

IGU E-NEWSLETTER



Quarterly

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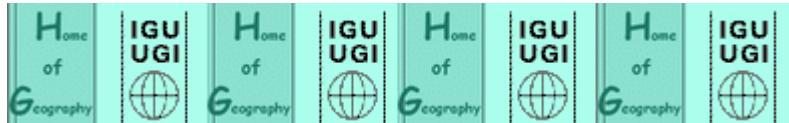
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Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

*This Newsletter is circulated to more than 1800 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome.
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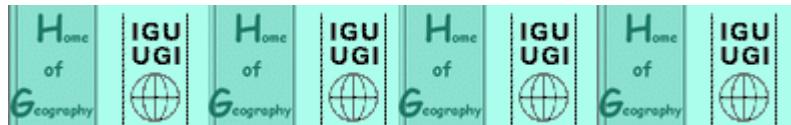
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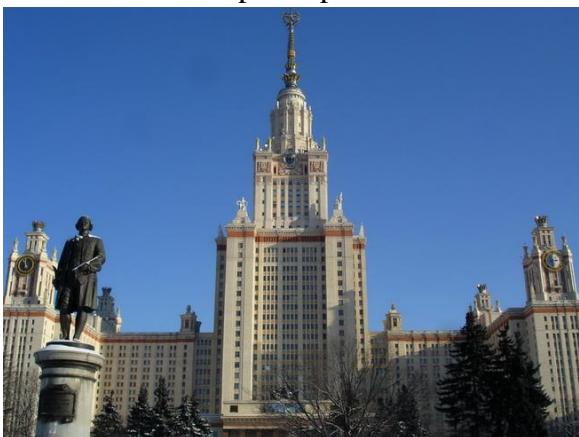
1) REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT VLADIMIR KOLOSOV

(official pictures from the site)

Dear friends and colleagues,

It was my particular pleasure to welcome the participants of the IGU 2015 Regional Conference in my native city and in the walls of my *alma mater* – Lomonosov Moscow State University. In our country geography has a long tradition and Russian geographers have been active in IGU ever since the USSR, represented by the Academy of Sciences, joined it in 1956. Our meeting is the third IGU Regional Conference hosted by Russia in the last 20 years. For the older generation of Russian geographers the 23d International Geographical Congress held in 1976 in the Main building of Moscow University, almost 40 years ago, is particularly memorable. I was then a beginning PhD student and was largely involved in the preparation of this event which remains one of the largest in IGU history. According to the typical IGU practice of the day, it proceeded in three stages and started with 29 pre-Commissions' workshops in different Soviet cities – from Leningrad to Yerevan and Sochi, and from Minsk to Novosibirsk. Most participants then moved to the main Congress in Moscow to attend plenary meetings and sessions

in 10 sections. The final stage consisted of 15 field excursions. In all, more than 3200 scholars from 57 countries participated in one or more stages of the Congress.



IGU 2015, Lomonosov University

Inauguration speech by IGU President V.Kolosov (photos by Tamara Galkina)

This year the Regional Conference was organized by the Faculty of Geography of Lomonosov Moscow State University, the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences and Russian Geographical Society. Its venue was again Moscow University, but not the Main building, a new part of the campus across the street. It gathered 1658 participants from 73 countries. Naturally, Russian geographers formed the largest group – 764 participants. Many participants came from China (173), India (90), USA (57), Germany (38), Spain and Brazil (28 participants from each of them).

As each IGU Congress and Regional Conference is a mirror of the state of the world geographical science, it is possible to follow its transformation over four decades. How did dramatic changes in the world during these forty years, and in particular tremendous progress in the development of information technologies, affect geographical science? Of course, a comprehensive answer to this question is impossible without a detailed analysis but it is obvious, perhaps not surprisingly, that the core of our discipline did not change, although the term “sustainable development” only emerged in 1976.



IGU 2015, Ice Breaking party IGU 2015 - Teleconference with the International Space Station (photos by Tamara Galkina)

The more recent history of geography has shown how complicated and multi-faced was this task, how many natural factors should be taken into account and how important it is to consider them

on different scales. The assessment and forecast of the impact of society on environment, particularly at the stage of globalization, required the emergence of many new geographical sub-disciplines. The programme of the 2015 Regional Conference included a great number of new themes and problems unknown or not studied yet in 1976, especially in such fields as the application of new IT technologies, quality of life, creativity, culture, politics, identity, perceptions. Geography is the focus of a set of disciplines called “the science of territory” because it plays a crucial role in improving the quality of our life and contributes to social justice, better accessibility to different places and public services, spatial organization of society, regional and urban planning.

The main themes of the 2015 Regional Conference were urban environment, Arctic studies, natural and anthropogenic studies in changing climate and transboundary conflicts. 32 IGU Commissions arranged their sessions in the framework of the conference. A number of “thematic” sessions were held on the initiative of separate scholars and research teams. All in all, the scientific programme included 312 sessions of 90 minutes each and 1084 presentations, as well as 451 poster presentations. Many sessions, organized both by Commissions and groups of scholars, were devoted to climate change. The Commissions on Urban Challenges in a Complex World and on Political Geography had the largest number of sessions. Many participants attended also the sessions on distributed spatial data and GIS, geographical systems’ modeling, natural and anthropogenic risks and hazards, the impact of Olympic games and other mega-projects on environment, contemporary geographical technologies, sustainable land and water use, etc. As usually, special sessions were devoted to the work on the flagship IGU projects – IYGU and *Our Sustainable Cities*.



Gordon Macbean, President of ICSU, Vladimir Kotlyakov, Head of the National Committee of Russian Geographers, Vladimir Kolosov, President of IGU, Sergei Donskoi, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Russia, Viktor Sadovnichi, Rector of Lomonosov Moscow State University (Photo from the site of Russian Geographical Society)

According to a relatively recently established tradition of large IGU meetings, key note and interdisciplinary “thematic” lectures were in the focus of the conference and were attended by many participants. Professor Gordon Macbean (Canada), a well-known climatologist and President of ICSU, discussed different views on the problem of climate change and its challenges to the international scientific community and in particular the programme *Future Earth*. Professor Georg Gartner (Austria), President of the International Cartographic Association, talked about the role of cartography in contemporary society. Benno Werlen (Germany), Chair of

IGU Commission on Cultural Approach in Geography and Coordinator of the International Year of Global Understanding, informed the audience about the progress of this ambitious project initiated by IGU. Professor John O'Loughlin (USA), one of the world leading political geographers, focused his presentation about the results of a big interdisciplinary project on the impact of global change on violence in Africa. Professor Alexander Murphy, former President of the Association of American Geographers, raised the question of the future of geographical disciplines facing dynamic transformations in society and environment. Professor Solomon Kroonenberg (the Netherlands) discussed the problem of geographical forecasts and predictability using the case of the Caspian Sea. Professor Valery Tishkov, the most prominent figure in the studies of identities, ethnology and cultural anthropology in Russia, entitled his lecture "Culture Complexity of Contemporary Nations". Professor Vladimir Kolosov, President of IGU, tried to summarize specific features and the main trends in the development of geography in Russia. Professor Shirlena Young (Singapore) offered a key lecture on the achievements in this field on behalf of the IGU Commission on Gender in Geography which was recognized the most active IGU Commission in 2014.

The lectures given by Professors Karl Donert (UK, President of Eurogeo), Céline Rozenblat (Switzerland), Elena dell'Agne (Italy), Takashi Yamazaki (Japan), Cosimo Palagiano (Italy), Brad Coombes (New Zealand), Melinda Laituri and Lee Schwartz (USA), and Alexander Pelyasov and Nadezhda Zamiatina (Russia) concerned the themes interesting for experts in different fields and gathered full classrooms.

A special programme was worked out for young scholars. It embraced the dynamic discussion of poster presentations, master-classes quests and even a competition in orientation in a big city.

The Commission on Geographical Education held together with Russian Association of Geography Teachers the Day of Geography Teacher. Perhaps, the most interesting event of this Day was an interactive round table on the perspectives of geographical education with the participation of "practitioners" – geography teachers from Moscow who shared their experience and ideas with the Commission's members. The Day was marked by the presentation of the first draft of the new Charter on Geographical Education which should be signed soon by major international geographical associations.



IGU 2015, awarding the Olympiad of Geography winners
(Photo from the site of Russian Geogeaphical Society)

Another good tradition of IGCs and Regional conferences is the International Geographical Olympiad. In 2015 it was organized in the region of Tver' (about 200 km to the north-west from Moscow). This Olympiad broke the records: it reunited 40 teams and 159 participants from 38 countries, as well as 86 coaches and observers. The tests were worked out by geographers from Moscow State University and the University of Tver'. According to the tradition, the closing ceremony was held at the main Conference, right after its inauguration: the winners were greeted by the governor of Tver' region, the rectors of Moscow and Tver' universities, the members of IGU Executive and other officials. In this competition, the Polish team turned to be the best one. The conference coincided with the celebration of the 170th anniversary of Russian Geographical Society which organized a reception and an exhibition in one of the best Moscow hotels. For the first time RGS decided to award with its medals five renowned foreign scholars from China, Finland, Hungary and the United States who have for many years cooperated with Russian colleagues in joint research projects. The medals were handled by the President of RGS Sergei Shoigu.



