Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome. Please convey them to l.ayo@homeofgeography.org or d.bissell@homeofgeography.org

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As are other sister Unions participating in the expanding system of the International Council for Science (ICSU), the IGU is undergoing unprecedented changes. First, changes are concerned with the Union's organization: the membership has been widened with the establishment of new categories of members, communication and networking with National Committees, Commissions, and Task Forces, and the establishment of steering committees of research and educational projects has strengthened. Secondly, changes are concerned with the external relationships: the collaborations with ICSU partners, the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the UN organizations such as UNESCO and FAO, are widened and become increasingly articulated; the need to react with media and public has emerged. In order to deal with this double changing framework, The Executive Committee has restructured the organization of the Union, focusing on the Secretariat services and on communication tools. One major change is the enhanced role for the Home of Geography, with financial support from Italian organizations, as the Municipality of Rome and the Fondazione della Cassa di Risparmio di Roma (Foundation of the Savings Bank in Rome). These changes are presented in detail in this issue (see Focus on: Home of Geography).
has established and strengthened linkages with other organizations by adopting specific Memoranda of Understanding with them, as in the case of the agreement with the Festival International de Géographie (see Co-operation with the Festival International de Géographie and Co-operation with the Festival International de Géographie).

Organisational changes will be of limited value, if they were the results of top-down decisions, resulting solely from decisions by the IGU Executive Committee and occasional discussions in the General Assembly. A sustained bottom-up mechanism is also needed: the better it functions, the more effective the IGU evolution will be. To help meet this need, I circulated the working paper entitled Ten Theses on IGU Strategy and Actions/ Dix thèses sur la stratégie et l’action de l’IGU available on the IGU (www.igu-net.org) and Home of Geography (www.homeofgeography.org) websites. All geographers are cordially invited to respond to the working paper. You may also assist in this process by completing and returning to the Home of Geography (d.bissell@homeofgeography.org or l.ayo@homeofgeography.org) the questionnaire you will find in Appendix 1 of this issue. Thanks from the IGU Executive Committee and from me personally to all colleagues and friends who are able to respond to this call for collaboration.

For the future of IGU and for the progress of Geography!

Adalberto Vallega

Local editions of the IGU E-Newsletter

As can be seen, the IGU E-Newsletter has been circulated in English only. The promotion of geography around the world would be greatly enhanced if editions of this publication could be disseminated in other languages. The IGU Executive Committee strongly urges National Committees, as well as other geographical bodies co-operating with IGU, to prepare and distribute local editions in appropriate languages. In principle, such local editions could be managed by a local editor and may include: the translation of the whole or of part(s), of the text included in the “main”, English edition; and additional texts, concerned with local issues, prospects and initiatives.

Geographers interested in providing such collaboration are cordially invited to contact Ronald F. Abler, Chief of IGU publications (rabler@aaag.org) or Markku Loytonen, President of the Home of Geography (markku.loytonen@helsinki.fi) or Giuliano Bellezza, Director of the Home of Geography (g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org).

Executive Committee meetings
The Fall 2005 meeting of the IGU Executive Committee will be held in Shanghai, PRC, from 23-28 October. Major topics for discussion are: i) the role of Home of Geography, with a view toward strengthening and expanding the Secretariat services of the Union there; ii) the implementation of services addressed to corresponding membership; iii) collaboration with the annual Festival International de Géographie (Saint-Dié-des-Vosges); iv) the encouragement of other festivals of geography; v) the development of the IGU’s Cultures and Civilisation initiative; vi) the establishment of an international geographical journal; vii) the institution of Merit Awards for organizations and institutions that cooperate with the IGU; viii) cooperation with scientific non-governmental organizations, with special reference to the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC); ix) collaboration with the International Year of Planet Earth initiative.

Individual decisions, together with their operational implications, will be circulated in the Issue #3, January 2006, of the IGU E-Newsletter.

Cultures and Civilisations

The objective - As was mentioned in Issue #1 of the Newsletter, the IGU Executive Committee approved the Cultures and Civilisation (C&C) initiative. The initiative is based on a document written by Jean-Robert Pitte, President of Sorbonne, and Adalberto Vallega, President of IGU, and supported by the Fondazione della Cassa di Risparmio di Roma (Foundation of the Savings Bank in Rome). The object of the C&C initiative consists of: i) triggering discussions on how cultural identities may be protected jointly with the implementation of dialogue among civilisations; ii) providing useful materials for education and the public; iii) co-operating with media in the field, and iv) the proclamation of an International Year by the United Nations.

The Steering Committee - A Steering Committee was established. At the present time it includes: Adalberto Vallega, Italy, co-ordinator, a.vallega@iol.it; F. Abler, USA, rabler@aaag.org; Antoine Bailly, Switzerland, antoine.bailly@geo.unige.ch; Giuliano Bellezza, Italy, Director of the Home of Geography, g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org; Anne Buttimer, Ireland, anne.buttimer@ucd.ie; P. Claval, France, p.claval@wanadoo.fr; Maria Cossiga, Italy, am.cossiga@gmail.com; A. Kellerman, Israel, akeller@univ.haifa.ac.il; Robert Pitte, France, jean-robert.pitte@wanadoo.fr; Luis Sanguin, France, alsanguin@wanadoo.fr
A member from Tunisia is expected to be designated by the Organizing Committee of the International Geographical Congress.

**The Role of Home of Geography**

The Home of Geography (HG) will serve as the Secretariat for the C&C initiative. In this regard, Giuliano Bellezza, the Director of the Home of Geography, has assumed the role of local convenor for the October 2005 meeting of the C&C Steering Committee, and for the 2005 December Workshop.

**The October Meeting** - On October 5-7, 2005, the C&C Steering Committee met in Villa Celimontana, discussing the conceptual and operational aspects of the C&C initiative.

- A Comprehensive Approach, meant as a basic document that will be submitted to the December workshop for discussions, revision and adoption
- Drawing the main lines of a C&C Action Plan, which will be discussed, refined and adopted in the December workshop and, in this framework, to identify possible operational responsibilities for the individual members of the Steering Committee
- Adopting the December workshop programme
- Defining the criteria to be used in the call for participation in the December workshop
- Developing a tentative list of "guest invitees" to the December workshop
- Developing a tentative list of persons to be invited to collaborate with the C&C initiative in the December workshop, b) advisors, and c) testimonials.

