



IGU E-NEWSLETTER

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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.

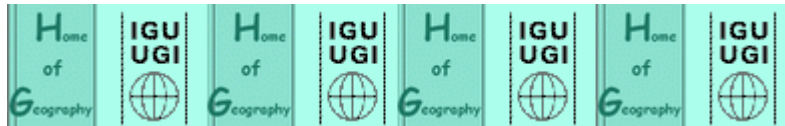
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1) 2013 REMARKS OF IGU PRESIDENT VLADIMIR KOLOSSOV

Dear friends and colleagues,

On August 18-22, 2014, the IGU Regional Conference was held in Krakow. It was the major event for the world geographical community this year and gathered 1335 participants from 64 countries. The host country, Poland, was naturally represented by the largest number of participants (357). Seven other national groups included more than 40 persons each: Germany (about 100), Japan (79), Czechia (60), UK (59), China (Beijing, 50), Russia (40). 40 participants came from each of three more countries - the USA, France and Hungary. The total attendance considerably exceeded the expectations of Polish Organizing Committee and of IGU Executive. The meeting in Krakow turned to be of particular interest for geographers from neighbouring European countries. It matches the very idea of IGU Regional Conferences.

The conference's motto was "Changes, Challenges, and Responsibility". Its programme was rich and diverse: it comprised key lectures, sessions organized by IGU Commissions, thematic sessions initiated by groups of scholars, poster sessions, and business meetings. 36 IGU Commissions of 41 used the conference in Krakow as the venue of their meetings. It is particularly important for the development of cooperation between them and the progress of interdisciplinary studies. The Commissions on Urban Challenges in a Complex World (urban geography), on Political Geography, on the Dynamic of Economic Space, on Cold Regions Environment, on Gender and Geography, and on Geographical Education hold the largest number of sessions. Altogether, there were 1171 oral and 227 poster presentations.

Key lectures were offered by Professors Zbigniew Kundzewicz from Poland and Julie Winkler from the US who spoke about climate change and uncertainties that they provoke, and by Professor Andreas Faludi from the Netherlands whose presentation shed a new light on the

concept of geographical place. Professor Gideon Biger from Israel discussed the boundaries of the Holy Land as a problem of historical and contemporary political geography.

Special sessions were devoted to IGU projects. A key note lecture by Professor Benno Werlen (Germany) concerned the IGU most ambitious initiative – the proclamation of the UN International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU). This initiative has been unanimously approved by at the UNESCO General Conference in December 2013 and is now submitted to the UN General Assembly. The IYGU aims to bridge the gap in awareness between local actions and global effects, to encourage everyone to make daily decisions in light of global challenges and to contribute to bottom-up initiatives that connect individual, local action to global sustainability. The IYGU intends to strengthen collaboration between natural, social, and cultural sciences, to identify how local actions yield results on a global scale, and to empower individuals to manifest local-scale change with global effects. Another IGU project is called “Our Sustainable Cities” and is being implemented by Chinese and Dutch experts who try to connect academic geography with municipal authorities and business communities, and to disseminate good practice of sustainability in the cities of different size all over the world.

IGU pays special attention to geographical education. The conference in Krakow marked a new step in the implementation of the joint project of IGU, Eurogeo (the European Association of Geographical Societies) and Eurogeo concerning the improvement of geography’s place in school curricula. The objective of this project was to compile and to promote the minimum of geographical knowledge for each citizen in our century, to find new evidence and arguments for a large audience and decision makers showing the importance of geography, and to disseminate the best practice of teaching geography at secondary schools, universities and other institutions, including schools of management and technical universities.

The conference symbolically took place on the year of the 650th anniversary of the Jagellonian University in Krakow, one of the oldest in Europe and in the world. This date is widely celebrated in Poland. On the day of the conference’s opening ceremony they solemnly opened in the historical building of the university the exhibition showing that geographical research in Poland has been always tuned with societal needs and had a strong impact on the development of the statehood and identity. It presents history of Polish geography and closely related disciplines - cartography, topography, meteorology and others in persons and artifacts, and the unique collection of maps, atlases and globes.

The conference was perfectly organized: everything was going exactly according to the programme and the schedule, and Polish geographers accommodated all countless requests and different interests of their guests. They will keep the best souvenirs about a memorable excursions’ programme and of the friendly gala dinner in the exclusive environment in the depth of the former salt mine of Wieliczka which is on the list of UNESCO world cultural heritage. The obvious success of the conference is of course a result of long a hard work of the Polish organizing committee headed by Professors Marek Degorski, Anita Bokwa and Boleslaw Domanski.

Vladimir Kolossov, President
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2) MINUTES OF THE IGU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING KRAKÓW, POLAND, 16-18 AUGUST 2014

2a) English version

Welcome, Meeting Logistics and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by President Vladimir Kolosov, who welcomed Secretary-General Mike Meadows and Vice-Presidents Ron Abler, Dietrich Soyez, RB Singh, Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Giuliano Bellezza, Jarkko Saarinen, Yukio Himiyama, Aharon Kellerman and Qin Dahe.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda, prepared and distributed in advance of the meeting, was adopted with the addition of item on the Eco-forum.

Minutes

The minutes of the Moscow April 2014 meeting, previously approved via email, were tabled for reference.

Organization and Operations

Executive Committee Member Reports. Most members had submitted brief reports on their recent IGU-related activities ahead of the meeting.

Executive Committee Calendar 2013-14. The upcoming EC calendar was tabled as follows: Town, South Africa: December 2014: arrivals 11th December, meeting 12th and 13th, field excursion 14th, departures 15th. It was agreed to meet with those new Vice-Presidents who are present in Kraków at a time to be arranged during the meeting. The possibility of holding the first 2015 meeting immediately ahead of the AAG in Chicago was discussed with favourable response but it was agreed to hold off a final decision until the new Vice-Presidents were settled in. The AAG dates are April 21st to April 25th, so a tentative schedule would seem to be: arrival 17th April, meeting 18th and 19th, possible excursion 20th, whereafter attend the AAG. The dates could move one day back if the excursion was half-day only.

