

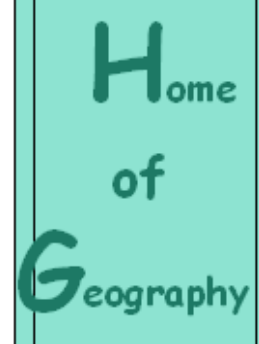


IGU E-Newsletter ***From the Rome Home of*** ***Geography***

Quarterly

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2011

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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

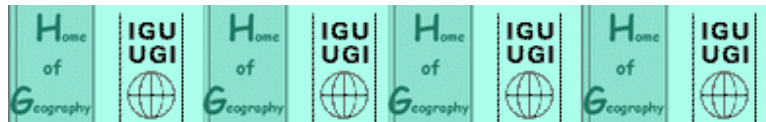
Dear Colleagues,

Preparations are coming along well for the Santiago Regional Conference in November of this year and the Köln International Congress in August 2012. The list of scientific excursions that will be run before, during, and after the Santiago Conference is included in this issue of the *IGU E-Newsletter*. I hope you will find one or more of the excursions of interest. It's also time to start thinking about meetings beyond those already scheduled for (in addition to Santiago and Köln) Kyoto in 2013, Krakow in 2014, Moscow in 2015, and the Beijing Congress in 2016. The IGU Secretariat will, therefore, soon solicit invitations for an IGU Regional Conference in 2018 and

the International Congress in 2020. The site for the 2020 Congress will be selected during the IGU General Assembly in Köln next year.

At its recent meeting in Köln the IGU Executive Committee decided to hold an Extraordinary International Geographical Congress in 2022. The year 2021 will mark the 150th anniversary of the first International Geographical Congress held in Antwerp in 1871, and 2022 will be the centennial of the establishment of the International Geographical Union in 1922. Both events will be commemorated and celebrated at the Extraordinary 2022 Congress. As noted in the preliminary executive committee meeting minutes included in this issue, the committee will soon establish an IGU Centennial Task Force to plan events and publications appropriate for the anniversaries.

Best wishes,
Ron
rabler@aag.org



2) MINUTES OF THE IGU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE, 16-19 MAY 2011 *(3rd draft, to be approved during the Meeting in Santiago de Chile, next November)*

2a) ENGLISH VERSION

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: Ron Ablar, Mike Meadows, Dieter Soye; and, via WebEx, Aharon Kellerman, Yukio Himiyama, Vladimir Kolossov, Dahe Qin

Apologies: Ruth Fincher, Markku Loytonen, Irasema Alcantara-Ayala, Giuliano Bellezza

2. Adoption of the Agenda (Ablar)

The meeting adopted the agenda as tabled with the addition of an item by Soye; in relation to the recent ACFAS conference he had attended (appended as item 6.07).

3. Minutes (All)

3. 01) Minutes of the November 2010 Beijing IGU Executive Committee Meeting

These were accepted pending submission of some additional information from Kolossov regarding Commissions and Task Forces

4. Organization and Operations

4. 01) IGU Country Membership Report (Meadows)

Meadows presented the spreadsheet indicating membership dues status. New - or at least re-established members - for 2012 include Greece and Lithuania. Brazil had been able to pay in 2010 but is unlikely to do so in 2011. South Africa is now paying annual fees for Zimbabwe. Attempts by Soyez to contact again the Francophone African countries with the Alain Dubresson/Chair CNFG, French National Committee of Geography as intermediary and a special meeting in Paris, have so far not borne fruit. Meadows has established good communications with Geographers in Nigeria, Ghana and Lesotho and there is interest from organizations in those countries in re-establishing contact albeit that funding remains a challenge. Kolossov is continuing negotiations with the heads of the main geographical institutions of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. Kellerman suggested that the IGU should not rescind membership of defaulting countries from the list at this stage although the matter should be raised again in 2012. (Himiyama left the meeting after this item).

4. 02) IGU Financial Report and Projection (Meadows)

The financial situation of the IGU was discussed in relation to several tabled documents; the finances appear to be healthy and even improving. The meeting formally expressed its gratitude to former Secretary-General Yu Woo-ik for his most generous personal donation. The 2010 summary financial report compiled by Abler was formally adopted and it was agreed that signed (President, Secretary-General) copies of this can be made available to those National Committees that require it.

4. 03) UN-IYGU Initiative (Abler and Kolossov)

Benno Werlen has submitted a report to the IGU on activities thus far and this has been posted on the website. An application for funding to ICSU, entitled: 'Transdisciplinary Intercultural Ecological Research for Sustainability (TIERS)' was successful and a sum of US\$30,000 has been awarded in relation to this. The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Weimar in March and the first joint meeting of the Scientific Panel and Steering Committee was held in Jena in May 2011. The project is clearly well underway. Kolossov commented on the significant progress made and reported on the plan to submit the project to UNESCO by May for consideration and adoption by UNESCO (October) and the UN in December. The Government of Thuringia has pledged two further years of financial support. Various working groups have been established with a tight schedule for submission of the necessary documentation. Kellerman commented that the developments are very welcome including the establishment of the formal committees and the successful attempts to raise funds; BW to be congratulated, although female representation of the committees remains limited as does Latin American and African participation. The request from Werlen for additional financial support was discussed at length. It was agreed that a further Euro 2500 can be awarded for 2011. However, the additional funds should be placed in the context of the very modest total budget of the IGU and the fact that the IGU contribution to this project extends well beyond the mere financial. Abler to inform Werlen of this decision.

4. 04) Commission Reports (Meadows, All)

Meadows indicated that most Commissions and Task Forces have now submitted annual reports for 2010 and that these are available on the website. Some changes in Commission chairs had been noted, but these will be formalized only at the next General Assembly. It was agreed to increase the amount of the annual commission stipend to US\$ 1000. Kolossov noted the need for commissions to communicate regularly with the EC and should also continue to foster the participation of younger scholars. Meadows is to compile a letter to Commissions and Task Force chairpersons informing of them of the increased annual grant and suggesting that at least some of the additional funds could be used to support young scholars

4. 05) Journals Project Update (Kellerman, Meadows)

The meeting noted the valuable work conducted by Ton Dietz and his colleague in this regard. The journal information is now available on the website and there is to be a web-based version in time for the

formal launch of the project at the Cologne Congress. Abler is to write a letter to Dietz expressing IGU appreciation for his efforts (also in relation to 4.06 below).

4. 06) Corporate Sponsorship/Sustainable Cities (Kellerman, Abler)

Ton Dietz reported via Kellerman that the Hunan University in Changsha, China, has accepted an invitation to take the lead on the sustainable cities website initiative.

4. 07) Executive Committee Calendar (Meadows and Abler)

The schedule of future meetings was discussed and is as follows:

Santiago, Chile: 12th – 13th November 2011 (ahead of IGU Regional Conference):

Beijing, People's Republic of China: 12th – 16th March 2012

Cologne, Germany: 23rd – 24th August 2012 (ahead of IGU Congress)

Meadows and Qin to pursue the arrangements with local organizers in China.

4. 08) Virtual Meeting Technology (Abler)

Himiyama, Kolossov, Kellerman and Qin were able to connect reasonably consistently with Abler, Meadows and Soyez at the Cologne 'base' when they were available, meaning that 7 of 11 potential participants attended in all). Bellezza was unable to connect, despite numerous frustrated efforts on his part. Fincher was largely unavailable due to parallel commitments in Beijing but was unable to connect at the time when she was eventually free; Alcantara-Ayala was hampered by illness and unable to connect other than very briefly by Skype; Loytonen was unavailable throughout due to prior commitments. The experiment was a limited success for some, although less so for others. This is certainly a challenge technologically and participation is more limited (fewer members attended than would be the case with a regular meeting and perhaps fewer 'active' participant comments from those joining remotely). There are also communication difficulties; some noted the pronounced 'echo' from base communications, for example, so the situation is not optimal. However, the effort was requested at the last GA and we can report to the next one in Cologne. A rough calculation suggests that a saving of approximately US\$15,000 has been effected in this process.

4. 09) IGU Website (Meadows)

The website www.igu-online.org was demonstrated and appears to be working well. It was agreed to move the IYGU link to the front page.

4. 10) IGU Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force (Abler)

2021 is the 125th anniversary of the first International Geographical Congress in Antwerp, while 2022 is the centennial anniversary of the formal establishment of the International Geographical Union. It was agreed that it would make sense to have an extraordinary Congress in the centenary year 2022. A committee is needed to develop suggestions for the forthcoming anniversaries, perhaps including past officers of the IGU. Abler to pursue this further with possible members of the committee and report at the next meeting.

4. 11) IGU 2012 Elections (Meadows)

Four Vice-Presidents and a new President are to be elected in 2012 and the call for nominations will need to be distributed in the next few weeks. It is important to note that IGU elections should be regarded as 'open' elections, meaning that any vacant office can be filled by any eligible individual, although the nominations must come from National Committees. It was agreed that absentee votes would not be accepted, which means that the election at the Cologne General Assembly will be made by member countries in good standing that are present.

4. 12) Palestinian Authority Membership

South Africa has agreed to meet the annual membership subscription on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. Formal ratification of membership will be made only at the Cologne General Assembly.

4. 13) IGU Country Dues Restructuring

Meadows tabled a document in which the current fee structure could be compared with the new ISSC model of using per capita and total GDP data to compute a ranking. The indication is that relatively few countries are contributing either too much or too little according to the GDP criteria and relatively minor adjustments could correct the situation. It was agreed that Meadows would contact the national committee chairs of such 'anomalies' and request that they reconsider their contributions.