The outcome of these wide discussions was the adoption of **A Comprehensive Approach** discussions in the framework of the December 12-14, 2005 workshop on **Cultures and Civilisations**.
The December Workshop

Geographers from all over the world are invited to participate in the December C&C workshop in order to contribute to the discussions of the goals and operational areas of the C&C initiative. The preliminary programme may be found in Appendix 2. Geographers, as well as persons from other disciplines interested in this event are invited to fill in the participation form (Appendix 3). For further information, contact Giuliano Bellezza (g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org), the local Workshop convenor, IGU National Committees, Commissions and Task Forces are warmly invited to circulate this information call for participation in their Newsletters and on their websites.

Preparatory Papers

The December workshop will be based on a wide number of working, preparatory papers:

1. Jean-Robert Pitte, Adalberto Vallega, *Cultures and Civilizations* - Presents the proposal addressed to the IGU Executive Committee (EC);
2. Adalberto Vallega, *Cultures and Civilizations: A Tentative Approach* - This working paper presents background elements for designing the C&C initiative;
3. *Cultures and Civilizations: A Tentative Discourse* - This working paper discusses how cultures could be thought of in order to meet the C&C strategy.
4. *Cultures and Civilizations: Terms and Meanings* - This paper provides a view of etymologies and meanings attributed to, culture and civilization.
5. *A Comprehensive Approach* - Presents a view of what issues and prospects should be discussed at the December workshop; we still can't tell what kind of document will arise from this work. This paper should be regarded as having a cardinal relevance to the Workshop development.

These materials may be downloaded from, the Home of Geography (www.homeofgeography.org) and IGU (www.igu-net.org) websites. If downloading would be difficult, please contact by e-mail Giuliano Bellezza (g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org). He will be pleased to send the needed documents to e-mail.

Co-operation with the Festival International de Géographie

At the 2005 Festival International de Géographie (FIG), held in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges from 27 September-3 October, a *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* was signed by Mister Christian Pierret,
As can be seen from this Issue, the FIG-IGU MOU anticipates a wide spectrum of joint initiatives dealing with i) education, ii) geographical communication to public, iii) collaboration with media, iv) the promotion of geographical festivals around the world, and v) an extended co-operation with the Home of Co-operation.

An Implementation Team was established, co-chaired by the Presidents of FIG and IGU. The membership includes: Ronald F. Abler, Secretary General, and Vice President Hiroshi Tanabe. Further details regarding operations approach will be circulated in the Issue # 3, January 2006, of the IGU E-Newsletter.

**Geographical Festivals**

At its Shanghai, 23-27 meeting, the IGU Executive Committee will discuss in depth how festivals of geography might be promoted at the local scale with collaboration of the Festival International de Géographie (FIG), a permanent body established in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges. In this respect, the "Geographical Festival Promotion" (GFP) initiative was adopted. It should aim at: i) circulating information on the individual Geographical Festivals; ii) heightening their international visibility; iii) widening the public interest in geography; and iv) catalysing the attention from media on these phenomena. National Committees and local geographical bodies which are interested in collaborating with this initiative are cordially invited to contact the President of IGU (a.vallega@iol.it). Further details will be circulated in the Issue # 3, January 2006, of the IGU E-Newsletter.

**International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE)**

The organization of the IYPE, in which the IGU has played the role of founder partner, has entered its crucial phase. The UNESCO and the UN General Assembly were invited to proclaim this year for 2008. As a result, the set of initiatives focusing on the relevant subjects areas will be convened in 2007.

The IGU not only has participated in the IYPE by contributing to its relevant budget, but also by member participation in the following scientific collaboration:

This subject will be addressed as part of the events to be included as part of the Outreach Programme. Components of the outreach programme may include: cooperation for...
affiliation with the Year; recycling educational materials; supporting scientists from less developed economies; citizen science; involving the public in research; competitions; stories; programme development; and art commissioning. The Outreach Programme Committee developed a website (www.yearofplanetearth.org), produced flyers, and released 10,000 general information brochures and leaflets. As with the science programme, the outreach programme will operate in a ‘bottom-up’ mode. Individuals and organisations will be invited to submit proposals for realization through the Year. Vice-president Hiroshi Tanabe is a member of the team designated to implement this programme. The key goal is to establish constructive linkages between the Outreach Programme and IGU initiatives in the educational field.

The Cultural Values of Nature
In its April 2005 meeting, the IGU Executive Committee decided to implement collaboration with IYPE by carrying out a project on The Cultural Values of Nature, which will be further developed by the executive committee during its October 2005 meeting.

International Geographical Congress
A special session on the IYPE will be convened during the 2008 Tunis International Geographical Congress.

The Home of Geography
The Home of Geography will host meetings and other events organized by the IYPE. Last September this kind of collaboration had its debut with the participation of 21 scholars of Earth Sciences, under the direction of Edward Derbyshire and Ed de Mulder. There was a 2 days workshop, and they are writing a Celimontana Resolution expressing their strong intention to follow in their researches in cooperation.

SCOPE Programme and Projects
Following the decisions taken by the General Assembly, the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) adopted a research programme. Appendix 4.

Digital Communities Conference 2005
In Benevento and Naples, from June 5-10 2005, the Digital Communities Conference 2005 was an initiative of the IGU Commission Geography on Information Society and the Michigan State University E*Space Project. Digital Communities is an international network of scholars, policy analysts who share an interest in the relationship between information technology...
The Digital Communities conference in 2005 took place in Benevento and Naples, Italy, from June 5-10. The conference explored a wide range of themes associated with information technology, the knowledge economy, technology policy, and the significance of place in cyberspace. Special emphasis was given to the experience of locations within the Mediterranean region, although papers on all areas were received and discussed. A special session was devoted to Mediterranean issues, and a special workshop, including both scientists and policy makers, was held on 'Policies for ICT and knowledge-led development in the Mediterranean'. An explicit Mediterranean theme also linked to a description of the MRP project, can be found on the conference website: http://www.ssc.msu.edu/~espace/DC2005.html. It includes a special collection of satellite images by MARS-Mediterranean Agency Remote Sensing (University of Sannio-Province of Benevento), which was one of the conference sponsors. These could serve as a good resource for classroom use, as well as being of general interest and an example of MARS support for the conference.