IGU 2015, Closing Ceremony
(Photo from the site of Russian Geogeaphical Society)

The conference in Moscow became the major event in the life of the international geographical community in 2015. It was widely covered by Russian TV and other media and certainly contributed to a better visibility of geography and understanding of its role in contemporary science and society. I also hope that our colleagues enjoyed their visit to Moscow which, to my opinion as a native Muscovite, is a great city where it is possible for everybody to discover something fresh and unexpected and which has certainly become nicer and better groomed in recent years.

Vladimir Kolosov
President of IGU



2) DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING, 14-16 AUGUST 2015

2a) English version

2a) Minutes of the IGU Executive Committee Meeting Ibis Hotel, Yaroslavl, Russia and the Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow

Welcome, Meeting Logistics and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by President Kolosov who welcomed Secretary-General Mike Meadows and Vice Presidents Ron Abler, Dieter Soyez, Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Jarkko Saarinen, Yukio Himiyama, Elena dell'Agnese, RB Singh and Zhou Chenghu. Vice-President Iain Hay tendered his apologies.

Adoption of the Schedule and Agenda

The schedule was discussed at some length, as there were some changes to the original distributed. Meadows agreed to circulate a revised version of the Moscow Regional Conference schedule reflecting the additions and amendments. The agenda, prepared and distributed in advance of the meeting, was adopted with the addition of an item relating to ICSU policy on universality of science.

Minutes

The minutes of the Chicago April 2015 meeting were previously approved via email, but were tabled for noting and reference.

Organization and Operations

Executive Committee Member Reports. Members submitted written reports of their activities and there was brief discussion; it was agreed that a summary of these reports should be prepared annually and a more extended version for the Beijing Congress.

Executive Committee Meeting Calendar 2016 Onwards. RB Singh tabled a proposal that the next EC meeting be held in association with the 9th IGU Conference to be held in Delhi. Proposed arrivals on 16th March, EC meeting on 17th March, 18th March attend the associated IGU conference. Excursion on 19th, departures on 20th March 2016.

The second meeting of 2016 will be held prior to the IGU Congress in Beijing. Arrivals: Wednesday 17th August 2016, EC meeting: 18th and 19th, returning on 20th August 2016. Conference opening ceremony is on Sunday 21st August 2016, closing ceremony on Thursday 25th August 2016. The need to hold a third EC meeting in 2016 was discussed and Soyez agreed to explore the possibility of hosting this meeting in Germany during the northern hemisphere autumn of 2016.

IGU National Membership Update. Meadows presented an update on the national membership situation. Uganda has recently established a National Committee through the Uganda Geographical Association and has paid dues at the category A level for 2015. There are ongoing discussions with Bolivia, Botswana, Cuba, Ecuador, Luxembourg, Oman, Sri Lanka, the UAE and others. Executive Committee members are urged to continue to pursue connections with representatives of countries falling under their responsibility, at the very least in order to ensure that the IGU membership database is kept up to date.

IGU Financial Report and Projection. Meadows presented a summary of the financial situation for 2015 in comparison with previous mid-year balances. The long-term financial situation remains sound. Meadows proposed an increase in the annual operating grant to the IGU Commissions to US\$1500 per year from 2016, which the EC approved unanimously.

IGU Strategy. Criticism of the IGU is not new, particularly in relation to the cost of attendance at major IGU events. The future ‘thematic’ meetings are a positive reaction to this. The ‘elitist’ view of IGU requires a response, perhaps in terms of a marketing strategy. There are several ‘soft spots’, for example, Latin-American and Francophone geographers, US and UK geographers and with the ‘critical’ geographers’ group. Some venues of IGU conferences in the past have been particularly problematic. The Moscow Regional Conference has special sessions devoted to contact with Latin-American delegates and those from Africa. It was also agreed that in future the e-newsletter should be translated into Spanish and Portuguese if possible. If the existing strategy is pursued comprehensively, then many of the criticisms might well be addressed. The addition of primary education to the strategy still needs to be finalized. The ‘national’ structure of the IGU is perhaps a constraint to a more active ‘individual’ relationship with the IGU but the Commissions represent a ‘window’ for individual participation and this should be emphasized. An expansion of the mailing list for the e-Newsletter would be appropriate; this requires a relational database (Abler agreed to try to develop this). A further suggestion was made that IGU consider introducing awards for young or early career geographers. Thematic sessions at the IGU Regional Conferences and Congresses can also be very helpful, in addition to the proposed thematic conferences already planned. Initiating new projects (for example a book on the history of IGU is planned ahead of the 2022 extraordinary congress) is necessary and such ideas will most likely have to come from the IGU executive. The relationship of IGU with Future Earth is undoubtedly a theme that requires further development (some Commissions seem to be particularly well placed to do this and there is to be a special session at the Beijing Congress where this can be fostered further). Transdisciplinarity is a requirement for Future Earth endorsement of projects; geographers are well placed to offer this perspective and the Commissions can and should be involved. Some seed funding could be provided to facilitate this kind of initiative. ICSU is also a possible source of funding here. Clearly IYGU needs to be promoted as well (see below). Kolosov agreed to circulate a draft business plan to give effect to the strategy by the end of November 2015.

Young and Early Career Geographers Task Force. Droogleever-Fortuijn tabled a document and agreed to approach identified individuals in particular to get this underway; and asked for further suggestions. Members from the developing world are certainly required and, ideally, young or early career geographers from the localities of upcoming IGU events; the Commission and National Committee chairs are to be approached to suggest possible members. There is a need to establish better contacts with EGEA (European Geography Association for students and young geographers). IGU has also committed to try to establish a special day for young and early career scholars at our major events and to establish special IGU awards for young geographers.]

IYGU. The item was held over until Benno Werlen was able to attend and was discussed at the follow-up IGU EC session. Werlen had submitted a report and noted that there was now no chance of bringing IYGU before the current United Nations session (or indeed the subsequent one). A decision has been taken to focus on an alternative strategy. IYGU will be declared as an International Year of Science jointly by ICSU, ISSC and CIPSH and will be launched at the World Social Science Forum on 13th September 2015. The press release is being translated into as many languages as possible for wide circulation. It may be possible to have the opening ceremony at UNESCO in January 2016 but this is still not confirmed. The German launch in Jena is planned for early February 2016. The original programme remains as before and requires only some minor editorial changes to the publicity material. It is hoped that many events, including those of the IGU, during 2016 will be ‘branded’ as IYGU events. The structure, previously outlined, of regional action centres etc. will be implemented as the network develops but it is intended that this be very much a ‘bottom-up’ approach. 2016 represents the ‘kick-off’ but the ‘year’ will run through 2018. Media, education, and research are the three most important elements and the clear link to Future Earth needs to be further developed. It was also suggested that there be an IYGU event integral to the Beijing Congress and it should also be included in the Olympiad in Beijing. There are synergies also with the IGU *Oursus* project and the sustainable city concept can be promoted by IYGU. The announcement and call for action needs to go to IGU National Committees and Chairs of IGU Commissions and Task Forces. Werlen will draft this, Meadows to edit, Kolosov and Werlen will sign it and Meadows will distribute.

Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force. Abler tabled an update on the membership of this Task Force as Ishikawa has withdrawn due to other commitments and a successor is required. It is necessary to define and clarify the relationship between the Task Force and the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of the extraordinary 2022 Congress. It was agreed that the Paris LOC should be approached to make suggestions as to how best to put this into effect. An action plan is required in relation to the intended publication of a volume on IGU history; the archivists in Leipzig are willing to host an initial meeting in this regard, possibly in early 2016. There is an urgent need to get the Task Force active and initiating ideas; a prerequisite is to establish a chair; it was agreed that Kolosov approach a suitable candidate in this regard. A report on initial activities is needed for the first EC meeting of 2016. Abler and Kolosov will remain as the EC members responsible for liaison with this Task Force.

IGU Website Update. The website remains fully operational and updates the IGU Facebook page which continues to attract regular activity and ‘likes’. The imperative of ensuring that the IGU website is translated into French and Spanish was again noted and Meadows agreed to

follow this up further. He has been in contact with Yves Boquet who has agreed to translate the relevant material

IGU Bulletin and IGU eNewsletter Update. The next issue of the IGU Bulletin (Volume 63-64 covering the years 2013-14) is published and is to be distributed at the Moscow Regional Conference. It was agreed to put a pdf of this on the IGU website (Meadows). The April and July issues of the *eNewsletter* were published and distributed; all of these are available for downloading on the website. The editorial role played by former Vice-President Bellezza is greatly appreciated and the suggestion was made that he be invited to visit the next EC meeting to discuss this further.

IGU Thematic Conferences. The matter was held over to the follow-up EC meeting to allow for the presentation of Ramiz Mamedov and colleagues from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture about the proposed Baku, Azerbaijan, thematic conference on ‘Energy and Sustainable Development’. The venue is likely to be the Palace of Congresses or the Institute of Geography of the Azerbaijani Academy of Sciences, although this depends on numbers of delegates. The suggested date is the third week of August 2017. Some IGU Commissions should be particularly interested and of course IYGU must be integrated. An equivalent meeting in La Paz, Bolivia is also planned for 2017. Dell’Agnese is following up on this initiative.

IGU Elections 2016. There will be four vacancies for the position of Vice-President to be elected at the 2016 General Assembly. Droogleever-Fortuijn, Saarinen and Singh are available for re-election, Soyez is not eligible for election as Vice-President. The position of President also falls vacant in 2016; Kolosov will become Past President at the conclusion of the 2016 IGC. Regarding timing, the call for nominations should go out by October 31st 2015 with the closing date for submission of nominations on 1st March 2016 (Meadows).