IGU Executive Committee Elections 2014. The election of three new Vice-Presidents - Elena dell'Agnesse, Zhou Chenghu and Iain Hay - was reported as well as the re-election of Yukio

Himiyama and Secretary-General and Treasurer Mike Meadows. It was suggested that the independent teller be asked to provide information as to which eligible countries had actually participated in the election.

IGU Country Membership Report. The two formal membership applications received, Kazakhstan and Serbia, were both approved as full members via e-mail ballot circulated to General Assembly voting members at the time of the executive committee members' election. There has been follow-up correspondence with Myanmar, Bosnia, Botswana, Morocco and Uganda as well as Gabon; Iran has also expressed interest.

Commission and Task Force Reports and Excellence Awards. The 2014 Excellence Award will be awarded at the closing ceremony of the Kraków Regional Conference to the Commission on Gender and Geography and their chair, or representative, will be afforded the privilege of making a keynote presentation at the Moscow Regional Conference in 2015. The prize of US\$2500 will be forwarded to the Commission in due course. Joos-Droogleever-Fortuijn had analysed Commission membership reports in terms of their geographical origins etc. and presented the data. In 2013 there were approximately 9000 members, although 10 out of the 40 Commissions did not submit detailed lists. It is estimated that c10,000+ individuals are members of IGU commissions which represents an increase of 46% over 2012, from 141 countries. There is a strong domination of European and USA membership but some commissions have significant memberships from Asia. Strategies to improve the situation were discussed including encouraging more commissions to formally report on their memberships, to target special activities for underrepresented regions, including Africa, the Middle East, and former Soviet Union countries. IGU should also encourage the organisation of commission meetings to be held in under-represented regions.

IGU Financial Report and Projection. Meadows reported that the financial situation of the IGU remains sound.. There should be a surplus of approximately US\$25-30,000 to take forward into 2015.

Draft Strategy 2014-22. Kolosov tabled a document outlining his ideas about IGU strategic objectives that should be achieved by 2022, the year of the centennial. The document is attached as Appendix A to these minutes. Discussion followed in which it was noted that this strategy suggests that IGU now should 'reach out' more consistently over the next few years having attempted in the last few years to improve its 'in house' operations. Regarding financial issues, Kellerman suggested fostering and developing relationships with international foundations that have some interest in geography, especially for particular research projects. Other corporate sponsors may be approached for support but it is recognised that these always need personal contacts.

In respect of meetings, it was suggested that Commissions be encouraged to develop thematic conferences on key global issues. Increasing membership and improving IGU profile were also discussed, along with the possibility of considering additional IGU award(s). What is needed now is to develop detailed 'business plans' to take the strategic initiatives forward. Division of labour among EC members is also a matter of concern and it was agreed to compile a list of responsibilities and tasks for subsequent discussion. Kolosov agreed to develop the business plan for 2015-16 that will be especially useful for the incoming EC members. In this regard, Kolosov tabled a list of functional tasks that are required to be completed by the IGU Executive

Committee. Several suggestions for additional items were made and it was agreed to discuss the matter at a follow-up EC meeting on Wednesday at 18h00 in the IGU office at which the outgoing and incoming EC members would be present.

IYGU. The matter was held over for discussion until the visit of Benno Werlen on Sunday morning who attended for this item, having tabled a report ahead of the meeting. There are ongoing attempts to ensure that the IYGU proposal is on the agenda of the upcoming 96th UN General Assembly in September. Several members of UN Voting Group 1 are expressing reservations about the entire concept of International Years and this presents something of a threat at the moment. There is, however, a strong alliance within UNESCO from countries in Africa, South America and Asia, along with several members of Voting Group 2.

Werlen went on to discuss progress with the structural elements of IYGU, as well as fundraising. Planning for Regional Action Centres is well underway in Africa, North and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania, although the Middle East remains a challenge. Discussion followed, in which the EC recorded its congratulations to Werlen for the enormous effort and progress made. The question was raised as to what, specifically, IGU can do to support this initiative. Werlen commented that the time for IGU has come to mobilise all the National Committees to prepare the ground for when the resolution is passed and to encourage their colleagues to be ready to act in 2016.

It is suggested that IGU writes a letter informing the National Committees of progress and the imminence of the application being tabled at the UN General Assembly in New Zealand. They must also be informed as to the role of Geography and Geographers in ensuring the success of IYGU once it is in place. Kolosov inquired as to what extent the EUROGEO/EUGEO/IGU education project could be integrated with IYGU and the response was very positive given the obvious synergies with the bottom-up and education components of the approach. There are strong connections also with the Olympiad Task Force and the Commission on Geographical Education. Kolosov also noted that there will be opportunities for IGU delegates to network and promote IYGU at the upcoming ICSU General Assembly. It is important to emphasise that IYGU integrates well with Future Earth in using a bottom-up approach and that the focus is on everyday life for everyday people.

IGU Handbook. Meadows has conducted further editing on the draft handbook and the revised version was tabled for final revision and adoption. Kolosov suggested that we add geographical education to the mission and goals of the organisation. Concerning membership, the national membership qualification should be clarified as well as proposals for the establishment of a new commission. The desire to have members representing as wide a regional range as possible needs to be better emphasised, and the nature of the relationship of commissions to the executive committee requires clarification. Meadows was requested to attend to final edits and the final version is to be made available via the website.

Gabon workshop. The planned joint Université Omar Bongo/IGU-UGI November workshop has been postponed and the arrangements for Gabon geographers to participate in a joint session at *FiG* in October in St Dié remain uncertain. The idea of the joint session is to make a critical analysis of IGU membership and to develop ideas about how IGU can expand its footprint, especially among francophone countries. It remains to be seen if there will be Gabon representation but efforts to encourage their involvement continue.

Sustainable Cities ‘Oursus’. Unfortunately, there is no formal ‘Oursus’ session at the IGU Regional Conference in Kraków but there is a paper being presented by Li Qiu and co-authors which clearly relates to this initiative. The report submitted by the Oursus team focuses mainly on progress around technical aspects and some of the concerns raised at the Moscow EC meeting remain outstanding, not least the need for a more consistent integration of geographers in the on-site team. It was agreed that Kellerman would write to Ton Dietz to engage further with the team to foster appropriate progress. IGU National Committees are to be approached with a view to their establishing national ‘centres’ or at least a network of correspondents.

