, Korea, Taiwan) were presented. There were about 50 participants in the sessions.

6-3 Participating in Islands of the World X, ISISA (International Small Island Studies Association) at Jeju Island, Korea, 25-29 August 2008. The conference theme was: Globalizing Islands: Culture, Peace, Resources and Sustainability. Steering Committee members played active roles in organizing sessions. Participation: ca 200.

6-4 Organizing workshop on: Timescapes of Islands in the Asia-Pacific Region: Environmental History and Time Horizons of Management, at Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, 28-29 October 2008. The workshop was organized by steering committee members in collaboration with the of Center for Asian Pacific Area Studies, Academia Sinica, IHDP-Taiwan, and IIAS Leiden University. The selected papers have been published in a theme issue Journal of Asia Pacific, Vol. 44. 2009. Papers: 15. Participation: ca 80.

6-5 Organized workshop on *Re-thinking Sustainability: Historical-Political Ecology Perspectives on Islands*, at National Taiwan Normal University, 30-31 October 2008, in collaboration with Lund University and National Taiwan Normal University. Taipei, Taiwan, Papers: 18, Participation: ca 100.

6-6 The 3rd Nordic Geographers Meeting, 8-11 June 2009, Turku, Finland: participating in three sessions on Islands Studies: *Geography of coastal regions* and *Rethinking human/non-human associations: changing politics of nature*.

6-7 The First World Congress of Environmental History (WCEH) 4-8 August 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark. Organizing a session on *Ecological Imperialism Redefined*. Participating in four other sessions.

6-8 AAG 2010 Annual Meeting, 14-18 April 2010, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. Participating in sessions: (i) *Real Worlds and Environmental Visions I & II* (ii) *Re-thinking Islandness: Discursive Spaces and Tidalectics in Island Worlds - I, II, III*

6-9 IGU Tel Aviv Regional Meeting, 12-16 July 2010, Tel Aviv, Israel; Participating two sessions in the IGU Commission on Islands meeting.

6-10 Participating in ISISA Islands of the World XI:

Celebrating Island Connectivities, August 23-26, 2010,

Bornholm, Denmark.

6-11 The 2010 IGU Commission on Islands Meeting and Conference, Finding Their Place: Islands in Social Theory 27-30 August 2010, Ven, Sweden. (Local Organizers: Eric Clark and Godfrey Baldacchino). Most of Steering Committee Members attended Committee Meeting; Participants: ca 120. *Published theme issue on Culture Geography.

6-12 Collaboration conference: The 2nd Island Dynamics Conference- Taking Malta Out of the Box – Island Cultures, Economies and Identities, 11–15 May 2011, Valletta, Malta. Steering Committee members played key roles in organizing related sessions.

6-13 The First Conference of East Asian Environmental History (EAEH 2011), 24-26 November 2011, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. Participating islands sessions.

6-14 **IGU** Regional Meeting, 14-18 November 2011, Santiago, Chile; Participating in the IGU Commission on Islands meeting and the Commission Business Meeting.

6-15 Joint meeting in ISISA Islands of the World XII: *Globalization: Islands Adapting to Change*, 29 May – 1 June 2012, The Virgin Islands (BVI)

6-16 IGU Congress- The 32nd IGC Cologne 2012, 26-30 August 2012, Cologne, Germany. The IGU Commission on Islands Supported by LOICZ (UNIHDP Programme) will organize a commission meeting and the conference sessions on the theme “ Human/Nature-Interaction on Small Islands- An Integrative Geography Perspective” (Local Organizer: Beate Ratter).

6-17 The 2012 IGU Commission on Islands meeting and Post Congress Fieldtrip, Human-Culture Interaction on Norderney – East Frisian Islands, Germany. 31 August-4 September, 2012. (Local Organizer: Beate Ratter).

6-18 IGU Commission on Islands meeting with the 3rd Island Dynamics Conference: Local Actions in a Global Context, 15-17 January 2013, Longyearbyen Island, Norway.

6-19 IGU Regional Conference, Kyoto, Japan, August 4-9, 2013.

6-20 IGU Commission on Islands, Penhu, Taiwan, September 30 to October 6, 2013.

(Joint Sessions with IGU Commission on Globalization, Marginalization and Local Response)
(Local Organizer: Professor Kuo-Yuan Koa)

7. Proposed Meetings (2013-)

2014 IGU Commission on Islands Meeting **Kraków, Poland**, organized by Prof. Maciej Jedrusik

2014 IGU Regional Conference, **Kraków, Poland**.

2015 IGU Commission on Island Meeting, Fiji Island.

2015 IGU Regional Conference, **Moscow, Russia**.

2016 IGU **Reunion Island** Commission on Islands meeting,

France, organized by Prof. Francois Taglioni

2016 Meetings to be held after 2015 will be decided in the business meeting at Reunion Island.

8. Cooperative Efforts

The Commission maintains communications with the Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges and Rights Commission, and collaborates regularly with ISISA (International Small Island Studies Association), Island Dynamics (an island studies network based on University of Aberdeen, UK, and Isle of Man), LOICZ (UNIHDP Programme), Environmental History (WCTH) and other Island Studies institutions.