ICSU policy on Freedom and Responsibility in Science. The Israeli Academy of Science and Humanities and the chair of ICSU’s Committee of Freedom and Responsibility in Science have asked the IGU to respond to a statement proposing a boycott of Israeli academics emanating from the International Critical Geographers’ Group (IGCC). It was noted that the ICGG meeting has no formal connection with the IGU and that the IGU endorses the ICSU Principle of Universality of Science. It was agreed that Abler would draft replies both to the Israeli Academy and to ICSU for consideration later in the meeting.

Cooperation and Outreach

Festivals (including *Festival International de Géographie FIG*). The relationship between FIG and IGU appears to have been hampered by communication difficulties resulting perhaps from changes in the festival organizing team. Despite the existence of the MoU signed several years ago, it appears that there are mixed messages from FIG in relation to maintaining IGU involvement in the festival. Although it is now too late to consider formal participation in the 2015 event, it was agreed that renewed efforts be made to establish whether FIG is interested in rejuvenating the relationship. Kolosov will write to the appropriate contact person. The Geography Festival of the Russian Geographical Society proved to be a great success in 2014 and will be held again in Moscow in November 2015.

IGU Representatives on International Bodies

ICSU (incl. GeoUnions) and Future Earth. The IGU nomination of Professor Rob Kitchen to the committee of the World Data System was successful, although Iain Hay's nomination to CFRS was unsuccessful. It was suggested that Meadows write to Karen O'Brien with a view to her suggestions for IGU involvement in Future Earth and the planned session on this topic at the Beijing IGU Congress. Zhou agreed to approach former Vice-President Qin Dahe also in this regard.

ISSC. The World Social Science Forum will be held in Durban in September 2015; former Vice-President Ruth Fincher will attend to represent IGU in a panel; Etienne Nel has also organized a panel for geographers and will be requested to provide a brief report for the *IGU eNewsletter* and website.

EUROGEO, EUGEO. There was no formal IGU representation at EUROGEO in May but Karl Donert is presenting at the Moscow Regional Conference and will be available for informal discussions with EC members. Dell'Agnese will attend the EUGEO meeting in Budapest 29th August to 3rd September 2015 and is participating in a session relating to political geography and will stress cooperation rather than competition with this organisation. It was decided that the conferences of both organisations should be attended by a liaison EC member.

ISPRS. There was nothing to report in relation to this organization.

ICA. Although IGU will not be represented at the ICA Congress in Rio de Janeiro, President Georg Gartner is presenting a keynote address at the Moscow Regional Conference and will be available for informal discussions.

International Association for Promoting Geoethics MoU. Nothing further to report at this stage.

Other Organisations. Singh reported on his planned participation in forthcoming IUGG (associated with the Belmont Forum), IAP and UNISDR events and his commitment to representing the position of geographers at these meetings. Meadows agreed to circulate information about the UNISDR meeting to the broader community. Droogleever-Fortuijn will represent IGU at the ICTP-IUGG 'Future of Earth-Space Science and Education' at Trieste in November 2015.

EGAL. Dell'Agnese reported on the planned joint IGU thematic conference in La Paz, Bolivia, in 2017 immediately prior to the next EGAL Congress. The website for this is currently under construction and the usual IGU marketing will be applied. The question of a possible Task Force for African geography was raised but no final decision taken.

Pan-American Institute of History and Geography. The request from this organization consisted of two issues: firstly, for IGU to be represented at their upcoming Congress and, secondly to establish a Commission relating to their goals. It was agreed to ask former Vice-President Alcantara-Ayala and Manuel Delgado to represent IGU and, secondly to inform them that our Commission on Latin American Studies is an appropriate point of contact.

Association of American Geographers. Abler reported that ongoing relations with the AAG are strong but that US involvement in IGU meetings remains relatively modest. Abler agreed to follow up with the *de facto* National Committee and will meet with Mark Laing in this regard shortly. The possibility of a special AAG session at their next annual meeting (San Francisco April 2017) was also raised, possibly in collaboration with one or more of the Specialty Groups. Abler agreed to submit a session proposal.

Royal Geographical Society. Himiyama has had no response in relation to his proposal regarding IGU representation but is in any case attending the upcoming annual conference being held in Exeter.

Young Earth Scientists (YES). Wang Meng has organised a YES session at the Moscow Regional Conference and EC members have agreed to participate; Meadows agreed that Wang Meng can be considered for a supplementary travel grant following his submission of a detailed budget.

International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences

Cologne, Germany, International Geographical Congress 2012. The final report has been published and distributed. There is also a DVD of many of the activities and it was agreed that there should be a link on the IGU website to this as well as a pdf version of the final report if the file size permits.

Moscow, Russia, Regional Conference 2015. Kolosov presented a brief report on the forthcoming Regional Conference. In addition to the regular programme of scientific papers, there are eight thematic lectures, eight keynote addresses, special days for schoolteachers, a youth programme, the Olympiad, a reception in honour of the 170th anniversary of the Russian Geographical Society, a series of free half-day excursions around the city, including a tour of the Museum of Earth Sciences at the top of the main building of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, along with many other diverse activities. Despite a good number of registrations (1500 plus), there are relatively few who will participate in the field excursions and the only post-congress field trip that will run is the one to St Petersburg. Approximately half of the delegates are from outside Russia representing some 60 countries.

Beijing, China, International Geographical Congress 2016. Zhou presented the situation regarding the Beijing 2016 Congress. A wide diversity of activities is planned with 106 session proposals already received covering 31 of the 41 IGU Commissions as well as some joint Commission sessions. Five special theme sessions, a Young Geographers' Forum, a joint symposium with the International Association of Geomorphologists and several workshops are already organized along with many other activities. The call for abstracts will open on 15th September 2015; early-bird registration will be available. Substantial funding has already been secured in order to subsidise travel awards, reduced registration fees for young scholars and those from developing countries, as well as support for various invited guests. There will be a series of one day and longer field excursions (two) and a range of pre- and post-congress tours led by geographers. The IGU publicity materials as well as information about the Quebec Regional Conference of 2018 will be available at the IGU stand in the exhibition.

Quebec, Canada Regional Conference 2018. Discussion of this item was held over to the follow-up EC session pending the visit of representatives of the Local Organizing Committee. Laurent Bourdeau attended as representative of the LOC and reported that the conference website is live and will be developed further. Dates are now fixed at August 6th to 10th August 2018. The first circular should be ready in time for the Beijing Congress with a draft budget available towards the end of the year. The LOC is working closely with the Canadian Association of Geographers.

Istanbul, Turkey, International Geographical Congress 2020. Discussion of this item was held over pending the visit of representatives of the LOC. Professors Ertek and Gönençgil attended for this item. A brief report was tabled outlining progress during the last year. The first phase is underway. Collaboration between institutions has been obtained and the LOC is established. The Congress website will go live in 2016. The logo and motto have been developed and the venue will be Istanbul University. Budget items have been defined and a draft workflow plan has been prepared and was circulated. The Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared and is ready for signature by the appropriate authorities. It was agreed that Meadows and Kolosov would sign the customary Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the Moscow Regional Conference.

Extraordinary International Geographical Congress 2022. Discussion of this item was held over pending the visit of representatives of the Local Organizing Committee at the follow-up EC session. Antoine Le Blanc and Nathalie Lemarchand attended and presented printed copies of the bid-book (a pdf version to be posted on the website). Letters of support are included from various bodies including several geographical societies in both France and Belgium. The theme is confirmed as ‘Time for Geographers/Le Temps de Géographes’. Some ideas for potential themes are included in the bid book to stimulate the scientific programme. A series of pre- and post-Congress field trips is planned, as well as some during the Congress. Belgian colleagues have agreed to organize the Olympiad. A provisional budget was tabled. The Congress proposal requires approval by a General Assembly and it was agreed that this should be done by email ballot.

Future Congresses post-2022. It was agreed that the 2024 event should be a Congress. Dieter Müller, representing the Swedish National Committee, attended for this item in the follow-up EC meeting. Malmö has been proposed as a possible venue. It was noted that the Nordic community had not hosted an IGU event since 1960. The possibility that this would be a joint Congress with Denmark was raised and there is an indication from both National Committees that this would be welcomed. Further information is expected following negotiations between representatives of the National Committees of both countries.

Other Business

IGU Lauréats d'honneur. The call for nominations has been made via the website. Meadows will also circulate this via email to the broader community.

IGU Planet and Humanity Medal 2016. The call for nominations has been made via the website. Meadows will also circulate this via email to the broader community.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 18h10 on 15th August 2015. The follow-up session (at the Lomonosov Moscow State University) commenced at 18h00 on 19th August 2015 and adjourned at 20h00.



Yaroslavl 2015, in open air

2b) Version Française

Brouillon du Procès-verbal de la réunion du Comité Exécutif de l'UGI Hôtel Ibis, Yaroslavl, Russie et Université d'Etat de Moscou Lomonossov, à Moscou

14 au 16 Août 2015

Bienvenue, déroulement des réunions et présentations

La réunion a été présidée par le président Kolosov qui a accueilli le Secrétaire général Mike Meadows et les vice-présidents Ron Abler, Dieter Soyez, Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Jarkko Saarinen, Yukio Himiyama, Elena Dell'Agnese, RB Singh et Zhou Chenghu. Le vice-président Iain Hay a transmis ses excuses.

Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Le calendrier a été discuté assez longuement, car il y avait quelques changements par rapport à ce qui avait été distribué. Meadows a distribué une version révisée du calendrier de la conférence régionale de Moscou reflétant les ajouts et modifications. L'ordre du jour, préparé et distribué à

l'avance de la réunion, a été adopté avec l'ajout d'un article relatif à la politique du CIUS sur l'universalité de la science.

