



IGU/Home of Geographers E-Newsletter



Quarterly

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New Series 1

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This Newsletter is circulated to more than 1500 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome.

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1) FROM IGU PRESIDENT RON ABLER

Dear Colleagues,

As explained below by IGU Vice President and *IGU E-Newsletter* Editor Giuliano Bellezza, this issue of the *IGU E-Newsletter* begins a New Series of the e-publication necessitated by the closure of the Rome Home of Geography. As always, we are most grateful to Giuliano for continuing to assemble and disseminate the newsletter.

As is evident in the report from the Santiago Regional Conference Local Organizing Committee included in this issue, the Santiago Conference went well, drawing 1,100 delegates from many countries of the world. In addition to plenary sessions some 550 paper presentations were given in 195 technical sessions and 116 poster presentations were organized into four sessions. Those who attended the technical visits, field excursions, and social events reported favorably on their experiences.

Many readers will be aware of the controversy regarding the conference venue, the *Escuela Militar del General Bernardo O'Higgins*, Chile's military academy, which was used as an interrogation site following the overthrow of the Allende government in 1973. I responded on behalf of the IGU Executive Committee to the objections to the site raised prior to the meeting on the web sites at which those protests were recorded: <http://www.petitions24.com/forum/12103> Comment 21; and <http://www.petitions24.com/forum/12104> Comments 10 and 11.

The executive committee tried hard to think of a way to address the controversy at the meeting itself but we failed to find a way that was, in our view, appropriate to the time and place. On a personal basis, I finally concluded that if the Chilean Army is not yet ready openly to confront the events of 1973 and their aftermath, it would not be helpful for a *norteamericano* whose government was complicit in the overthrow of the elected Allende administration to address the topic.

As an outgrowth of our discussions, however, the IGU Executive Committee is currently exploring the possibility of preparing a session (possibly two) at the Köln Congress on *lieux de mémoires* thinking, both as it applies to sacred and profaned places generally, and with some attention to the ways such thinking bears on the locations and venues selected for IGU Conferences and Congresses. I'll provide more details in the next issue.

As I write, we are a month beyond the Gregorian New Year but in the heart of the Lunar New Year observance, so belatedly for the first, but on the occasion of both, I offer my best wishes for good health, good spirits, and continued success in your work in 2012 and in the Year of the Dragon.

Ron Abler
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2) WHY THE NAME OF THE NEWSLETTER HAD TO BE CHANGED

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is the first issue of the New Series *IGU E-Newsletter*, I sent the first issue of the old series in July 2005, following the wishes of then IGU President Adalberto Vallega, who had learned only two months earlier that the cause of the acute pain he had suffered for several months was a malignant stomach cancer. The first issues were crude, as I had no prior experience posting to the internet, but Vallega, who had been elected only ten months before, was pleased with the results, and the newsletter has continued to appear quarterly. I am happy that Adalberto lived long enough to see the first six issues and that I was able to devote the seventh issue to comments received at the Rome Home of Geography by colleagues and friends from around the world.

With the support of the IGU Executive Committee the *IGU E-Newsletter* and activities of the Rome Home of Geography continued after Adalberto's death. But financial support for the Home of Geography ran out in 2009 and the *Società Geografica Italiana* retook possession of the two rooms that had hosted the Home of Geography since 2000. Since 2009 I have issued the *IGU E-Newsletter* and updated the Home of Geography web site from my home office.

In October 2011 I was asked by the President of the *Società Geografica Italiana* to cease using the term "Home of Geography" in connection with the *IGU E-Newsletter* given the fact that the Home of Geography created by the 2000 agreement between the IGU and the *Società Geografica Italiana* no longer existed. Accordingly, and with the concurrence of the IGU President and Secretary General, the *IGU E-Newsletter* now begins this New Series issued from the Home of Geographers, the spiritual successor to the Home of Geography. The web site will also continue with a matching name.

This note concludes with the last Home of Geography update. Its last initiative, begun in 2010, came to an official conclusion on 31 January 2012 at the Department of Earth Sciences of the

University “La Sapienza” in Rome, in the form of a dedicated workshop. Giuliano Bellezza, last Director of the Home of Geography, and Dongying Wei, Chair of the IGU Commission on Geoparks, presented the tenth volume of the Home of Geography Publication Series: Wei, Dongying, ed. 2011. *Geoparks and Sustainable Development: Theory to Practice*. Beijing, 2012.



3) MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING, SANTIAGO 13-14 NOVEMBER 2011

a) English Version

International Geographical Union
Minutes of the IGU Executive Committee Meeting
Escuela Militar, Santiago de Chile
13-14 September 2011

Welcome and Apologies

Present: Ronald Abler, Irasema Alcantara-Ayala, Giuliano Bellezza Ruth Fincher, Yukio Himiyama, Aharon Kellerman, Vladimir Kolossov, Mike Meadows, and Dietrich Soye; **Apologies:** Dahe Qin

Adoption of the Agenda

The committee adopted the agenda prepared by Meadows and Abler.

Minutes

Köln May 2011 Meeting. The minutes of the May 2011 Köln IGU Executive Committee (EC) meeting were approved with minor amendments.

Publication of the Minutes. The matter of publishing the minutes of the EC meetings was discussed. The committee agreed that the minutes should be circulated and corrected soon after each meeting so that they can be published. The responsibility is with the EC members to ensure that they read and correct them as necessary within one month of the meeting. The president will provide final review.

Organization and Operations

IGU Country Membership Report. Meadows presented a spreadsheet that tallied current membership dues status. Correspondence from Brasil and Iceland was noted and the committee agreed to engage the appropriate individuals present at the Santiago conference to discuss the membership questions matters raised therein. The committee agreed that payment of country dues in cash at IGU meetings, rather than through international bank transfers, was a sensible means of payment for some member countries, and that that option should be publicized; Meadows will so inform all National Committee chairs. Problems of facilitating membership for African countries were also reviewed and the committee agreed to continue its efforts to recruit and recapture members in Africa and elsewhere.

IGU Financial Report and Projection. The committee reviewed the IGU's financial status based on the accounts the Secretary General and Treasurer provided in advance of the meeting. The income to expenditure ratio has improved substantially over the last twelve months. Reduced costs of executive committee member attendance at meetings together with relatively successful attempts to recover country dues are the main reasons for the improved financial situation. Meadows will prepare a comprehensive report in time for the next General Assembly.

UN-International Year for Global Understanding (IYGU) Initiative. IYGU Executive Director Benno Werlen attended the meeting for this item and provided an update. He has obtained continuing funding from the State of Thuringia through the end of 2012 and other applications are pending. It appears that United Nations General Assembly approval of IYGU in 2011 is no longer possible via the normal route of UNESCO endorsement. Former IGU Secretary General and Treasurer Woo-ik Yu (now Minister for Reunification in South Korea) has asked the Ambassador of South Korea to the United Nations to explore the possibility of a direct submission to the General Assembly of a request that 2014 be proclaimed the International Year for Global Understanding. Abler and Werlen are currently exploring the feasibility of this option with the Korean UN Mission's First Secretary. If a direct approach to the General Assembly is not possible in 2011, a standard application via UNESCO will be launched in 2012. The most recent editions of the initiative flyer and brochure are available for download as pdf files from the IYGU and IGU websites. It was noted that the concept of 'Global Understanding' was still not widely understood and that the term 'Global Awareness' could still be a better brand label.

Commission Reports. The increase in the annual commission stipends to US\$ 1,000 approved at the last executive committee meeting will be effective with the 2012 payments. The call for 2011 Commission reports (which should take the form of a four-year summary including a request for renewal and plans for the next four years) will be made shortly, with a closing date that will provide time for review prior to the next EC meeting. Commission chairs are to meet with the EC during the Santiago Conference and the issues of young scholars' involvement will be emphasized. The possibility of establishing regional commissions (Latin America or the Mediterranean, for example) was discussed and the committee agreed in principle that regional consortia could be proposed as commissions provided the usual structure and procedures are followed. Abler noted that a proposal that regional commissions be recognized had been received from Beryl and John Holmes (Australia) in 2001 or 2002 but that none had emerged at that time.