4. 14) IGU Commission on Informal Economic Activity (Soyez)

A proposal has been received for a new commission on the geographical implications of informality by Prof Xue from Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou China. He made a brief in person presentation motivating for the establishment of the commission which he sees as a means of facilitating research activity in this growing economic arena. An additional advantage would be the fact that this would be a cross-cutting field drawing several IGU research themes together. Several points were raised, including a) proposed Steering Committee membership (noting in particular that membership of two individuals from one country is not allowed by statute; b) whether or not there has been an inclusive workshop or communication regarding the establishment of this commission. It was agreed to provide feedback to Prof Xue and to finalise the decision regarding the proposal at the Santiago meeting. VK and RF were asked to review the current application and collate an initial response to be forwarded to the candidate via the EC by the end of July.

4. 15) IGU Bulletins (Abler)

2009 and 2010 Bulletins are nominally the responsibility of the former Secretary-General and Treasurer, Woo-ik Yu. We are again falling behind in regard to the official written record of the IGU and the situation regarding these needs to be finalised. Abler agreed to attempt to complete the 2007 and 2008 editions over the next few months and Meadows agreed to assume responsibility for the 2009 and 2010 editions. VK suggested that we should reconsider the format of the Bulletin as it is very formal. Meadows noted that both the e-Newsletter and website are opportunities for less 'formal' information and there is a statutory requirement for us to document and record the activities of the IGU.

4. 16) Home of Geography newsletters (Bellezza)

Latest edition now posted on the Home of Geography website and will be placed on the IGU website in due course. Bellezza is acknowledged for the considerable effort that he continues to put into the e-Newsletter.

4. 17) IGU Priorities (Abler)

These were finalized at the last meeting and are now available on the web.

4. 18) IGU Corresponding membership (Abler and Meadows)

Himiyama reported on the Third International Indian Geography Congress held at Kozhikode, Kerala May 6-8, 2011. Himiyama and Bellezza had been present at this meeting, although the relatively small number of student participants was noted. The meeting had nevertheless proved to be a success and confirms that the Indian geographical community is active and vibrant. Some members of the community had volunteered to pay for corresponding membership of the IGU. Abler outlined the history of corresponding membership but on reflection felt that it was no longer of much relevance. It was agreed that this category of membership be discontinued.

5. Cooperation and Outreach

5. 01) *Festival International de Géographie* (Abler)

There is little to report on this festival except that the planning appear to be proceeding. It was agreed that Soyez and Kolossov would make contact with the local organisers to seek clarification as to the possibility of IGU participation from 2012 onwards.

5. 02) *Festa de Mirandela*, Portugal (Bellezza and Abler)

The Memorandum of Agreement was sent to the Mirandela local organisers some months ago but there has been no response as yet. Soyez reported that the Quebec geographers are contemplating a similar event and developments are awaited.

5. 03) *Festival de Geografía*, Taxco, Guerrero Mexico (Alcantara-Ayala)

Nothing to report.

5. 04) Elsevier Publication Proposal (Soyez)

Nothing further to report; the item is closed.

5. 05) Springer Publication Proposal (Kolossov)

Nothing to report; the Commission response had been disappointing and there are no indications of any possible further developments; the item is closed.

5. 06) Rio + 20 Preparations 53

Several communications have been received in this regard. ICSU has called for suggestions as to the member union involvement. IYGU will certainly be involved and the matter will be raised at the ICSU General Assembly and GeoUnions meeting in September in Rome.

5. 07) ICSU

Relationships between IGU and ICSU are very positive, especially in relation to IYGU.

5. 08) ISSC developments and plans

Fincher report tabled the following report (with minor editorial amendments by Meadows) in relation to her position on the ISSC executive committee:

- a) Finances. There are difficulties being experienced by ISSC in implementing its new fee structure, because the latter has requested sizeable jumps in the fees of some member organizations. Despite suggestions being made to numerous member organizations that steep increases in fees can be paid over a few years not all at once, some organisations can't/won't pay. Apparently ISSC hasn't charged fee increases for 20 years – in this context, sudden increases are not appreciated by members when it may not be apparent what extra is being given by ISSC in return for the fee hikes. This has implications for the IGU if a similar formula were to be adopted.
- b) The World Social Science Forum to be hosted by Fudan University in Shanghai end of 2012 but the local organizers have informed the ISSC that it is no longer able to host this conference after all. A new host is being sought and it is thought that the conference will have to be at the end of 2013 rather than the end of next year.
- c) ISSC Ongoing Programs. IHDP has a new Chair; IRDR (Disaster Risk programme) has a fancy new brochure and it is clear that it is integrating social and natural science in its focus on vulnerabilities and risk. CROP (poverty research program) has new Director and new host at the University of Bergen.

d) ISSC programs under development – particularly those on global environmental change research and policy are of particular interest to the IGU:

- Earth System Research for Global Sustainability Initiative - this is a new alliance formed in April 2011 between ICSU, ISSC and the Belmont Forum, to establish a cutting-edge global research network to act over the next 10 years to: deliver at global and regional scales the knowledge societies need to address climate change while meeting economic and social goals, coordinate international scientific research to address the Grand Challenges arising from the ICSU and Belmont Forum work, and engage a new generation of researchers from social natural and engineering sciences in this research. A Transition Team of scientists has been appointed to advise on the design of this initiative, doing this over the next one year. IGU nominated Professor Diana Liverman to ISSC's slate of 15 candidates put forward for this Transition team. Five of ISSC's candidates were elected, including Diana Liverman who will co-chair the Transition Team along with Prof Johan Rockstrom (Exec Director of the Stockholm Resilience Institute). Of the 17 people on this Transition Team there are at least three who identify themselves as geographers.
- Climate Change Design Project. This is a proposal being put to the Swedish research development agency SIDA, by ISSC, to enumerate the ways social science can contribute to responses to climate change. At present a huge amount of work by the secretariat and Exec Director of ISSC is going in to the one-year development of the proposal – which will be for a 10 year research program of many millions of dollars. Shortly, letters will be sent to IGU (and other disciplinary member associations) asking them to nominate the top three social science scholars in this field. These people will then be interviewed by those preparing the proposal to SIDA about what social science is already contributing on this topic, what the gaps are, etc. This will be a huge 10-year project – and those in ISSC in charge of it want to bring in a range of social scientists to the 10 years of work that will take place – indeed geographers must be involved here.
- Other matters included: (i) a paper by the European Science Foundation's Responses to Environmental and Social Challenges for our Unstable Earth (RESCUE) Social Sciences and Humanities Task Force. There is an excellent literature review entitled 'Challenges of the Anthropocene' about the conceptual issues and existing work in social science on climate change and nature-society relations. (ii) Notice of the Belmont Forum Agenda Setting Workshop in early June 2011 in which there is a strong focus on integrating social science perspectives into the Belmont priorities.
- International Year of Global Understanding was also listed under this set of society-environment activities. It was noted that UNESCO adoption is pending. Great concern was expressed by the ISSC Exec Committee about the lack of representation of people from the global south in the committees of this initiative. Such representation will be necessary if there is to be continued ISSC involvement.
- The presence of ISSC representatives at past and future Rio + 20 Science and Technology regional workshops organized by ICSU and UNESCO, at the Planet under Pressure conference in London in March 2012, and at the ISSC- ICSU-ESSP Integrated Science Initiative in Berlin in November 2011, were noted.

The next ISSC meeting is to be in Durban on 25/6 November 2011.

5. 09) ICA

Close contact with this group is maintained and IYGU again has engaged with this organization. The incoming President is very positive about contact with IGU, including a possible joint commission on Place Names.

5. 10) ECOSOC

Lex Chalmers has submitted on behalf of the IGU a statement on the role of geographical education to the UNESCO group. Abler to write a letter to LC to express appreciation for the efforts.

6. International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences

6. 01) Santiago, Chile Regional Conference 2011 (Meadows, Abler) 76

More than 900 abstracts have been received thus far. 83 applications for travel grants have been received. It was agreed that Meadows would consider the applications and make a decision within the next few days. The LOC appears to be doing a fine job. IA-A has suggested (via email) that the LOC consider a blog or Twitter account in relation to this meeting to facilitate accommodation sharing by participants. Furthermore, IA-A, in relation to her membership of the International Consortium on Landslides, is establishing a Latin American Consortium on Landslides and is requesting an opportunity during the Santiago conference to invite participants to join (Meadows to forward request regarding both suggestions to the LOC). IA-A also noted that the Chair of ICSU Latin America (Dr Limonta) is interested in addressing the EC in Santiago to discuss ICSU. This can be put on the agenda for that meeting (Meadows).

6. 02) Köln, Germany International Geographical Congress 2012 (Soyez, et al.)

Abler, Meadows, accompanied by the LOC, toured the facilities and all is in order. The international scientific committee has convened and decided upon the sessions for the four key topics. Response from Commissions and Task Forces has been somewhat inconsistent and Meadows to follow this up. There are some excellent innovations, including a Young Researchers Forum, parallel symposia on Applied Geography and on Didactics. Everything appears to be on track for this congress.

6. 03-a) Kyoto, Japan Regional Conference 2013 (Himiyama)

The LOC is currently preparing the first circular which will be completed during the next few months. Fund-raising is now underway and the Science Council of Japan has agreed to act as co-organisers of the conference. It is intended to invite Abler to the March 2012 meeting of the Association of Japanese Geographers.

6. 03-b) Krakow, Poland Regional Conference 2014.