Among the major achievements of the conference was the emergence of awareness among participants of a Mediterranean knowledge system, which could serve as a set of good locations for innovative development.

The Conference Steering Committee included: Mark Wilson and Kenneth E. Corey (Michigan State University, USA, Founders of E*Space); Maria Paradiso (Università degli Studi del Sannio, Italy, Executive Secretary, IGU Commission on the Geography of Information Society); Aharon Kellerman, University of Haifa, Israel, Chair, IGU Commission on the Geography of Information Society; Henry Bakis, University of Montpellier III, France, Editor, NETCOM); Richard Hanley (NYC Technical College of CUNY, USA, Editor, Journal of Urban Technology).

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| Digital Communities 2005: Technology and Place | Themes associated with information technology, knowledge economy, and technology | Articles based on presentations will be published in special issues of NETCO | 2005, June 5-10, Benevento/Naples | IGU Commission on the Geography of Information Society; E*Space | Maria Paradiso and Mark Wilson (Steering committee: Aharon Keller) | Università di Sannio, Research Centre on Software Technologies-RCOST, MARS-Mediterrane
gy policy, significance of place in cyberspace, with special interest for locations within the Mediterranean region.

M, and Journal of Urban Technology

man; Kenneth E Corey; Henry Bakis; Richard Hanley.

Mediterranean Agency Remote Sensing, Province of Benevento, Regional Competence Centre on ICT, SEPSA, CIRA, SanPaolo-Banco di Napoli

Conference on Urban Climate

Italy, 5-7 September 2005, the Colloque International Climat Urbain, Ville et Architecture, with the sponsorship of, and collaboration by the IGU Commission on Climatology. Discussions focused on physical aspects, with special reference to climate change and its implications for biogeochemical processes. Human implications for urban architectural structures were considered. The Mediterranean was the focal area of discussions. In his welcoming speech, the IGU President emphasised the need to invest in the human and cultural implications of climate change and suggested that the outcomes of the conference discussions should be included in the Mediterranean Renaissance Workshop on Chinese geography

In association with the meeting of the Shanghai IGU Executive Committee Meeting (Shanghai, PRC, 23-27 October, 2005), an International Workshop on the Development of Geography in China was organised, with the aim of: i) catalysing scientific investigations and discussions of geographical changes in China with emphasis on urban growth and subsequent changes in land uses; ii) strengthening the role of local
geographical bodies within Chinese society, thereby dealing with the major issues that unprecedented economic growth has brought about in China; iii) assessing the accomplishments of geographers in improving methods and techniques, as well as their efforts in developing innovative approaches to geographical education and training; iv) providing a means for local geographers to enhance their visibility and collaboration in the international arena.

During the meeting discussions attention will focus on: i) those geographical issues, which have marked these changes and on which attention should be concentrated; ii) the prospect of designing an ad hoc IGU programme for China, based on the collaboration between the Chinese National Committee for the IGU and other local bodies, on the one hand, and the IGU Executive Committee together with IGU Commissions and Task Forces, on the other.

This initiative is a part of a programme aimed at promoting joint discussions between local geographical bodies and geographers, on the one hand, and the IGU Executive Committee, on the other, in order to explore whether and how cooperation may be established with reference to local issues. The first experience of this kind was a workshop held in Taiwan, in November 2004. The Shanghai workshop will be the second one. IGU National Committees and local geographical bodies interested in this kind of initiative are cordially invited to contact the IGU President A. Vallega (a.vallega@iol.it).

The 2005 World Conference of Chinese Geographers

The 2005 World Conference of Chinese Geographers was held on August 16-17, 2005 at Peking University, Beijing, China. A total of more than 1,000 Chinese geographical researchers and educators from the United Kingdom, Austria, Canada, France, Ireland, Japan and China (including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) attended the conference. More than 700 papers were submitted and discussed during this conference with a wide range of topics spanning scientific and applied research in geography.

The conference was co-sponsored by the Geographical Society of China (GSC), Peking University Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGSNRR) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Professor Tao Shu, Deputy Dean of College of Environmental Sciences, Peking University chaired the opening ceremony of the conference. Academician Lu Dadao, President of GSC, made the opening speech. Professor Lin Jianhua, Vice President of Peking University, delivered the welcoming address. Professor Liu Jiyuan, Director General of IGSNRR, Academician Sun Shupeng, Academician Shi Yafeng, Kou-Hsiung Teng, President of Taipei Normal College, Professor Laurence J C Ma, USA, addressed the conference. Academician Liu Changming, Vice President of International
The theme of this conference is "Geography and Development in China". With the process of economic globalization and the fast development of economy and society in China, geography has made great progress in recent years. It has exerted a significant effect on promoting sustainable development and building a harmonious society, so that all the Chinese geographers are focusing their attention on this field. Meanwhile, it is attracting more and more Chinese geographers throughout the world to serve their motherland as well. This is one of the purposes that the Geographical Society of China held "2005 World Conference of Chinese Geographers". It will not only be a platform for the geographers to communicate their ideas of geography and achievement of teaching, but also an opportunity for them to discuss how geography will further propel the development of economy and science in China.

The conference had the following characteristics: a) Most participants were scholars aged below 45; b) "Focusing on becoming better able to make independent innovations" was the main idea of the meeting; and c) Young and middle-aged leading scientists were invited to give reports covering results, advances and issues in their respective research fields so that the audiences could capture a clear picture.

The plenary meeting was organized based on the hotspots including: 1) The fourth wave of urbanization in China; 2) Agricultural land intensity change and its impact on ecological protection in China; 3) The present and prospect of physical geography in Taiwan; 4) Research on regional natural hazards and temporal and spatial differentiation of China's natural disasters; 5) Urbanization process and geography of China; 6) Progress in deserts and desertification research of China; 7) Current and integrated research of geography in China; 8) Progress and challenges in geo-information science of China; and 10) Spatial structure of regional development and regional planning.