IGU Regional Networks. It had proved impossible for Meadows to attend, as had been agreed, the Young Earth Scientists Congress in Dar es Salaam due to logistic difficulties. Remaining in communication with the executive of YES is important and Meadows agreed to write to the YES President to reaffirm commitment to promoting their activities, including providing a link on the IGU website. Kolosov reported on the European Geography Association for Students and Young Geographers (EGEA) and attempts should be made to have their representatives present at the Moscow Regional Meeting. Himiyama reported on a recent Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) meeting in Sapporo involving over 3000 geoscientists. One of the key challenges is how to work with the other GeoUnions to ensure that we remain in contact with groups such as this and harness the potential to connect with the discipline. Indian geographers remain committed to involving geographers from neighbouring countries in the region. Kolosov reported on a meeting of Geographers from the former CIS countries. Saarinen reported on the planned 2015 Tallinn meeting of Nordic geographers and the need to highlight IGU activities there. Developing mutual website links would appear to be a realistic way forward (Meadows). Qin Dahe reported on the joint China-Korea-Japan meeting that takes place annually.

Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force. The letter of invitation to the proposed members of this committee drafted by Abler was sent out by Kolosov. Abler tabled a document listing the membership so that the committee is therefore now formally constituted. There was discussion regarding means by which we can ensure that there will be a documented history (in the form of one of more scholarly contributions) of the IGU, published or presented in time for the centennial. These ideas are to be conveyed to the Task Force (Abler).

IGU Website and IGU Social Networking. The website re-design is complete and operating efficiently and the Journals Project search engine is once again fully operational. The Facebook page for IGU is now linked to the main website so that updates there also appear on Facebook, the page continues to attract some interest and ‘likes’. French and Arabic versions of the main elements of the site still need to be developed. It was suggested that the annual Commission reports should be available on the website and to put an obvious link to the Home of Geography. The Twitter account still needs to be activated.

IGU Bulletin. Meadows is collating the documents for Volume 63 for 2013 and, for various reasons, has decided to delay publication until 2014 when there will be volume for both 2013 and 2014.

IGU E-Newsletter Update. The newsletter continues to be produced and circulated on a regular basis by Bellezza, who has agreed to continue to do this, along with managing the IGU parallel website ‘Home of Geography’.

IGU Archives. Meadows is in communication with the archivists in Leipzig and will be handing over materials to a representative at the Kraków meeting, including an external hard-drive with all IGU files developed since 2010. Abler agreed to attempt to consolidate equivalent materials for the period 2008-10. There was discussion regarding the fact that the Royal Geographical Society maintains IGU materials prior to 1956. It was agreed to explore the feasibility of reuniting the archives and that Meadows will visit the RGS in October and raise the issue with the Director. Soyez noted that the agreement with the service provider hosting the IGC2012 website is coming to an end and sought opinions on what should now happen. The IGC2012 LOC is advised to transfer the website to the Leipzig IGU archives (means of maintaining access to this material are still to be decided). The IGC 2012 final report should also be housed there whenever it is complete. Former Secretary-General and Treasurer Eckardt Ehlers has indicated that he is in possession of materials for the archives; Bellezza agreed to contact him and inform him of the need to send this to Leipzig.

Dialogue Project. The Google Channel for the Dialogue Project is now operational and the pilot site is working well with all interviews available for streaming and some being downloaded more than 1,000 times. The channel is accessible from the IGU home page, although still needs some explanatory text and an acknowledgement to Lund University for agreeing to make the material available in this way (Meadows). The idea was raised that interviews with contemporary geographers could be conducted to continue the project and could form part of the centennial sesquicentennial activities.

IGU and Academic Teaching in Geography. Droogleever-Fortuijn reported that the special session in relation to this matter is planned for the Tuesday morning session of the Kraków Regional Conference, as well as two workshops for young geographers. She plans to consult with the participants to gain an idea as to what younger geographers expect from the IGU. For the Moscow Regional Conference in 2015 there is planned a special day for young geographers and a special event for Geography teachers.

International Geographical Bibliography. Meadows reported that the subvention of US\$1,000 has now been paid to the publishers and that there is a link to this publication from the IGU website.

Springer Series. Singh reported that the series provides an opportunity for Commissions (or even National Committees) to develop special issues. Three volumes are already published, viz. *Livelihood Security in Northwestern Himalaya* (Collaborative work of Geographers from India and Finland), *Climate Change and Biodiversity: Proceedings of IGU Rohtak Conference Vol.1*; *Landscape Ecology and Water Management: Proceedings of IGU Rohtak Conference Vol.2*. Two further volumes are in the press, including one on *Urban Development Challenges* and one from the Geographical Education Commission on *Geospatial Technologies*. The series is being promoted at Kraków conference and the Commissions should be encouraged to develop further possible titles. The new executive committee is tasked with compiling an initial list of possible additional topics. Meadows agreed to suggest this to the organisers of the upcoming inaugural meeting of the Geomorphology and Society commission in Taipei.

Cooperation and Outreach

Festival International de Géographie (FIG). The new scientific director of FIG is strongly supporting IGU involvement. Abler and Soyez will attend the festival in October 2014 and present the traditional IGU-UGI lecture, and the invited colleagues from Gabon will hopefully be able to contribute. Limited funding for local costs will be met by the local organisers. IGU has the opportunity for a promotional booth at the festival book exhibition and ideas as to how to populate this with materials, including a French language version of the new brochure (Meadows to provide files) were discussed.

IGU Representatives on International Bodies. Recent nominations of Professor Shigeko Haruyama and Dr Pippin Anderson were submitted but there has been no indication from the relevant bodies as to whether or not these individuals were appointed. Qin reported on developments within the Future Earth initiative and tabled a report. The third meeting of the Science Committee meeting will take place in Argentina during December 2014. The Chinese National Committee for Future Earth (CNC-FE) was founded on 21 March, 2014 and Qin, appointed President, chaired its inaugural meeting. An open call has been issued for ideas regarding research and it is up to IGU members to develop such proposals. It was suggested that there should be a theme meeting around Future Earth championed possibly by one or more of the Commissions.