Journals Project Update. The committee again noted the valuable work conducted by Ton Dietz and his colleagues in relation to the journals project spearheaded by Ton Dietz, who had submitted a short written report. EC members were encouraged to check the list of journals for their countries where this has not yet been done. The journal information is available on the IGU website as a spreadsheet; Meadows will organize a web-based version in time for the formal launch of the project at the Köln Congress.

Sustainable Cities Network. This initiative is now formally known as the Sustainable Cities (SuCIN) Project. At October/November 2011 intensive workshop, with the website team of Hunan University and Ton Dietz, it was decided to develop a 'rainbow' approach in which each rainbow colour would represent an important aspect of sustainability in a municipal/city context. The website team has developed a bilingual (Chinese and English) test programme, which would enable users to share ideas and 'cases' of successful 'sustainable innovations' to present themselves or be described by a website host. Most of these innovations will be by companies or municipal agencies and knowledge centres and the idea is that these companies/agencies/centres will then sponsor parts of the website, and eventually to develop an approach whereby all SuCIN websites become income-earning activities. The income will be shared between the website host in a particular city, the IGU national committee, and IGU as a whole). The website team in Changsha holds weekly meetings and is currently looking for financial support to expand its activities. They received an IGU endorsement for a funding request to a Chinese government agency and are currently discussing funding with World Wildlife Federation. The intention is that first results will be presented by the Chinese core team at the IGU Congress in Köln, and that the Changsha SuCIN website will officially be launched there.

Executive Committee Calendar. The schedule of future meetings was approved as follows:

- Beijing, People's Republic of China: 12–13 March 2012, with arrival on 11 March, meeting on 12 and 13 March, an optional field excursion on 14 March, and departure on 14 or 15 March..
- Köln, Germany: Meeting on 24th and 26th August 2012 (ahead of IGU Congress; field excursion on Saturday 25 August).
- The 2012-2014 IGU Executive Committee will meet after the final session of the Köln General Assembly to elect a First Vice President and to schedule its future meetings.

IGU Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force. Suggestions to Abler for membership on this task force are welcome. Abler will submit a roster of committee members for executive committee consideration prior to or at the committee's Köln meeting.

IGU Bulletin Backlog. The *Bulletin* is still seriously in arrears. The possibility of outsourcing issue compilation to an appropriate graduate student was raised for the 2007-2008 issue for which Abler has taken responsibility and for the 2009-2010 issue which Meadows will produce. Abler and Meadows committed themselves to making progress on the backlog before the next executive committee meeting.

IGU 2012 Elections, Four Vice-Presidents and a new President are to be elected or re-elected at the 2012 IGU General Assembly in Köln. A call for nominations was issued to national committees in July; thus far no nominations have been received. The closing date is December 31st 2011. Executive committee members are encouraged to nominate active geographers. Meadows will send out a reminder to national committee chairs. Abler reminded those IGU Vice Presidents eligible for re-election who wished to continue that they must be re-nominated by their respective national committees.

Joint International Cartographic Association/International Geographical Union Working Group/Commission on Toponymy. Abler reported that the joint Commission/Working Group on Toponymy that has been under discussion between ICA and IGU for some time is now formed after several preliminary meetings between interested members of both organizations. After reviewing the proposal submitted by IGU representative Cosimo Palagiano the executive committee approved establishment of the body contingent upon the submission of an appropriate Steering Committee and on approval by the ICA, whose executive committee will consider the proposal in late November 2011. New ICA President Georg Gartner is enthusiastic about the joint body. Palagiano was appointed the IGU Co-Chair of the new group; the ICA will appoint the other co-chair. The joint group is sponsoring a paper session at the Santiago Regional Conference.

French Language Biobibliographical Publication. The executive committee warmly endorsed the proposal from co-editor Charles Withers to publish some Biobibliographical Studies in French.

Mediterranean Renaissance Programme, Kellerman reported that the committee continues its vibrant and vital work in the region. Its latest publication is scheduled to appear in 2012. Chairperson Maria Paradiso has proposed a meeting on the topic of migration with special reference to the Mediterranean region to be held in September 2012 and is seeking funds to support the meeting. Abler will write to Maria Paradiso to commend her and her colleagues for their sterling efforts.

Corporate Sponsorship. Abler reported that a request to a firm to become the IGU's first corporate sponsor is pending.

Cooperation and Outreach

Festival International de Géographie (FIG). Abler attended the most recent FiG. The session set aside for IGU attracted no interest from the public. If the IGU is to remain involved, it will be necessary to find a way to engage with festival participants in a different way, possibly by highlighting research achievements and or identifying a suitable keynote speaker. The Memorandum of Agreement between IGU and FIG remains in force and IGU is bound therefore to continue its support of the initiative. There was considerable discussion around the need to provide FIG with and appropriate platform at the 2012 Köln Congress. Soyez confirmed that considerable effort will be made to ensure high visibility for the FIG and other francophone geographical communities' presentation(s). Abler suggested that the executive committee review the FIG-IGU Memorandum of Agreement at its next meeting.

Festa de Mirandela, Portugal. No Festa was held in 2011 owing to a shortage of funds but the organizers hope that it will resume in 2012.

Festival de Geografía, Taxco, Guerrero Mexico. The inaugural event was held in 2010 and the original plan was to organise festivals annually, although a meeting was not held in 2011. The latest plans are to hold the festival biennially in different cities of Mexico, organised by different groups each time.

International Council for Science (ICSU) General Assembly. Abler, Meadows, and Bellezza attended the meeting and Alcantara-Ayala was there in her capacity as a member of ICSU's Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR). Much of the general assembly proceedings consist of the formal ratification by member unions and national committees of ICSU plans. Ongoing and new projects are especially relevant to geographers and the focus on sustainability issues is totally appropriate to the expertise that IGU can bring to bear.

International Social Science Council (ISSC). Fincher, a member of the ISSC Executive Committee, had nothing to report beyond the topics included in the report she submitted prior to the IGU Executive Committee's last meeting. A proposed ISSC Executive Committee meeting in Durban has been cancelled owing to the inability of a number of members to bear the expense of meeting there. ISSC is exploring the possibility of holding an internet mediated meeting instead.

Definition of 'Circumnavigation.' The IGU received a request to endorse a definition of "circumnavigation," to wit:

A circumnavigation of the earth must start and end at the same location, travel generally in the same direction on a continuous path, must cross the equator at least twice and include at least one pair of points on the globe antipodal to each other.

The definition was accepted, provided the word 'global' is inserted appropriately to convey the sense that this is circumnavigation of the earth. Meadows will convey the decision the organization that proposed it.

Proposal to establish an International Consortium on Landslides. Alcantara-Ayala suggested developing an international project to include AGU, IGU, ICSU (and possibly other bodies) focused on landslides. In essence, IGU would propose a project related to the topic and work together with the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and others such as the Hazards and Risks Commission of IGU, the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, and the International Union of Geological Sciences. There could be considerable leverage if such a network could be established and it would demonstrate that geographers can take a lead role in the study of environmental problems that have obvious human impacts.

Maison de Géographie de Montréal. The publication of the proceedings of the conference held in May 2011 will require funding and it is anticipated that IGU will soon receive a request to assist in this regard. The committee agreed that the IGU might provide modest support for the volume. Abler will write the organizers and reiterate the IGU's request for a budget for the publication and specification of the amount requested from the IGU.

International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences

Santiago, Chile Regional Conference 2011. The conference appears to have been well organized in general; registration got underway on time. The LOC has requested IGU to provide some additional session co-chairs and it was agreed to inform them of our suggestions.

Köln, Germany International Geographical Congress 2012. Frauke Kraas, chairperson of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) visited the meeting for this item. She presented an update of the work that is in progress regarding the next Congress and briefly reflected on the structure of the programme, including the key topics and suggestions for keynote speakers. Several new and exciting initiatives are planned. The organizers will raise the profile of the poster sessions by reducing competing sessions. The symposium on Geography and Schools (in German) will take place in parallel sessions on two full days of the conference but it was suggested that efforts be made to try to make this accessible to non-German speakers as well, particularly as the Kyoto 2013 LOC is planning a similar venture. A Young Researchers Forum, by and for students, PhD candidates and postdocs is planned, as well as a student workshop on the first day of the conference. The Opening Ceremony will be at the Köln Philharmonic

Hall. There is to be a reception by the Mayor and a conference dinner in a traditional *Koelsch Brewery*. There will be a full programme of pre- and post-conference field excursions as well as one-day excursions during the conference. Commission involvement is excellent. The second circular is available in print in English and French and on the IGU and the conference web sites. The registration costs will be extremely competitive, less than the Seoul 2000 Congress. Meadows reported that he has already received grant applications..