20) Urban planning and landscape design; 21) Geographical education in internet times; 22) Innovation of geographical courses and sustainable development education; 23) Theory of ecowater requirement and its research method; and 24) Regional comprehensive development and integration.

During the conference, laureates of The Eighth National Youth Geographical Science Awards were presented, including Dr. An Chengbang, Professor Dong Zhibao, Dr. Liu Wenxin, Professor Wang Ninglian, Professor Wei Fangqiang, Professor Xiao Cunde, Dr. Xu Honggang, Professor Zhang Pingyu and Professor Zheng Jingyun. Twenty young scholars received prizes for their excellent papers and won the Youth Paper Award of The 2005 World Conference of Geographers.

Cai Yunlong, Vice President of GSC, presided over the closing ceremony of the conference. Bao Jigang, Vice President of GSC and Dean of the School of Geography and Planning at Sun Yat-sen University in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China, made a summary speech. It was decided that the 2006 GSC Annual Meeting will be held at Lanzhou University in Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China.

Zhaon Xin and Gao Yiping (The Geographical Society of China)

Obituary for Prof. Takeuchi Keiichi

Takeuchi Keiichi nous a quittés le 25 juin 2005. Après avoir subi une opération du cancer il y a quelques années, il avait retrouvé la santé. A la fin de l'année dernière, il participait activement à l'étude de l'histoire de la pensée géographique et, comme à son habitude, il lui arrivait de discuter fort la nuit avec des jeunes géographes. La nouvelle de son décès nous a tous étonnés. Il avait 72 ans. Ce fut une durée de vie plus courte que la moyenne masculine japonaise. C'est vraiment très court.

Son œuvre a porté sur un grand nombre de problèmes géographiques: les études italiennes, l'histoire de la pensée géographique, la méthodologie et l'épistémologie de la géographie. Tous ses travaux se sont appuyés sur l'histoire ou sur l'histoire intellectuelle. Sa démarche a d'ailleurs été influencée par son histoire des enseignements secondaire et supérieur, démocratique et libéral, après la Seconde Guerre mondiale. Depuis il n'a jamais oublié son esprit critique et ses critiques d'études en Italie comme boursier du gouvernement italien et il y a séjourné pendant de 1959. Il s'intéressait à la transformation des paysages et à l'inégalité régionale et il était particulièrement axé sur l'importance de poser ces phénomènes géographiques comme des questions régionales (" Chiiki Mondai no Keisei to Tenkai (Formation et développement de la question régionale) " 1998). Cette pensée n'était pas seulement celle d...

**Gender and Geography meeting in Hamilton City (NZ)**

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**Preliminary Notice**

**Shifting Boundaries: Gender, Bodies and Spaces**

**A meeting of the IGU Commission on Gender and Geography**

**June 28 – 30, 2006**

immediately prior to the Bilbao IGU 2006 Regional Conference, Australia

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**Waikato Museum of Art and Hist**

Southend, Hamilton City, New Zealand

For expression of interest regarding participation, please contact:

Robyn Longhurst, roony1@waikatowc.nz
A poster of the Preliminary Notice of the IGU, Gender and Geography meeting at Hamilton City, New Zealand just before the Brisbane conference. The title of the meeting is: Shifting Boundaries: Gender, Bodies and Spaces. The dates: 28-30 June, 2006

Local contact: Robin Longhurst (robynl@waikato.ac.nz).

THE HOME OF GEOGRAPHY

Via della Navicella 12, 00184 Roma, Italy
www.homeofgeography.org
bissell@homeofgeography.org or l.ayo@homeofgeography.org

The mission of the Home of Geography was originally defined as:
1. Organising and maintaining IGU's Archives
2. offering space and financial support for interns;
3. hosting scientific events and meetings and
4. editing and publishing a book series.

The Municipality of Rome renewed its financial sponsorship for the Home of Geography in 2005. In the same year the Fondazione della Cassa di Risparmio di Roma (Foundation of the Savings Bank in Rome) decided to support the Cultures and Civilisations initiative (see the relevant presentation in this issue). As a result, on April 28, during a joint IGU and SGI joint meeting, a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed which provides for expanded roles for the Home of Geography. In addition to the roles noted above, the Home of Geography will also:
5. prepare and circulate the IGU Electronic Newsletter
6. implement its role as IGU books editor
7. manage IGU membership services
8. serve as a local focus for international research and educational projects
collaborate with the Festival International of Geography
assume other tasks relevant to the IGU organization.

Individual operational areas are below concisely presented.

1. Organizing and maintaining the IGU Archives: The first paper materials, arrived to the Home from Germany and UK, were ordered by Geoffrey Martin, working some months in the Home. In February 2005 the files were revised by Hector Mendoza-Vargas, President of the Commission "History of Geographical Thought", then began a work in co-operation with the Archives section of the Società Geografica Italiana to realize an e-archive. In the second half of 2005 we received more material and the work to classify it is only beginning, and very important, part of the Archives are the interviews realized mainly by Anne Buttimer in video-cassette, following a program established with Thorsten Hagerstrand in the '50s. Nearly 100 items gathering the intellectual and academic careers of the most important geographers of the XX Century, donated by Anne Buttimer herself. An important portfolio that in the near term could be very implemented if the Lund University will definitely agree to send us the original.

2. Offering room and assistance to stagières: Agreement have been established by Franco Salvatori with the 2nd University of Rome and by Giuliano Bellezza with the University of Vitebo to host stagières to work in the Archives filing. All is still at the moment, as the work for meetings, book series, CMAP revealed to be nearly the maximum the actual staff of only two persons can cope with.

3. Hosting scientific events and meetings: The first major event hosted in 2005 has been: the International Workshop on Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Development: Networking Local Area Partnerships with Teachers and Young Scientists. With the funds offered by the ICSU, 15 persons gathered in Villa Celimontana from 13th through 14th June. In the Report the Project Director, Prof. Margaret Robertson, wrote that the workshop established a strategy to implement the role of geography in the secondary school education systems. The document can be seen in the Home of Geography website, in the "events 2005" section.
In September 6th and 7th the Home was the seat of an important workshop of the IGY+50 International, organized by representatives of the International Year of Planet Earth (Planet Earth), the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY), the International Polar year (IPY) and the International Heliophysical Year (IHY) 2005. 21 scholars gathered in our premises, under the direction of Edward Derbyshire and Ed De Mulder. The Background notes can be seen in the Home of Geography website, in the "events 2005."
1st workshop of the Steering Committee of the Cultures and Civilizations initiative of the IGU held in the Home from 5th to 7th October. Even in this case, more details can be seen in the Home website, in the "events 2005" section.

