



Annual Report 2012 - 2016

A. Membership

The statutes of the IGU state that Commissions should consist of a Chair and Steering Group of ten members plus a Secretary. Given the size and complexity of the Commission on Geographical Education, the proposal accepted by the IGU Executive for the renewal of the Commission for the period 2012 – 2016, included a) joint chairs, and b) a concept of a steering committee of “10+” in order to recognise the ongoing and significant role played by former Chairs and Steering Group members and c) the concept of Regional Correspondents who are publicly identified with the role of facilitating effective communication and outreach between the CGE and specific regions of the world. As approved by the Executive Committee of the IGU in 2012, the effective Steering Group of the Commission may therefore be considered as a core of 11 people consisting of two co-chairs plus nine other members including the Secretary and Treasurer, supported by a panel of (currently) six long standing former Steering Group members and linked closely with 65 (2013: 51) regional correspondents who are asked to ensure that local information on research and developments in geographical education are reported to the Commission Secretary for inclusion in the CGE Newsletter and that information provided to the international community through the CGE Newsletters are disseminated through local and regional networks.

The formal statutory 2012 – 2016 Steering Group therefore consists of:

<p>Joop van der Schee (Co-Chair) Professor of Geographical Education Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University; and Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands Email: j.a.vander.schee@vu.nl www.joop.vdschee.nl</p>	<p>John Lidstone (Co-Chair) Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Education, Queensland University of Technology Queensland 4059, Australia Email: j.lidstone@qut.edu.au Website: staff.qut.edu.au/staff/lidstone/</p>
<p>Clare Brooks (Exec. Secretary) Senior Lecturer in Geography Education Institute of Education, University of London 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL, UK Email: C.Brooks@ioe.ac.uk Website: www.ioe.ac.uk , www.clarebrooks.com</p>	<p>Michael Solem (Treasurer) Educational Affairs Director Association of American Geographers 1710 Sixteenth Street NW Washington, DC 20009-3198, USA Email: msolem@aag.org</p>
<p>Daniela Schmeinck Professor Institute of Primary Science and Social Sciences University of Cologne</p>	<p>Ali Demirci Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Geography Fatih University, 34500, Istanbul, Turkey</p>

<p>Immermannstraße 49-51; 50931 Köln Germany Email: Daniela.Schmeinck@uni-koeln.de Website: www.Daniela-Schmeinck.de, www.sachunterricht.uni-koeln.de</p>	<p>E-mail: ademirci@fatih.edu.tr</p>
<p>Fernando Alexandre Geography Coordinator - Department of Social Sciences S. João do Estoril High School & Education and Development Research Unit Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Lisbon Rua Brito Camacho, 2769-501 Estoril, Portugal Email: fernando.alexandre@essje.pt</p>	<p>Osvaldo Muniz-Solari Professor of Geography Texas State University San Marcos, TX 78666, USA Email: o.muniz@txstate.edu</p>
<p>Ivy Tan Associate Professor Humanities & Social Studies Education Academic Group National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 1 Nanyang Walk, Singapore 637616 Email: ivy.tan@nie.edu.sg</p>	<p>Sirpa Tani Professor of Geography and Environmental Education University of Helsinki P.O. Box 9, FI-00014, Finland Email: sirpa.tani@helsinki.fi</p>
<p>Eje Kim Department of Social Studies Education Gyeongin National University of Education 430-040 San 6-8 Seoksu-Dong Manan-Gu, Anyang-Si Gyonggi, South Korea Email: hockie44@hotmail.com</p>	

The active Advisory panel (10+) of former Chairs and members of the Steering group currently consists of:

<p>Sarah Bednarz Professor, Department of Geography Texas A&M University College Station, Texas 77843-3147, USA. Email: s-bednarz@tamu.edu</p>	<p>Simon Catling Emeritus Professor of Education Oxford Brookes University, Harcourt Hill Campus OX2 9AT Oxford, United Kingdom Email: sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk</p>
<p>Hartwig Haubrich Emeritus Professor of Geographical Education Freiburg University of Education Kunzenweg 21, 79117 Freiburg Germany E-mail: haubrich@ph-freiburg.de</p>	<p>Joseph Stoltman Professor, Department of Geography College of Arts and Sciences Western Michigan University 3219 Wood Hall Kalamazoo MI 49008-5424 USA Email: joseph.stoltman@wmich.edu</p>