Compte-rendu

Le compte-rendu de la réunion de Chicago en Avril 2015 a été approuvé antérieurement par courriel, mais il est présenté pour annotation et référence.

Organisation et fonctionnement

Rapports des membres du comité exécutif.

Les membres ont soumis des rapports écrits sur leurs activités et il y a eu une brève discussion; il a été convenu qu'une synthèse de ces rapports doit être préparée chaque année et une version plus étendue sera préparée pour le Congrès de Beijing.

Calendrier 2016 des réunions du Comité exécutif.

RB Singh a proposé que la prochaine réunion du CE se tienne conjointement avec la 9ème Conférence UGI qui se tiendra à Delhi. Il propose une arrivée le 16 Mars, une réunion du CE le 17 Mars, puis d'assister à la conférence le 18 Mars avant une excursion le 19, et un départ le 20 Mars.

La deuxième réunion de l'année 2016 aura lieu avant le Congrès de l'UGI à Beijing. Arrivée le mercredi 17 Août 2016, réunion du CE les 18 et 19, et retour le 20. La cérémonie d'ouverture du Congrès est le dimanche 21 Août 2016, la cérémonie de clôture le jeudi 25 Août 2016.

La nécessité de tenir une troisième réunion CE en 2016 a été évoquée et D. Soyez étudiera la possibilité d'accueillir cette réunion en Allemagne durant l'automne 2016 de l'hémisphère nord.

Mise à jour des adhésions nationales à l'UGI.

Meadows a présenté une situation actualisée des adhésions nationales. L'Ouganda a récemment mis en place un Comité national via l'Association géographique de l'Ouganda et a versé des cotisations de niveau A pour 2015. Des discussions sont en cours avec la Bolivie, le Botswana, Cuba, les Émirats arabes unis l'Équateur, le Luxembourg, Oman, le Sri Lanka et d'autres. Les membres du Comité exécutif sont invités à poursuivre les contacts avec les représentants des pays relevant de leur responsabilité, au moins pour que la base de données des membres de l'UGI soit tenue à jour.

Rapport de l'UGI et prévisions financières.

Meadows a présenté un résumé de la situation financière pour 2015, en comparaison avec les soldes antérieurs à mi-année. La situation financière à long terme demeure solide. Meadows a proposé une augmentation de la subvention de fonctionnement annuelle pour les Commissions de l'UGI à 1500 dollars américains par an à partir de 2016, ce que le CE a approuvé à l'unanimité.

Stratégies de l'UGI.

Les critiques faites à l'UGI ne sont pas nouvelles, en particulier en ce qui concerne le coût de la participation aux événements majeurs de l'UGI. Les futures réunions « thématiques » sont une réaction positive à cette question. La perception d'une UGI « élitiste » exige une réponse, peut-être en termes d'une stratégie de marketing. Il y a plusieurs « points délicats », par exemple, avec les géographes latino-américains et francophones, avec les géographes américains et

britanniques, et avec le groupe des géographes « critiques ». Les choix de certains lieux de conférence de l'UGI dans le passé ont été particulièrement problématiques. La Conférence régionale de Moscou a des séances spéciales consacrées à la communication avec les délégués latino-américains et ceux de l'Afrique. Il a également été convenu que l'avenir de l'e-bulletin d'information devrait être traduit en espagnol et en portugais, si possible. Si la stratégie actuelle se poursuit globalement, alors on pourrait répondre à bien des critiques. L'ajout de l'enseignement primaire à la stratégie doit encore être finalisé. La structure à base nationale de l'UGI est peut-être une contrainte à une relation plus active entre géographes individuels et UGI, mais les commissions représentent une « fenêtre » pour la participation individuelle et cela doit être souligné. Une expansion de la liste de diffusion de la lettre électronique serait approprié; cela nécessite une base de données relationnelle (Abler a accepté d'essayer de la développer). Une autre suggestion a été faite que l'UGI envisage d'introduire des récompenses pour les jeunes ou les géographes en début de carrière. Des sessions thématiques dans les conférences régionales de l'UGI et les Congrès peuvent également être très utiles, en plus des conférences thématiques proposées déjà prévues. Lancer de nouveaux projets (par exemple, un livre sur l'histoire de l'UGI est planifié en prévision du congrès extraordinaire de 2022) est nécessaire, et les idées devront probablement venir de l'exécutif de l'UGI. La relation de l'UGI avec "Future Earth" est sans aucun doute un thème qui nécessite un développement (certaines commissions semblent être particulièrement bien placées pour le faire et il doit y avoir une session spéciale au Congrès de Beijing où cela peut être encouragée davantage encore). La transdisciplinarité est une exigence pour approbation de projets par Future Earth; les géographes sont bien placés pour offrir cette perspective et les commissions peuvent et doivent être impliquées. Certains financements de démarrage pourraient être fournis pour faciliter ce genre d'initiative. Le CIUS est aussi une source possible de financement ici. Clairement, IYGU doit être promue aussi (voir ci-dessous). Kolosov fera circuler d'ici la fin de Novembre 2015 un projet de plan de développement pour rendre effective cette stratégie.

Groupe de travail sur les jeunes géographes en début de carrière

Droogleever-Fortuijn a déposé un document et a décidé d'approcher les individus identifiés, en particulier pour démarrer, et a demandé d'autres suggestions. Il faudra qu'il y ait des membres venus de pays en développement et, idéalement, des jeunes géographes des prochains pays organisateurs d'événements UGI. Les présidents de Commissions et de Comités nationaux des chaises doivent être contactés pour suggérer de possibles membres. Il est nécessaire de nouer des contacts plus importants avec l'EGEA (Association Européenne de Géographie pour les étudiants et les jeunes géographes). L'UGI s'est également engagée à essayer de mettre en place une journée spéciale "jeunes chercheurs" lors de nos événements majeurs et d'établir des prix spéciaux de l'UGI pour les jeunes géographes.

Initiative IYGU (International Year of Global Understanding)

Ce point a été reporté jusqu'à ce que Benno Werlen puisse assister et a été discuté lors d'une session ultérieure du CE. Werlen avait soumis un rapport et noté qu'il y avait désormais aucune chance de présenter IYGU devant la session en cours des Nations Unies (ni la suivante). La décision a été prise de se concentrer sur une stratégie alternative. IYGU sera déclarée comme une Année internationale des sciences conjointement par le CIUS, le CISS et le CIPSH, et sera lancée lors du Forum mondial des sciences sociales, le 13 Septembre 2015. Le communiqué de presse est en cours de traduction dans autant de langues que possible pour une large diffusion. Il serait possible d'avoir une cérémonie d'ouverture à l'UNESCO en Janvier 2016, mais ceci n'est toujours

pas confirmé. Le lancement allemand à Iéna est prévu pour début Février 2016. Le programme original reste le même et ne nécessite que quelques modifications rédactionnelles mineures du matériel publicitaire. Il est à espérer que de nombreux événements, y compris ceux de l'UGI, au cours de 2016 seront marqués comme des événements IYGU. La structure, décrite précédemment, de centres régionaux d'action, etc, sera mis en œuvre avec le développement du réseau, mais il est prévu que ce soit bien une approche « bottom-up ». 2016 représente le « coup d'envoi », mais « l'année » se déroulera jusqu'en 2018. Médias, éducation et recherche en sont les trois éléments les plus importants et le lien évident avec Future Earth doit être développé. Il a également été suggéré qu'il y ait un événement IYGU intégré au Congrès de Beijing et il devrait également être inclus dans l'Olympiade à Beijing. Il existe des synergies aussi avec le projet Oursus de l'UGI, et le concept de la ville durable peut être favorisé par IYGU. L'annonce et l'appel à l'action doivent aller aux comités nationaux de l'UGI et aux présidents des commissions et groupes de travail de l'UGI. Werlen rédigera le texte, Meadows l'amendera, Kolosov et Werlen le signeront et Meadows le distribuera.

Centcinquantenaire et groupe de travail du Centenaire.

Abler a fait le point sur la composition de ce groupe de travail dont Ishikawa s'est retiré en raison d'autres engagements, et un successeur est nécessaire. Il est nécessaire de définir et de clarifier la relation entre le Groupe de travail et le Comité Organisateur Local (COL) du Congrès extraordinaire 2022. Il a été convenu que le Comité local d'organisation de Paris devrait être contacté pour faire des suggestions sur la meilleure façon de mettre cela en marche. Un plan d'action est nécessaire pour la publication prévue d'un volume sur l'histoire de l'UGI; les archivistes à Leipzig sont prêts à accueillir une réunion initiale à cet égard, peut-être au début de 2016. Il est urgent d'activer le groupe de travail et de proposer des idées; une condition préalable est de désigner un président. Kolosov contactera un candidat approprié à cet égard. Un rapport sur les activités initiales est nécessaire pour la première réunion du CE de 2016. Abler et Kolosov resteront les membres du CE chargés de la liaison avec ce groupe de travail.

Mise à jour du site web de l'UGI

Le site reste pleinement opérationnel et met à jour la page Facebook de l'UGI qui continue d'attirer une activité régulière et des « j'aime ». Il est impératif de veiller à ce que le site Web de l'UGI soit traduit en français et en espagnol, et Meadows a accepté de continuer à suivre cette question. Il a été en contact avec Yves Boquet qui a accepté de traduire les documents pertinents.