ICSU and GeoUnions. The ICSU General Assembly is scheduled for Auckland in September and will be attended by Kolosov, Abler and Meadows as representatives of IGU. National Committees need to be lobbied and encouraged to endorse Abler's nomination for the Vice-Presidency (Meadows). In regard to Urban Health and Wellbeing this is well underway and the programme office has been established in Xiamen, China. Singh will attend the inaugural meeting in December 2014. As regards the latest ICSU call for project proposals, it was suggested that the Urban Health and Well-being theme would be an appropriate one on which to build a proposal and this idea would be tabled at the Commission chairs meeting on Wednesday of the Kraków Regional Conference and in a follow-up letter to the Commission chairs (Meadows). ICSU has recently issued a call for their small grants programme and it was agreed to ensure that IGU Commissions were aware of the requirements and encouraged to develop project proposals in association with appropriate partners.

ISSC. Information is received regularly about ISSC activities and former VP Ruth Fincher tabled a report. For the World Social Science Report we need to request IGU Commissions to contribute to this as well as propose sessions for the World Social Science Forum in Durban in 2015; this also to be raised at the chairs meeting in Kraków.

Affiliation with other organisations

EUROGEO/EUGEO. Kolosov participated in the EUROGEO Annual Conference in Malta held between May 15th to 19th May 2014 and presented a keynote address. At the meeting with Karl Donert, President of Eurogeo, Henk van Ottens, President of EUGEO, and Joop van der Schee there was discussion regarding progress of IGU – EUGEO – EUROGEO joint project on geographical education. Kolosov reported on progress with the project and on the development of a Geographical Charter.

Eco-Forum Abler reported on his attendance at the Eco-Forum that had taken place in China with participation from across the government, private sector and academic institutions and there appears to be genuine commitment to address global environmental problems. The keynote address was presented by the Vice-President of the country.

CNFG conference. Kolosov and Soyez had attended the conference: “Language, production and scientific diffusion in (the period of) globalization: a question for geographers and geographies” convened by the French National Committee of the IGU. The meeting examined the domination of English as the language of communication in the discipline. There was also discussion about the problems of citation indices and the real need to support the diversity of expression and languages in Geography generally and the IGU context in particular.

IGU meeting in Srinagar, India. Singh reported on the IGU Conference on Geohazards, Biodiversity, Resource Sustainability and Mountain Response to Global Change held at Srinagar, Kashmir during June 4th to 5th 2014 at the University of Kashmir, India. Representatives from several IGU commissions participated including Vice-President Himiyama, IGU Commission Chairs Udo Schickhoff, and Marek Degórski, Director, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences.

International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences

Kraków, Poland Regional Conference 2014. Some 20 travel grants of either US\$1,000 or US\$500 (depending on domicile of the delegate) have been awarded to applicants attending the meeting, mainly from the developing world; more than half are women. A certificate will be presented to the awardees at the closing ceremony of the Kraków conference.

Moscow, Russia Regional Conference 2015. The second circular has been distributed with the Kraków Regional Conference registration materials. The local organising committee has agreed to invite someone from Future Earth to present a keynote. The various organisational sub-committees, including the Scientific Programme Committee, that are now fully operational. The Memorandum of Agreement will be signed by Kolosov and Meadows at the Krakow meeting.

Beijing, China International Geographical Congress 2016. There was discussion around the suggested themes and it was strongly suggested that there be more obvious opportunities for physical geographers to participate (Qin).

Regional Conference 2018. There was discussion around the suggested themes and it was strongly suggested that there be more obvious opportunities for physical geographers to participate (Qin).

Vit Vilimek and a colleague presented Prague as a possible venue on behalf of the local organising committee. Charles University is the key academic institution but others in the region plan to contribute. Scientific programme was outlined under the theme: ‘Interfaces among Cultural and Natural Environments’ with a focus on Central Europe. A summer school ahead of the conference for younger geographers is proposed as well as support for the Olympiad. Suggested dates are 9th to 13th July or 20th to 24th August 2018; at this stage there is flexibility.

Prague is very central, offers very reasonable prices for accommodation etc. and is a centre for diverse field excursions etc. Early-bird registration is estimated at US\$520 based on 1500 participants.

Matthew Hatvany and colleagues presented the case for Quebec. Proposed dates are 6th to 10th August 2018 at the Quebec City Convention Centre. The proposed theme is 'Accounting for Difference'. The local organising committee is comprised of academics from several Universities. In-conference and post-conference field excursions are planned, including one to arctic Canada which is a region especially vulnerable physically, economically and culturally. Early-bird registration fee is suggested at US\$500 based on 2,000 participants. Grants for younger and developing world participants are being considered as part of the package as well as support for the Olympiad. The issue of visas for foreign delegates was discussed as a potential concern.

The Lima, Peru, proposal was previously considered and no further information on this was available for the current meeting; the bid documentation does not indicate possible registration fees.

The proposers from Auckland sent a Powerpoint slide show to support the previously submitted bid document. Early bird registration is set at US\$410 based on 700 participants. The proposed theme is: 'Re-aligning Geography: new centres, new peripheries, new questions'.

Considering all aspects, the decision was taken, unanimously, to invite Quebec to host the 2018 Regional Conference of the IGU. Meadows is to convey the decision to the nominating parties and announce the news on the website. The possibility of continuing the pattern of holding annual IGU conferences/congresses (as has been the pattern since 2011) was discussed at length. It was agreed to consult first with the Commission Chairs regarding the continuation of the annual frequency of IGU gatherings and that this should be done via email (Meadows) and thereafter seek the opinion of the National Committees.

International Geographical Congress 2020. The local organisers have submitted a draft Memorandum of Agreement and Meadows will meet with their representatives to discuss the contents at the Kraków conference.