On these occasions, the Home, in accordance with the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, helped obtaining visas for all the participants to the meetings and for other visiting scholars wanting to study the Archives and, when requested by participants to meeting non directly organized by IGU or Home, provided lodging and meals.

Editing and circulating a book series: By mid September we eventually received the text of the volume "Rights to the City", the third of our series. Before the end of October the final proof reading will be finished. It is hoped that the Home will present the volume in the occasion of the December C&C.

Since last spring we did not receive news about two books, proposed in 2004 by Tony Jones (IGU Commission for Water Sustainability; title: \textit{Managing water resources in a changing physical and social landscape}) and Ton Van Naerssen (Assessing the (un)desirability of borders towards migration and flows after enlargement of the European Union). The following points, particularly 7 (Establishing and managing the Membership Service)
The Executive Secretary has been very efficient in preparing the list serve of the more than 800 CMs, including several members of the ICSU. We sent to all the first issue of the new e-Newsletter will be completed and disseminated before the Shanghai meeting of the IGU EC.

As about Point 9 (Collaborating with the Festival International of Geography), see Appendix 3 below.

**Designing the IGU’s Future**

As was announced in the IGU e-Newsletter #1, the Ten Theses on IGU Strategy and Actions was circulated to the “IGU family” in order to trigger discussions about the mid- and long-term targets of the Union. The theses are reported below as an Appendix to the Newsletter. All the geographers are cordially invited to specify if they agree, don’t agree, or have no opinion as regards the individual theses. This can be done by crossing the relevant boxes and by return the filled in Appendix to Home of Geography. The full text of Ten Theses on IGU Strategy and Actions may be found in, and downloaded at www.homeofgeography.org, and www.igu-net.org.

We invite anyone wanting to express his opinion to fill the boxes and e-mail their answers to d.bissell@homeofgeography.org or l.ayo@homeofgeography.org.

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<td>1</td>
<td>Redress the Imbalance between Technique- and Episteme-Building — The elaboration of scientific knowledge and representations of the interactions between social and spatial processes have entered a paradoxical phase. Representation techniques have improved much more rapidly than the epistemological discourse upon which they are based, particularly the discourse on the epistemological role of geography in bridging the human and natural sciences, on integrating structuralist and non-structuralist visions, and on strengthening holistic visions of the world. IGU is intrinsically encouraged to promote synchronization of representation techniques and concept building, namely techne and logos.</td>
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Thesis 2 - Trigger Effective Discussions of Interdisciplinarity – The cardinal focus of future geographical discussions should be the development of an episteme that meets the need for the interdisciplinary approaches specified by the 1999 World Conference on Science. Interdisciplinarity is increasingly essential to dealing effectively with global change and globalisation. Hence, the IGU should lead to changing concepts of interdisciplinarity from the mere assembling of disciplines to interdisciplinarity defined as creating isomorphisms that integrate the natural and social components of spaces and places.

Thesis 3 - Promote Holism in the Geographical Sciences – One of the major gaps to be bridged in the scientific approaches to the Earth's surface is the increasing inclination to attribute strong validity to nomothetic sciences and to discount idiographic research. The need for effective integration of different elements of knowledge has acquired increasing relevance. The IGU's mission here is to encourage discussions that bridge logos-focused and graphia-concerned disciplines in order to capitalise on the latent synergy between case studies and theoretical approaches.

Thesis 4 - Accommodate All Theoretical Streams – The expanding social need for sustainable development based on safeguarding the bio-cultural identity of places, the evolving framework of science, and finally the unprecedented improvement of geographical investigation techniques converge to suggest that, in geography, discussions rooted in diverse topical and theoretical streams is essential to progress in the discipline and prerequisite to expanding geography's role in the international scientific arena. Isolation and internal ideological conflicts must be foregone. The IGU must accommodate and encourage open and constructive discussion in a spirit of global scientific communication.

Thesis 5 - Focus on New Concepts - The entire scientific landscape has recently been marked by increased numbers of new concepts representing and explaining interactions between human communities and the Earth's surface, with special consideration to interactions between local and global scales. Consequently, the IGU has a double mission. It must collaborate closely with the disciplines that use and need geographical concepts and methods; at the same time it bears primary responsibility for improving the design and operationalization of new geographical concepts and for disseminating

agree ____/ No, I don't agree _____/ I have no opinion _____/
them in the broader scientific community.

Yes, I agree / No, I don't agree / I have no opinion

2) Five Theses on actions

- Reorganize the Executive Committee – International scientific unions such as the IGU face two options: 1) they can maintain the conventional organisation and serve as arenas for internal communication and networking, or 2) they can redesign their goals and structures to accommodate the needs of science and society. The second choice implies increased hetero-referential planning and action. In the conventional approach the president of a scientific union plays an essentially representative role, the secretary general serves as a reference person for the union's committees and research bodies, and vice-presidents assume occasional responsibility for specific initiatives. In the reactive (second) approach the president attends also to the union's strategy, the role of vice-presidents in order to ensure consistency of actions with goals, the secretary general manages the organisation as a whole, and the vice-presidents assume responsibility for operational fields. The faster the IGU shifts from the conventional stance to the second executive committee structure the sooner it will become more effective in representing the global geographical community in the international scientific arena.

Yes, I agree / No, I don't agree / I have no opinion

- Harvest Research – The changing role of science and increased interaction among disciplines demand that the scientific achievements of IGU Commissions and Task Forces systematically used to improve the status of geography in the international arena and in national contexts. These efforts are to be carried out by systematically collecting the scientific outputs of individual research bodies consisting of concepts, methods, and lessons from case studies and by using these outcomes to enhance the roles of geography in international research programmes and in national geographical educational systems. Accordingly, the executive committee should move beyond monitoring the work of commissions and task forces to interacting closely with such bodies, evaluating their products and disseminating them through global scientific networks. Intensive publicizing of the IGU's scientific resources will raise the visibility of geography in the international arena and within member countries.