Kyoto, Japan Regional Conference 2013. International excursions will include Russia and domestically a visit to the East Japan disaster area is planned. Himiyama highlighted the LOC's intention to focus on students and schools in Kyoto. There is concern regarding the strength of the Japanese Yen, but in all other respects the organization is on track.

Krakow, Poland Regional Conference 2014. The IGU Secretariat did not receive an update on conference plans. There is unfortunately some overlap with the International Regional Science conference in St Petersburg that will take place shortly after the dates of the Krakow meeting. Abler will remind the LOC again about the need for an update in time for the committee's next meeting and apprise the organizers of the dates of the Regional Science conference.

Moscow, Russia Regional Conference 2015. The LOC has held its first meeting and planning is underway. The organizers are aware that information regarding this conference must be available at the Köln Congress.

People's Republic of China International Geographical Congress, Beijing, 2016. Abler and Meadows will remind Zhang Guoyou that a report is needed in time for the next IGU Executive Committee meeting.

Frequency of Regional Conferences. The call for invitations to host the IGU Regional Conference in 2018 and the International Geographical Congress for 2020 will go out shortly, accompanied by the IGU Conference and Congress Memorandum of Agreement template. The Chairs of IGU Commissions will be consulted regarding the frequency of regional conferences at their forum during the Santiago meeting.

Honors and Awards

IGU Planet and Humanity Medal. Nominations are still being sought (from members of the IGU Executive Committee only) for this medal (to be awarded at the Köln Congress) and should be forwarded to Meadows and Abler. Abler will coordinate the suggestions received.

Mattei Dogan Foundation Prize in Human Geography. Abler will contact the Foundation to confirm the availability of funds for the award.

IGU Laureat d'Honneur Abler will draw up the guidelines for this award. Some suggestions were made as to possible recipients.

Adjourn

The agenda having been completed, the president adjourned the meeting at 18h10 local time. The next meeting will begin in Beijing, China on 12 March 2012.



Santiago: modern and post modern architecture; enjoying street fantasy

b) Version française

Union Géographique Internationale

Procès-verbal de la réunion du Comité exécutif UGI *Escuela Militar, Santiago du Chili* 13-14 Novembre 2011

Bienvenue et excuses

Présents : Ronald Ablér, Irasema Alcantara-Ayala, Giuliano Bellezza Ruth Fincher, Yukio Himiyama, Aharon Kellerman, Vladimir Kolossov, Mike Meadows et Dietrich Soyez.

Excusé : Dahe Qin

Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Le Comité a adopté l'ordre du jour préparé par Meadows et Ablér.

Procès-verbaux

Réunion de Cologne, mai 2011 - Le procès-verbal de mai 2011 de la réunion du Comité exécutif (CE) UGI de Cologne a été approuvé, avec des amendements mineurs.

Publication du procès-verbal - La question de la publication des procès-verbaux des réunions du CE a été discutée. Le comité a convenu que le procès verbal doit être distribué et corrigé aussitôt que possible après chaque réunion afin qu'il puisse être publié. Les membres du CE ont la responsabilité de s'assurer qu'ils l'ont lu et d'apporter des corrections dans le mois qui suit la réunion. Le président fera un examen final du procès-verbal.

Organisation et fonctionnement

Rapport sur les pays membres de l'UGI - Meadows a présenté un tableau qui récapitule le statut actuel des cotisations des pays membres. Une correspondance du Brésil et de l'Islande a été signalée et le comité a convenu de discuter des questions d'adhésion avec les personnes appropriées présentes à la conférence de Santiago. Le comité a convenu que le paiement des cotisations en espèces lors des réunions de l'UGI, plutôt que par virement bancaire international, était un moyen judicieux de paiement pour certains pays membres, et que cette option devrait être rendue publique. Meadows en informera tous les présidents de Comités nationaux. Les problèmes d'adhésion des pays africains ont également été examinés et le comité a convenu de poursuivre ses efforts pour recruter et récupérer des membres de l'UGI en Afrique et ailleurs.

Rapport financier de l'UGI et perspectives - Le comité a examiné la situation financière de l'UGI sur la base des comptes fournis avant la réunion par le Secrétaire Général et Trésorier. Le ratio revenus/ dépenses s'est considérablement amélioré au cours des douze derniers mois. La réduction des coûts de fréquentation des membres du comité exécutif aux réunions, et le relatif succès de la campagne de récupération des cotisations de pays membres sont les principales raisons de l'amélioration de la situation financière. Meadows va préparer un rapport détaillé pour la prochaine Assemblée Générale.

ONU – Initiative pour une Année internationale de la Compréhension Globale (IYGU) -

Benno Werlen, directeur exécutif pour IYGU, a assisté à la réunion pour ce point et a présenté une mise à jour. Il a obtenu un financement continu du Land de Thuringe à la fin de 2012 et

d'autres demandes sont en attente. Il semble que l'approbation de l'IYGU par l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies en 2011 ne soit plus possible par la voie normale d'approbation de l'UNESCO. L'ancien Secrétaire Général et Trésorier de l'UGI, Woo-ik Yu (maintenant ministre de la réunification en Corée du Sud) a demandé à l'ambassadeur de Corée du Sud aux Nations Unies d'étudier la possibilité d'une remise directe à l'Assemblée générale d'une résolution pour que 2014 soit proclamée Année internationale pour une compréhension globale. Ron Abler et Benno Werlen étudient actuellement la faisabilité de cette option avec le premier secrétaire de la mission coréenne à l'ONU. Si une approche directe à l'Assemblée générale n'est pas possible en 2011, une candidature standard via l'UNESCO sera lancée en 2012. Les éditions les plus récentes de la circulaire d'initiative et de la brochure sont disponibles en format .pdf pour téléchargement à partir des sites web de l'UGI et de l'IYGU. Il a été noté que le concept de "compréhension globale" était encore largement incompris et que le terme "conscience globale" pourrait être une meilleure appellation.

Rapports des Commissions - L'augmentation des allocations annuelles aux Commissions (1000 dollars américains), approuvée à la dernière réunion du comité exécutif, sera effective avec les paiements 2012. L'appel aux rapports 2011 des Commissions (qui devrait prendre la forme d'un résumé de quatre ans, y compris demandes de renouvellement et projets pour les quatre prochaines années) sera fait prochainement, avec une date-limite de remise qui donnera le temps de les examiner avant la prochaine réunion du CE. Les présidents de Commissions doivent se réunir avec la CE lors de la Conférence de Santiago et la question de la participation des jeunes chercheurs sera soulevée. La possibilité d'établir des commissions régionales (Amérique latine ou Méditerranée, par exemple) a été discutée et le comité a convenu en principe que des consortiums régionaux pourraient être proposés, si on fournit les structures habituelles des commissions en suivant les procédures établies. Abler a noté qu'une proposition de reconnaissance de commissions régionales avait été reçue de Beryl et John Holmes (Australie) en 2001 ou 2002, mais que rien n'en était sorti à cette époque.

Le point sur le Projet des Revues - Le comité a de nouveau noté le travail précieux mené par Ton Dietz et ses collègues dans le cadre du projet des revues, avec un bref rapport écrit de Ton Dietz. Les membres du CE ont été invités à vérifier la liste des revues pour leur pays de responsabilité où cela n'a pas encore été fait. Les informations sur les revues sont disponibles sur le site UGI, sous la forme d'un tableau. Meadows mettra au point une version Web à temps pour le lancement officiel du projet lors du Congrès de Cologne.