Extraordinary International Geographical Congress 2022. Antoine le Blanc, representing the French National Committee for the IGU, attended for this item. The initial local organising committee is established from several different Universities and fields of the discipline and has initial approval of the Comité National Français de Géographie. This Congress is to celebrate the anniversary but the focus should be on the future as well as the past. The proposed theme is: 'Times of Geography, Geography of Time' which allows for a closer link with historians although in discussion, the alternative 'Times *for* Geography' was suggested. The aim is to attract 2000 participants over the dates 22nd to 26th August 2018 at central locations in Paris (Sorbonne, for example). Le Blanc outlined the main challenges, of which finances are key, but there is an outline budget for the Congress of Euro 400 to 500k. It is hoped to make a more formal presentation at the Moscow Regional Conference in 2015, whereafter more detail will be added in terms of the scientific programme, field excursions etc.

International Geographical Congress 2024. The call should go out for candidate cities during 2015 in order that the host can be decided at the 2016 Beijing General Assembly.

Honors and Awards

IGU Lauréat d'Honneur. Suggestions were made regarding the nominations of potential awardees (nominators to submit documentation to the Honours and Awards Committee).

IGU Planet and Humanity Medal. Qin, assisted by Abler and Meadows has submitted a proposal in this regard to the Honours and Awards committee. Assuming they approve of the nomination and motivation, the award will be presented to the nominee in person at IGC China-Beijing in 2016.

Mattei Dogan Prize for Human Geography. The status of the IGU Mattei Dogan prize is still to be established. Kolosov must still write to the appropriate authorities (in French) to establish if this is available for award.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 16h00 on 17th August 2014.



The IGU EC Members waiting for the tram, back from Jagiellonian University to town centre

Ooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

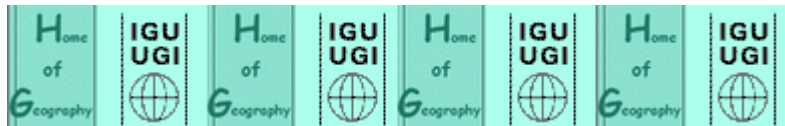
Resumption

The meeting re-convened on Wednesday 20th August at 18h00 in order to welcome the new IGU EC Vice-Presidents dell'Agnese and Zhou. The President warmly thanked the outgoing members (Bellezza, Kellerman, Qin), who have been on the executive for six years, for their

sterling efforts over the last six years. The first task of the new EC will be to allocate National Committee and Commission and Task Force responsibilities, which will be finalised at the Cape Town EC meeting in December. Kolosov also reminded members of the draft strategy document and the draft list of EC member duties and responsibilities. It was agreed that Kolosov and Meadows would draft a version of this list identifying names of EC members against possible duties following receipt of further suggestions by members of the executive. It was also suggested that the EC should draw up a list of possible theme titles for future meetings or publications (All). Droogleever-Fortuijn presented brief feedback on the young academic geographers' workshop, which had been attended by ten delegates and the results were very positive. It was noted that a mentorship scheme would be very well received and that commissions should be approached with a view to suggesting possible mentors. There was general agreement that the Kraków conference was notable for the number of younger geographers. The entire executive commended the local organisers for an excellent regional conference.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 18h40 on 20th August 2014



3) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE, KRAKÓW, POLAND, 16-18 AUGUST 2014 “CHANGES, CHALLENGES, RESPONSIBILITY”

The 2014 IGU Regional Conference took place in Krakow, Poland, in the Jagiellonian University. This combination of time and location has a few dimensions which contributed to the conference organization. In 2014, Poland celebrated 25th anniversary of the political independence resumption, the Jagiellonian University celebrated the 650th anniversary of its foundation, and Polish geographers celebrated the 80th anniversary of the 14th IGU congress organized in 1934 in Warsaw. Therefore, the 2014 IGU RC in Krakow was organized under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, and the members of the conference Honorary Committee were Professor Vladimir Kolosov, President of the International Geographical Union, Professor Michal Kleiber, President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of the City of Krakow and Professor Wojciech Nowak, Rector of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.



Opening Ceremony, main desk (first 5 photos by L.Zaluski)

The idea of hosting the IGU conference in Poland for the second time in history was initiated in 2002 by the Polish Geographical Society which acted as an umbrella for the consortium of eight Polish geographical institutions which cooperated to promote Polish geographical research worldwide and which prepared the conference proposal. The consortium consisted of the following institutions:

- Polish Geographical Society
- Jagiellonian University, Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Krakow
- Pedagogical University of Cracow, Institute of Geography
- Adam Mickiewicz University, Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences, Poznan
- Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Warsaw
- University of Lodz, Faculty of Geographical Sciences
- University of Silesia, Faculty of Earth Sciences, Sosnowiec
- University of Warsaw, Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies

The representatives of the consortium institutions established the Steering Committee of the conference. In 2011, the Local Organizing Committee was established and began the conference arrangements.

The conference began with the Opening Ceremony organized in Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University. Among the invited guests there were senior professors of geography from all over Poland and families of Polish geographers who organized the IGU conference in Warsaw in 1934. Conference participants were welcomed by Professor Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of the City of Kraków and Professor Piotr Laidler, Vice-Rector of the Jagiellonian University, and then addressed by Professor Pawel Swianiewicz, Advisor of the President of the Republic of Poland, Professor Vladimir Kolosov, President of the International Geographical Union, Professor Marek Chmielewski, Vice-President of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Professor Marek Degórski, Chair of the Steering Committee of the 2014 IGU RC. Professor

Jacek Majchrowski contributed to the Gold Medal Ceremony of the 11th International Geography Olympiad, led by Ms. Kathryn Berg and Professor Lex Chalmers. The 11th International Geography Olympiad was organized in the Pedagogical University of Cracow, on 12-18 August 2014, and was attended by 36 teams from all over the world. The best score was achieved by the team from Singapore. During the second part of the Opening Ceremony, a short piano recital by Mateusz Mateja allowed the ceremony participants to experience Polish tradition, landscapes and history, expressed with the international language of musical masterpieces of Frédéric Chopin. Opening lecture: “Relevance of Geography” was presented by Professor Leszek Kosiński. Opening ceremony was followed by the ice-breaker party in Auditorium Maximum and then by the opening of the exhibition “The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland” in the museum of the Jagiellonian University in Collegium Maius.