Yes, I agree / No, I don't agree / I have no opinion

- Involve the Entire Geographical Community

The IGU has been primarily self-referential since its inception in that its role in the international
The IGU has depended primarily on its national committees, commissions and task forces. The IGU should now become, in addition, etero-referential. The newly-elected executive committee is keen to establish increased communication with bodies and individuals operating outside the IGU. Global information and communication techniques should be more intensively used to increase such an involvement. The IGU should be more effective in today's globalised scientific world.

Thesis 9 - Expand Communication - Communication will play a key role in validating the IGU as a full member of the globalised scientific community. Improved communication must be addressed systematically, open to all the geographers from inside and outside the Union, flexible in using traditional and electronic tools, and be continuously modulated by the IGU's evolving strategies. In particular, IGU communications should be addressed, as appropriate, to both the scientific world and to the public in order to respond to the expanding social needs for geographical assessments, representations and insights. The more quickly the IGU shifts from traditional internally-directed communications to a more flexible stance marked by a firm inclination to improve and expand dialogue, the sooner its ability to play an effective role in the globalised world will increase.

Thesis 10 - Raise Visibility - In recent years geography has enjoyed increasing social relevance as representations of the Earth and the world have aroused an expanded interest in such traditional media as book series, magazines and newspapers, in such visual media as television, CDROMs and DVDs, and in the cyber media of the Internet. These developments constitute and implicit stimulus to the IGU to exploit these multifaceted and powerful media. The IGU need specific programs to build bridges to those who control access to the media and to those who create media content. The IGU and the global geography community will benefit greatly by employing these media as channels to disseminate IGU research to the public.

Yes, I agree _____/ No, I don't agree _____/ I have no opinion _____/
International Workshop: Cultures and Civilisations for a New World

Rome, 12-14 December 2005

venues: Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio, Municipality of Rome, SGI-Home of Geography

Preliminary Programme
Partner Organizations
International Geographical Union, Home of Geography
Società Geografica Italia (Italian Geographical Society)
Fondazione della Cassa di Risparmio di Roma (Foundation of the Saving Bank in Rome)
Comune di Roma (Roman Municipality)

Funding Organisations
Fondazione della Cassa di Risparmio di Roma (Foundation of the Saving Bank in Rome)
Comune di Roma (Roman Municipality)

Scientific Co-ordinators
Adalberto Vallega, President of International Geographical Union
(a.vallega@iol.it)
Ronald A. Abler, Secretary General and Treasurer, International Geographical Union
Bellezza, Director of Home of Geography (g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org)

Workshop rapporteurs
- Ronald A. Abler, Secretary General and Treasurer, International Geographical Union
- Anna Maria Cossiga, Società Geografica Italiana

English and French

Materials of the Workshop may be found in the websites of the IGU www.igu-net.org
Home of Geography www.homeofgeography.org

The Workshop was designed, and it is convened, in the framework of the Cultures and Civilisations (C&C) initiative, convened by the International Geographical Union with the aim of:
- Illustrating the width and depth of the endowment the civilisations and cultural identities;
- Demonstrating how this extended endowment has been built, not only through the evolution of individual civilisations, but also, and particularly, because civilisations have interacted with each other;
- Affirming the universal value of the inter-cultural and inter-civilisational dialogue among civilisations;
- Emphasising the existence of conditions that could lead to advanced and constructive civilisation, bringing about increasingly progressive stages of human development;
- Promoting initiatives that - in the frameworks of education, communication, and relations - aim to strengthen and diffuse an accurate and positive vision of civilisations, and awareness of the values appropriate to inter-cultural and inter-civilisational dialogue.

The workshop was designed to discuss the principles on which the C&C initiative could be based, and operational approaches which it could fruit from, and the key actions which it could include. Therefore, it is expected that, as its major outcome, the workshop will adopt a comprehensive document, tentatively called Cultures and Civilisations for a New World, which will: i) present the general features of the C&C initiative, ii) include the proposal for the proclaiming of an international year of cultures and civilisations, and iii) sketch a relevant Action Plan.
In this view, the C&C Steering Committee adopted a draft document, called Cultures and Civilisations for a New World. A tentative approach, which is expected to serve as the reference basis for the workshop.

Moreover, the following working papers were drafted:

- Cultures and civilisations: A Tentative Discourse - File Discourse.doc
- Cultures and civilisations: A Tentative Approach - File Possible approach.doc
- Cultures and civilisations: Terms and Meanings - File Terms meanings.doc

All these materials may be downloaded from the above-mentioned websites.

Cardinal questions

Moving from the above mentioned documents from the C&C Steering Committee, discussions held in the Workshop could usefully focus on the following range of questions:

- How the conceptual approach to cultures and civilisations could help inter-cultural and inter-civilisational dialogue and collaboration;
- How the approach to cultures and civilisations by decision-makers and stakeholders could contribute to effective sustainable development;
- How approaches integrating the protection of cultural identities and the role of civilisations could be designed and operated;
- How an international year of cultures and civilisations by the United Nations could be designed;
- How the role of cultures and civilisations may be presented in educational curricula and materials;
- How science could interact with the public and media in a view of assuming cultures and civilisations as cardinal tools to move towards a better world;
- How an Action Plan may be designed in order to deal with the above-mentioned questions.

Papers and abstracts

Papers dealing with the above list of questions would be welcome. Abstracts of no more than 1,000 words should be conveyed to the Home of Geography (g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org) by November 15th, 2005. They will be lodged in the IGU and Home of Geography websites. Also the preliminary draft of papers will be welcome to be lodged in the websites.