<p>Lex Chalmers Associate Professor of Geography University of Waikato 3240 Hamilton, New Zealand Email: lex@waikato.ac.nz</p>	<p>Sibylle Reinfried Professor of Geography and Geographical Education University of Teacher Education, Central Switzerland Lucerne Frohburgstrasse 3, 6002 Lucerne Switzerland Email: sibylle.reinfried@phz.ch</p>
<p>Margaret Robertson Professor of Education La Trobe University Faculty of Education Melbourne (Bundoora) Email: m.robertson@latrobe.edu.au</p>	

Regional correspondents: The location and contact details of the 65 regional correspondents may be found in the CGE website at <http://www.igu-cge.org/> where may also be found an interactive map to assist those interested in the Commission to locate their nearest correspondent.

Members

The Commission on Geographical Education has members through a) those who attend its Symposia and IGU regional conferences and congresses; b) corresponding members who while unable to attend regular meetings, participate in the various publishing and research activities; and c) those who participate in the work of the Commission through the Commission Journal, *International Research In Geographical And Environmental Education* (IRGEE). The Commission currently has regular communication with 777 people in 80 identified countries. It is interesting that relatively few new members joined our mailing list as a result of the Moscow Congress meetings in 2015. The breakdown of the current mailing list as of December 2015 is as shown in Figure 1 below.

The Commission has continued to place special attention on making contact with geographical educators in areas of the world not previously represented in our network including Africa, the Middle East, East Asia and Latin and South America. In particular we draw attention to our outreach in Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Nigeria and the Philippines and our success in attracting women representatives from less developed countries. In the current reporting period we have also re-established contacts with geographical educators in India, France, Spain and more generally in South America.

Table 1: The Email membership of the Commission on Geographical Education by country as of December 2015

1.	Argentina	3
2.	Armenia	1
3.	Australia	46
4.	Austria	4
5.	Bangladesh	1
6.	Belarus	2
7.	Belgium	5
8.	Bolivia	1
9.	Botswana	2
10.	Brazil	2
11.	Bulgaria	5
12.	Cambodia	1
13.	Canada	15
14.	Chile	6
15.	China – Hong Kong	11
16.	China - PRC	8
17.	China - Taiwan	6
18.	Croatia	2
19.	Cyprus	1
20.	Czech Republic/ Czechia	19
21.	Dominican Republic	1
22.	Denmark	8
23.	Egypt	1
24.	Eire	10
25.	Estonia	2
26.	Ethiopia	1
27.	Finland	21
28.	France	5
29.	Germany	62
30.	Greece	4
31.	Hungary	13
32.	Iceland	2
33.	India	11
34.	Indonesia	1
35.	Iran	2
36.	Israel	13
37.	Italy	8
38.	Japan	32
39.	Kenya	2
40.	Kyrgyzstan	1
41.	Latvia	1
42.	Lesotho	1
43.	Malaysia	6
44.	Malta	3
45.	Mexico	4
46.	Mongolia	1
47.	Nepal	1
48.	Netherlands	23
49.	New Zealand	21
50.	Nicaragua	1
51.	Nigeria	3
52.	Norway	6
53.	Oman	2
54.	Pakistan	2
55.	Philippines	1
56.	Poland	15
57.	Portugal	9
58.	Romania	2
59.	Russia	6
60.	Singapore	16
61.	Slovak Republic	1
62.	Slovenia	4
63.	South Africa	20
64.	South Korea	8
65.	Spain	9
66.	Sweden	14
67.	Switzerland	18
68.	Taiwan	2
69.	Thailand	1
70.	Trinidad	1
71.	Tunisia	1
72.	Turkey	29
73.	Ukraine	1
74.	Ulster – United Kingdom	3
75.	United Arab Emirates	2
76.	United Kingdom	106
77.	USA	81
78.	Venezuela	1
79.	Vietnam	2
80.	Zimbabwe	1
	Emails from unidentified country	6
	Total IGU.CGE membership	777

B. Meetings and programmes of work

The meetings organized by the Commission on Geographical Education 2012-2016 with information on their locations, dates, and numbers of participants.