Left, Leszek Kosinski giving the opening lecture. Right, young winners of the Olympiads

Conference core activities consisted of IGU commissions sessions, thematic sessions (both oral and poster ones) and plenary sessions. The sessions took place in three buildings of the Jagiellonian University Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, located in the Campus of the 600th Anniversary of the Jagiellonian University Revival. There were 226 oral sessions organized by particular IGU Commissions. The commissions which organized the largest number of sessions were:

- C12.08 Dynamics of Economic Spaces: 22 sessions;
- C12.11 Geographical Education: 19 sessions;
- C12.39 Urban Commission: Urban Challenges in a Complex World: 19 sessions.

Additionally, there were 19 joint sessions organized by two or more IGU commissions, and 47 sessions organized by the conference participants. Totally, in all the oral sessions, there were 1171 oral presentations. Parallel, 227 posters were presented, each of them assigned to a particular session.

On each conference day, one of the key conference theme words: Changes, Challenges, Responsibility was considered during plenary lectures. The directions and dynamics of

CHANGES in the environment were discussed during the plenary session on 19 August 2014. The lecture presented by Professor Benno Werlen (*2016 The UN International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) – The UN International Year of Geography*) has driven the attention to both traditional and new areas of changes which are of interest to geographers. The plenary lectures by Professor Zbigniew Kundzewicz (*Climate change, related challenges and responsibilities*) and Professor Gideon Biger (*The Challenge of Historical Geography and the geographical question of "Where is the Holy Land"?*), presented during the plenary session on 20 August 2014, gave an opportunity to exchange insights on contemporary CHALLENGES. They emphasized the role of both natural and social aspects of global issues with their strong local repercussions. An attempt to determine the RESPONSIBILITY of human kind for the observed changes (a plenary session on 21 August 2014) were undertaken during the lectures by Professor Julie Winkler (*Embracing the Complexity and Uncertainty of Climate Change: Responsibilities for Geographers*) and Professor Andreas Faludi (*Place is a no-man's land, so who is responsible?*).



Left, coffee break. Right, Plenary Session

There were 1470 participants who registered for the conference and 1372 attended the event (93%). About 100 young researchers took part in the conference thanks to the opportunity of the reduced fee offer. The participants came to Krakow from 60 countries, including 416 persons from Poland. Attendance by countries (apart from Poland) is presented in figures 1-3.