Réseau des villes durables - Cette initiative est maintenant officiellement connue sous le nom de projet des villes durables (SuCIN). Lors de l'atelier intensif d'octobre / novembre 2011, avec l'équipe du site web de l'Université du Hunan et Ton Dietz, il a été décidé de développer une approche "arc-en-ciel" dans laquelle chaque couleur représenterait un aspect important de la durabilité dans un contexte de ville/municipalité. L'équipe du site a développé un programme-test bilingue (chinois et anglais) qui permettrait aux utilisateurs de partager des idées et des «étude de cas» du succès en «innovations durables», et de se présenter ou être décrit par un hébergeur du site. La plupart de ces innovations seront portées par des entreprises, des organismes municipaux et des centres de recherche, et l'idée est que ces sociétés / organismes / centres soutiendront ensuite des parties du site, pour éventuellement développer une approche commerciale selon laquelle tous les sites Web SuCIN seraient générateurs de revenus. Les revenus seront partagés entre l'hébergeur du site dans une ville particulière, les comités nationaux UGI, et l'UGI dans son ensemble. L'équipe du site à Changsha tient des réunions hebdomadaires et recherche actuellement un soutien financier pour développer ses activités. Ils ont reçu l'approbation de l'UGI pour une demande de financement auprès du gouvernement chinois et sont en train de

discuter du financement avec la World Wildlife Federation. L'intention est que les premiers résultats seront présentés par l'équipe de base chinoise au Congrès UGI à Cologne, et que le site de Changsha SuCIN sera officiellement lancé là-bas.

Calendrier du Comité exécutif - Le calendrier des réunions futures a été approuvé comme suit:

- Pékin, République populaire de Chine: 12-13 mars 2012, avec arrivée le 11 mars, réunion le 12 et 13 mars, excursion optionnelle le 14 mars, et départ le 14 ou le 15 mars ..
- Cologne, Allemagne: réunion les 24 et 26 août 2012 (avant le Congrès UGI) ; excursion le samedi 25 août.
- Le Comité Exécutif de l'UGI 2012-2014 se réunira après la dernière séance de l'Assemblée générale de Cologne pour élire un Premier Vice-Président et programmer ses prochaines réunions.

150 ans de l'UGI et groupe de travail du centenaire - Des suggestions à Ron Abler pour la participation à ce groupe de travail sont les bienvenues. Abler soumettra une liste des membres pressentis pour examen par le Comité exécutif avant ou lors de la réunion du comité à Cologne.

Arriéré de bulletins UGI - Le Bulletin est encore sérieusement en retard. La possibilité d'externaliser la compilation des bulletins auprès d'un étudiant diplômé approprié a été soulevée pour les numéros 2007-2008 (responsabilité Abler) et 2009-2010 (Meadows). Abler et Meadows se sont engagés à progresser sur le carnet de commandes avant la prochaine réunion du Comité Exécutif.

Élections UGI de 2012 - Quatre vice-présidents et un nouveau président doivent être élus ou réélus lors de l'Assemblée Générale 2012 de l'UGI à Cologne. Un appel à candidatures a été envoyé aux comités nationaux en juillet ; jusqu'ici aucune candidature n'a été reçue. La date limite est le 31 décembre 2011. Les membres du comité exécutif sont encouragés à proposer les noms de géographes en activité. Meadows enverra un rappel aux présidents des comités nationaux. Abler a rappelé aux vice-présidents UGI éligibles pour réélection qui souhaitent continuer, qu'ils doivent être nommés de nouveau par leurs comités nationaux respectifs.

Groupe de travail/Commission jointe de toponymie Association Cartographique Internationale/UGI - Abler a indiqué que la Commission conjointe / Groupe de travail sur la toponymie qui a été l'objet de discussions entre l'ICA et de l'UGI depuis quelque temps est maintenant formée, après plusieurs réunions préliminaires entre les membres intéressés des deux organisations. Après avoir examiné la proposition présentée par le représentant de l'UGI Palagiano Cosimo, le comité exécutif a approuvé l'établissement de cet organisme, sous réserve de présentation d'un Comité de pilotage approprié et de l'approbation par l'ACI, dont le comité exécutif examinera la proposition à la fin novembre 2011. Le nouveau Président de l'ACI Georg Gartner est très enthousiaste pour cet organisme paritaire. Palagiano a été nommé co-président UGI du nouveau groupe ; l'ICA nommera l'autre co-président. Le Groupe mixte parraine une session de communications à la Conférence régionale de Santiago.

Publications bibliographiques en langue française - Le comité exécutif a chaleureusement approuvé la proposition de Charles Withers, co-éditeur, de publier certaines études bibliographiques en français.

Programme Renaissance Méditerranéenne - Kellerman a indiqué que le comité continue son travail dynamique et vital dans la région. Sa dernière publication doit paraître en 2012. La présidente Maria Paradiso a proposé une réunion sur le thème de la migration avec une référence particulière à la région méditerranéenne qui se tiendra en septembre 2012 et recherche des fonds pour aider au financement de la réunion. Abler va écrire à Maria Paradiso pour la féliciter, elle et ses collègues, de leurs brillants efforts.

Mécénat d'entreprise - Abler a annoncé que la sollicitation auprès d'une entreprise pour devenir

le premier mécène de l'UGI est en cours.

Coopération et sensibilisation

Festival International de Géographie (FIG) - Abler a assisté au dernier FIG. La session réservée pour l'UGI n'a attiré aucun intérêt auprès du public. Si l'UGI veut rester impliquée, il sera nécessaire de trouver un moyen d'engager les participants du festival d'une manière différente, éventuellement en mettant en évidence les résultats de la recherche ou en identifiant un conférencier approprié. Le protocole d'accord entre UGI et le FIG reste en vigueur et l'UGI continue donc à appuyer l'initiative. On a beaucoup discuté de la possibilité d'offrir au FIG une plate-forme appropriée lors du Congrès 2012 de Cologne. Soyez a confirmé que des efforts considérables seront faits pour lui assurer une grande visibilité, ainsi qu'aux présentations d'autres communautés géographiques francophones. Abler a suggéré que le Comité exécutif examine le mémorandum d'accord FIG-UGI lors de sa prochaine réunion.

Festa de Mirandela, Portugal - Le festival 2011 n'a pas eu lieu, faute de financements, mais les organisateurs espèrent qu'il reprendra en 2012.

Festival de Geografía, Taxco, Guerrero au Mexique. - L'événement inaugural a eu lieu en 2010 et le projet initial était d'organiser des festivals chaque année, bien qu'il n'y en ait pas eu en 2011. Les derniers projets sont de tenir le festival tous les deux ans dans différentes villes du Mexique, organisé par des groupes différents à chaque fois.

Assemblée générale de l'ICSU (Conseil international pour la science) - Abler, Meadows et Bellezza ont assisté à la réunion et Alcantara-Ayala était là en sa qualité de membre du Comité de l'ICSU sur la programmation scientifique. Une grande partie des procédures de l'Assemblée générale a consisté en la ratification formelle par les unions membres et les comités nationaux des plans de l'ICSU. Les projets en cours et les nouveaux projets sont particulièrement pertinents pour les géographes et se concentrer sur les questions de durabilité est totalement approprié pour l'expertise que peut apporter l'UGI.

Conseil international des sciences sociales (CISS) - Fincher, membre du Comité exécutif du CISS, n'avait rien à signaler au-delà des sujets abordés dans le rapport qu'elle a présenté avant la dernière réunion du Comité Exécutif de l'UGI. Une réunion du Comité exécutif du CISS proposé pour Durban a été annulée en raison de l'incapacité de nombreux membres à supporter le coût du déplacement pour cette rencontre. Le CISS explore la possibilité de tenir une réunion via Internet à la place.

Définition de "Circumnavigation" - L'UGI a reçu une demande d'approbation une définition du terme «circumnavigation», à savoir:

Un tour du monde doit commencer et finir au même endroit, le déplacement doit se faire dans le même sens sur un chemin continu, doit franchir l'équateur au moins deux fois et comprendre au moins deux points sur le globe aux antipodes l'un de l'autre.

La définition a été acceptée, à condition que le mot «global» soit inséré de façon appropriée pour montrer que c'est bien un tour du globe. Meadows transmettra cette avis à l'organisation qui a proposé cette définition.