Bulletin de l'UGI et mise à jour du bulletin électronique de l'UGI.

Le prochain numéro du Bulletin de l'UGI (Volume 63-64 couvrant les années 2013-14) est publié et doit être distribué à la Conférence régionale de Moscou. Il a été convenu de le mettre en .pdf sur le site web de l'UGI (Meadows). Les éditions d'avril et juillet du bulletin électronique ont été publiées et distribuées; tous ces éléments sont disponibles pour téléchargement sur le site. Le rôle éditorial joué par l'ancien vice-président Bellezza est grandement apprécié, et il a été suggéré qu'il soit invité à visiter la prochaine réunion du CE en discuter davantage.

Conférences thématiques de l'UGI.

L'affaire a été reportée à la réunion suivante du CE pour permettre la présentation de Ramiz Mamedov et de ses collègues du ministère du Tourisme et Culture à propos de la proposition de Bakou, en Azerbaïdjan, pour une conférence thématique « Énergie et développement durable ». Le lieu pourrait être le Palais des Congrès ou l'Institut de géographie de l'Académie des sciences

d'Azerbaïdjan, selon le nombre de délégués. La date proposée est la troisième semaine d'Août 2017. Certaines commissions de l'UGI devraient être particulièrement intéressées, et bien sûr IYGU doit y être intégrée. Une réunion équivalente à La Paz, en Bolivie, est également prévue pour 2017. Dell'Agnese suit cette initiative.

Élections UGI 2016

Il y aura quatre postes vacants pour le poste de vice-président lors des élections par l'Assemblée Générale en 2016. Droogleever-Fortuijn, Saarinen et Singh peuvent être réélus, Soyez ne peut plus être réélu vice-président. Le poste de président sera également vacant en 2016 : Kolosov deviendra président sortant à la fin du Congrès 2016. En ce qui concerne le calendrier, l'appel à candidatures devrait sortir le 31 Octobre 2015, avec la date de clôture du dépôt des candidatures le 1er Mars 2016 (Meadows).

Politique du CIUS sur la liberté et la responsabilité dans la science.

L'Académie israélienne des sciences et sciences humaines et le président du Comité CIUS sur la liberté et la responsabilité de la science ont demandé à l'UGI de répondre à une proposition de boycott des universitaires israéliens émanant du groupe international "géographes critiques" (IGCC). Il a été noté que l'IGCC n'a aucun lien formel avec l'UGI, et que l'UGI approuve le principe d'universalité de la science du CIUS. Il a été convenu que Abler rédigerait des réponses à la fois à l'Académie israélienne et à l'ICSU pour un examen ultérieur.

Coopération et sensibilisation

Festivals (dont le Festival International de Géographie).

Les relations entre le FIG de St Dié et l'UGI semblent avoir été gênées par des difficultés de communication résultant peut-être de changements dans l'équipe d'organisation du festival. Malgré l'existence du protocole d'accord signé il y a plusieurs années, il y a des messages contradictoires du FIG quant au maintien de la participation de l'UGI dans le festival. Bien qu'il soit maintenant trop tard pour envisager une participation officielle à l'événement de 2015, il a été convenu que des efforts renouvelés soient faits pour établir si le FIG est intéressé par un renouveau de la relation. Kolosov écrira à la personne-ressource appropriée.

Le Festival Géographie de la Société géographique russe a été un grand succès en 2014 et se tiendra à nouveau à Moscou en Novembre 2015.

Représentants de l'UGI dans les instances internationales

CIUS (y compris GeoUnions) et Future Earth.

La nomination par l'UGI du professeur Rob Kitchen Cuisine au comité du Système mondial de données a été un succès, mais si la nomination de Iain Hay à SCEAF (Smart City Energy Assessment Framework) a échoué. Il a été suggéré que Meadows écrive à Karen O'Brien pour ses suggestions relatives à une participation de l'UGI dans Future Earth et pour la séance prévue sur ce sujet lors du Congrès de l'UGI Pékin. Zhou a accepté d'aborder également à cet égard l'ancien vice-président Qin Dahe.

CISS.

Le Forum mondial des sciences sociales se tiendra à Durban en Septembre 2015; l'ancienne vice-présidente Ruth Fincher y assistera pour représenter l'UGI dans une table Ronde; Etienne Nel a

également organisé une table-ronde pour les géographes et il lui sera demandé de fournir un bref rapport pour le bulletin d'information et le site web de l'UGI.

EUROGEO, EUGEO.

Il n'y avait pas de représentation officielle de l'UGI à EUROGEO en mai, mais Karl Donert est présent à la Conférence régionale de Moscou et sera disponible pour des discussions informelles avec les membres du CE. Dell'Agnese assistera à la réunion d'EUGEO à Budapest du 29 Août au 3 Septembre 2015, et participera à une session relative à la géographie politique en mettant l'accent sur la coopération plutôt que la concurrence avec cette organisation. Il a été décidé qu'un membre correspondant du CE devrait assister aux conférences des deux organisations.

ISPRS (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing)

Rien à signaler par rapport à cette organisation.

Association Internationale de Cartographie.

Bien que l'UGI ne soit pas représentée au Congrès de l'ICA à Rio de Janeiro, le président Georg Gartner présente une allocution à la Conférence régionale de Moscou et sera disponible pour des discussions informelles.

Association internationale pour la promotion de Geoethics MoU.

Rien d'autre à signaler à ce stade.

Autres organisations.

Singh fait un rapport sur sa participation prévue dans les prochains rendez-vous de l'UGGI (Union géodésique et géophysique internationale) associé au Forum Belmont, et IAP-UNISDR (ISDR Asia partnership, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) et son engagement à représenter la position des géographes à ces réunions. Meadows est convenu de distribuer des informations sur la réunion de l'UNISDR à l'ensemble de la communauté géographique. Droogleever-Fortuijn représentera l'UGI à la "Conference on Future of Earth-Space Science and Education (Future ESSE)" de l'ICPT (International centre for theoretical Physics)-UGGI à Trieste en Novembre 2015.

EGAL (Encuentro de geografos de America latina).

Dell'Agnese présente un rapport sur la conférence thématique prévue à La Paz, en Bolivie, en 2017, immédiatement avant le prochain Congrès EGAL. Leur site web est actuellement en construction et la communication habituelle de l'UGI sera mise en oeuvre. La question d'un possible groupe de travail pour la géographie africaine a été soulevée, mais aucune décision finale n'est prise.

Institut panaméricain de géographie et d'histoire.

La demande de cette organisation est composée de deux questions: tout d'abord, pour que l'UGI soit représentée lors de leur prochain congrès et, d'autre part pour créer une Commission relative à leurs objectifs. Il a été convenu de demander à l'ancienne vice-présidente Alcantara-Ayala et à Manuel Delgado de représenter UGI et, d'autre part de les informer que notre Commission sur les études latino-américaines est un point de contact approprié.

Association américaine des géographes (AAG).

Abler a indiqué que des relations suivies avec l'AAG sont fortes, mais que la participation des États-Unis aux réunions de l'UGI reste relativement modeste. Abler a décidé de rester en contact avec le Comité national américain *de facto* et rencontrera Mark Laing à cet égard dans peu de temps. La possibilité d'une session spéciale de l'AAG à leur prochaine réunion annuelle (San Francisco, Avril 2017) a également été soulevée, éventuellement en collaboration avec un ou plusieurs des groupes spécialisés. Abler est convenu de soumettre une proposition de session.

Royal Geographical Society.

Himiyama a pas eu de réponse par rapport à sa proposition concernant la représentation de l'UGI, mais est en tout cas il assistera à la prochaine conférence annuelle qui se tiendra à Exeter.

Jeunes scientifiques de la Terre (YES).

Wang Meng a organisé une session de YES à la Conférence régionale de Moscou et les membres du CE ont accepté d'y participer; Meadows est convenu que Wang Meng peut être considéré pour une bourse de Voyage supplémentaire une fois qu'il aura soumis un budget détaillé.

Congrès géographiques internationaux et Conférences régionales de l'UGI

Cologne, Allemagne, Congrès International de Géographie 2012.

Le rapport final a été publié et distribué. Il y a également un DVD de la plupart des activités et il a été convenu qu'il devrait y avoir un lien sur le site web de l'UGI à cette ainsi qu'une version pdf du rapport final si la taille du fichier le permet.

Moscou, Russie, 2015. Conférence régionale

Kolosov a présenté un bref rapport sur la prochaine Conférence régionale. En plus du programme régulier de communications scientifiques, il y a huit conférences thématiques, huit discours préliminaires, des journées spéciales pour les enseignants, un programme jeunesse, l'Olympiade, une réception en l'honneur du 170e anniversaire de la Société géographique russe, une série d'excursions d'une demi-journée autour de la ville, y compris une visite du Musée des sciences de la Terre au sommet du bâtiment principal de l'Université d'Etat de Moscou Lomonossov, ainsi que de nombreuses autres activités diverses. Malgré un bon nombre d'inscriptions (1500 et plus), relativement peu de participants participeront aux visites de terrain et la seule excursion post-congrès qui se déroulera est celle vers Saint-Pétersbourg. Environ la moitié des délégués sont de l'extérieur de la Russie, représentant quelque 60 pays.

Beijing, Chine, Congrès international de géographie 2016.