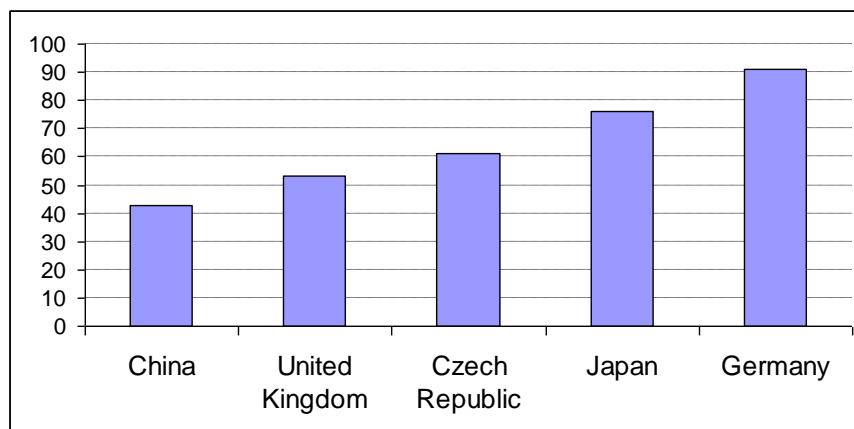


Fig. 1. Countries with 40-100 participants of 2014 IGU RC

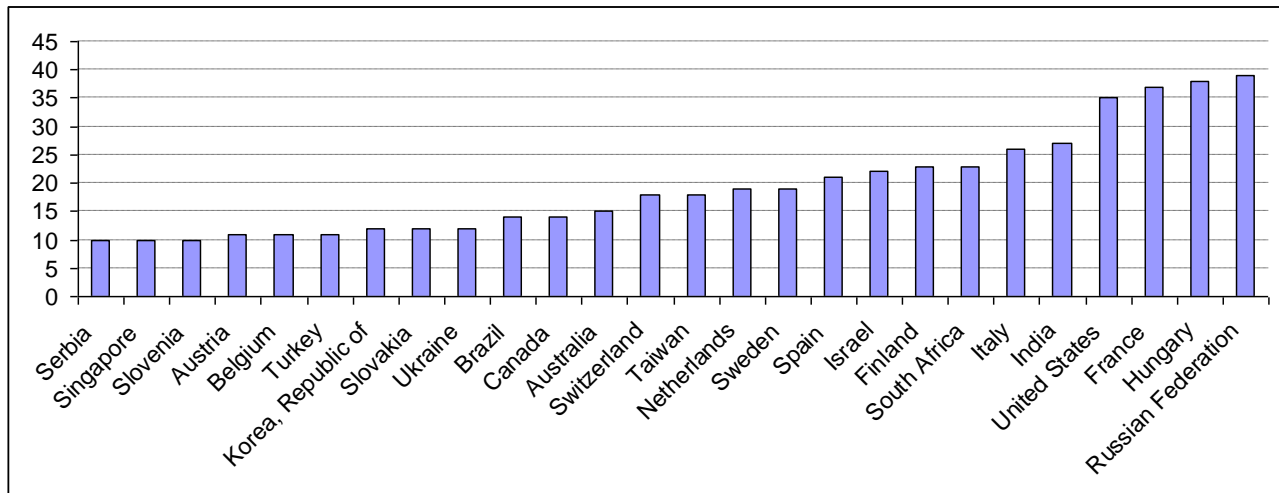


Fig. 2. Countries with 10-39 participants of 2014 IGU RC

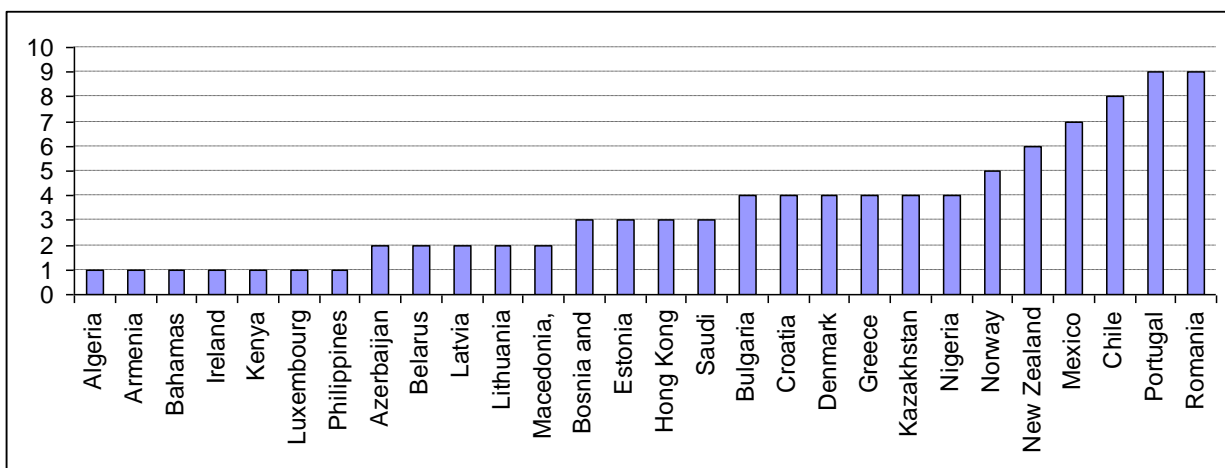


Fig. 3. Countries with 1-9 participants of 2014 IGU RC

Accompanying events included pre-conference meetings and seminars of the IGU commissions, the 11th International Geography Olympiad, exhibition and workshops organized during the conference, IGU commissions business meetings during the conference, two academic excursions (before and after the conference), exhibition “The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland” in the museum of the Jagiellonian University, half-day and 1-day touristic tours in Krakow and its vicinities, and three social events.

Six IGU Commissions organized pre-conference meetings in various localities in Poland:

- C12.10 Gender and Geography: Workshop on "The Gendering of New Realities: Unequal Challenges and Responsibilities", 16-17 August 2014, Warsaw
- C12.13 Geography of Governance: 14-16 August 2014, Poznan
- C12.15 Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change: 13-17 August 2014, Kraków / Pieniny Mts

- C12.19 Health and Environment: MEDICAL GEOGRAPHY FORUM 2014, 14-17 August 2014, Warsaw
- C12.33 Political Geography: Geographical-political aspects of the transborder conservation of natural and cultural heritage, 15-17 August 2014, Lopuszna
- C12.39 Urban Commission: Urban Challenges in a Complex World, Annual Conference of the IGU Urban Commission Poznan 2014, 11-14 August 2014, Poznan

During the conference, the exhibition area was arranged in one of the conference buildings. There were 14 exhibitors, including the organizers of future IGU conferences in Moscow (2015) and Beijing (2016). Parallel to conference sessions, there were four workshops available:

- "City without God". Origin and changes of religious space new socialist and post-socialist cities; organisers: Elzbieta Bilska-Wodecka (Poland), Tomáš Havlíček (Czechia), Katarzyna Kulczynska (Poland), Justyna Liro (Poland), Izabela Sołjan (Poland)
- Current trends in landscape fragmentation and connectivity assessment; organisers: Katarzyna Ostapowicz (Poland), Elzbieta Ziolkowska (Poland)
- Ecosystem services concept in spatial planning; organisers: Ewelina Mocior (Poland), Agnieszka Nowak (Poland)
- Improving your presentation skills: a video-training workshop for young geographers; organisers: Joos Droogleever Fortuijn (The Netherlands), Joop van der Schee (The Netherlands)

Nine IGU Commissions organized their business meetings during the conference. Additionally, General Assembly of the European Association of Geographical Societies took place on 20 August. During the whole conference week, the participants were given the opportunity to visit the exhibition "The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland" in the Museum of the Jagiellonian University, in the building of Collegium Maius. This exhibition is aimed at acquainting all the interested parties with the magnificent tradition of the Polish geography, dating back to medieval times. The main mission of our ancestors has always been to make the society realize how important and wonderful science geography is.

The conference participants attended three types of excursions:

- half-day trips (a guided tour in Krakow's Old Town and a guided tour in Nowa Huta district);
- one-day trips (Wieliczka Salt Mine Tour, Ojcowski National Park and a Castle in Pieskowa Skala; a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Wadowice and Lagiewniki);
- academic excursions: 1. Land degradation and reclamation in the Silesian Upland and the Polish Carpathians (14-17 August 2014); organizers: Pawel Prokop, Polish Academy of Sciences, Branch Krakow, Renata Dulias, University of Silesia; 2. Central Poland (23-25 August 2014); organizer: Robert Wilus, Univeristy of Lodz

There were three social events organized for the conference participants:

- ice-breaker party after the Opening Ceremony, in Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University;
- outdoor social event in the "Stara Zajezdnia" restaurant, located in a former tram depot, close to the Museum of City Engineering;

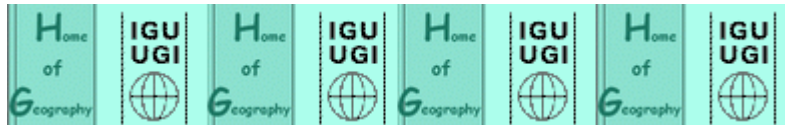
- Gala Dinner in the underground historical salt mine chamber „Warszawa” (in English: Warsaw), located 125 m underground in the Wieliczka Salt Mine Museum, located about 10 km south-east of Krakow.