Proposition de création d'un Consortium international sur les glissements de terrain - Alcantara-Ayala a suggéré le développement d'un projet international incluant l'AGU, l'UGI et l'ICSU (et éventuellement d'autres organismes), portant sur les glissements de terrain. En fait, l'UGI pourrait proposer un projet lié au sujet et travailler avec le Bureau régional ICSU en Amérique latine et d'autres partenaires tels que la Commission sur les dangers et risques de l'UGI, l'Union Internationale de Géodésie et de Géophysique, et l'Union internationale des sciences géologiques. Cela pourrait avoir une influence considérable, si un tel réseau pouvait être créé, et

il serait démontré que les géographes peuvent jouer un rôle prépondérant dans l'étude des problèmes environnementaux qui ont des impacts humains évidents.

Maison de la Géographie de Montréal - La publication des actes du colloque tenu en mai 2011 va nécessiter un financement et il est prévu que l'UGI reçoive prochainement une demande de soutien à cet égard. Le comité a convenu que l'UGI pourrait fournir un soutien modeste pour le volume. Abler va écrire aux organisateurs et réitérer la demande de l'UGI de budget pour la publication et la spécification de la somme demandée par l'UGI.

Congrès internationaux géographique et Conférences régionales de l'UGI

Santiago du Chili, Conférence régionale 2011 - La conférence semble avoir été bien organisée, en général, les inscriptions ont débuté à l'heure. Le Comité Organisateur Local a demandé à l'UGI de lui fournir des noms de co-présidents de sessions supplémentaires, et il a été convenu de les informer de nos suggestions.

Cologne, Allemagne, Congrès International de Géographie de 2012 - Frauke Kraas, présidente du Comité Organisateur Local (COL) a été invitée à la réunion du CE pour ce point. Elle a présenté une mise à jour du travail en cours concernant le prochain Congrès et brièvement réfléchi sur la structure du programme, y compris les thèmes clés et des suggestions pour des conférenciers.

Plusieurs initiatives nouvelles et passionnantes sont prévues. Les organisateurs vont donner plus d'importance aux séances de posters, en réduisant le nombre de sessions concurrentes.

Le symposium sur la géographie et les écoles (en allemand) aura lieu en sessions parallèles sur deux jours de la conférence, mais il a été suggéré que des efforts soient déployés pour essayer de l'ouvrir à des participants non-allemands, d'autant que le COL de Kyoto 2013 prévoit une entreprise similaire.

Un Forum des jeunes chercheurs, par et pour les étudiants, doctorants et post-doctorants est prévu, ainsi qu'un atelier étudiant le premier jour de la conférence.

La cérémonie d'ouverture se déroulera dans la Salle du Philharmonique de Cologne. Il y aura une réception par le maire de Cologne et un dîner de conférence dans une brasserie traditionnelle Kölsch.

Il y aura un programme complet d'excursions pré-et post-conférence de terrain ainsi que des excursions d'une journée pendant la conférence.

La participation des Commissions est excellente.

La seconde circulaire est disponible en version imprimée en anglais et en français et sur l'UGI et les sites web de la conférence.

Les frais d'inscription seront extrêmement compétitifs, inférieurs à ceux du Congrès de Séoul 2000. Meadows a indiqué qu'il avait déjà reçu des demandes de subventions.

Kyoto, Japon, Conférence régionale 2013 - Les excursions internationales comprendront la Russie et il y aura une excursion nationale dans la région du Japon oriental dévastée par le tsunami. Himiyama a souligné les intentions du COL de se concentrer sur les élèves et les écoles à Kyoto. On peut craindre la forte valeur du yen japonais, mais à tous autres égards, l'organisation est sur la bonne voie.

Cracovie, Pologne, Conférence régionale 2014 - Le Secrétariat de l'UGI n'a pas reçu de mise à jour sur les plans de la conférence. Il y a malheureusement un chevauchement avec la conférence internationale des sciences régionales à Saint-Pétersbourg qui aura lieu peu après la date de la réunion de Cracovie. Abler va rappeler le COL à nouveau sur la nécessité d'une mise à jour à temps pour la prochaine réunion du comité et informer les organisateurs de la date de la conférence scientifique régionale.

Moscou, Russie, Conférence régionale 2015 - Le COL a tenu sa première réunion et de la planification est en cours. Les organisateurs sont conscients que les informations concernant cette conférence doit être disponibles lors du Congrès de Cologne.

République populaire de Chine Congrès International de Géographie, Pékin, 2016 - Abler et Meadows vont rappeler à Zhang Guoyou qu'un rapport doit être fourni pour la prochaine réunion du Comité exécutif UGI.

Fréquence des Conférences régionales - Les appels à candidature pour accueillir la Conférence régionale UGI en 2018 et le Congrès international de géographie en 2020 seront diffusés prochainement, accompagnés du modèle d'accord pour les conférences entre l'UGI et les organisateurs locaux des Congrès. Les Présidents des Commissions de l'UGI seront consultés sur la fréquence des conférences régionales lors de leur réunion à Santiago.

Distinctions et prix

Médaille UGI Planète et Humanité - Les nominations sont toujours recherchées (membres du Comité Exécutif de l'UGI seulement) pour cette médaille qui sera décernée lors du Congrès de Cologne. Elles doivent être transmises à Meadows et Abler. Abler coordonnera les suggestions reçues.

Prix de géographie humaine de la Fondation Mattei Dogan - Abler prendra contact avec la Fondation pour confirmer la disponibilité des fonds pour la bourse.

Lauréat d'Honneur de l'UGI - Abler établira les lignes directrices pour ce prix. Certaines suggestions ont été faites à des récipiendaires éventuels.

Ajournement

L'ordre du jour ayant été épuisé, le président lève la séance à 18h10 heure locale.



4) NEXT IGU OFFICIAL INITIATIVE

COLOGNE 2012, IGU INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS



Symposium: “Paths to competence-orientated Geography teaching: concepts, perspectives and best practice”

In addition to the already outlined constituent parts of the IGC a two-day symposium in German will take place on 27th and 28th August with a special focus on school Geography, teaching methods and the didactics of teaching Geography.

This subject-specific event integrates Geographers teaching in schools into the international congress. Currently experts in pedagogy, didactics, and teacher training as well as teaching staff in all disciplines, are discussing the potential and the limits of competence-orientated teaching and learning. The Symposium on school geography takes these current debates on competence-centred teaching and learning as its starting point and offers Geography teachers, in four parallel sessions, a forum of exchange in the following areas of competence:

- Systemic thinking
- Methods and knowledge acquisition
- Spatial orienteering
- Communication

The participants are invited to visit sessions on all four topics. Simulating the new concept of “learning stations”, the programme of the workshop is designed in such a way that participants will be able to stop at all four “learning stations”. Each session will be chaired in tandem by one didactics expert (teacher-trainer) and one school Geographer.

Each session will consist of an input statement dealing with the principles and theoretical foundations of the specific area of competence, followed by examples of best practice concerning geographical teaching and learning. Central to each session are two examples from current teaching practice, where teachers can present their concepts and ideas and report on their experiences. Built into the two-day event will be an introductory session and a concluding plenary session. Furthermore, there will be an evening reception and the opportunity to participate in the keynote speeches of the IGC.

iGeo

In the week before the IGC, from 21st to 26th August 2012, the International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) for participants aged 16-19 years will take place in Cologne. The Local Organising Team is expecting up to 160 pupils from almost 40 countries in Cologne. In a series of three different competitions (field-work, multi-media test and written test) the pupils will compete for the title of “best Geography pupil of the world“. All participants will have qualified for this via extensive national competitions.

The idea for staging the iGeo arose at the 1994 IGC in Prague. The first iGeo took place two years later, with great success, in the Netherlands. Since then this competition has taken place bi-annually (annually in the future), in different cities around the world, from Brisbane to Lisbon. The aims of the competitions are: to awaken interest in the subject of Geography, to promote inter-cultural understanding as well as to improve the quality of geographical education. The relevant IGU Task Force for the iGeo and the Commission for Geographical Education share the responsibility for the iGeo, while the organisation and management of the event will lie in the hands of the Local Organising Committee of the IGC 2012 in Cologne in close co-operation with the Association of German School Geographers.