No information is currently to hand; Abler and Meadows will convey to the LOC that a report will be required in Santiago.

6. 04) Moscow, Russia Regional Conference 2015 (Kolossov)

The LOC met some weeks ago and there will be further discussions at the meeting of the National Committee of Russian Geographers in ten days time. A more detailed report will be available for the Santiago meeting.

6. 05) People's Republic of China International Geographical Congress, Beijing, 2016

Two items are currently being considered: finances and venue. Qin reported that funds from the Government and from the associations should be available. The National Conference Centre is proposed as a venue. Annual Conference of Chinese Association of Geographers is from 23rd to 26th July in Urumqi, northern China. Abler and Soyez should be in attendance.

6. 06) IGU Congress and Conference Memoranda of Agreement (Abler)

This was approved and adopted at the last EC meeting. This is now available to all LOCs of upcoming conferences. The situation for Santiago needs to be resolved (Abler and Meadows to contact the LOC). Kellerman commented that the annual frequency of meetings requires review. Abler outlined the history of this situation which had arisen as an expedience to deal with several very high quality applications to host meetings. Continuation of the practice requires serious consideration of the costs and benefits. This matter is to be placed on the agenda for the Santiago EC meeting.

6. 07) ACFAS conference, Sherbrook, Canada

Soyez attended this annual meeting at which a small group of committed Geographers organised a workshop on the status of the discipline in Quebec, with the intention of discussing its problems and prospects in the region and beyond (regarding francophone Geography globally). Soyez was asked to open the workshop. Several high profile Geographers were invited and there were some 35 presentations in all, especially in relation to critical aspects in the fields of school Geography, academic Geography and some other, normally not very visible but crucial areas of activity, e.g. in a large variety of applied and 'every-day-geographies' (institutions, companies, NGOs etc.). The follow-up to this has been a request for US\$10,000 to help offset losses experienced by the local organizers. There is no precedent for supporting *post facto* an event of this sort and the request is declined. However, the Abler letter of response should indicate our moral support for the initiative of this group and that we would remain interested in their future activities.

7. Honors and Awards

7. 01) IGU Planet and Humanity Medal (Abler)

Nominations are now being sought for this medal (to be awarded at the Cologne Congress) and should be forwarded to Meadows and Abler by 1st June 2011.

7. 02) Mattei Dogan Foundation Prize in Human Geography (Abler)

Normally this too would be awarded at a Congress. Abler/Meadows will contact the Foundation to ascertain the availability of funds. Meadows will then circulate the information on nominations to chairs of National Committees and Commissions and Task Forces. Abler made the point that it would be good to have a parallel prize in Physical Geography.

7. 03) IGU Honors Committee (Abler)

Suggestions as to possible candidates for the committee to consider nominations for the various awards are needed by June 1st 2011.

8. Adjourn

The meeting closed at 08h17 local time. Next meeting in Santiago, Chile, November 2011.

2b) VERSION FRANÇAISE

Compte-rendu de la réunion du Comité Exécutif, Université de Cologne, Allemagne, 16-19 Mai 2011

(procès-verbal sous réserve d'une approbation définitive à la réunion de Santiago de Chile)

1. Bienvenue

Présents: Ron Abler, Mike Meadows, Dieter Soyez;

et, via WebEx, Aharon Kellerman, Yukio Himiyama, Vladimir Kolossov, Dahe Qin

Excusés: Ruth Fincher, Markku Loytonen, Irasema Alcantara-Ayala, Giuliano Bellezza

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour (Abler)

Les membres présents ont approuvé l'ordre du jour proposé, avec l'ajout par Soyez d'un élément relatif à la récente conférence ACFAS à laquelle il a participé (ajouté comme élément 6.07).

3. Compte-rendus (tous)

3. 01 Compte-rendu de la réunion du Comité Exécutif de l'UGI à Pékin en novembre 2010

Adopté en attendant la soumission de nouvelles informations par Kolossov à propos des Commissions et Groupes de Travail

4. Organisation et Opérations

4. 01) Rapport sur les pays membres de l'UGI (Meadows)

Meadows a présenté un tableau indiquant le statut des cotisations dues par les pays membres.

Parmi les membres nouveaux – ou réinstaurés – la Grèce et la Lituanie. Le Brésil a été en mesure de payer en 2010 mais ne pourra sans doute pas en 2011. L'Afrique du Sud paie maintenant la cotisation du Zimbabwe. Les efforts de Soyez pour contacter les pays francophones africains, avec l'aide d'Alain Dubresson, président du comité français, lors d'une réunion spéciale à Paris, n'ont pas porté leurs fruits pour le moment. Meadows a de bons contacts avec les géographes du Nigeria, du Ghana et du Lesotho, et ces pays sont intéressés par un retour au sein de l'UGI malgré leurs difficultés pour payer la cotisation. Kolossov continue les négociations avec les dirigeants des principales organisations géographiques du Kazakhstan et du Tadjikistan. Kellerman propose que l'UGI n'exclue pas pour le moment les pays qui n'ont pas payé leurs cotisations, bien que la question doive être à nouveau soulevée en 2012. (Himiyama quitte la réunion après ce point de discussion).

4. 02) Rapport financier de l'UGI et projections (Meadows)

La situation financière de l'UGI a été discutée avec l'examen de plusieurs documents et tableaux. Les finances apparaissent saines et même meilleures. Les participants à la réunion expriment officiellement leur gratitude pour la généreuse donation personnelle de l'ancien secrétaire général Yu Woo-ik. Le rapport financier résumé pour 2010, préparé par Abler, est formellement adopté et il est convenu que des copies signées par le président et le secrétaire général seront disponibles pour les comités nationaux qui en feront la demande.

4. 03) Initiative ONU-IYGU Initiative (Abler et Kolossov)

Benno Werlen a soumis un rapport à l'UGI sur ses activités jusqu'à maintenant, et ce rapport a été publié sur le site web. Une demande de financement par l'ICSU intitulée Recherche Ecologique Transdisciplinaire et Interculturelle pour le Développement Durable (Transdisciplinary Intercultural Ecological Research for Sustainability, TIERS) a été couronnée de succès et une somme de 30.000 dollars américains a été obtenue pour ce projet. La première réunion du comité de pilotage s'est tenue à Weimar en mars 2011 et la première réunion commune du comité scientifique et du comité de pilotage à Iéna en mai 2011. Le projet est de toute évidence bien lancé. Kolossov a présenté des commentaires sur les progrès significatifs qui ont été réalisés et a annoncé un plan de soumission du projet à l'UNESCO en mai pour adoption par l'UNESCO en octobre et l'ONU en décembre. Le gouvernement du land de Thuringe a promis deux ans de soutien financier supplémentaire. Différents groupes de travail ont été mis en place avec un calendrier serré pour la soumission de tous les documents requis. Kellerman commente ces développements bienvenus, y compris la mise en place des comités et les efforts réussis pour collecter des fonds. Il faut féliciter B. Werlen, malgré la présence limitée de femmes dans ces comités ainsi que de représentants de l'Afrique et de l'Amérique latine. La demande de Werlen pour des financements complémentaires a été longuement débattue. Il est convenu que 2500 euros supplémentaires seront attribués pour 2011. Cependant, il faut replacer ces fonds dans le contexte du modeste budget de l'UGI et considérer que le soutien de l'UGI est bien plus vaste que le seul soutien financier. Abler informera Werlen de cette décision.

4. 04) Rapports des Commissions (Meadows, tous)

Meadows indique que la plupart des commissions et groupes de travail ont maintenant soumis leurs rapports d'activité pour 2010 et que ceux-ci sont disponibles sur le site web. Il y a eu des modifications dans les présidences de plusieurs commissions mais celles-ci seront formalisées seulement lors de la prochaine Assemblée Générale. Il est convenu de porter à 1000 dollars américains le montant de la subvention annuelle attribuée à chaque commission. Kolossov rappelle la nécessité pour chaque commission de communiquer régulièrement avec le comité exécutif et d'encourager la participation de jeunes chercheurs. Meadows va rédiger une lettre aux présidents de commissions et groupes de travail pour les informer de l'augmentation de la subvention et suggérer qu'une partie de l'aide soit utilisée pour soutenir de jeunes chercheurs.

4. 05) Projet sur les revues de géographie (Kellerman, Meadows)

The meeting noted the valuable work conducted by Ton Dietz and his colleague in this regard. The journal information is now available on the website and there is to be a web-based version in time for the formal launch of the project at the Cologne Congress. Abler is to write a letter to Dietz expressing IGU appreciation for his efforts (also in relation to 4.06 below).

4. 06) Mécénat d'entreprise/ Villes durables (Kellerman, Abler)

Ton Dietz reported via Kellerman that the Hunan University in Changsha, China, has accepted an invitation to take the lead on the sustainable cities website initiative. Abler mentioned the possibility of a United States corporation becoming the first corporate sponsor of IGU.

4. 07) Calendrier du comité exécutif (Meadows, Abler)

Le calendrier des prochaines réunions est fixé comme suit :

Santiago, Chili : 12–13 Novembre 2011 (avant la conférence régionale UGI)

Pékin, Chine : 12–16 Mars 2012

Cologne, Allemagne : 23– 24 Août 2012 (avant le congrès UGI)

Meadows et Qin vont s’occuper des détails avec les organisateurs locaux en Chine.

