



Umeå 15th of August 2016

*Olof Stjernström /chair of the Swedish National
Committee for Geography
Phone: +46 90 786 96 95
Mobile: +46 70 365 14 04
E-mail: olof.stjernstrom@umu.se*

Prof Michael Meadow

Report from the Swedish National Committee for Geography 2015 and 2016

The Swedish National Committee is a committee under the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The committee has 14 members representing both human and physical research and higher education in Sweden. Teacher's education in Geography is also represented as well as Geography as a school subject in the primary and secondary school. The Committee also have some members from the private trade and business sector. We have two regular meetings a year, arrange a colloquium every year as well as awarding a geography teacher in primary or secondary school "the Geography prize". During the last two years (2015 -2016) the committee has been focusing a number of issues, most of them aiming to emphasize the important of Geography in education and science. The last year we have had the strongest focus on developing a bid for hosting the IGU congress in 2024 together with the Danes. Besides that we have the following focus in our work and ambitions.

1. Monitoring Geography as a school subject in the Swedish school system. To some extent geographical knowledge is being replaced or outranged by other subjects. We believe that the sustainable development requires geographical knowledge. In this matter we have an ongoing contact with national school agencies and also act as a link between higher education in Geography and school-geography.
2. Enabling or improving the relations between Human Geography and Physical Geography. In Sweden, as in many other countries, the subject is divided in a social science part and natural science part. In the Academia these two geographical disciplines belongs to two different faculties.
3. Establish a better meeting place for Geographers in Sweden as a complement to the Nordic Geographical meeting.

We also have a very strong cooperation with the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography which also supports the Committee with funding for the geography prize.

During the last two years Associated Professor Olof Stjernström has been the chair and Professor Lena Molin the vice-chair.

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