The iGeo in Cologne will, feature a number of innovations:

- The field-work tasks, the centre-piece of the competition, were developed jointly with Geography students in teacher training of the University of Cologne.

- The inter-cultural evening will become a big event and will be given a much more prominent platform than previously. Small mixed teams of pupils from different countries will get together in two workshops to discuss their ideas, develop a performance and prepare to bring it onto the stage at the final “intercultural show” taking place at the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum in Cologne. ,
- The iGeo will be complemented by a poster exhibition under the theme of “Water: resource and habitat,” as well as a programme of excursions.

Just as with previous events, the iGeo in Germany will attract considerable levels of public attention. For the young participants, the happening will thus be a very special one in their lives, which will hopefully promote a long-lasting and positive memory of Germany. We are very pleased to announce that the Minister of Education for North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW), Mrs Sylvia Löhrmann, has taken over the patronage of iGeo and will hand over the medals to the victors and winning teams at the final ceremony, which will be embedded into the IGC opening ceremony in the Cologne Philharmonic Hall. Furthermore the iGeo is recognised by the UNESCO-Commission as a contribution to the UN-decade “Education for a Sustainable Development”.

Additional elements of the Schools programme at the IGC

It is a matter very close to the hearts of the organisers, to make the IGC 2012 an inclusive event and to encourage the participation of the schools of the region – pupils as well as teaching staff – in this great event for Geography. The four key topics of the Congress reflect the present-day discussions of our subject and are a constituent part of modern Geography teaching. With a dual approach, this link between the Congress and schools should be made possible:

- “Your schools at the IGC 2012” Pupils participating in the Congress

A competition for senior school courses has been announced, giving final and pre-final year students of schools in the region a chance to win free participation in one day of the Congress. The winning teams (approx. 4/5 school classes per day) will be invited to take part in any sessions and to attend the keynote lecture of the day. The students will thus gain an impression of authentic scientific discourse in Geography, as well as experiencing the atmosphere of an international congress.

- “The IGC 2012 at your school”: Geographers visiting local schools

On each day of the Congress, one geographer will give a lecture on one of the key topics at a local school. All pupils attending the final two years of all school in the neighbourhood will be invited to attend this talk and to subsequently engage in discussions with the visiting geographer on the key topic of the day.

IGC 2012 Cologne

Last minute information: State of preparations at the end of January 2012

At this point in time the Local Organising Committee works on the finalisation of the scientific programme. The call for papers and posters closed on January 8th. With more than 2,800 submitted abstracts the response has been overwhelming. Given the fixed time-frame of the congress, the LOC had to develop a strategy to provide as many participants as possible with an opportunity to present their work at the IGC 2012. Therefore, sessions, which received less than

three contributions, will have to be cancelled in order to assign more time slots to those sessions, which received more than twelve contributions. In addition, the LOC has secured additional lecture theatres. However, it has to be emphasized that the review process that is currently taking place will be very competitive. It is planned that all authors will be informed by March 1st whether their paper has been accepted. It is currently discussed to ask all authors of accepted papers to register and pay the conference fee before 1st June 2012. Thus, presenters, who fail to register in time, would be replaced by authors on the waiting list. This approach would not only give another chance to good papers that could not be considered in the first round, but most certainly also help to reduce the number of “no-shows” during the conference.

We also would like to remind you of the deadline for the early bird registration, coming up on 10th April 2012. This date is also the deadline for the registration for longer field trips.

IGC 2012 Cologne - Contact

Finally we cordially invite all of you to Cologne. We would be pleased to welcome you in Cologne when, for four days, the city will become a “geographic hub”. For up-to-date information please consult our website (www.igc2012.org), where you can also register for the conference. Please address general questions to the organising team of Dr. Carsten Butsch, Dr. Holger Kretschmer and Dr. Valerie Viehoff (email: info@igc2012.org). Questions concerning the German-language Symposium on “School Geography and Teaching”, the international Geography Olympiad iGeo and the schools programme should be directed to Dr. Dorothea Wiktorin (email: d.wiktorin@uni-koeln.de).



5) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

5.1) IGU 2011, SANTIAGO DE CHILE, 14-18 NOVEMBER



REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE (UGI2011)
HELD IN SANTIAGO, CHILE, 14TH – 18TH NOVEMBER 2011
(reduced version of the Official Report)

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 General Introduction

This report has been prepared by the Military Geographic Institute of Chile (IGM) to present the results of the Regional Geographic Conference - UGI 2011 - to the Executive Committee of the IGU, with copies for the organizers of two future IGU conferences (in 2012 and 2013).

1.2 Background to UGI 2011

The Director of the IGM represents the State of Chile before international scientific organizations related to the geosciences, among them the International Geographic Union, of which Chile is a member. Consequently, the IGM constitutes the National Committee of the IGU in this country. The IGU Executive Committee realised in recent years that relatively few IGU events had been held in Latin America, yet nevertheless the region does possess a significant amount of activity in geography and related sciences, so there was a potential for expansion of the IGU involvement with this region. The proposal for a conference in Santiago, Chile, presented the opportunity to improve these links.

The IGM, as Chilean National Committee, presented to the IGU its first proposal to host a meeting in the year 2004. Discussions between the IGU and the IGM continued until a meeting of the Executive Committee held in 2007 where outline agreement on what was to become UGI 2011 was reached. By that time the IGM had already hosted several, progressively larger international scientific conferences, building up to GSDI-9 in 2006 and was already committed to hosting a major conference of the International Cartographic Association (ICA), due in 2009. In 2008, the General Assembly of the IGU confirmed UGI 2011 to be held in Chile. As soon as the ICC 2009 conference was completed in November 2009, concrete preparations for UGI 2011 began in Chile.

2. LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND OTHER PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

2.1 Local Organising Committee and Instituto Geografico Militar

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) for UGI 2011 was set up in early 2010 with its leadership, operational nucleus and office located at the IGM, including those responsible for the Chilean IGU National Committee and many of those who had previously contributed to the ICC 2009 LOC. Close to the conference dates, more IGM personnel were added to the staff.

2.2 International Geographic Union

The IGU promoted UGI 2011 at an international level, for example by including news about it in its web site and internal bulletins. LOC liaised with the IGU Executive Committee (E.C.) and with many of the IGU Commission chairs to achieve coordination.

The E.C. managed a Program of Travel Awards intended for helping geographers with limited economic resources to attend the conference. The same IGU E.C. evaluated the applications and a group of geographers with abstracts submitted for UGI 2011 were selected to receive assistance. A separate Grant program was run in the USA by the Association of American Geographers (AAG) with funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation, again providing assistance to a group of US geographers to attend UGI 2011.

In late 2011, the IGU Commissions were given the opportunity to group the accepted papers into sessions for scheduling purposes and to name IGU moderators to chair those sessions; most Commissions responded positively.

2.3 FISA

The firm specialising in event production called FISA S.A. has a well-known background in the management of commercial trade fairs, events and conferences. Having worked successfully with IGM to co-produce ICC 2009, the relationship was continued with FISA as one of the three UGI 2011 official organisers.

2.4 Scientific Sub-Committee

In 2010 the Scientific Sub-Committee (SSC) was established as a component of LOC but with the active participation of leading geographic academics at local Universities with Geography departments. The contributors are listed below at 6.3. The main functions of the SSC were to:

Promote UGI 2011 in the academic and scientific institutions of Chile

Advise LOC on scientific issues and provide geography-related content for the web site and other LOC publications

Recruit academics and professionals active in the geosciences to act as reviewers of the abstracts, as local moderators and as field trip guides.

Manage the review of abstracts submitted prior to their acceptance for the conference

Define the itineraries and technical content of the Field Trips

Recruit the student assistants (stewards)

Assign the local Moderators to the technical sessions scheduled

2.5 Patrons

UGI 2011 was backed by a series of institutions acting as patrons, who provided support to LOC in several functions. The full list of patrons is in the Full Program of UGI 2011 on page 44. To summarise, there were five international organisations, three Chilean armed forces institutions, five Chilean patrons from the sector of universities and professional associations, three non-Chilean magazines in the geosciences sector, and five Chilean entities in the state/governmental sector.