4. 08) Technologie pour rencontres virtuelles (Abler)

Himiyama, Kolossov, Kellerman et Qin ont pu se connecter de façon assez fiable et continue avec Abler, Meadows et Soyez à la “base” de Cologne quand ils étaient disponibles, ce qui veut dire que 7 des 11 participants potentiels ont pu assister à la réunion. Bellezza n’a pas réussi à se connecter malgré des efforts nombreux et frustrants de son côté. Fincher n’était guère disponible en raison d’obligations parallèles à Pékin mais n’a pas pu se connecter quand elle était libre. Alcantara-Ayala était malade et n’a pas pu se connecter, sinon, brièvement, par Skype. Loytonen n’était pas disponible en raison d’engagements antérieurs.

L’expérience a été un succès relatif pour certains, mais moins pour d’autres. C’est certainement un défi technologique et la participation est moindre qu’elle ne le serait dans une réunion normale et peut-être moins active en termes d’échanges entre participants, surtout pour ceux qui sont à distance. Il y a aussi des difficultés techniques de communication, certains ont noté un fort écho, ce n’est donc pas idéal.

Néanmoins, cet effort avait été demandé lors de la dernière A.G. et il sera possible de faire un rapport lors de la prochaine A.G. à Cologne. Un calcul approximatif montre que des économies de l’ordre de 15.000 dollars ont été réalisées dans cette réunion virtuelle.

4. 09) Site web de l’UGI (Meadows)

Le site web www.igu-online.org a été présenté et il semble bien fonctionner. Il est convenu de déplacer le lien IYGU vers la page d’accueil.

4. 10) 125 ans de l’UGI et groupe de travail du centenaire (Abler)

2021 marquera le 125e anniversaire du premier Congrès Géographique International d’Anvers, tandis que 2022 sera le 100e anniversaire de la création officielle de l’UGI. Il est convenu qu’il serait légitime d’organiser un congrès extraordinaire en 2022. Un comité devra être mis sur pied pour faire des propositions pour les anniversaires à venir, peut-être avec d’anciens membres du comité exécutif. Abler va creuser cette question et contacter des membres potentiels pour ce comité, et il fera un rapport à la prochaine réunion du comité exécutif.

4. 11) Elections UGI 2012 Elections (Meadows)

Quatre Vice-Présidents et un nouveau Président doivent être élus en 2012 et l’appel à nominations sera envoyé dans les semaines à venir. Il faut rappeler que les élections UGI sont des élections ouvertes, ce qui signifie que tout poste libre peut être occupé par toute personne éligible, bien que les nominations doivent émaner des Comités nationaux. Il est convenu que les votes par correspondance ne seront pas acceptés à Cologne, ce qui veut dire que les seuls les pays membres présents en Allemagne et à jour de leur cotisation pourront voter.

4. 12) Adhésion de l’Autorité palestinienne

L’Afrique du Sud a accepté de soutenir la cotisation annuelle au nom de l’Autorité palestinienne. Une ratification formelle de l’adhésion ne sera faite qu’à l’Assemblée Générale de Cologne.

4. 13) Restructuration des cotisations des pays membres de l’UGI

Meadows a présenté un document comparant la structure annuelle des cotisations avec le nouveau modèle de l'ISSC qui utilise le PNB et le PNB/tête pour établir un classement des pays. Il en ressort que relativement peu de pays paient trop ou trop peu en fonction du critère PNB, et que des ajustements mineurs pourraient rectifier la situation. Il est convenu que Meadows contacte les présidents des comités nationaux des pays présentant ces "anomalies" et leur demande de réviser leurs contributions.

4. 14) Commission UGI sur les Activités Economiques Informelles (Soyez)

L'UGI a reçu une proposition du professeur Xue (Université Sun Yat-sen, Guangzhou, Chine) pour la création d'une nouvelle commission sur les impacts géographiques de l'activité informelle. Il a fait une brève présentation personnelle pour expliquer les motifs de création d'une telle commission, qui lui semble un bon moyen de stimuler la recherche sur cette question économique d'importance croissante. Cela présente aussi l'intérêt d'être un champ de recherche transversal recoupant plusieurs thèmes de recherche de l'UGI.

La discussion a porté sur plusieurs points, incluant a) la composition du comité de pilotage proposé (il faut noter que les comités de pilotage ne doivent pas, statutairement, comporter deux personnes du même pays); b) la tenue ou non d'un atelier ou d'une communication concernant la mise en place de la commission.

Il est convenu de fournir au professeur Xue un commentaire, et de finaliser la décision sur la proposition lors de la conférence de Santiago. Il est demandé à Kolossov et Fincher d'examiner la proposition et de fournir des éléments de réponse qui seront transmis par le comité exécutif d'ici la fin du mois de juillet.

4. 15) Bulletins de l'UGI (Abler)

Les bulletins 2009 et 2010 sont nominalement sous la responsabilité de l'ancien secrétaire général et trésorier, Woo-ik Yu. Nous sommes à nouveau en retard par rapport aux publications officielles de l'UGI, et la situation doit être corrigée. Abler accepte de terminer les bulletins 2007 et 2008 dans les mois à venir, et Meadows accepte d'assumer la responsabilité des éditions 2009 et 2010. Kolossov suggère de réviser la présentation extrêmement formelle du Bulletin.

Meadows note que la lettre électronique et le site web sont des outils permettant de fournir une information moins formelle, et qu'il y a une obligation statutaire de documentation et enregistrement des activités de l'UGI.

4. 16) Lettres d'information de la Maison de la Géographie (Bellezza)

La dernière édition est maintenant postée sur le site web de la Maison de la Géographie et sera prochainement postée sur le site web de l'UGI. Bellezza est félicité pour les efforts considérables qu'il continue à déployer dans la lettre d'information électronique.

4. 17) Priorités de l'UGI (Abler)

Elles ont été finalisées lors de la réunion précédente et sont maintenant disponibles sur le site web.

4. 18) Membres correspondants de l'UGI (Abler, Meadows)

Himiyama a présenté un rapport sur le 3eme Congrès International Indien de Géographie qui s'est tenu à Kozhikode, au Kerala, du 6 au 8 mai 2011. Himiyama et Bellezza y assistaient, et ont

noté le faible nombre de participants. Le congrès s'est cependant révélé un succès et confirme que la communauté géographique indienne est active et dynamique. Plusieurs membres de cette communauté souhaitent adhérer à l'UGI en tant que membres correspondants. Abler rappelle l'histoire des adhésions de membres correspondants, mais après réflexion il pense que cela n'a plus grande signification. Il est convenu d'éliminer cette catégorie d'adhésion.

5. Coopération et Vulgarisation

5. 01) Festival International de Géographie (Abler)

Il n'y a pas grand'chose à dire si ce n'est que les préparatifs pour la prochaine édition sont en cours. Il est convenu que Soyez et Kolossov prennent contact avec les organisateurs locaux pour clarifier la possibilité de participation de l'UGI au-delà de 2012.

5. 02) Festa de Mirandela, Portugal (Bellezza, Abler)

Le Memorandum of Agreement a été envoyé aux organisateurs locaux de Mirandela il y a quelques mois mais il n'y a aucune réponse à ce jour. Soyez indique que les géographes du Québec envisagent un événement comparable et qu'on attend des informations complémentaires.

5. 03) Festival de Geografía, Taxco, Guerrero, Mexique (Alcantara-Ayala)

Rien à signaler

5. 04) Proposition de publication Elsevier (Soyez)

Il n'y a plus rien à signaler. L'affaire est close.

5. 05) Proposition de publication Springer (Kolossov)

Rien à signaler; la réponse de la commission a été décevante et il n'y a aucune indication de développements éventuels à l'avenir. L'affaire est close.

5. 06) Préparations Rio + 20

Plusieurs messages ont été reçus sur ce sujet. L'ICSU a demandé des suggestions à propos de l'implication des organisations affiliées. IYGU sera certainement engagée et la question sera évoquée à l'Assemblée générale d'ICSU et à la réunion des GéoUnions en septembre 2011 à Rome.

5. 07) ICSU

Les relations entre UGI et ICSU sont très positives, en particulier pour ce qui concerne IYGU.

5. 08) Développements et projets ISSC

Fincher a présenté le rapport suivant (avec de petites modifications d'ordre éditorial par Meadows) en lien avec sa participation au comité exécutif de l'ISSC :

- a) Finances. L'ISSC connaît des difficultés dans la mise en oeuvre de sa nouvelle structure de cotisations, car celle-ci a entraîné des augmentations considérables des sommes dues par certaines organisations membres. En dépit des suggestions faites à de nombreuses organisations pour leur permettre d'étaler sur plusieurs années le paiement de ces suppléments de cotisations, certaines organisations ne peuvent pas – ou ne veulent pas –