The Commission on Geographical Education engages with its constituency through four forms of meetings

1. Special sessions arranged with local organisers as part of IGU Congresses and Regional meetings;
2. Symposia arranged by local organisers from within the Commission specific to the Commission;
3. Face to face meetings of the Steering Group(+10) to which all interested parties are invited to attend conducted at an appropriate time during or immediately before or after IGU Congresses or Conferences and Commission Symposia;
4. Virtual meetings conducted primarily for the Steering Group and Advisory Panel using various forms of internet collaborative software; and of particular note in the current reporting period;
5. Special meetings with other organisations and working parties for specific purposes.

The average number of participants in a Steering group meeting was 5-10 and the number of participants in an open discussion session during a conference of congress was 15-50. The average number of meetings during a year was 5.

Apart from the meetings already reported in our earlier annual reports, the major academic meetings of the Commission were: “The Power of Geographical Thinking”, held at Institute of Education (now The UCL Institute of Education) in London from April 13 - 15 2015 and the CGE sessions organised within the Moscow Regional Conference from August 17 - 21, 2015:

- 1) The Power of Geographical Thinking conference was organised by the UK Committee for IGU-CGE with the MA in Geography Education programme team at the IOE. The conference was attended by 45 geography educators.
- 2) 7 CGE sessions within the Moscow Regional IGU Conference saw the presentation of more than 75 papers and 10 posters as well as a special Teachers’ Day during which members of the Commission interacted with a group of their Russian Teacher colleagues in an exchange of ideas and proposals. Finally, The Declaration on Research in Geographical Education (see www.igu-cge.org) was signed in Moscow.

Progress on Programmes of Work established in 2012-2016.

This programme of work also includes the main issues discussed during the meetings of the Commission. The Steering Committee of the Commission identified seven international projects for the period 2012-2016. Details of each of the projects are below:

- 1) **Creating a Geography Education Doctoral and PhD collection** to enhance our knowledge about geographical and environmental education. The collation from around the world of the authors, titles, publishers and abstracts of successful doctoral theses and PhD studies in geographical and environmental education, (from all nations and in national languages) will be brought together in an on-line list on the IGUCGE website available for everyone. The Geography Education Collection may be accessed through the IGU.CGE website (www.igu-cge.org).
- 2) **The preparation of a digital list of significant papers, books or chapters on geographical education** to help those who want to read about research and development in geography education is published on the IGU.CGE website (www.igu-cge.org).
- 3) **The drafting of an edited book on geography education practice and research.** This idea was proposed by Michael Solem and Simon Catling on “Rethinking Geography Education: International Perspectives on Scholarly Practices” for a series published by Springer. The ideas for this book are now used to realise a Book Series with the publisher Springer, see the item Academic Publishing below.
- 4) **The preparation of a review publication on geospatial practices and lessons learned.** The coordinators of this work are Ali Demirci, Osvaldo Muniz and Joop van der Schee. They organised a book with 17 chapters with the title “Geospatial technologies and geography education in a changing world”. Many colleagues participated in writing these chapters. The book was published by Springer in 2015.
- 5) **The setting up of geographical education ‘Virtual geography communities of practice’.** The Steering Group has initiated and recruited a network of Regional Contacts who are clearly identified on our website (www.igu-cge.org) and who act as local hubs for this virtual community.
- 6) **Support and connect Early Career Researchers (ECR) in geography education internationally.** A further proposal associated with (1) above relates to a scholarly analysis of the implementation of the scholarly process itself in the context of international doctoral work in geographical education. Such a study would intend to enhance both quality and quantity of international research in geographical education. This creative initiative has been initiated through offering particular support to early career researchers for example the publication following the London conference offered ECR support and a special focus on ECRs in all our conference social activities.

- 7) **Support the International Geographical Union Commission on Geographical Education Olympiad** as an important way to promote geography, to stimulate understanding between young people and to help to improve the quality of school geography worldwide. The 12th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) was held in Tver Oblast, Central Russia, from 11 to 17 August 2015. Participation in iGeo continues to expand, with 41 countries applying this year. Argentina, Armenia, Bolivia, Brazil, Philippines and Thailand competing for the first time. The 2015 iGeo was organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation in cooperation with the Russian Geographical Society, Tver State University and Lomonosov Moscow State University.

Additional Projects of Work established during the term of the Commission.

1. **International Declaration on Research in Geography Education.** The Commission began work at the behest of the British subcommittee on this Declaration in 2014. Two key documents have been prepared:

- A brief Executive Statement;
- The full draft document: **International Declaration on Research in Geography Education.**

These have been posted on the IGU CGE website: <http://www.igu-cge.org/>. Both documents can be accessed through the link in the box at the top right on the Home page. The draft was circulated widely for comments and was discussed at the CGE supported Geography Education Symposium in London in April 2015. It was formally signed in Moscow 2015.