Among the Armed Forces Patrons, the Army of Chile provided substantial support by facilitating the participation of several units attached to it, among them the IGM and the venues for the conference itself and for the Gala Dinner.



Inauguration Ceremony

3. PREPARATION OF THE EVENT

3.1 Conference venue

IGM/LOC assessed several alternative locations in Santiago as potential venues for ICC 2009 and for UGI 2011. The positive experience of holding International Conference of Cartography 2009 made it convenient to hold UGI 2011 at the same site, the “Escuela Militar del General Bernardo O’Higgins” (Military School), located in the borough of Las Condes,

3.2 Promoting UGI 2011

Throughout 2010 and up to the conference an intense series of activities to promote UGI 2011 was carried out, varying in emphases and an important part aimed at the Latin American region, this being a major component in the concept of this conference in particular. These activities included:

Conference web site, with full information and links to on-line services, at www.ugi2011.cl

Publication of two ‘Call for Papers’ brochures; the first (22 pages) in March 2010, the second (32 pages) in November 2010.

Launch events held with presentations about UGI 2011 for groups of invited guests

Presence of LOC staff at international events and conferences

Promotion of UGI 2011 at international events by IGM staff while present on other duties

Campaign of visits to potential sponsors and geosciences specialists (Sept. 2010)

Presence of LOC staff with booth at trade show events in Chile

Participation of LOC staff at meetings of the Chilean spatial data infrastructure (SNIT)

Articles in media (magazines, newspapers, web sites)

Distribution of promotional messages via e-mail to a large list of contacts

Brochures distributed to potential sponsors and booth exhibitors

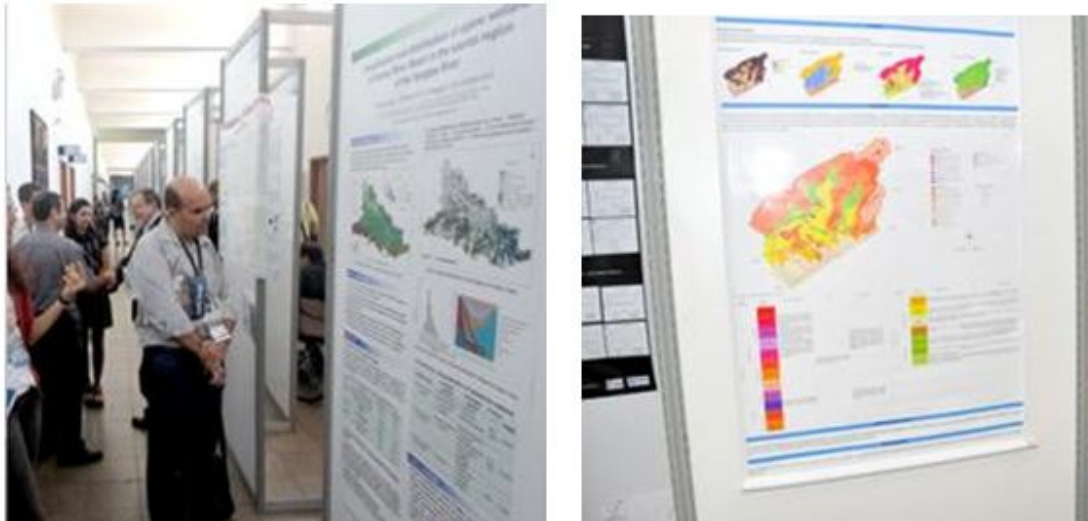
3.3 Submissions and Conference Schedule

The on-line scientific management system – also known as the submissions system – became available in October 2010 and the first abstracts were submitted that month. Most abstracts were submitted in the January – May period; a few more were allowed on a case-by-case basis later. In October scheduling of the oral presentations of papers and of the poster sessions began.

3.4 Sponsors, Exhibitors and Financial Aspects

Many organisations, mainly businesses but also some public institutions, were contacted in a campaign run largely by FISA to offer them a role as either a sponsor of UGI 2011 or as a booth exhibitor. Three major corporations known worldwide in the fields of geo-spatial science and technology agreed to sponsor. Autodesk (the only sponsor at Platinum level), ESRI and EADS-Astrium (sponsoring at silver level), were joined by local firms representing these international firms (Tecnoglobal for Autodesk, ESRI-Chile for ESRI and Oriondata for EADS-Astrium.

The considerable costs of preparing and executing UGI 2011 were covered by the combined income from attendee registrations, sponsorship agreements and charges to booth exhibitors, so that the break-even point was achieved in the final balance with neither profit nor loss.



Posters exhibition

4. EXECUTION OF UGI 2011, RESULTS AND STATISTICS

4.1 UGI 2011 Papers and Posters Submissions

A very large number of abstracts were submitted to UGI 2011; in this aspect, UGI 2011 must be considered to have been a success, surpassing the most optimistic expectations. Since the opening of submissions in October 2010, a large number of records have been generated in the system. After discounting some records that were invalid (mostly duplicates created in error by authors, plus tests created by LOC staff) the valid abstracts were subjected to an assessment of their content by the reviewers selected and coordinated by the Scientific Sub-Committee, evaluating on several parameters with a grade given under each parameter. The resulting assessments were then given to the LOC prior to acceptance for the conference and the provision of a letter of acceptance.

The number of valid abstracts present in the system varied over time. In the Conference Proceedings (October 2011) there were 1124, including paper submissions with only an abstract (the most numerous), papers with abstract and full paper text (approximately 38 % fewer than the abstract-only submissions), and the abstracts in poster category (the least numerous).

4.2 Conference Proceedings: In mid-october the abstracts and full papers approved for the conference by SSC were extracted from the submissions system for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings, the chief conference publication. 505 papers and 117 Posters were eventually printed in the program guide intended for attendees in late October 2011 (since the first Circular, total submission have been 909 papers and 216 posters). The most active Commission was C08.33 Urban Geography and Emerging Urban Transformations, with 35 papeers and 3 poster printed in the guide.

4.3 Conference Execution The figures for the schedule as it finished evolving during the conference itself are as follows:

60-minute Technical Sessions:	36
90-minute Technical Sessions:	159
Papers scheduled:	554
Poster Sessions:	4
Posters Scheduled:	116

4.4 Attendees


During the Conference were accredited 440 Full Participants, 188 Students or Senior 201 One Day and 49 Accompanying persons, for a grand total of 878; to this number should be added personnel of LOG, IGM and FISA, for about 90 peoples, 60 member of Scientific Sub-Committees, 30 Students helpers and other (booth and poster exhibitors and invited guests).

CONCLUSION AND SIGNATURE

The Military Geographic Institute of Chile, in its capacity as National Committee of the International Geographic Union in Chile and as Local Organizing Committee of the Regional Geographic Conference of 2011, considers that it has fulfilled its mission to prepare, organize and execute the conference (UGI 2011) successfully and in accordance with the commitment it assumed before the IGU. To finalize and mark as complete this mission, the undersigned presents this report.



RODRIGO MATURANA NADAL
COLONEL
DIRECTOR OF THE MILITARY GEOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE OF CHILE
PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE
REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE OF 2011



30th NOVEMBER 2011

5.2) MANAGING ALPINE FUTURE II, INNSBRUCK, 21-23 NOVEMBER 2011

From 21-23 November 2011, leading climate change researchers gathered in Innsbruck again to discuss issues of investment in the future. As in 2007, the organisers, alpS Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Technologies, the University of Innsbruck and the Institute for Mountain Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), succeeded in bringing together top experts, such as Nobel Prize Laureate Paul Crutzen, eminent meteorologist Mojib Latif and mountain research pioneer Jack Ives, plus more than 300 participants from all over the world.

The **plenary discussions** and **workshops** focused on inter- and transdisciplinarity, cooperation between academic disciplines and with actors beyond the scientific community. The natural sciences can only provide the basis for exploring the effects of climate and global change and for developing adaptation strategies. If we want to find solutions for the immense global change problems, face the great challenges and grasp the opportunities embedded in them, we need not only the integration of various sciences but also the interaction of science, politics, the economy and society. Sustainability always rests on the four pillars of ecology, economy, social policy and culture.