- payer. Apparemment l'ISSC n'avait pas modifié ses cotisations depuis 20 ans, et dans ce contexte les augmentations brutales ne sont pas appréciées par les membres lorsqu'ils ne voient pas bien ce que l'ISSC leur offre en plus avec la hausse des tarifs. Ceci a des implications pour l'UGI si une formule similaire devait être adoptée.
- b) Le Forum Mondial des Sciences Sociales (World Social Science Forum) devait se tenir à l'université Fudan (Shanghai, Chine) à la fin 2012, mais les organisateurs locaux ont informé l'ISSC qu'ils ne sont plus en mesure d'accueillir cette manifestation. Un nouveau lieu d'accueil est recherché, et il envisagé de reporter la conférence à la fin 2013.
 - c) Programmes en cours de l'ISSC. IHDP a un nouveau président. IRDR (Disaster Risk, programme sur les risques) a publié une belle brochure et il est clair que les sciences sociales et naturelles sont bien intégrées dans l'accent mis sur les vulérabilités et les risques. CROP (programme de recherche sur la pauvreté) a un nouveau directeur et un nouveau siège à l'université de Bergen.
 - d) Programmes ISSC en cours de développement – en particulier ceux sur la recherche et les politiques liées au changement environnemental planétaire, qui sont particulièrement intéressants pour l'UGI:
 - Earth System Research for Global Sustainability Initiative - Initiative de recherche sur le Système-Terre pour une Durabilité Globale. Il s'agit d'une nouvelle alliance formée en avril 2011 entre ICSU, ISSC et le Forum Belmont, pour mettre en place un réseau de recherche de pointe pour les 10 années à venir afin de : - fournir aux échelles globale et régionale le savoir dont les sociétés ont besoin pour affronter le changement climatique, et en même temps atteindre des objectifs sociaux et économiques - coordonner la recherche scientifique internationale pour affronter les Grands Défis mis en valeur par le travail de l'ICSU et du Forum Belmont – et amener une nouvelle génération de chercheurs des sciences naturelles, sociales et de l'ingénieur dans cette recherche. Une Equipe de Transition de chercheurs a été nommée pour conseiller sur le profil de cette initiative dans l'année à venir. L'UGI a nommé le Professor Diana Liverman pour la liste de 15 candidats à cette équipe de transition. Cinq des candidats ISSC ont été élus, y compris Diana Liverman qui coprésidera cette équipe de transition avec le Professeur Johan Rockstrom (Directeur exécutif de l'institut sur la résilience de Stockholm). Sur les 17 membres de cette équipe de transition, au moins trois s'auto-identifient comme géographes.
 - Projet de Conception du Changement Climatique (Climate Change Design Project). Il s'agit d'une proposition de l'ISSC à SIDA, l'agence suédoise de développement de la recherche, pour recenser les façons dont les sciences sociales peuvent contribuer aux réponses à apporter au changement climatique. A présent, beaucoup de travail est effectué par le secrétariat et le directeur exécutif de l'ISSC pour le développement de cette proposition en un an – pour ce qui sera un programme de recherche de millions de dollars sur 10 ans. Prochainement, des lettres seront envoyées à l'UGI et à d'autres organisations membres de l'ISSC, pour leur demander de désigner les trois meilleurs chercheurs en sciences sociales dans ce domaine. Ces personnes seront ensuite interrogées par ceux qui élaborent la proposition à SIDA, à propos de ce que les sciences sociales apportent déjà comme éclairage, à propos des manques, etc.. Ce sera un gros projet de 10 ans, et les responsables au sein d'ISSC souhaitent y intégrer une variété de chercheurs en sciences sociales pour les 10 ans du projet. Evidemment les géographes doivent jouer un rôle actif dans ce projet.

- Autres points abordés : (i) un article du groupe de travail Sciences Sociales et Humanités de RESCUE (Responses to Environmental and Social Challenges for our Unstable Earth) de la Fondation Européenne des Sciences. Il y a une excellente analyse de la littérature scientifique, intitulée 'Défis de l'Anthropocène' à propos des questions conceptuelles et des travaux actuels en sciences sociales sur le changement climatique et les interactions nature-société. (ii) Annonce de l'atelier de préparation de l'agenda recherche du Forum Belmont, au début de juin 2011, dans lequel l'accent sera mis fortement sur l'intégration des perspectives des sciences sociales dans les priorités de Belmont.
- L'Année Internationale de la Compréhension Planétaire (International Year of Global Understanding) a aussi été mentionnée dans cette série d'activités société/environnement. Il a été noté que l'adoption par l'UNESCO est imminente. Le comité exécutif de l'ISSC a exprimé sa grave préoccupation vis-à-vis du manque de représentation des habitants des pays du Sud dans les comités de cette initiative. Leur représentation est nécessaire pour que l'ISSC continue à s'investir dans cette initiative.
- Noter la présence de représentants de l'ISSC aux futurs ateliers régionaux sur la science et la technologie Rio + 20 organisées par ICSU et l'UNESCO, à la conférence Planète sous Pression (Londres, mars 2012), et à l'initiative de sciences intégrées ISSC- ICSU-ESSP à Berlin en novembre 2011.

La prochaine réunion de l'ISSC se tiendra à Durban, Afrique du sud, les 25 et 26 novembre 2011.

5. 09) ICA - Association Internationale de Cartographie

Des liens étroits sont maintenus avec cette organisation et l'IYGU est aussi engagée avec cette organisation. Le nouveau président est très favorable aux échanges avec l'UGI, y compris pour une possible commission commune sur les noms de lieux.

5. 10 ECOSOC

Lex Chalmers a rédigé au nom de l'UGI un texte sur le rôle de l'éducation géographique, pour le groupe UNESCO. Abler va écrire à Chalmers pour le remercier de ses efforts.

6. Congrès Internationaux de Géographie et Conférences Régionales de l'UGI

6. 01) Santiago du Chili, conférence régionale 2011 (Meadows, Abler)

Plus de 900 propositions de communications ont été reçues à ce jour. 83 demandes de bourses de voyage ont été reçues. Il est convenu que Meadows examinera les demandes et prendra ses décisions dans les jours à venir. Le comité local d'organisation semble faire un bon travail. Alcantara-Ayala a suggéré par courriel que le comité local d'organisation mette en place un blog ou un compte Twitter pour cette conférence afin de faciliter le partage d'hébergement entre participants. De plus, Alcantara-Ayala, en lien avec sa participation au consortium international sur les glissements de terrain, est en train de mettre en place un consortium latino-américain sur les glissements de terrain et souhaite avoir l'opportunité d'inviter des participants à rejoindre ce groupe pendant la conférence de Santiago. (Meadows va transmettre ces demandes au comité local d'organisation). Alcantara-Ayala a aussi noté que le président d'ICSU Amérique latine (Dr Limonta) souhaite rencontrer à Santiago le comité exécutif de l'UGI pour parler d'ICSU. On pourra inscrire ce point à l'ordre du jour (Meadows).

6. 02) Cologne, Allemagne, Congrès International de Géographie 2012 (Soyez, et al.)
Abler, Meadows, accompagnés du comité local d'organisation, ont visité les installations et tout est en ordre de marche. Le comité scientifique international s'est réuni et a décidé d'organiser les sessions autour de quatre grands thèmes. La réponse des commissions et des groupes de travail a été plutôt inégale, et Meadows va examiner cela de près. Il y a d'excellentes innovations, comme un forum des jeunes chercheurs et des symposia parallèles sur la géographie appliquée et la didactique. Tout semble sur de bons rails pour ce congrès.

6. 03-a) Kyoto, Japon, Conférence Régionale 2013 (Himiyama)
Le comité local d'organisation prépare actuellement la première circulaire, qui sera finalisée dans les mois à venir. La levée de fonds est en cours, et le Conseil des sciences japonais a accepté d'être co-organisateur. Il a l'intention d'inviter Abler à la réunion 2012 de l'Association des géographes japonais.

6. 03-b) Cracovie, Pologne, Conférence Régionale 2014.
Actuellement aucune information. Abler et Meadows vont rappeler au comité local d'organisation qu'un rapport est attendu pour Santiago.

6. 04) Moscou, Russie, Conférence Régionale 2015 (Kolossoff)
Le comité local d'organisation s'est réuni il y a quelques semaines, et il y aura de nouvelles discussions à la réunion du comité national des géographes russes dans dix jours. Un rapport plus détaillé sera disponible pour la conférence de Santiago.

6. 05) Pékin, République Populaire de Chine, Congrès International de Géographie 2016
Deux éléments sont actuellement en cours d'évaluation: le financement et le lieu du congrès. Qin indique que des financements du gouvernement et des associations devraient être disponibles. Il est envisagé de se réunir au centre national de conférences. La conférence annuelle de l'Association des Géographes Chinois aura lieu du 23 au 26 juillet à Urumqi, au Xinjiang. Abler et Soyez devraient y assister.

6. 06) Protocoles d'accords pour les congrès et conférences UGI (Abler)
Ceci a été approuvé et adopté lors de la dernière réunion du comité exécutif, et est maintenant disponible pour tous les comités locaux d'organisation des futures conférences. La situation de Santiago doit être réglée (Abler et Meadows vont contacter le comité local d'organisation). Kellerman estime que la tenue de conférences chaque année doit être réexaminée. Abler rappelle l'historique de la situation actuelle, qui est une expérience pour répondre à plusieurs candidatures de qualité pour l'organisation de rencontres. La poursuite de cette pratique demande un examen approfondi des coûts et bénéfices. Cette question sera mise à l'ordre du jour pour la conférence de Santiago.

6. 07) Conférence ACFAS, Sherbrooke, Canada
Soyez a participé à cette rencontre annuelle au cours de laquelle un petit groupe de géographes déterminés a organisé un atelier sur le statut de la discipline au Québec, avec l'objectif de discuter des problèmes et perspectives dans la région et au-delà (en ce qui concerne la géographie

francophone globalement). Soyez a été invité à inaugurer l'atelier de travail. Plusieurs géographes réputés ont été conviés et il y a eu au total 35 présentations, tout particulièrement sur les questions de la géographie scolaire, de la géographie universitaire et d'autres domaines essentiels, mais peu visibles, dans une grande diversité de géographies appliquées et "quotidiennes" (institutions, entreprises, ONG, etc...). Suite à cette réunion, une demande de 10.000 dollars américains a été déposée pour couvrir le déficit enregistré par les organisateurs locaux. Il n'y a pas de précédent pour une subvention *a posteriori* d'une réunion de ce type, et la demande est refusée. Néanmoins, la lettre de réponse d'Abler devrait indiquer notre soutien moral pour l'initiative de ce groupe et que nous sommes intéressés par ses activités futures.