2. **Academic Publishing:** We are pleased to announce that the Commission has now agreed a Book Series with the publisher Springer. The Series is entitled: Perspectives on Geographical Education, and the Commission Steering Group make up the Editorial Board. Editors are dr. Clare Brooks and prof. Joop van der Schee. The aims and scope of the series are as follows:

The Series will seek to publish authoritative, innovative and academically rigorous accounts of geography education research from around the world. Led by the priorities and criteria set out in the Commission's Declaration on Geography Education Research, the series will play an important role in making geography education research accessible to the global community. Books within the series are likely to be drawn from meetings, conferences and symposiums supported by the Commission, but book editors will also be commissioned for special editions that correspond to the Commission's ongoing programme of work. In this way, research published in the series will be up-to-date, responsive to the needs of the geography education community, internationally relevant and to a high academic standard. The Series will also seek to support the development of early career researchers in publishing high quality, high impact research accounts.

3. A New International Charter on Geographical Education for the 21st Century:

The collaboration with other international groups in the field of geography and education 2014 resulted in meetings of IGU, EUGEO and EUROGEO in Rome, Utrecht, Malta and Krakow. At these meetings the idea was launched to develop an International Charter on Geographical Education for the 21st Century. In the autumn of 2014 several experts in the field of geography education gave their opinion about an International Charter on Geographical Education for the 21st Century: Prof. Sarah Bednarz (US), Prof. Ivy Tan (Singapore), Prof. Gregor Falk (Germany), Prof. David Lambert (UK) and Prof. Rob van der Vaart (NL). Their suggestions have been used to write a first draft of a new draft of an International Charter on Geographical Education for the 21st Century in 2015. Drafts of the new Charter were discussed in the Steering group of the Commission and at a number of symposia and congresses including EUROGEO (Malta 2014), IGU Krakow (2015), EUGEO (Budapest 2015). This draft has been written in close collaboration with representatives from groups of geographers all over the world focusing on geography education (including the South East Asia Geographical Association, EUGEO, EUROGEO and others).

4. International Year of Global Understanding:

Prof. Benno Werlen took the initiative to organise an International Year of Global Understanding for 2016. Although the project was not supported by the UN it is supported by the International Councils of the natural, social and human sciences (ICSU, ISSC and CIPSH). In 2016 and from 2016 onwards research will bring together social and natural scientists and humanities scholars to gain an understanding of the global impacts of everyday local educations. Geography education plays a vital role in this process. The Commission on Geographical Education is involved in the team of Benno Werlen and will present its results at the IGU congress in Beijing. The Commission likes to link the IYGU initiative with the IGU OURSUS project of prof. Dietz and is preparing papers, workshops and discussions about sustainability and futures education for its 2016 IGU.CGE meetings in Singapore and Beijing.

5. **WIKIGEO** is an initiative of the Commission on Geographical Education (CGE) of the International Geographical Union (IGU) organised by Henk Trimp and Joop van der Schee (The Netherlands). Geographers in education from across the world are invited to share information on the geography education of 5-18 year olds in their country through an on-line questionnaire. Results have been published at www.igu-cge.org.

C. Networking

Means by which your commission has collaborated with other IGU Commissions and Task Forces

- 1) In Kyoto 2013, Krakow 2014 and Moscow 2015 the Commission participated in a joint session about academic teaching organised by IGU vice-president Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn who is the liaison in the IGU Executive for education. The Commission agreed to offer full support for a new IGU initiative focusing on academic teaching in geography and submitted a formal proposal for how such an initiative might be implemented. As a result, the Krakow conference included a special workshop on : "Improving your presentation skills: a video-training for young geographers" , further details of which may be found at http://www.igu2014.org/index.php?page=programme_workshops_04 This workshop will also be organised at the 2016 IGU congress in Beijing.

- 2) **Cooperative efforts with ISSC (International Social Science Council) and with ICSU (the International Council for Science) programs.**

The Commission on Geographical Education endorses and promotes the goals of the Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development (CCHD) initiative which are 1) to adopt approaches and undertake actions for valuing cultural identities and encouraging inter-cultural and inter-civilizational cooperation, with a view toward pursuing the Millennium goals concerned with social concerns, and helping the operation of UNESCO conventions pertaining to intangible cultural heritage, cultural identities and manifestations of cultural diversity; and 2) to propose to the United Nations the proclamation of an international year on inter-cultural and inter-civilizational collaboration for human development.

