IGU Cold Region Environments Commission Annual Report 2012-13

A. Membership

1) Steering Committee:

The IGU CRE Steering Committee re-organized in 2012 to improve flexibility and performance and is now organized with a Chair (Canada), a Co-chair (Argentina, and representing Central and South America) and Regional Co-chairs reflecting the countries that are hosting future IGU General Assemblies (i.e. 2015 Russia, 2016 China). As well we have established a Secretariat.

It is very important that the IGU email to the Cold Region Environments Commission include all co-chairs whenever possible as the distribution of IGU lists is fundamental to organizing the regional meetings and the Congresses. If all our co-chairs are not included in the official IGU mailing lists it can lead to a lot of problems.

New members have been added from India, Belgium and USA.

As well we have established a Canadian Secretariat with the addition of two honorary members. In this regard, Dr. Mike Pisaric (Brock U) and Dr. Bryan Grimwood (U Waterloo) have signed on as Honorary Members of the CRE Steering Committee and will serve as CRE Secretary General and Young Researcher Advisor.

Details and contact information for Steering Committee members are available in Appendix I.

2) Corresponding Members: 209 in 31 countries, distributed as follows:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total: N=209</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Portugal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
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<td>Switzerland</td>
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<td>The Netherlands</td>
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<td>Ukraine</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Meetings

a. Our commission members organized a number of meetings and participated in many others in 2012-2013, including:

2012 IPY Final Results Meeting, Montreal – 1 paper session, April 2012
2012 IGC Cologne – 2 paper sessions, 40 participants August 2012
2013 IGC Regional Meeting Kyoto – 1 paper session, 16 participants August 2013
2012 IPY Theme: Knowledge to Action: the results conference was the final and biggest meeting with some 7000 delegates. The general agreement of the participants was that we must find political will to act on evidence based science for social change if we are to find paths to sustainability.

2012 IGC Session Theme: Contextualising climate change: methodological, institutional and regional responses

A wide range of studies from a range of cold region scientific domains were presented and discussed, including physical and social change research from the Antarctic, the Arctic and high altitudes.

Introductions and overviews by the co-chairs framed the interrelationships among fields and regions. Discussion was positively in favour of the integration of social and physical sciences.

2013 Session Theme:

The need for integration of studies from different disciplines in order to understand and affect change was emphasized. That change is occurring is well understood but there is frustration in the lack of application of scientific findings in decisions in the world that will improve sustainability.

c. The meetings or other events you plan to hold in 2014 and later years, including locations, dates, and the topics to be addressed.

1) IGU - related

2015 Russia. CRE Session Co-Chairs: T. Vlasova and N. Doubleday

2016 China. CRE Session Co-chairs: X. Yang and N. Doubleday

2) Non-IGU
In 2014 the Canadian Association of Geographers will meet at Brock University and Mike Pisaric has graciously offered to organize a CAG-IGU CRE session. We will also work with CAG to promote collaboration with other IGU Commissions.

C. Networking

a. By email and in person discussions about cross-listing IGU Commission sessions, both in Cologne and in Kyoto, with concern for problems caused by concurrent sessions. Scientific research collaborations exist among many CRE members within their country regions. Strong
international collaboration exists among members as well, between Canada and Russia, China and South Asia, Japan and Europe, as examples.

Collaboration will be advanced with sessions in 2014 and 2015, where join efforts with Hazard and Risk and Land-use have been discussed.

We have just launched a FaceBook presence for our web site.

b. Collaboration with other international, intergovernmental, and inter- and multi-disciplinary groups in 2012-2013:

Active involvement with the 2012 IPY results meeting, and the successor bodies to various scientific studies underway formed a key area of collaboration in 2013.

Currently we are engaged in discussions of a co-organized session for the ICASS Conference program in May 2014.

Our Steering Committee members are active in a range of other associations including:
1) Xiaoping Yang  Elected as Vice President of the IAG (International Association of Geomorphologists, www.geomorph.org) for the period 2013-2017, now in charge of the IAG Working Groups and the society’s activities in Asian and Pacific regions.
2) Tatiana Vlasova, Councillor of the International Arctic Social Science Association

D. Publications

a. Newsletters, special journal issues, and books published in 2012-2013


2012 Parente, G., Shiklomanov N.I., Streletsiky, D.A., Living in the New North: Migration to and from Russian Arctic Cities, Focus on Geography 55(3):77-89


2012 Streletsiky, D.A., Shiklomanov, N.I., Nelson F.E. Permafrost Infrastructure and Climate Change: A GIS-based landscape approach, Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research 44(3) DOI: 10.1657/1938-4246-44.3


E. 2012-2013 Presentations


Murray, M., Eicken, H., Bock, N., Epstein, H., Evengård, B., Gearheard, S., Gerlach, C.,


Shiklomanov N.I., Streletskiy D.A., Orttung R, Laruelle M., Building a Research Network for Promoting Arctic Urban Sustainability in Russia, Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers, Los Angeles, CA, April 2013

Shiklomanov N.I. and Streletskiy D.A, Climate Change and Infrastructure development in the Russian Arctic, Arctic Frontiers, Tromso, Norway, January 2013.

Shiklomanov N.I., Streletskiy D.A., Nelson F.E., Active layer thickness and thaw subsidence in permafrost terrain: results from long-term observations near Barrow, Alaska, Annual Meeting of the American Geophysical Union, Invited presentation, San Francisco, December 2012

Shiklomanov, N.I., Urban Sustainability and Climatic Changes: Past, Present, and Future of the Russian Arctic Cities. Invited speaker for The Rutgers Initiative on Climate and Society lecture series, Rutgers University, New Jersey, October 19th
Shiklomanov N.I. and Streletskiy D.A., Change in permafrost across the Northern Eurasia and its possible effect on infrastructure. NASA Regional Workshop on Hydrological consequences of changes in climate and land cover across Northern Eurasia, St. Petersburg, Russia, February 2012.

b. The current accurate URL of the commission’s web site.

https://www.facebook.com/IGUCRE2013 (under construction, TBA)