7. Prix et Récompenses

7. 01) Médaille de l'UGI Planète et Humanité (Abler)

On attend maintenant des nominations pour cette médaille (qui sera attribuée lors du Congrès de Cologne). Les propositions doivent être envoyées à Meadows et Abler avant le 1er juin 2011.

7. 02) Prix de géographie humaine de la fondation Mattei Dogan (Abler)

Normalement ce prix devrait aussi être attribué lors d'un congrès. Abler et Meadows vont contacter la Fondation pour s'assurer de la disponibilité des fonds. Meadows fera ensuite circuler l'information auprès des présidents des comités nationaux et des commissions et groupes de travail. Abler estime qu'il est souhaitable d'avoir aussi un prix en géographie physique.

7. 03) Comité des prix de l'UGI (Abler)

On attend d'ici le 1er juin 2011 des propositions de noms de candidats potentiels à ce comité de nomination de lauréats des différents prix.

8. Ajournement

La réunion s'est achevée à 8h17 heure locale. La prochaine réunion du comité exécutif aura lieu à Santiago du Chili en novembre 2011.



3) NEXT IGU OFFICIAL INITIATIVES

3.1) SANTIAGO DE CHILE, IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2011

UGI 2011
 Regional Geographic Conference (UGI 2011)
 14th to 18th of November 2011 - Escuela Militar, Santiago, Chile

Participate in UGI 2011 and get to know the innovative studies and technological tendencies involving geography and related sciences, held in Chile for the first time for the whole world.



SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES	
FIELD TRIPS	CURRENT DYNAMICS OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE IN THE ANDEAN VALLEY OF THE MAIPO RIVER
	EXPLORATION OF ACONCAGUA & MAIPO IN CENTRAL (MEDITERRANEAN-CLIMATE) CHILE
	BIO-GEOGRAPHY AND BIO-DIVERSITY: "LA CAMPANA" BIOSPHERE RESERVE
	VALDIVIA: WETLANDS AND THE 1960 EARTHQUAKE
	EFFECTS OF THE FEBRUARY 2010 TSUNAMI ON THE COAST OF CHILE.
	DISCOVERING THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF CENTRAL SANTIAGO
	VALPARAISO: CITY AND HERITAGE.
TECHNICAL VISITS	GEOGRAPHIC MILITARY INSTITUTE (IGM)
	AEROPHOTOGRAMMETRIC SERVICE OF THE AIR FORCE (SAF)
	THE HYDROGRAPHIC AND OCEANOGRAPHIC SERVICE OF THE CHILEAN NAVY (SHOA)
SOCIAL EVENTS	OPENING CEREMONY
	EQUESTRIAN SHOW
	GALA DINNER

3.2) COLOGNE 2012, IGU INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

First Communication:

Dear subscribers of the IGC 2012 newsletter,
Dear chairs of sessions,

The Local Organising Committee of the IGC 2012 would like to inform you that the call for paper & poster presentations within the conference sessions has started on 1 July 2011. The call includes all sessions

- . of the IGU Commissions and Task Forces
- . on the IGC 2012 Key Topics
- . of the Symposium Geographie & Schule (only in German)

The deadline for submitting an abstract for any of these events is 15 December 2011.

Please visit the IGC 2012 website at www.igc2012.org for further details.

Confirm your account:

As subscriber of the IGC 2012 newsletter and/or chair of a session at the IGC 2012 you already have an account to submit your abstracts at the IGC 2012 website. Please follow the steps below to confirm your account on our system:

1. Click on the button "retrieve your password" on the left-handed side of the website
2. Fill-in the email address you submitted when you subscribed for the newsletter or the email address you have sent your session proposal from.
3. Click on "send password"
3. You should receive an email with your username and password
4. Log-in with your username and password
5. Check and update your personal data if necessary

We are looking forward to seeing you in Cologne.

Kind regards,

The IGC 2012 Local Organising Committee

Second Communication

Dear Chairs of the IGU Commissions and Task Forces,

We are glad to inform you that the Call for Papers for the IGC 2012 opened on the 1st July 2011. Papers for all sessions can now be submitted via the online system until the 15th December 2011

All commission sessions accepted

All sessions submitted by the IGU Commissions and Task Forces have been accepted and are now listed on the IGC 2012 website. Please take a minute to check in the attached list or on our website www.igc2012.org that your sessions are all listed correctly.

Few free slots remaining

There are still a few free slots available so if your commission has not had a chance yet to submit any sessions, please use this opportunity to send us your suggestions now. The relevant registration form for this purpose has been attached.

Reviewing and selecting presentations

All chairs and co-chairs of sessions are responsible for the reviewing and selecting of the presentations for their sessions. Please bear in mind that for all sessions participating in the online review system, abstracts can only be submitted and reviewed online. Therefore, an account has been created automatically for each session chair and co-chair to use the IGC 2012 online review system.

The Review Process

The online review process will only start after the call for papers will close on the 15th December 2011. Although it will already be possible to view the abstracts submitted for each individual session, but the reviewers will not be able to make any selection yet. The final deadline for reviewing and selecting the necessary **four papers for each session** will be the **31st January 2012**.

You will receive an email containing more detailed instructions regarding the review process in December 2011.

Creating an account on the IGC 2012 website

The user account is the core of the IGC 2012 online system. All activities as booking, payment, abstract submission etc. will be done via this personal account. For all chairs of a session and for all pre-registered user (newsletter) an account was created automatically. To confirm this account visit the IGC 2012 website at www.igc2012.org and retrieve your password at the menu bar on the left-handed site. If you are not pre-registered so far please create a new account.

If you have any questions or are encountering any technical problems, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

The Local Organising Committee of the IGC 2012

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4) INITIATIVES OF THE IGU MEMBERS CHARGED TO PROSECUTE THE TWO LAST PROJECTS OF THE LATE PRESIDENT ADALBERTO VALLEGA

4.1) UPDATE OF MARIA PARADISO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MEDITERRANEAN RENAISSANCE PROJECT

In first half of 2011 MRP hold sessions in two International Conferences. The first one in cooperation with Academia Europaea took place within the EUROGEO-Association of European Geographers, Athens 2-5 June 2011 and was entitled '**Mediterranean Region: Development Prospects and Challenges**'. The suggested perspective was to explore Mediterranean geography in terms of the interplay between institutional policies for development and integration in the global system on the one hand, and both prospects and challenges in terms of human development and sustainability, on the other. Speakers were Maria Giaoutsi and Anastasia Stratigea (Greece), Maria Paradiso (Italy), Philippe Vidal (France), Oren Yfthachel (Israel). Slides and photos can be downloaded from Eurogeo site: <http://www.ntua.gr/MIRC/EUROGEO/index.html>

EUROGEO invited Maria Paradiso to edit a special issue of EUROGEO journal of European Geography on the topic. Call for papers will be issued in September

MRP collaborated with the IGU Commission Geography of the Global Information Society and NTUA-National Polytechnic of Athens to organise the 2012 Commission Conference in Athens, July 3-6, 2011 entitled '**Heritage, Planning and eParticipation: The Evolving Forms of Information Society**'

MRP proposed a special session on 'The Role of Information Technologies and Mediterranean Democratic Movements' (co-organisers Maria Paradiso and Barney Warf, chair Barney Warf, speakers Barney Warf, Maria Paradiso, Olivier Lefebvre, Mark Wilson). The topic will be continued in other initiatives.

MRP proposed call for papers for the IGU 2012 Cologne Conference, calls were accepted and now accessible to IGU Cologne website. One co-organised with Ali Toumi (Tunisia) on recent North African changes, the second one co-organised with Stan Brunn (US) on Renewable energies in the Mediterranean.

Colleagues who may wish to join MRP activities are kindly invited to write to the Coordinator: paradiso@unisannio.it



5) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

5.1) ICSDM 2011 AND BJ-IWGIS 2011

The First IEEE International Conference on Spatial Data Mining and Geographical Knowledge Services (ICS DM 2011), was held in conjunction with the 8th Beijing International Workshop on Geographical Information Systems (BJ-IWGIS 2011) from June 29-July 1, 2011 in Fuzhou city, P.R. China. We were one of the cooperating groups organizing this meeting. The full list of organizers is:

Spatial Information Research Center of Fujian, Fuzhou University, China
State Key Laboratory of Resources and Environmental Information System, the Chinese Academy of Science, China
Commission on Modeling Geographical Systems, International Geographical Union
Commission on Geographical Information Science, International Geographical Union
Commission on Quantitative Geography, the Chinese Geographical Society
Commission on Cartography and Geographical Information system, the Chinese Geographical Society
Key laboratory of Spatial Data Mining & Information Sharing, Ministry of Education of China
College of Mathematics and Computer Science, Fuzhou University, China
College of Environment and Resources, Fuzhou University, China

ICS DM aspires to establish a long-term forum for researchers and practitioners in geosciences and information & communication technology to share their innovative ideas and results in the multi-faceted research of spatial data mining, geographical modeling, Internet-based knowledge sharing and service, and decision support under the umbrella of geo-information science and technology.

The ICS DM 2011 website is at <http://www.icsdm2011.org/>.