Zhou a présenté la situation concernant le Congrès de Pékin en 2016. Une grande diversité d'activités est prévue avec 106 propositions de sessions déjà reçues, couvrant 31 des 41 commissions de l'UGI ainsi que des sessions mixtes de la Commission. Cinq sessions thématiques spéciales, un Forum des Jeunes Géographes, un colloque conjoint avec l'Association internationale des géomorphologues et plusieurs ateliers sont déjà organisés avec beaucoup d'autres activités. L'appel à résumés de communications sera ouvert le 15 Septembre 2015; une préinscription sera possible. Un financement substantiel a déjà été obtenu afin de subventionner des bourses de voyage, les frais d'inscription réduits pour les jeunes chercheurs et ceux des pays en développement, ainsi que le soutien de divers invités. Il y aura une série d'une journée et des excursions plus longues sur le terrain (deux) et une série de visites pré et post-congrès dirigé par

les géographes. Les matériaux de l'UGI de publicité ainsi que des informations sur la Conférence régionale du Québec de l'année 2018 seront disponibles au stand de l'UGI.

Québec, Canada. Conférence régionale 2018.

La discussion de ce point a été reportée à la session complémentaire du CE en attendant la visite de représentants du Comité local d'organisation. Laurent Bourdeau a participé en tant que représentant du C.L.O. et a indiqué que le site web de la conférence est fonctionnel et sera encore développé. Les dates sont maintenant fixées du 6 au 10 Août 2018. La première circulaire devrait être prête à temps pour le Congrès de Beijing avec un projet de budget disponible vers la fin de l'année. Le CLO travaille en étroite collaboration avec l'Association canadienne des géographes.

Istanbul, Turquie, Congrès international de géographie 2020.

La discussion de ce point est reportée en attendant la visite de représentants du CLO. Les professeurs Ertek et Gönençgil ont participé à la discussion sur ce point. Un bref rapport a été déposé, décrivant les progrès accomplis au cours de la dernière année. La première phase est en cours. La collaboration entre les institutions a été obtenue et le CLO est mis en place. Le site web du Congrès sera mis en ligne en 2016. Le logo et la devise ont été développés, et le lieu sera l'Université d'Istanbul. Des éléments de budget ont été définis et un projet de plan de travail a été préparé et distribué. Le protocole d'accord a été préparé et il est prêt à être signé par les autorités compétentes. Il a été convenu que Meadows et Kolosov signeraient le protocole d'accord (MoU) coutumier pendant la Conférence régionale de Moscou.

Congrès international extraordinaire de géographie 2022.

La discussion de ce point a été reportée en attendant la visite de représentants du Comité local d'organisation. Antoine Le Blanc et Nathalie Lemarchand ont présenté des copies imprimées du livret de candidature (une version .pdf sera postée sur le site). Des lettres de soutien sont incluses, venant de divers organismes, dont plusieurs sociétés géographiques en France et en Belgique. Le thème est confirmé comme «Time for geographers / Le Temps des Géographes ». Quelques idées pour des thèmes potentiels sont incluses dans le dossier de candidature pour stimuler le programme scientifique. Une série de visites sur le terrain avant et après le Congrès est prévue, ainsi que certains au cours du Congrès. Les collègues belges ont accepté d'organiser l'Olympiade. Un budget prévisionnel a été déposé. La proposition du Congrès requiert l'approbation de l'Assemblée générale et il a été convenu que cela devrait être fait par courriel.

Futurs congrès post-2022.

Il a été convenu que l'événement 2024 devrait être un Congrès. Dieter Müller, représentant le Comité national suédois, a assisté à la séance suivante du CE sur ce point. Malmö a été proposée comme un lieu possible. Il a été noté que la communauté nordique n'avait pas accueilli d'événement UGI depuis 1960. La possibilité que ce soit un congrès commun avec le Danemark a été évoquée, ce qui serait bien vu des deux comités nationaux. Des informations complémentaires sont attendues, suite aux négociations entre les représentants des comités nationaux des deux pays.

Autres questions

Lauréats d'honneur de l'UGI.

Un appel à nominations a été fait via le site web. Meadows le fera également circuler par courrier électronique à l'ensemble de la communauté.

Médaille UGI “planète et l'humanité” 2016.

Un appel à nominations a été fait via le site web. Meadows le fera également circuler par courrier électronique à l'ensemble de la communauté.

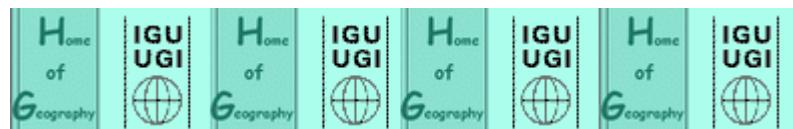
Ajournement

La séance est levée à 18h10 le 15 Août 2015.

La session complémentaire (à l'Université d'Etat Lomonossov de Moscou) s'est déroulée le 19 Août 2015 entre 18 h00 et 20h00.



Yaroslavl, 2015: working session



3) IYGU

2016 to be the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) “Building bridges between global thinking and local action”

The International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) jointly announced today

that 2016 would be the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU). The aim of IYGU is to promote better understanding of how the local impacts the global in order to foster smart policies to tackle critical global challenges such as climate change, food security and migration.

“We want to build bridges between global thinking and local action,” said Prof. Benno Werlen of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany. “Only when we truly understand the effects of our personal choices – for example in eating, drinking and producing – on the planet, can we make appropriate and effective changes,” said Werlen, who initiated this project of the International Geographical Union (IGU).

How to translate scientific insight into more sustainable lifestyles will be the main focus of activities – research projects, educational programmes and information campaigns – for 2016. The project seeks to go beyond a narrow focus on environmental protection and climate policy and explore quality of life issues and the sustainable, long-term use of local resources.

“We live in the most interconnected world in history. Yet at the same time that world is riven by conflicts, dislocations and uncertainties - an unsettling and disturbing mixture of huge opportunities and existential risks,” said Lord Anthony Giddens, former Director of the London School of Economics, UK. “Finding a positive balance will demand fundamental intellectual rethinking and new forms of collaboration of the sort the IGYU offers” he added.

“Sustainable development is a global challenge, but solving it requires transforming the local – the way each of us lives, consumes, and works. While global negotiations on climate attack the sustainability crisis from above, the IYGU complements them beautifully with coordinated solutions from below - by getting individuals to understand and change their everyday habits. This twin approach elevates our chance of success against this crisis, the gravest humanity has ever seen,” said former ICSU President and Nobel Laureate Yuan-Tseh Lee.

For example, on each day in 2016, the IYGU will highlight a change to an everyday activity that has been scientifically proven to be more sustainable than current practice. Primers on everyday life which take cultural diversity and local practice into account will be compiled and distributed. “Now more than ever it is vital that we find the strength to understand and relate to the positions, thoughts, and expectations of others and seek dialogue instead of confrontation,” said Professor Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS).

It is hoped that this focus on tangible, local action will generate ideas for research programmes and school curricula, as well as highlight best practice examples. Wherever possible, activities will be communicated in several languages. Using this bottom-up approach, the IYGU hopes to support and extend the work of initiatives such as Future Earth, the UN’s Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

“In Rwanda, environmental pollution through plastic litter was a widespread and intractable problem. Ultimately, the insight that plastic is harmful to ruminant animals, in particular cows, turned the tide in favor of environmental legislation. This led to a ban on plastic items that could cause litter. Today you’d be hard pressed to find plastic polluting public areas in Rwanda,” said Werlen.

The involvement of the ISSC, ICSU and CIPSH in IYGU underwrites broad collaboration across the natural and social sciences and the humanities, from across disciplinary boundaries and from all around the world.

In 2016, the IYGU program will be coordinated by about 50 Regional Action Centers. This network is currently being established and cities such as Tokyo . Washington, Sao Paulo, Tunis, Moscow, and Rome, while Beijing, Mexico City, Maçao/Coimbra, Nijmegen, Hamilton, Bamako and Kigali are confirmed as hosts of such Centers with their regional to continental reach. The

IYGU General Secretariat in Jena, Germany coordinates these Regional Action Centers.

Further information on the International Year of Global Understanding is available at www.global-understanding.info. Prof. Werlen is available for further interviews upon request.

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About Prof. Benno Werlen:

Prof. Benno Werlen was born in Switzerland in 1952. After studying Geography, Ethnology, Sociology, and Economics, he received his Ph.D. and served as a research assistant at the universities of Kiel, Fribourg, and Zurich. Having completed his habilitation in the natural sciences, Werlen taught at the ETH Zurich and at the universities of Salzburg, Geneva, and Nijmegen. As a visiting fellow, he spent time at Cambridge University, the UCLA, and the London School of Economics. Werlen has been professor of Social Geography at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena since 1998; he has been a member of the European Research Council since 2008.

Selected quotes

Dr. h.c. Eliezer Batista (Brazil)

Key Initiator of the Rio Summit 1992 and founder of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

Knowledge is the factor that leads us to change our way of thinking. However, it is the understanding that leads to change attitudes. The IYGU puts emphasis on culturally different paths to global sustainability. And that only changing individual actions will lead to change of collective action whose result will be the improvement of the system in global scope.'

Professor Klaus Toepfer (Germany)

Former Executive-Director of UNEP, Director of Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

'The fall of the Berlin Wall was the crucial symbol of overcoming the bipolar world. Now more than ever it is vital to the globalization process that we find the strength time and again to also understand and relate to the positions, thoughts, and expectations of others and seek dialogue

instead of confrontation. Furthermore, it will be important to advance the quest for solutions that do not challenge one's own inalienable values while also granting this privilege to others.'