8-1 2007 IGU Commission on Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge and Rights.

8-2 Participation in Islands of the World X, **ISISA** (International Small Island Studies Association) at Jeju Island, Korea, 25-29 August 2008. The conference theme was: *Globalizing Islands: Culture, Peace, Resources and Sustainability*. Steering Committee members played important roles in organizing sessions. Participation: 200

8-3 The 3rd **Nordic Geographers Meeting**, 8-11 June 2009, Turku, Finland: participation in three sessions: *Geography of coastal regions* and *Rethinking human/non-human associations: changing politics of nature I & II*.

8-4 The First World Congress of Environmental History (WCEH) 4-8 August 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark. Organized a session on *Ecological Imperialism Redefined*. Participation in four other sessions.

8-5 **AAG 2010 Annual Meeting**, 14-18 April 2010, Washington, D.C. Participation in sessions: (i) Real Worlds and Environmental Visions I & II (ii) Re-thinking Islandness: Discursive Spaces and Tidalectics in Island Worlds - I, II, III

8-6 Participation in **ISISA Islands of the World XI: Celebrating Island Connectivities**, August 23-26, 2010, Bornholm, Denmark.

8-7 Joint meeting with the 2nd Island Dynamic Conference in Malta, 11-15 May 2011.

8-8 Joint meeting in ISISA Islands of the World XII: Globalization : Islands Adaptation to Change, 29 May-1 June 2012, The Virgin Islands (BVI).

8-9 IGU Commission on Islands Meeting with the 3rd Island Dynamics Conference: Local Actions in a Global Context, 15-17 January 2013, Longyearbyen Island, Norway.

8-10 Joint Meeting with IGU Commission on Globalization, Marginalization and Local Response, at Penhu, Taiwan, Oct. 1-4, 2013.

9. Publications

9-1 The Commission website is regularly updated: <http://igu-islands.giee.ntnu.edu.tw/>.

9-2 Island Studies Journal <http://vre2.upei.ca/islandstudies.ca/journal> is managed by Steering Committee member Godfrey Baldacchino and is one forum for publication of commission research.

9-3 Endorsement and supporting books and theme issues on island research.

9-4 Many publications of Commission members will be updated on websites.

9-5 After 2012 Cologne IGU, IGU Commission on Islands and LOICZ will look for a publication of the best presentations. (The local organizer, Professor Beate Ratter, has communicated with Dr. Hartwig Kremer, LOICZ).

10. Continuation (2013-16)

10-1 The name of “the IGU Commission on Islands” will remain the same as that of 2008-12.

10-2 The main missions of the commission are:

(1) to promote island studies in geographical sciences among international geographical research communities.

(2) to provide a platform in connecting island studies with existing international programs and island networks.

(3) to promote the study of island geography in education programs at all levels, especially, but not exclusively, in island societies.

(4) to support and promote the publication of island geographic research.

(5) to collaborate with international and regional organizations to enhance dialogue on sustainable development of island societies.

- 10-3 The steering committee members of the IGU Commission on Islands will be

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10-4 The tentative work plan of the Commission on Islands will be.

- 1) The 2014 IGU Commission on Islands meeting, Kraków, Poland. (Local Organizer: Maciej Jędrusik)
- 2) IGU Regional Conference 2014 Kraków, Poland, IGU Commission on Islands will organize sessions in the conference.
- 3) The 2015 IGU (commission on Islands Meeting and Conference, Fiji (Local Organizer: Randy Thaman)

10-4 The tentative work plan of the Commission on Islands will be.

4)IGU Regional Conference, Moscow, Russia, August, 2015.

5)The 2016 IGU Commission on Islands Meeting and Conference, Reunion Island (Local Organizer: Francois Taglioni)

6)Meetings to be held after 2016 will be discussed and decided in the Commission Business Meeting at Reunion Island.

10-5 The scholarly importance of the anticipated results of the IGU Commission on Islands (2013-16) will be :

1)As bounded arenas, islands have long facilitated examination of structural forces and mechanisms of interaction and change relevant to vastly broader contexts than the unique places they are.

2)Bringing these themes together in synthetic geographic research and international collaborative projects is an increasingly urgent task as humanity navigates its future in a rapidly and unevenly globalizing world. The IGU Commission on Islands seeks to work together with related IGU Commissions and other relevant national and international organizations in promoting research on and awareness of island development issues.