“**Joint investment in the future, joint responsibility for the future**” was the motto for the joint press conference of regional politicians, scientists and business people on 21 November to kick off three days of transdisciplinarity. The first afternoon was dedicated to the findings of natural sciences, forcefully presented by **Jack Ives** and **Mojib Latif**. In the evening, attention turned to implementation expertise. During the “Tyrolean Evening”, **Craig Duncan** from **UN task force ISDR** presented the federal province of Tyrol and the town of Lienz with the designation as **global model regions** for their efforts in risk prevention and risk management.

The second day of the conference was set aside for **interdisciplinary research workshops** but at the same time opened up new perspectives and participant groups. While the scientific community debated the latest research findings in areas ranging from spatial planning to tourism, hydrology to sociology, energy and ecology to ethics and politics, students from various technical colleges in Tyrol presented projects on similar themes to a critical jury of experts from the conference. And in the tent of the Austrian Torrent and Avalanche Control, Beaver Berti showed younger school children how to plant a forest to protect a village from avalanches and rock fall. The conference day closed with a public event of diverse perspectives on climate change.



Left: Keynote Speaker Prof. Dr. Mojib Latif. Right: Designation ceremony of the Federal Province of Tyrol and Town of Lienz as "Global Role Models" in risk management and prevention, by Craig Duncan from UN task force ISDR

The title “Alpenglüh`n? Leben in den Alpen im Zeichen des Klimawandels” (**Glowing Alps? Life in the Alps under conditions of Climate Change**) attracted nearly 200 visitors to the Orangerie at Congress Innsbruck. Retired bishop Reinhold Stecher sounded a low “gong of respect vis-à-vis nature”. He was followed by a diverse but competent round of discussants: climatologist Helga Kromp-Kolb, Hannes Gschwentner, responsible for environmental issues in the Tyrolean government, mountaineer Peter Habeler and Hans Haid, ethnologist and cultural

anthropologist from the Ötztal. They engaged in an expert and entertaining debate on climate change in all its scientific as well as its down-to-earth local dimensions.

The third day was the day of **Paul Crutzen**, Nobel Prize Laureate in chemistry, father of ozone research and the man who coined the term “anthropocene”. After his talk, in response to the question from a student, he gave out the message to the young, “Do a better job than I did” – a hard act to follow for the young generation and a fine note to end on for “Managing Alpine Future II” from a man who has shown us impressively over the years that the spaceship Earth has no emergency exit.

Public interest in “Managing Alpine Future II” was fuelled by the freak weather in the conference period. An unprecedented drought during October and November, longer than ever recorded before, meant that host country Tyrol was unable to present itself in its trademark winter glory. Instead, the public as well as the conference participants found themselves in an extended Indian summer only four weeks before Christmas.

So it is not surprising that [media reactions](#) focused on the link between science and winter tourism, the economic base of the region – transdisciplinarity in action. (translated by Dr. Brigitte Scott)

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A **peer-reviewed proceedings volume** is already published ([table of contents](#)): Borsdorf, A., J. Stötter & E. Veulliet (eds.) 2011: Managing Alpine Future II - Inspire and drive sustainable mountain regions. Proceedings of the Innsbruck Conference, November 21-23, 2011. (= IGF-Forschungsberichte 4). Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften: Wien. ISBN: 978-3-7001-7153-3.



6) MEDITERRANEAN RENAISSANCE PROGRAM

The Mediterranean Renaissance Project was launched by the late IGU President Adalberto Vallega in 2005: one year after his election in Glasgow 2004, one year before his demise in 2006. In his mind this Program should have gathered scholars interested in the Mediterranean area, somehow taking the baton from the former Mediterranean Regional Network.

The loss of Vallega left for sometime the MRP like a boat without a rudder, but due to the members of the Steering Committee the activity got back to life soon.

In December 2011 the Director, Prof. Maria Paradiso, could proudly publish the Report 2008-2012 and Future Plans; the complete text has immediately been posted in www.homeofgeography.org/news2012. It is a good homage to the memory of Prof. Vallega, and we are glad to diffuse part of it also through the newsletter, in a shortened version.

**MRP – MEDITERRANEAN RENAISSANCE
PRM - RENAISSANCE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

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MRP Steering Committee

MRP Coordinator, *Maria Paradiso*, Italy, Vice Chair, IGU Commission on Geography of Information Society.

MRP Executive Secretary, *Ali Toumi*, Tunisia, Secrétaire Générale de l'Association des Géographes Tunisiens, University of Tunis (alitoumi2003@yahoo.fr).

Ronald F. Abler, USA, IGU President.

Fathy Abo Ayana, Egypt, Library of Alexandria.

Mahmoud Ashour, Egypt, Chair IGU Commission on Arid Lands Humankind and Environment.

Antoine Bailly, Switzerland, Former Chair of IGU Commission on Applied Geography.

Giuliano Bellezza, Italy, IGU Vice President.

Anne Buttimer, Ireland, IGU Past President

Annick Douguédroit, France, Former Chair of IGU Commission on Climate Change.

Anton Gosar, Slovenia, Chair of IGU Commission on Political Geography.

Aharon Kellerman, Israel, IGU Vice President.

Maria Sala, Spain, Former Director Mediterranean Network.

Theano S. Terkenli, Greece, University of the Aegean.

After a difficult period of re-organisation, the turning point was the business meeting at the Home of Geography in Rome (May 2008), lead by Mahmoud Ashour and Maria Paradiso, when MRP finalized Sessions for the coming IGU International Congress in Tunis.

Ever since, MRP organised sessions in IGU Conferences and own meetings along the years. It developed ties with many Commissions (Political, Information Society, Climate, Tourism, Gender, Cultural Approach, Local Development, Mobility).

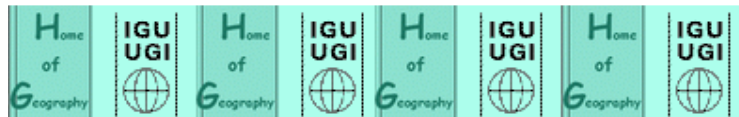
MRP externally initiated and developed further ties and cooperation with European Academy (Academia Europaea), EUROGEO, the Association of European Geographers, UN Alliance of Civilisations program focus 'Mediterranean', AAG-Association of American Geographers, the Euro-Med University EMUNI being one of the founding members, the Union for the Mediterranean the EU-Med policy initiative in particular with the Secretariat of Education and Research, the CERES-Centre d'Etudes Sociales-économiques de Tunis.

In the beginning year 2012, MRP is organising for in the AAG Annual Conference in New York (February) a Session on 'Media and social justice in Mediterranean Democratic Movements', joint with the IGU Commission on Geography of Global Information Society; with a scheduled follow up in Athens in July.

In the 2012 IGU Conference in Cologne we are issuing calls for session: a) Towards a democratic Maghreb-Mashreq? Critical examinations of change and permanence (co-organisers and chairs Maria Paradiso, Ali Toumi). b) Recent development of geography of energy (with a special relevance to Mediterranean: co-organisers Maria Paradiso and Stan Brunn, Kentucky University. c) A joint session is co-organised with IGU Commission on Geography of the Global Information Society, entitled: Mediterranean Information Society. d) A joint session is co-organised with IGU Commission on Climatology: "Climate change in the areas with Mediterranean climate: characteristics, mitigation and adaptation".

A proposal for sponsoring a Conference entitled: 'Migration as mobilities, geographical perspectives from the Mediterranean' has been submitted to the Malta meeting of Foreign Ministers, UN Alliance of Civilisations, Mediterranean focus via the Italian Foreign Office.

It has been selected and approved in the official UN program of initiative. We got the UN label and we are waiting for financial decisions expected in their next meeting in October. Moreover we are organising the 3rd MRP Annual Conference in 2012 or 2013. Sponsorship proposal has been submitted in 2011 to UN Alliance of Civilisations–Mediterranean Alliance.



7) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2012)

7.1) AAG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, NEW YORK, 24-28 FEBRUARY

7.2) DES GROUPES A L'INDIVIDU, NANTES, 25-38 MARCH

7.3) INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS GEOTUNIS 2012. SIXTH SESSION, 26-30