- 3) The IGU.CGE has initiated discussions with **TIMSS** regarding the introduction of international testing standards for geographical education at school level. Steering Committee member Fernando Alexandre represented the Steering Committee at a recent TIMMS meeting in Lisbon, Portugal.

- 4) Collaboration with other international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multi-disciplinary groups:

As noted in our 2013 Report, the Commission observed a proliferation of new professional bodies and publications focused on geographical education in Europe. In order to avoid unnecessary duplication and division of effort, the Commission worked with IGU President Vladimir Kolosov to arrange a meeting in Rome in September 2013 which resulted in the **Rome Declaration on Geographical Education**.

- i. Subsequently, the Commission facilitated a follow up meeting to develop a **Road Map for Geography Education in**

- Europe** meeting in February 2014 in Utrecht, the Netherlands, attended by Van der Schee and Brooks (IGU-CGE) and the president of the IGU (Kolosov), the president of EUROGEO (Donert) and the president of EUGEO (Ottens).
- ii. This Utrecht meeting was followed by a further discussion in Malta in May 2014 where a group of 40 stakeholders listened to short addresses from the president of the IGU (Kolosov), the president of EUROGEO (Donert) and the president of EUGEO (Ottens) before engaging in a meaningful discussion on the implementation of the Rome Declaration and future collaborations.
 - iii. The Rome declaration was developed to become a new Charter for Geography Education, see [ww.igu-cge.org](http://www.igu-cge.org). More recently, a fourth meeting was held in Krakow in August 2014 in a EUGEO meeting and in an IGU meeting again including participation of the president of the IGU (Kolosov), the president of EUROGEO (Donert) and the president of EUGEO (Ottens) at which a group of around 30 people continued the discussion and agreed that the issues required wider engagement at an international level through the auspices of the IGU and its Commission on Geographical Education, for example by closer collaboration with the South East Asia Geographical Association (SEAGA).
 - iv. At the 2015 IGU conference in Moscow two sessions were organised to discuss the draft Charter of Geographical Education which will be signed by the IGU Executive Committee at the 2016 IGU Congress in Beijing.

The issues involved in these discussions have been discussed in two publications of the Commission led by Co-chair of the IGU.CGE, Prof Joop Van Der Schee:

- i. van der Schee, J. 2014. "Looking for an international strategy for geography education" *J-Reading* 1(3) 9-14. (<http://j-reading.org/index.php/geography>);
- ii. van der Schee, J. Lidstone, J. and Brooks, C. 2014. "Towards an international approach for geography education". *Geographia Polonica* 87(2) 213-220.

D. Publications

1) The Commission published regular newsletters by email and lodged them on the Commission website (www.igu-cge.org).

2) The Commission continues to publish *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education (IRGEE) through Taylor and Francis*. ISSN: 1038-2046

IRGEE is published four times a year and serves four major purposes:

- a. to promote an expanded international interest in research in geographical and environmental education;
 - b. to provide a forum for the critique of research studies and the discussion of relevant research issues in geographical and environmental education;
 - c. to encourage the international dissemination of research in geographical and environmental education; and
 - d. to demonstrate the relevance of research studies to good professional practice in geographical and environmental education.
3. Muniz Solari, O. Demirci, A & Schee. J. van der (2015) *Geospatial Technologies and Geography Education in a Changing World*. Dordrecht. Springer (This publication has been facilitated by IGU Vice President Prof. Dr. Singh.
4. A publication based on papers presented at the 2015 London Conference mentioned above is in preparation and will be published in the near future.

The current accurate URL of the commission's web site: The current web site of the Commission on Geographical Education may be found at: <http://www.igu-cge.org/> The website includes archived Newsletters as well as current details of all projects, publications and proposals.

E. Archival Contributions

All publications of the Commission, including all newsletters, monographs, and issues of *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education* are sent to the IGU Secretary General soon after publication. See also the website [ww.igu-cge.org](http://www.igu-cge.org) for Newsletters of the Commission.

F. Future meetings:

CGE Symposium Singapore 2016: As a prelude to the main Beijing IGU Congress with the theme “Shaping our harmonious worlds”, the IGU-CGE will convene in Singapore before a field trip and further discussions during the journey from Singapore to Beijing via Shanghai.