Participation is free. Participants are cordially invited to fill in the enclosed form, and to return it to the Home of Geography.
Work design
09:00-10:30 Sessions
10:00-11:00 Coffee break
11:00-12:30 Sessions
12:30-14:00 Lunch
14:00-15:30 Sessions
15:30-16:00 Coffee break
16:00-17:30 Sessions
The design: tentatively, the Workshop will not include parallel sessions. It is expected to run as

Monday, 12th December
REGISTRATION
WELCOMING SPEECHES
TOP PRESENTATION - The trio "cultures, civilizations and human development"
  1 - The role of scientific approaches to cultures and civilisations
  2 - Cultures and civilizations in a globalised world
  3 - Nature, culture, and sustainable development
13th December
4 - The social perceptions and imaginations , and their geographical implications
  5 - Cultures and civilization in educational systems
  6 - Media representations of cultures and civilisations
14th December
7 - Cultures and civilizations for peace
  8 - Cultures and civilizations for human development
9 - The UN approaches to cultures and civilizations
  - Cultures and civilizations for a new world

A Farewell Dinner is expected on Wednesday.
A field trip is expected to take place on Tuesday afternoon.
International Geographical Union  FIG Festival International de Géographie

Together to promote geography in the scientific community, education, and the general public

Memorandum of Understanding

International Geographical Union, hereinafter "IGU", headquartered at the organization or institution to which the General Secretary - Treasurer is attached, represented by its President, Mr. Adalberto...

Festival International de Géographie, hereinafter "FIG" and supported by the Association de Développement du Festival International de Géographie (ADFIG), headquartered at Saint-Dié-des-Vosges (France). The Festival is represented by its Founding President, Mr. Christian Pierret, who will inform ADFIG of the directions taken in this memorandum so that ADFIG can broadly support them.

The basics of cooperation between IGU and FIG
IGU and the FIG recognize that their activities share a common purpose. Article I.B of IGU's statutes indicates that IGU's aim is "to promote the study of geographical problems; ...to provide for the participation of geographers in the work of relevant international organizations; to facilitate the collection and diffusion of geographical data and documentation between all member countries; to participate in any other appropriate form of international cooperation with the object of advancing the study and application of geography."

The purpose of the FIG is to promote the dissemination of geographical facts about the world and its regions, to disseminate geographical knowledge to the widest possible audience, to educate public authorities throughout the world to acknowledge geography's importance in education, to promote geography as a social science that is essential to the actions of modern man towards the knowledge of the other, equality of people, of men and of women, to promote human dignity and the right to sustainable development for all. It also promotes geography through a yearly festive event, as well as through meetings and publications related to the topic of activities of each Festival.

Activities aimed at education and geographical training:
IGU has adopted the Charter of Geographical Education, implemented a Permanent Committee on Geographical Education, promoted the Olympiads for Young Geographers, designed and disseminated educational instruments, including the Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Development guide for teachers especially involved in international cooperation in this area. Thanks to these activities education has become one of the Union's key sectors.

From its inception in 1990, the FIG has always adopted a dynamic approach toward geographical education. This has been developed with gradually increasing intensity throughout each of the fifteen editions of the Festival. The FIG had provided a permanent educational structure for information, discussions as well as intellectual and cultural interaction among all geographers. These features are unmatched in the arena of geographical education and dissemination. Over the years, the Festival has been officially recognized by the French Ministry of Education as an opportunity for high-school teachers. The European Union and the French government further recognized the value of the event and have lent their support to the FIG, its educational and cultural project.

Steps taken to bring the science of geography closer to all people:
The FIG has successfully tried out some innovative approaches, which have proven to diffuse geography to the widest possible audience and to provide local communities with instruments that help them understand the various parameters geography analyses as part of the sustainable development of their activities and territories.
As its activities were increasingly responding to the objectives and trends of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development and as it was extending its participation in international research projects devoted to sustainable development, the IGU gradually extended its relations with the general public as a key instrument in optimising its role in society; to generate a geographical approach that complies with the universal values of peace, development and solidarity by:

- Disseminating useful geographical knowledge in order to understand local situations and problems, where economic, social and environmental issues arise and eventually get resolved; shining the part played in the life of local communities by the identity of a given locale and the values connected to it;
- Highlighting the part played geographical conditions likely to foster cooperation between the people and communication between cultures.

Experience gained

Since the creation of the Festival, and with a presence ensured by several of its most distinguished members, the IGU has been working more closely with the FIG since 2001. The IGU's Executive Committee meeting has even been hosted by the Festival's twelfth edition. Since then, their collaboration has grown and proved efficient, and the latest Festival, the 15th (2004) once again served as the setting for IGU's Executive Committee meeting (elected in Glasgow, August 2004) for setting the stage for their mutual cooperation and the productive relationships already brought to fruition, IGU and the FIG firmly believe that working together more closely and as a matter of routine is likely to benefit geography at international level.

Common goals

Based on their mutual interests and the productive relationships already brought to fruition, IGU and the FIG jointly strive to:

- Promote a new image of geography throughout the world to enhance the part it plays as a social science aimed at understanding the complexity of issues faced by human communities on their territories;
- Disseminate geographical knowledge that is accessible to the general public with the help of media such as new information and communication technologies;
- Cooperate with the structures dealing with education and geographical training at various levels (international, national regional and local);
- Promote the creation and dissemination of cartography as well as computerized geographical systems, not only in schools and universities, but also towards larger, non-specialized audiences.
In particular, they wish to make geographical technologies available to communities and businesses; develop all forms of geography applied to economics, urban planning, health and social issues.

**Instruments and content of cooperation**

In order to pursue their common goals, IGU and the FIG suggest designing and developing a set of instruments for cooperation.

IGU shall lend its official and continuous moral patronage to the FIG, which is entitled to emphasize this in all actions it undertakes and in all its documents;

IGU shall make every effort to encourage geographers throughout the world to take part as well as the initiatives both organizations might decide to take jointly, and which shall be reported on a regular basis in the periodical Newsletter and on the Union's web site;

The FIG shall be regarded as a preferential cooperation structure in scientific events organized by the Union's Commission and Task Forces;

Union's Executive Committee shall encourage the Committees involved in organizing Regional Conferences and International Geographical Congresses to welcome the FIG's presentation and support any international initiatives it might take.