*Left, social event in the “Stara Zajezdnia”. Right, Gala Dinner in Wieliczka salt mine: the chamber has been dug in pure salt; chandeliers are done with salt crystals.
(Photos by G.Bellezza)*

During the Closing Ceremony, on 22nd August, Professor Vladimir Kolosov, President of IGU, handed in the IGU award to the Commission on Gender and Geography, and Professor Janice Monk represented the commission. Professor Michael Meadows, Secretary General and Treasurer of IGU, presented twenty conference participants awarded with the IGU Travel grants. The programme of the next IGU Regional Conference to be held in Moscow in 2015 was presented by Dr. Sergey Chalov, and Professor Chenghu Zhou presented the programme of IGU Congress to be held in Beijing in 2016. The musical accent of the Closing Ceremony was a short recital by the Academic Choir “Camerata Jagellonica” of the Jagiellonian University which performed five songs, from 13th century popular academic song “Gaudeamus igitur” to traditional Polish folk songs. The two last presentations were delivered by Dr. Anita Bokwa, the chair of LOC, and by Professor Marek Degórski, the chair of the conference Steering Committee, who presented the basic conference statistics and closed the conference.

The Local Organizing Committee could never realize its tasks without the full support from the IGU Executive Committee and without the support from Colleagues working in other Polish cities who organized most of the accompanying events. Special thanks should be directed to the staff of the Jagiellonian University Department of Communications and Marketing – Conferences who supported the LOC in all formal and financial issues and ran the conference office. Last not least, a huge work was completed before and during the conference by about 120 volunteers from eight Polish geographical institutions and special thanks are also directed to them.



4) INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCES COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2014



A new generation of global social science leaders

The ISSC's Fellows Programme was set up in 2012 to foster a new generation of globally networked social science leaders who will collaborate on inter- and transdisciplinary research focusing on global priority problems.

Since 2012 the programme has run seminars and events in 5 different regions on topics as diverse

as sustainable urbanisation, disaster risk interpretation, green economy, food security, and global social governance. To date, a cohort of over a hundred globally networked Fellows has been created.

This summer's seminar, on the topic of global social governance and impacting the policy process, gathered 19 early career scientists to discuss across borders with policy shapers, publishers, and other academics that work at the research-policy interface. Over the course of 5 days, Fellows, through a series of interactions, packed and unpacked the notion of governance, and came out with a few questions on what impact really means in terms of their research careers and the science they do.

The seminar was in collaboration with the Academy for Social Sciences in the UK and LSE Center for International Studies.

Steering Committee for Transformations to Sustainability

The ISSC is pleased to announce the appointment of members of the Steering Committee for the newly launched Transformations to Sustainability programme.

The Steering Committee will provide scientific guidance, quality and support the development of all aspects of the programme. The Steering Committee takes responsibility for final decisions on the selection of proposals within the framework of the programme — and will advise on strategy development and resource mobilisation.

The ISSC's Transformations to Sustainability programme seeks to change the way science is done globally, with a focus on co-design and co-production of knowledge from innovative knowledge networks, geared toward public engagement and communication of the knowledge produced to impact those peoples and communities that need it the most.

Risk Interpretation and Action: Fellows at IRDR Conference

In June, RIA Fellows, who took part in a World Social Science Fellows seminar on Disaster Risk in New Zealand, attended the 2014 IRDR Conference and presented their grant-winning projects on topics of water-related risks in megacities, indigenous knowledge and risk, and multi-scale policy implementation.

After the conference the Fellows had the opportunity to present a case to the open session of the IRDR Science committee meeting to align the RIA Fellows more closely with IRDR activities and to identify opportunities for more direct involvement with IRDR practice. As well as collectively preparing a statement on their views on the role of science and technology in the existing Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015, and their opinions on what should feature in the UN's review of HFA in 2015 (known as HFA2).



Register for Durban

Registration is now open for the World Social Science Forum in Durban in 2015. A broad range of topics will be addressed under theme "Transforming global relations for a just world."

George Monbiot, noted writer, activist, and commentator, will serve as one of the patron's of the Forum. In a statement he says "I can only praise the World Social Science Forum 2015 for bringing together key forces of change towards a Just World: innovative social science researchers, dedicated policy shapers, and active citizens from around the world."

Bid to host the 2018 Forum

The ISSC is pleased to invite you to express your interest in submitting a bid for the 2018 World Social Science Forum.

International Social Science Council (ISSC)

UNESCO House, 1 Rue Miollis, 75015 Paris, France - worldsocialscience.org



5) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2013)

5.1) LA FRONTIERE: UNE SOURCE D'INNOVATION, ARRAS (FRANCE), 4-6 NOVEMBRE 2014

- 5.2) **TERMINAUX ET ENVIRONNEMENTS NUMERIQUES MOBILES DANS L'ESPACE FRANCOPHONE, BORDEAUX, 4-7 NOVEMBRE**
- 5.3) **REGION-2014: OPTIMAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, KHARKIV, 6-7TH NOVEMBER, 2014**
- 5.4) **JOINT SYMPOSIUM IGU-ICA ON PLACE NAMES CHANGES, ROMA, 17-18 NOVEMBER 2014**
- 5.5) **JOURNEES GEOPOLITIQUES DE REIMS, 12 NOVEMBRE 2014**
- 8.6) **NAGI, 36TH INDIAN GEOGRAPHY CONGRESS, JAIPUR, 17-19 NOVEMBER**
- 5.7) **10 YEARS OF EASTERN ENLARGEMENT, SYMPOSIUM, WIEN 3-4 DECEMBER 2014**
- 5.8) **BORDERS AT THE INTERFACE, BEN GURION UNIVERSITY, BEER SHEBA, DECEMBER 7-11 2014**
- 5.9) **SYMPOSIUM ON IDEAS AND HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE, RIO DE JANEIRO, 16-20 DECEMBER 2014**
- 5.10) **11TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR OF MEDICAL GEOGRAPHY, ROME, 18-20 DECEMBER**
- 5.11) **OXFORD, GEOGRAPHIES OF "AREA", OXFORD, 12 JANUARY 2015**
- 5.12) **CONFLITS DE LIEUX, LIEUX DE CONFLITS. AIX EN PROVENCE, 29-30 JANVIER 2015**