Professor Gordon McBean (Canada)

Nobel Prize Laureate for Peace (IPCC), President of ICSU and Council for Future Earth

'The IYGU is very important in building societal understanding, enabling actions to face the risks posed by global environmental change. It is seizing opportunities in transitions to global sustainability and is providing a critical start for a successful Future Earth Programme.'

Professor Anthony Giddens (UK)

Member of the House of Lords and former Director of the London School of Economics

'We live in the most interconnected world in history. Yet at the same time that world is riven by conflicts, dislocations and uncertainties - an unsettling and disturbing mixture of huge opportunities and existential risks. Finding a positive balance will demand fundamental intellectual rethinking and new forms of collaboration of the sort the IGYU offers'.

Professor Yuan Tseh-Lee (Taiwan)

Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry (1986)

'Sustainable development is a global challenge, but solving it requires transforming the local - the way each of us lives, consumes, and works. While global negotiations on climate attack the sustainability crisis from above, the IYGU complements them beautifully with coordinated solutions from below - by getting individuals to understand and change their everyday habits. This twin approach elevates our chance of success against this crisis, the gravest humanity has ever seen.'



4) IGU IN ASIA

4a) In Delhi

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to inform you that as follow up action of our IYGU Meeting at the University of Delhi on September 2015 (*see photo below*), CSR Research Foundation is willing to act as Regional Action Center for South Asia for IYGU.



15 September 2015, Dr. M.R.Bhutiyani, Dr. Sergey Zolotoy and Prof. R.B.Singh
in the Department of Geography of the University of Delhi

R.B. Singh
Vice President: International Geographical Union (IGU)
Head: Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics,
University of Delhi, Delhi - 110007, INDIA
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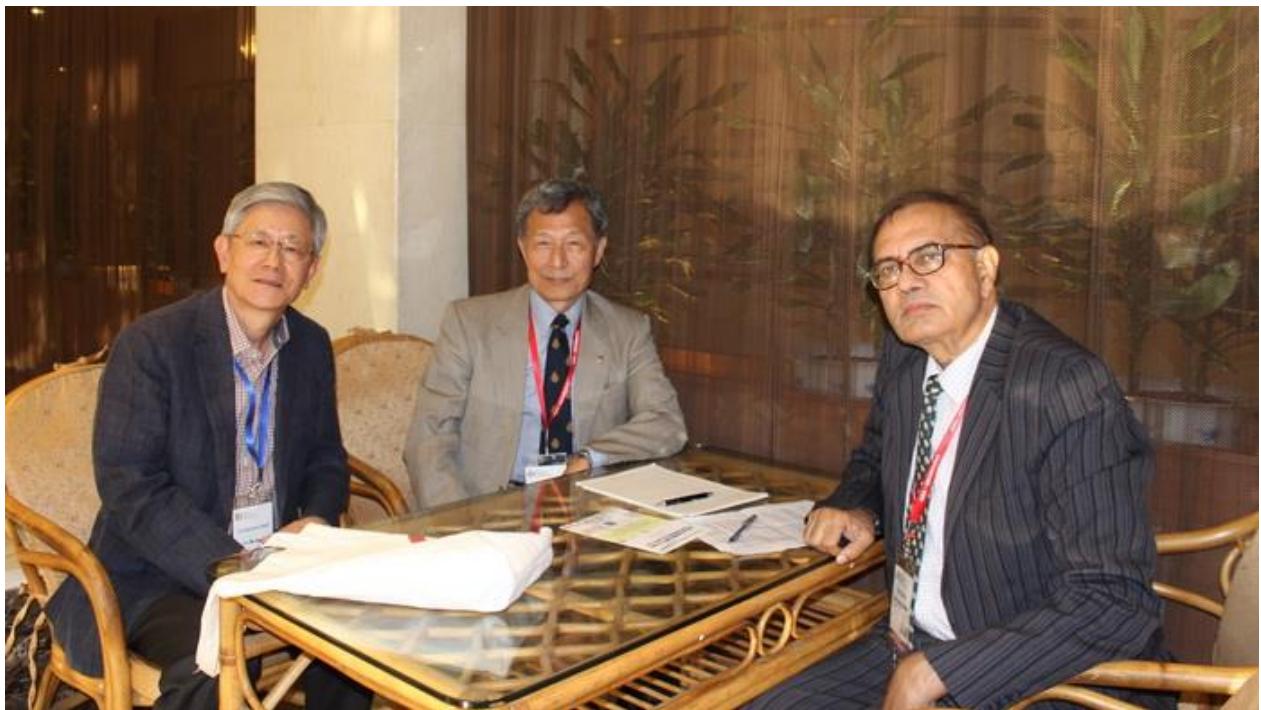
4b) In Shanghai

At 1st Asian Conference on Geography and 10th China-Japan-Korea Conference on Geography at East China Normal University, Shanghai, during October 9-12, I mentioned in my Opening and Plenary Lectures, Professor Himiyama presented a paper on IYGU (got award) and we three (R.B.Singh, Y. Himiyama and Korean Cultural Geographer Je-Hun Ryu had long Meeting for promoting IYGU in Asia. I am enclosing photograph of our meeting.

Best wishes,

R.B. Singh

Vice President: International Geographical Union (IGU)



Korean Cultural Geographer Je-Hun Ryu with IGU VPs Y. Himiyama and R.B.Singh



5) ANALYSIS OF THE IGU COMMISSIONS

Joos Droogleever Fortuijn
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

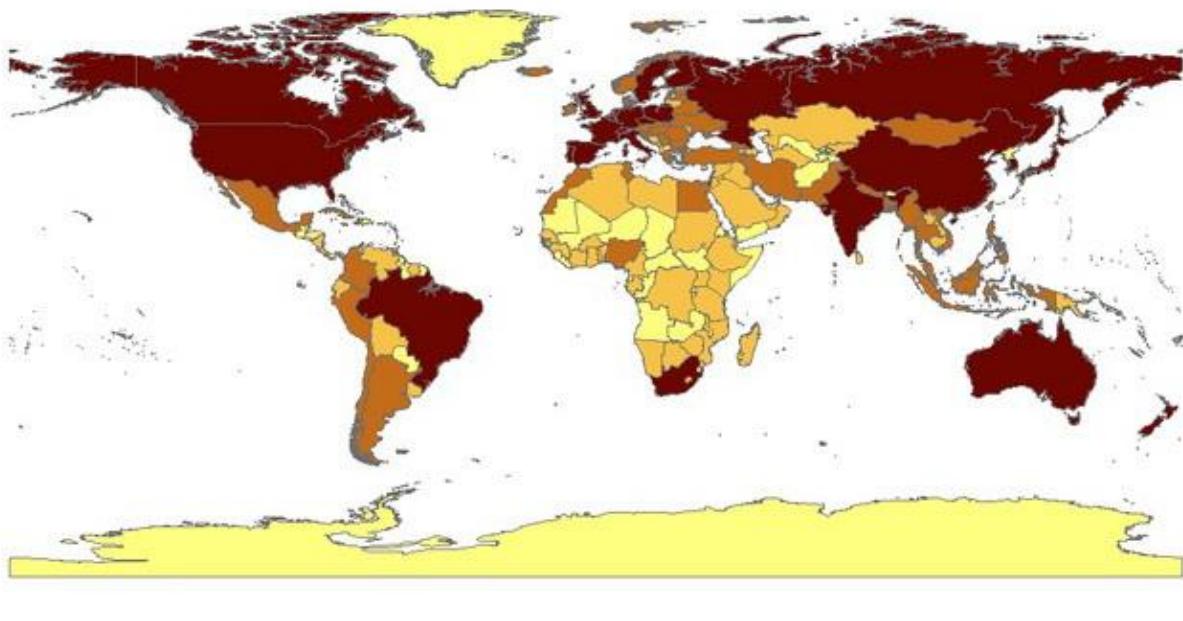
Introduction

The International Geographical Union IGU is an international organization that, according to the statutes, “aims to initiate and coordinate geographical research requiring co-operation and to promote its scientific discussion and publication”. The main objective in the IGU strategy for the 2015-2022 period is that the “IGU should be competitive as the main and a truly global international geographical organization, respected by the geographical community and outside it, representing all continents and regions of the world.”

Commissions and Task Forces form the fundament of the work of the IGU. Each Commission/TF forms an international community of geographers active in a specific field. The IGU has currently 41 Commissions and the Olympiad Task Force. This article analyzes the membership of the IGU Commissions/TF. The central questions are:

- How does membership of IGU Commissions/TF develop?
- Does IGU represent the geographical community globally?
- Which strategies lead to an increase of IGU Commission/TF membership?

IGU Commission members by country, 2014



Legend



Source: Reports IGU Commissions and Task Forces

Sieerd de Vos

To read all the detailed document (7 pages) look in www.homeofgeography.org, News 2015



6) FROM ICSU NEWSLETTER APRIL 2015



News

Last Friday, after a three-year consultation process, the world's governments agreed the Sustainable Development Goals. Throughout the process, ICSU and its partner organizations [have continuously pushed for a sound scientific basis for these goals and a strong role for science in their implementation](#), for example through the first ever scientific review of the 169 targets that will operationalize the 17 goals, published in February. The 3rd ICSU/ISSC/DFG Young Scientists Networking Conference at Villa Vigoni had as its topic how science can contribute to the implementation of the SDGs, and [we have just released a new video featuring interviews with the participants and their vision for a sustainable future.](#)

During the World Social Science Forum in Durban, South Africa this month, the International Council for Science (ICSU), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) jointly announced that [2016 would be the International Year of Global Understanding \(IYGU\)](#). The aim of IYGU is to promote better understanding of how the local impacts the global in order to foster smart policies to tackle critical global challenges such as climate change, food security and migration. In early December, ICSU will return to South Africa to participate in the first meeting of Science International, a new coalition of the major international science bodies – ICSU, the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). At its first meeting, to be held from 7-9 December in Pretoria, [the participating institutions will agree an international science ‘accord’ on Big Data/Open Data](#). Webinars to discuss the draft accord will be held on 15-16 October and are open to all members of Science International partner organizations.