The conference was very successful with a large number of invited speakers. These included:

Professor Yee Leung, The Chinese University of Hongkong, China
Professor Brian Lees, University of New South Wales at ADFA, Australia
Professor Xiaofang Zhou, Queensland University, Australia
Professor Domenico Talia, University of Calabria and ICAR-CNR, Italy
Professor Robert Haining, University of Cambridge, UK
Professor Manfred M Fischer, Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Austria
Professor Stewart Fotheringham, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland
Professor Hiromichi Fukui, Keio University, Japan
Professor George Christakos, San Diego State University, USA
Professor Chenghu Zhou, Institute of Geographical Sciences & Natural Resources Research, CAS, China
Professor Hanqiu Xu, Fuzhou University, China
Professor Guoqing Sun, University of Maryland, USA



Some of the ICSDM 2011 participants

5.2) GLOBAL PLATFORM FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND THE WORLD RECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

1. The Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Reconstruction Conference met in Geneva, 8-13 May 2011. Opened by the United Nations Secretary-General BAN Ki-Moon and chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Global Platform recognized Doctor Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia as a Global Champion of Disaster Risk Reduction.

2. This Session of the Global Platform brought together the broadest ever cross-section of people committed to building resilience – including several Heads of State, Ministers, a Managing Director of the World Bank, over 2,600 delegates representing 168 Governments, 25 intergovernmental organizations, 65 non-governmental organizations, Parliamentarians, private sector, local government, academic institutions, civil society and international organizations.

3. Half of humanity is now living in cities. By 2050 urbanization will rise to 70 percent and urban risk will increase as well. Risk is further driven by factors such as rural and urban poverty, climate change, declining ecosystems, and development choices including in energy infrastructure. Commitment to resilience is urgently needed particularly in vulnerable groups, localities and regions including SIDS and LDC's.

4. The Mid-Term Review states that significant progress is being made in the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and that its principles have been firmly established and endorsed. The discussions at the Third Session demonstrated that we now possess the knowledge, the means and the commitment to make disaster risk reduction a national, local and international priority. There is a sense of urgency and clear political and economic imperatives to invest in disaster risk reduction.

5. The UN Secretary-General called for a coalition of action for disaster risk reduction and announced a high-level meeting during the next General Assembly to address the link between natural hazards and nuclear safety. Japan offered to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015.

6. Mayors renewed their commitment to the Ten Essentials of the “My City is Getting Ready” Campaign. Private sector participants agreed on Five Essentials for Business and issued a Statement of Commitment for Disaster Prevention, Resilience and Risk Reduction. A joint statement called for scaling-up community health forces as vital for disaster reduction. Young people came together to advance a Five Point Charter on Children and Disaster Reduction. Regional organizations reaffirmed their commitment to implementing regional strategies agreed to in ministerial meetings worldwide.

7. The choice before us as Governments, institutions, communities and individuals is to place disaster risk reduction at the forefront of our efforts to preserve and protect the balance of nature, ensure sustainable development and well-being for generations to come. To do so, we need to:

7.1 Support local governments and non-state actors as the front line of risk reduction implementation.

7.2 Draw upon the untapped potential of local actors and build on the role of women as agents of change.

7.3 Involve children and youth in disaster risk reduction decisions that affect their future as a practical way to ensure effective local action.

7.4 Fully engage the private sector as leaders in the construction of resilient infrastructure, sustainable development of urban areas, energy safety, and the protection of critical resources.

7.5 Build on the role that parliamentarians play in setting state policy and norms, oversight and scrutiny, legislation and the creation of enabling environments for risk reduction.

7.6 Build on the work of and linkages between national and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, strengthening in particular, multi-stakeholder collaboration.

7.7 Promote the role of regional and sub-regional organizations in coordinating implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action.

7.8 Actively engage and support scientific and technical communities to inform decisionmaking.

7.9 Strengthen and resource UNISDR to support the implementation of recommendations from this Platform acknowledging its leadership role within the United Nations on disaster risk reduction.

8. The Third Session of the Global Platform identified the following critical steps:

8.1 Recall and act upon the commitments at the Second Session of the Global Platform in 2009 that set targets for disaster risk reduction (see Box inset).

8.2 Increase investment in disaster risk reduction at the local level and ensure national growth does not increase local risks. Address local action directly in national growth targets, plans and policies. Strengthen capacities of local governments and ensure resource availability.

Encourage collaboration with communities and volunteers including through participatory risk assessments and local multi-stakeholder monitoring and reporting.

8.3 Develop standards and indicators for measuring the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction at both the national and regional levels to guide public and private sector investments and improve quality and consistency in implementation.

8.4 Account for disaster losses in a standardized manner to support multi-hazard, integrated assessments as the basis for development decision-making and open-source risk public information.

8.5 Increase dedicated budget allocations for disaster risk reduction by using risk assessment, budgetary planning and project evaluation mechanisms, in all development investments. Create incentives for investing in prevention. Protect public finances with contingency mechanisms, including insurance.

8.6 Track investments in disaster risk reduction to provide clear evidence of the costs and benefits of investments through verifiable and accountable data to Governments and the public and as a further means of promoting aid-effectiveness.

8.7 Provide guidance to National Platforms to improve the effectiveness and support the executive level of decision-making. Ensure that responsibility for disaster risk reduction is backed by the necessary political authority to increase implementation across sectors through increased engagement with parliamentarians, local authorities and civil society.

8.8 Strengthen public awareness of disaster risks through promoting universal access to risk information, education, building social demand for disaster risk reduction and promote individual safety and responsibility. Use available communication technologies to provide clear and concise information.

8.9 Identify and prepare for emerging risks, including those associated with technological hazards and pandemics, through scientifically-informed multi-hazard risk assessments and scenario development. Encourage cross-sectoral cooperation that makes best use of available information and technology.

8.10 Avoid the inefficient use of existing resources by ensuring technologies for risk reduction are accessible as a means for adaptation and promoting integrated approaches to development that address climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and ecosystem management and restoration.

8.11 Ensure the availability of tailored science-based climate-related information through the Global Framework for Climate Services to support informed investment and planning at all levels. Incorporate, as well, integrated drought management, wild land fire management and food security in risk reduction policies and development planning.

8.12 Adapt innovative social protection and ecosystem management mechanisms to reduce disaster impacts based on understanding of the dynamics of vulnerability and ensuring protection of the most vulnerable households, communities and social groups.

8.13 Welcome the continued work of the Advisory Group for the Mid-Term Review of Hyogo Framework in advising on the follow-up to the Global Platform and contributing to the formulation of a post-2015 instrument, the first outline of which is to be reviewed in 2013 and finalized in 2014.

8.14 Support identification and preparedness for emerging risks, through recommending to the UN Secretary-General that he constitutes a group of eminent, disaster risk reduction experts to report at the Fourth Session of the Global Platform.

8.15 Ensure attention to disaster risk reduction in upcoming meetings, such as the 5th Asian Ministerial Conference in Indonesia, Rio+20, UNFCCC mechanisms, the 6th World Urban Forum and the Aid-Effectiveness Meeting in 2011. Support implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by promoting risk reduction strategies that protect development investments.

9. The World Reconstruction Conference

9.1 Recognized that support to countries overwhelmed by the scale and cost of post-disaster reconstruction is often inadequately coordinated. Uneven and unpredictable financing does not always reach those who need it. Few countries incorporate disaster prevention into reconstruction and recovery planning, thus threatening development prospects and sustainability of investments.

9.2 Recognized, based on lessons from previous experience, that well-planned and coordinated recovery achieves better results at lower cost, and supports sustainability and disaster-resilience. Leadership, partnership and coordinated support from the international community are essential to success.

9.3 Committed to developing an effective recovery and reconstruction framework. This recovery framework would aim to:

- o Better define roles and responsibilities within clear institutional arrangements;
- o Effectively capitalize on the strengths of each stakeholder;
- o Clearly place countries in the driver's seat on decision-making and resource allocation;
- o Systematically integrate disaster risk reduction in reconstruction and recovery;
- o Provide in-time relevant knowledge and lessons learned; and
- o Assist in establishing robust and transparent quality and result monitoring systems.

9.4 Committed to developing improved systems and instruments for recovery and reconstruction finance and welcomed the leadership of the World Bank and the role of other international financial institutions in this effort. These mechanisms would provide access to reliable reconstruction financing; build capacity to manage the surge of resources; effectively integrate the resources of non-traditional donors; and access the global capital market.

9.5 Promoted a global reconstruction and recovery knowledge practice, linking practitioners and networks working on reconstruction and recovery to provide open access to data and information.

10. The Third Session of the Global Platform closed with a call for strengthened global leadership to address rapidly increasing risk to stability and sustainability posed by our approach to development. This chair's summary will be followed-up and reported on in the Fourth Session of the Global Platform.

30 May 2011

Geneva, Switzerland

Commitments at the Second Session of the Global Platform in 2009

By 2011, national assessments of the safety of existing education and health facilities should be undertaken.

By 2015, concrete action plans for safer schools and hospitals should be developed and implemented in all disaster prone countries.

Disaster risk reduction should be included in all school curricula by the same year.

By 2015, all major cities in disaster-prone areas should include and enforce disaster risk reduction measures in their building and land use codes.

Targets also proposed for: national risk assessments, municipal disaster recovery plans, early warning systems, water risks and the enforcement of building codes.

The UN Secretary-General called for a target to halve the losses of lives from disasters by 2015, when the term of the Hyogo Framework for Action ends.

10 per cent of humanitarian relief funds to disaster risk reduction work.

10 per cent as a target share of post-disaster reconstruction and recovery projects and national preparedness and response plans.