IGU shall be mentioned in documents issued by the FIG as an international organization and "official science partner of the Festival";

FIG shall provide an office space to the IGU on a permanent basis and free of charge in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges (following the agreement of that town's municipal council) or in any other location FIG's Founding President shall designate;

FIG shall reserve a space specially devoted to the IGU for the duration of the Festival; every year the FIG shall host an IGU event, the content and form of which shall be mutually agreed;

FIG shall invite IGU speakers and participants to take part in the Festival's various activities and other initiatives;

FIG shall make every effort to encourage geographers, especially younger geographers, to take part in IGU's actions and activities, in particular through the part played by the Union's "corresponding members".
In order to carry out the actions referred to, IGU and the FIG shall set up a Cooperation Team consisting of two members from IGU and two members from FIG. The Team shall be jointly chaired by IGU’s President and FIG’s Founding President, with the assistance of the Science Director and the General Director of the Festival. The Cooperation Team's main tasks are to:

1. Develop annual work plans focused on the FIG;
2. Follow up initiatives included in the work programs.

Annual work plans shall be formulated on the basis of mutual agreement by IGU and FIG regarding the allocation of costs and responsibilities. As their cooperation grows, and depending on both the efficiency of such cooperation, IGU and the FIG might in time come to set up a more structured form of cooperation, aimed at establishing a proper legal organization open to broader objectives.

Saint Dié des Vosges, 1 October 2005

Mr. Christian Pierret
Founding President
Festival International de Géographie

Mr. Adalberto Vallega
President
International Geographical Union
Assess ways to finalise and terminate this project with Tony Janetos.

Bridging the gap between environmentalists, decision makers and resource managers in Latin America - The Executive Committee noted that the project document focuses more on capacity building than on the synthesis and review of the science base. The President will write to Regino Zamora explaining how to finalise the project document according to SCOPE's project guidelines, especially as regards a SAC, budget, project plan, etc. Reynaldo Victoria volunteered to help Regino Zamora develop the project plan with a view to re-applying to IAI for funding. The Executive Committee stressed that this project should remain independent from the IAI/SCOPE project under development.

Assessment of sustainability indicators (ASI) - The Executive Committee noted that all draft chapters of the forthcoming volume need substantial revision, and that Tomas Hak is in charge of coordinating this process. Once the revised chapters are in hand, an editorial meeting should be held in Paris.

Adaptive ecopolis development - The Executive Committee approved the nomination of Philip Vergragt to the Scientific Advisory Committee of the project. The Executive Director will contact Peter Dogse and his colleagues at UNESCO regarding possible support for the project.

Consequences of industrial animal production (CIAP) - The Executive Committee congratulated Hal Mooney and his colleagues for the progress in this project.

New agricultural technologies and practices for the 21st century (AG21 - new project) - The Executive Committee thanked Holm Tiessen for his efforts in coordinating development of this project.

Earth surface processes (ESPROMUD) - The Executive Committee encouraged Ian Douglas to finalise the synthesis report, with a view to closing the project once the manuscript has been accepted for publication.

Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (BD-EF) - The Executive Committee congratulated Andrea Pfisterer and her colleagues for the work accomplished and encouraged them to finalise their results for publication in a science journal.

Land ocean fluxes; the silica cycle - The Executive Committee encouraged Venu Ittekkot to collaborate with the Editor-in-Chief and Island Press concerning the publication of the synthesis.

International nitrogen initiative (INI) - The Executive Committee congratulated Jim Galloway and his colleagues for the accomplishments of INI over its first year of existence, thanking especially Arvin Mosier, Keith Syers and John Freney for their dedication and leadership of a very successful Nitrogen Fertiliser RAP. The Executive Committee encouraged the development of RAPs on nitrogen and wellbeing and on nitrogen impacts on the open oceans, the latter possibly in collaboration with SCOR, IGBP/IMBER (integrated marine biochemistry and ecosystem research).
and IGBP/SOLAS (surface ocean - lower atmosphere study). The Executive Committee expressed concern about uncertainties regarding the financing of INI.

Monsoon Asia integrated regional studies (MAIRS) - The Executive Committee received the report of John Stewart concerning the editing and publication of the first volume.

Emerging ecosystems - The Executive Committee requested the Officers and Secretariat to assist project leaders in further developing the project plan and on fundraising efforts.

Indicators of water quality - The Executive Committee invited Norman (Jake) Peters to develop the project plan with assistance from Ian Douglas.

Microbial environmental genomics (MicroEnGen) - The Executive Committee requested the Officers and Secretariat to assist project leaders in further developing the project plan and on fundraising efforts.

Dynamics of semi-enclosed marine systems (PACKMEDS) - The Executive Committee decided to re-submit the project to ICSU for funding in 2006. It invited Paola Rizzoli and the Officers to consult with SCOR and IUGG on ways to ensure appropriate synergy between this project and the SCOR working group on hypoxia.

Capacity building in the Americas for global change research - The Executive Committee appointed Osvaldo Sala, Holm Tiessen and Reynaldo Victoria as SCOPE representatives in the Steering Committee of this joint IAI/SCOPE project which will be developed as a RAP.

4 - Themes for future projects recommended by the General Assembly in its Resolutions

Land and water management in the arid zones - The Executive Committee encouraged the Egyptian Committee for SCOPE to submit a project proposal.

Contribution of ecological sciences to sustainability issues - The Executive Committee reaffirmed that SCOPE is interested in collaborating with UNESCO on a joint project addressing this theme, following the recommendation made by the General Assembly.

Shifts in the carbon based economy and ecosystem management - The Executive Committee reaffirmed that SCOPE is interested in collaborating with UNESCO on a joint project addressing this theme.
This theme, following the recommendation made by the General Assembly.

Heavy metals cycling and their effects on environment and health - The Executive Committee encouraged the Indian Committee for SCOPE to develop a project on this theme, based on proposals for a Mercury project presented to the General Assembly.

EXTREME - The Executive Committee confirmed SCOPE’s interest in activities linked to the prevention and mitigation of extreme events in coastal zones, in liaison with ICSU’s initiatives.

Human population dynamics, demographic changes and environment drivers and impacts - The Executive Committee invited the Officers to approach IHDP and IGU in order to discuss possible joint initiatives in this field.

Biomass burning and its impact on ecosystem processes - The Executive Committee encouraged Norman (Jake) Peters and his IUGS colleagues to develop a proposal addressing this topic.

Nano-particle technologies - The Executive Committee encouraged SGOMSEC to consider a possible future study on methodologies to assess the effects of nano-particle technologies on health and environment.

Harmonisation of environmental impact assessments - The Executive Committee will look into the feasibility and desirability of such a project by SCOPE.