With the eyes of the world on Paris for the climate change negotiations in December, [the science community gathered there in July to present the latest state of climate science at the conference “Our Common Future Under Climate Change”](#). ICSU was one of the organizing partners of the conference and held a side event on Science and the Road to Transformation, [focusing on how science can play an active role in the transition to a low carbon future](#).

In January, a major conference in Geneva will look at how the science and technology community can support implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. [The conference is open to all interested participants and there is no conference fee.](#)

The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) is starting to develop its new GCOS Implementation Plan that will guide the development of the global climate observing system in the future. The conference [Global Climate Observation: the Road to the Future](#) is being held to allow experts dealing with climate observations and other key stakeholders the opportunity to give their views and inputs into this plan. Registrations and the call for abstracts start on 15 October.

Future Earth, the ICSU co-founded research initiative on global sustainability, is looking to create a strong presence in Africa. In light of this, it is now looking for proposals from institutions that want to host a Future Earth Regional Office. Regional Offices are intended to provide a foundation for the later creation of a Regional Centre for Africa at one of the offices. [The deadline for proposals is 28 October.](#)

Road to Paris

Three of our favorite stories from [ICSU's Road to Paris blog](#) covering disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change

News from ICSU's Regional Offices

Asia & Pacific

In a milestone achievement, scientists from the Research Center for Environmental Changes of the Academy of Sciences located in Taipei, secured funding from the Ministry of Science and Technology, to undertake a pilot project developed through the ROAP sponsored work in its priority area on urban health and wellbeing. The project is entitled Planning Green Transportation for Better Urban Health Under Climate Change. The grant will enable several teams of researchers from the Center and elsewhere to collaboratively use the systems approach in research to better plan and manage urban health and wellbeing in Taipei. The systems approach involves multidisciplinary collaborative research among scientists from several disciplines. In this pilot project it will involve environmental chemists, human health specialists and transportation scientists. The ICSU ROAP priority area on urban health and wellbeing developed a science plan in 2011 that outlined why we need to move to more holistic approaches to urban health and wellbeing planning and management, and the tools available to do so. The pilot project will show how the use of the systems approach in urban health research will produce more holistic and comprehensive solutions.

From ICSU's Latin America and the Caribbean

As a result of the third Latin American Workshop on Mathematics Teaching held in early January 2015 in the city of Havana, Cuba, ICSU ROLAC defined the priority of starting the process of making Honduras the first country in Central America and the Caribbean to start a process for the study and implementation of standards for the training of teachers of mathematics, taking note of the Chilean experience.

With the advice of the Center for Mathematical Modeling of the University of Chile and under the leadership of the National Academy of Sciences of Honduras and the University José Cecilio del Valle, the project was presented to the National Pedagogical University Francisco Morazán and the Ministry of Education of Honduras.

The project launch event and "problem solving" workshop took place in August 3-4 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Africa

The African Future Earth Committee (AFEC) held its first in-person meeting on 13 – 14 August 2015, in Pretoria, South Africa. This meeting was attended by all eleven members of AFEC plus Hassan Virji from START (representing the Future Earth Global Secretariat) and Berhanu Abegaz from the African Academy of Science (as meeting chair). The event was co-sponsored by the government of South Africa (through the National Research Foundation) and ICSU. The Committee discussed issues/recommendations emanating from the previous Future Earth activities in Africa and took into considerations developments at global level. It was agreed to narrow the current work of AFEC around the following: (i) developing the ToR of the Committee; (ii) establishment of a Future Earth Regional Centre for Africa; and (iii) developing a process to articulate key science and other challenges that are of prime interest to Africa and Future Earth globally. For more information about the Committee's proposed activities and actions, [please see the meeting report](#).

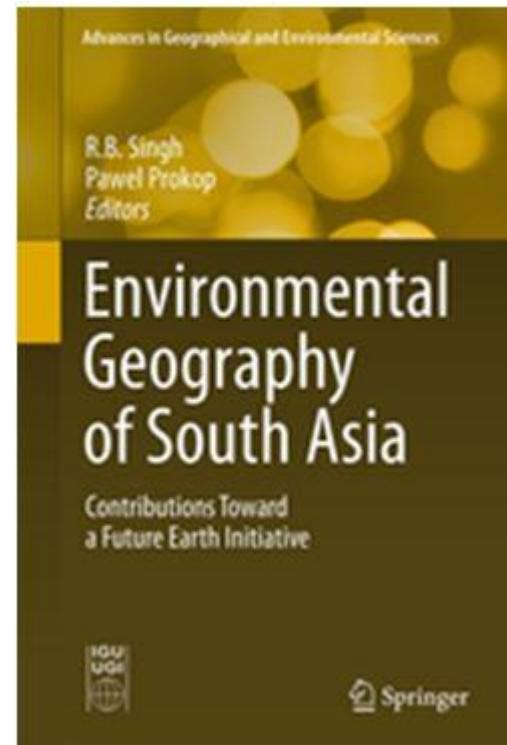


7) ENVIRONMENTAL GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH ASIA

The 20 contributes to this volume synthesize critical environmental challenges of dynamic earth and human environment systems in South Asia emphasizing geographical dimensions. It deals with spaceborne monitoring, climate, eco-hydrology, forests and biodiversity, land-use and land-cover change (LUCC), natural hazards, and disasters in order to contribute towards a sustainable future. The contributions range from traditional field techniques to the use of remote sensing and geographic information systems.

The book integrates environmental attributes relating the past, present, and future of South Asia broadly based on biophysical and human dimensions in spatio-temporal perspectives. The monitoring of natural hazards and climate issues is considered a vital component in the context of environmental geography, especially in observation and understanding of climate and water-induced disasters. It is important to communicate the advances in geoscience techniques to increase the resilience of the vulnerable society of South Asia and to promote livelihood security. The sustainability of South Asia depends strongly on the earth environment, and thus the development of geo-environmental monitoring is critical for a better understanding of our living environment. The aim of Editor of the book (R.B. Singh and P. Prokop) is to present dynamic aspects of environmental geography to contribute to future earth initiatives in South Asia.

The volume will soon be available also as *e-book*.



Springer Series, IGU Community contributions welcome

The series integrate past, present and future of geospheric attributes incorporating biophysical and human dimensions in spatio-temporal perspectives. The geosciences encompassing land-ocean-atmosphere interactions is considered as a vital component in the context of environmental issues, especially in observation and prediction of air and water pollution, global warming and urban heat islands.

It is important to communicate the advances in geosciences to increase resilience of societies through capacity building for mitigating the impact of natural hazards and disasters. Sustainability of human society depends strongly on the earth environments, and thus the development of geosciences is critical for a better understanding, and its sustainable development.

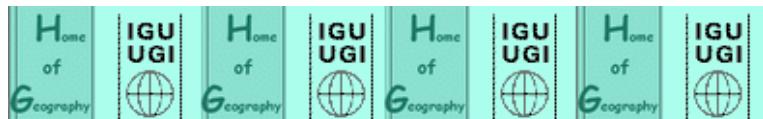
Geoscience also has the responsibility not to confine itself to address current problems but it is also developing a framework to address future issues, in order to build a "Future Earth Model" for understanding and predicting the functioning of the whole climatic system, collaboration of experts in the traditional earth disciplines as well as in ecology, information technology, instrumentation and complex system is essential, through initiatives from human geoscientists. Thus human geoscience is emerging as key policy science for contributing towards sustainability/survivality science together with future earth initiatives.

Advance in Geographical and Environmental Sciences series publishes books that contain novel approaches in tackling issues of human geoscience in its broader sense - books in the series should focus on the true progress in a particular area or region. The series includes monographs and edited volumes without any limitation in the page number.

Recently published:

O. Muñiz Solari, A. Demirci, Joop van de Schee (eds), Geospatial technologies and Geography Education in a Changing World - Geospatial Practices and Lesson Learned.

R.B. Singh (ed.), Urban Development Challenges, Risks and Resilience in Asian Mega Cities.



8) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2015)

- 8.1) PECS 2015 Conference, Social, Economic Dynamics in the Anthropocene, Stellenbosch, 2-5 November
- 8.2) Landuse, Water, Climate and Urban Health in Changing Urban Environment, Pune, 4-8 November
- 8.3) Between the plough and the pick, Canberra, 5-6 November 2015
- 8.4) COSPAR Symposium, Water and Life in the Universe, Foz do Iguazu, 8-13 November
- 8.5) Present and Future of Asia-Pacific Landscape Architecture, Seoul, 23-25 November
- 8.6) Justice in Migration, Amsterdam, 4-5 December 2015
- 8.7) Borders at the Interface, Beer Sheba and Jerusalem, 7-11 December 2015
- 8.8) Borders at the Interface, Reception for Prof. David Newman
- 8.9) Les migrations à l'épreuve de la nouvelle gouvernance locale, Poitiers, 10-11 Décembre
- 8.10) Maillages Territoriaux, Démocratie et Elections, Monastir, 14-14 Janvier 2016
- 8.11) Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, 27-29 January 2016