At least 1 per cent of all national development funding and all development assistance funding to be allocated to risk reduction measures, with due regard for quality of impact.



5) IN MEMORIAM

6.1) LENNART ANDERSSON (1929-2010)

Professor Lennart Andersson passed away on 16 November 2010. Professor Andersson came to Karlstad College (a branch of Göteborg University established in 1967) from Göteborg University in 1970. He was born on 17 December 1929 in Hjo, was awarded a licentiate degree in 1969 and gained his doctorate in 1970. He was appointed reader in human geography in 1971 soon after moving to Karlstad as lecturer in human geography. In Karlstad, Professor Andersson began the task of building up the department of human geography. After having acted as coordinating lecturer at the College, Professor Andersson was appointed the first rector of the newly formed Karlstad University College in 1977. He held this office until his retirement in 1994, a period of 17 years. As Rector (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Andersson laid the foundations for transforming the University College into a full university, a process which was completed in 1999. Professor Andersson was keen to develop the college's international contacts, and in 1988 he signed a cooperation agreement with Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in India. This agreement has led to many trips to India for both faculty and students. In his own discipline, the agreement has resulted in one doctoral thesis and over twenty bachelor's and master's theses. Professor Andersson visited B.H.U. in 1994 and in connection with this visit was awarded the honorary degree of "Fellow of Indian Society for Environment and Culture, FISEC". As Rector (Vice-Chancellor), he contributed to the development of the department of human geography into a broader geography department, which included not only human geography but also teaching training in geography, tourism studies and GIS-studies.

During his term of office as rector, Professor Andersson remained active in his discipline, participating in seminars and supervising the first doctoral students, which led the Swedish government to grant him the title of professor in 1987. Professor Andersson became more involved in his field as he approached retirement, contributing to the research group working on "*Planning Issues in Marginal Areas*" during the 1990s and the international group "Commission on Issues of Geographical Marginality" under the aegis of the International Geographical Union (IGU) in the 1990s and 2000s. Apart from generating ideas, he invested great effort in disseminating and discussing the results of research carried out in Karlstad. Right up to the end of his life, he contributed to the work of the department of human geography, particularly in the supervision of doctoral students, reading manuscripts and taking part in meetings with other supervisors; he was also one of the most frequent participants in the advanced seminar in the discipline. In connection with Professor Andersson's retirement in 1994, a fund was set up to facilitate an annual "Lennart Andersson Seminar", which has taken place in the department ever since.

Professor Andersson came to the department every week and it is with a great sense of loss that I write these lines – the loss of the assurance and consideration which Professor Andersson always demonstrated and the loss of a father figure.

Prof. Gerhard Gustafsson

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6.2) ANATH BANDU MUKERJI (1929-2011)

Prof. Anath Bandhu Mukerji, the dean and doyen of cultural geography, has passed away on the 31 January 2011 at the age of 81. He was born on 7 Nov. 1929 in Jhansi, and received his Master of Arts in Geography in 1951 from the University of Allahabad. As an undergraduate and post-graduate student he was taught geography by Prof. R.N. Dubey, who had received his D. Litt. from the University of Paris and was influenced by the tradition of Vidal de la Blache. Soon after having his master degree he started his career in a small college, from where he started his love and devotion to historical-cultural geography interpreted from the indigenous tools and deeply rooted cultural traits, e.g. old revenue and land records, castes and space segregation and their complex interactions, lifeways and customs and related economies and their systems. All these he developed through his own vision, logical optics and his feelings for the rural life. Based on his observation and analysis he has published two papers in 1953 (urban geography of Modinagar) and 1954 (human geography of Jats) in the *Geographical Review of India*, GRI, then under the editorship of Prof. Nirmal Kumar Bose, who strongly encouraged him for follow-up studies and introduced him to Prof. S.P. Chatterjee and Prof. P.K. Sarkar. Continuing his field study and histogenetic and morphogenetic methods he has published two of his early papers on Jat settlements and habitations, emphasising spatial and cultural patterns (*GRI*, 1956, 1957). The pioneering and original messages reached to America's leading cultural geographer Prof. Fred B. Kniffen, who offered him teaching assistantship for doing research at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. There he came under the influences of Professors Fred B. Kniffen, Robert C. West, and Richard J. Russel, and also attended some seminars given by the legendry figure Prof. Carl O. Sauer; from all of whom he learnt the symbiotic links between cultural and physical geography that he followed in his academic career in different ways at different levels. His research on the Siwalik Hills adjoining Chandigarh and the Dun that spreads from Pinjore to Nalagarh is a testimony to Sauerian approach in Indian geography and his own foresightedness. After having PhD degree from the LSU he returned to India and joined the Osmania University, Hyderabad in October 1960. There he started field work in his own vision and might among the Telengana settlements intensively, and published two papers on house types, village settlement morphology and field patterns (1962). Professor Mukerji joined the Department of Geography, Panjab University Chandigarh at the beginning of 1963 and was retired there in 1994. For two years thereafter, beginning 1995 to end 1996, Professor Mukerji was Professor of Geography at the University of Poona.

His published research brought him acceptance and recognition by his own teachers at Louisiana State University and by David Sopher, easily the most prominent American specialist on the cultural geography of India. Sopher (1973), remarked about him: "Some middle-ranked Indian

geographers have moved in directions foreshadowed by Radhakamal Mukerjee in an attempt to tie together ecology, settlement, and social structure, through time, for particular Indian landscapes (e.g. Mukerji 1964, 1964a.....). One can have high hopes for some of the younger South Asian geographers, who are catching on to the importance of looking afresh as dwellers at their own land.” Sopher’s hope and expectations were substantially fulfilled by Mukerji; however, like a serious student and researcher, he never thought of reaching to a destination. In fact, he always practised and professed that research is a ever-walking journey without destination, of course having several halts, co-sharing and changes in the paths.

Mukerji always did researches in the purview of what is now called ‘spirituo-spatial manifestation’; in the same vein once he wrote to me (10 Jan. 1991): “Remember!, just for the satisfaction of the audience no Tabla player can play a Sitar; keep in mind that this art is for your inner satisfaction and revelation! You are marching on the right track, please treat it as meditation and go ahead. Don’t give thought on who says what! I bless you for the great success”.

The most notable feature of Prof. Mukerji’s research was the sustained search for elements and processes in the rural landscape which have had historical roots that can be discovered by participatory observations and by quiet conversations with people, culture and the landscapes – again what predominated in the Saurian tradition. He had never used a formal structured questionnaire while conducting field work; instead all his substantive researches on rural landscape and cultural geography were based on encounters in the field phenomenologically and never pre-mediated in terms of hypotheses or imaginary dictums. The final results of his analysis as they appeared in published papers were all validated, substantiated and beautifully narrated like novel portraying scenes what existed in the field.

Throughout his long research and teaching career Mukerji had applied consistently the cultural-geographical methods and principles with quests and questions from the deeper insights of “insider” but in a way that “outsiders” may also convincingly accept. In recent years he had become interested in the cultural geographical interpretation of late 19th and early 20th century historical records dealing with concepts like territory and geographical personality (published in 2000, 2004), what once scholars like Radhakamal Mukherjee, Nirmal Kumar Bose, Bendapudi Subbarao, and Subhash Malik, tried. Let us hope that somebody will continue the path he has made for us. He was deeply concerned for the re-establishing and re-awakening the roots of “Indian” in the geography of India, and expressed his ideas in his challenging and warning paper entitled “What ails to Indian geography?” (1992), which still need serious attention as provoked by David Sopher (1973). He has tried his best to warn and guide us in the right direction! Time will give the answer, and the international community will judge the spirit of Indian Geography.

Prof. Rana P.B. Singh

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7) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2011)

- 7.1) 19TH ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM OF THE IGU COMMISSION C08.32, SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL SYSTEMS, GALWAY, 1-7 AUGUST**
- 7.2) IGU C08-33 COMMISSION, URBAN GEOGRAPHY MEETING, CANTERBURY, 14-20 AUGUST**
- 7.3) EUGEO 2011, GEOGRAPHY'S STAKES IN EUROPE, LONDON, 29-31 AUGUST**
- 7.4) RGS-IBG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, LONDON 31 AUG - 2 SEPT 2011**
- 7.5) EUROPEAN COLLOQUIUM ON THEORETICAL AND QUANTITATIVE GEOGRAPHY, ATHENS, HAKOPIO UNIVERSITY, 2-5 SEPTEMBER**
- 7.6) INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GEOSITES MANAGEMENT, SAVOIE-MONT BLANC, 5-10 SEPTEMBER**
- 7.7) WHOSE ALPS ARE THESE?, CONFERENCE IN AGORDO (VENETO, ITALY), 22-24 SEPTEMBER**
- 7.8) (RE)INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT, PORTROZ-PORTOROSE, SLOVENIA, 22-24 SEPTEMBER**
- 7.9) SECOND WORLD LANDSLIDE FORUM "PUTTING SCIENCE INTO PRACTICE", FAO HEADQUARTERS, ROME, ITALY, 3-9 OCTOBER 2011**
- 7.10) UNITED NATIONS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, GENEVA, 10-11 OCTOBER**
- 7.11) CROSSING BORDERS, TRAVERSING BOUNDARIES, SINGAPORE, 13-14 OCTOBER 2011**
- 7.12) INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON IMAGE AND SIGNAL PROCESSING, SHANGHAI, 15-17 OCTOBER 2011**
- 6.13) MEDCOAST 11, 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL ENVIRONMENT, RHODES, 25-29 OCTOBER**