The main CGE conference will be in Singapore (14 – 16 August 2016) followed by a fieldtrip to Hangzhou and Suzhou with a special symposium held at East China Normal University (ECNU), Shanghai (17 – 19 August 2016). The theme of the conference is “Geography that matters – empowering learners for a diverse world”. The IGU-CGE 2016 is grateful to the Southeast Asian Geography Association in collaboration with the Geography Teaching Society of China. True to the nature of Geography, the programme allows delegates an opportunity to engage a diversity of landscape and contexts while discussing key issues of geography education (igucge@gmail.com or see <http://www.igu-cge.org/>).

IGU Thematic Conference: The geographies of peace in La Paz, 24-25 April 2017. The IGU is working in collaboration with the University of La Paz, and the XVI EGAL (Encuentre de Geografos de America Latina) to be held in La Paz, April 2017. The CGE is actively engaged in collaboration with the local organisers of this conference and more information will be available shortly.

CGE Symposium Lisbon 26-28 October 2017. Steering Committee member Fernando Alexandre will host a Commission Symposium in Lisbon from 26-28 October 2017. This will be organised together with young academics in geography education from Portugal.

G. Continuation of the Commission 2016-2020

Dr Clare Brooks and Dr Chew Hung Chang are proposing a continuation of the Commission 2016 - 2020, acting as Co-Chairs and compiling a new Steering Group, featuring many of the current Steering Group who are eligible to serve. The full list with names of the Steering Group members of the 2016-2010 IGU Commission on Geographical Education will be available in May 2016.

The current Co-Chairs, and long-standing members of the Steering Group will be invited to continue their support of the Commission through participating as Honorary Members of the Steering Group.

The 2016-2020 Commission for Geographical Education will seek to achieve the following objectives:

1. Increase the visibility of the CGE. The Commission performs a vital function to support international collaboration, to act as a network for geography education researchers and as an outlet for geography education research. The 2016-2020 Commission will develop ways of ensuring that the visibility and accessibility of these important functions are shared with a wider audience. The Commission will do this by building on the work of the 2012-2016 Commission and the established Regional Contacts, and introducing other dissemination forms such as social networking and maintaining a stronger digital presence.
2. Develop the CGE network. The 2012-2016 Commission has greatly widened the reach and draw of the Commission and the IGU. The 2016-2020 Commission will seek to develop this network further. There are two main strands to this objective: working with early career researchers to enable them to join the current CGE network and to fully participate in its events, but also to encourage early career researchers to develop their own network of support and collaboration, to ensure a sustainable future for the community and the research it undertakes. The second strand is to build on the network of Regional Contacts and through them to spread the work of the Commission and disseminate its activities to a wider group.
3. Enhance the quality of geography education research. Reviews of geography education research agree that the quality of the research can be high but it is piecemeal and fragmented. The 2016-2020 Commission will seek to promote and enhance high quality geography education research. This will build on the work of the 2012-2016 Commission which published a valuable bibliography of important works in the field, and in the 2015 Declaration of the Importance of Geography Education Research. The 2016-2020 Commission will go further by agreeing on a set of benchmarks and quality standards for internationally recognized scholarship in geography education.
4. Diversify the possible outlets for geography education research. The Commission for Geography Education has an established and respected journal: IRGEE. In addition, the Commission has supported a range of other publications. The 2016-2020 Commission will seek to diversify the range and opportunities for the publication and dissemination of geography education research, including exploring opportunities for Open Access, as well as more traditional publications such as a Commission sponsored series (published through Springer). Publication and dissemination guidance will also be developed.
5. Further attend to the application to practice. There is an increasing diversification of research applicable to geography education. However, criticisms have noted that there is a

widening gap between the relevance and applicability of this research to the concerns and realities of practitioners. The 2016-2020 Commission will seek to support the teaching of geography around the globe, through developing stronger links with local professional associations, working with researchers to consider contextual issues that may affect applicability to practice, and encouraging the wider dissemination of practitioner research through the international communities.

This ends the 2012-2016 report and is respectfully submitted to the Executive Committee of the International Geographical Union by

Prof Joop van der Schee;

Prof John Lidstone; and

Dr Clare Brooks

on behalf of the 2012-2016 Steering Group of the IGU Commission on Geographical Education.