



## IGU E-NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

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Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

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*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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**7.1) NZGS Conference, Dunedin, University Otago, Aotearoa, 1-4 February 2016**

**7.2) Borders Studies Down Under, Wellington (New Zealand), 7-7 March 2016**

**7.3) City as global political Actor, Antwerp (Belgium) 9-11 March 2016**

**7.4) Land Use Change, Climate Extremes and Disasters Risk Reduction, Delhi, 17-20 March 2016**

**7.5) Undisciplinated Environments. Cfp Session Decolonizing methods: disseminating research results beyond academy, Stockholm 20-23 March 2016**

**7.6) Land use, climate extremes and risk reduction, Delhi, 10-20 March 2016**

**7.7) Association of American Geographers, Annual Conference 2016, San Francisco, 29 March-2 April**

**7.7) Urban e-Planning, development and future challenges, Lisbon 31 March- 1 April 2016 (Flyer 2**

**7.9) The return of Geopolitics, University of Arizona, 4-5 April 2016**

**7.10) Association for Borderland Studies, Reno, 13-16 April 2016**

**7.11) Association Estudios Frontelizos, Reno, 13-16 April 2016**

**7.12) Urban health - communicating results for policy and action, Xia Men (China), 28-29 April 2016**



## **1) REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT VLADIMIR KOLOSOV**

February 2 was a great day for the International Geographical Union and the entire international geographical community. The International Year of Global Understanding has been officially proclaimed in Jena, Germany. The path to this event took about ten years. The IGU initiative for a large international interdisciplinary programme was first proposed by former IGU President Adalberto Vallega. It was then taken up by Professor Benno Werlen, Chair of IGU Commission on Cultural Geography. Frankly speaking, at the beginning I was a bit skeptical when Benno suggested the declaration of an International year: we academics are often unfortunately too far from the world of diplomacy and “grand policy”. Filling the gaps that separate the academy, government, civil society and education is exactly one of the main objectives of IYGU. The support of the IGU initiative by our outstanding colleagues in two major world scientific organizations, the “unions of unions” – ICSU and ISSC and its unanimous adoption by the UNESCO General Assembly is evidence that it is possible. But of course, this success required years of work, hundreds of meetings and presentations, continuous flights from one continent to

another, to prove and to convince many different people and audiences. On behalf of IGU, I would like to cordially congratulate Benno Werlen and the members of his team on the formal opening of IYGU and express our hearty thanks to the Friedrich-Schiller-University and to the Thuringian government for their deep-seated faith in success of the project, their efficient assistance and consistent support.

There is no doubt that IYGU became possible because it is devoted to the most important problem that humankind has ever faced – sustainable development, the need to make sure that our descendants will live in a healthy environment that satisfies their needs and indeed their survival. Geography, standing on its “natural” and “social” legs, is naturally adapted for studying the interactions between both society and environment; that is its core, its *raison-d’être*.

But obviously, it is impossible to work out the paths to sustainable development without close cooperation among the Earth sciences and the social and technical disciplines. Processes of differentiation and fragmentation still prevail. For instance, the list of disciplines used by the US National Science Foundation comprises more than 8,000 positions. We still remain too often divided by institutional and even mental boundaries. I am sure that IYGU, whose establishment reunited brilliant scholars representing almost the full spectrum of academic disciplines from all over the world, will contribute substantial progress to better understanding of the importance of the nature-society interface in reaching the goals of sustainable development at the local and global scales.

Reaching those goals is the responsibility of every citizen, and that is the cornerstone of IYGU. We firmly believe that in the XXI century every inhabitant of our planet must be made aware of his or her activity’s environmental costs and the ways they depend on a great number of social, cultural, and natural factors. Such knowledge is more vitally important for every citizen than ever. Education is a major focus of IGU activity. We believe it necessary that IGU and its Commission on Education through IYGU elaborates the internationally approved minimum of geographical knowledge for each citizen in the XXI century, and that it defines and disseminates the best practices of teaching geography and environmental science in secondary schools, universities, and other institutions, including schools of management and technical universities, etc.

We believe that IYGU is critically important to the public image of geography which studies the means to adapt society to climate change and to globalization under different conditions, and with the preservation of biological and cultural diversity. Geography is about the quality of our lives because it contributes to social justice, the spatial organization of society, and to regional and urban planning. Contemporary environmental science is closely connected with the technical progress of ICT processing and, most importantly, analysis and synthesis of huge amounts of data.

We would like to apply importance of our results to a wide range of different stakeholder groups, to decision-makers at different scales, and in particular, by the dissemination of knowledge through global professional and social networks. This is a major objective of IYGU, and we cannot miss the opportunities offered by the most ambitious project the IGU has ever initiated.

As the IYGU programme is not limited to this year, we should work on the basis of clear strategic objectives and plans, using the experience of different academic unions and associations. The IYGU will ensure the translation of our scientific results into the language of legal norms and administrative regulations; to promoting understanding of the preoccupations, needs and agendas of different authorities, and moreover, to anticipate and even sometimes generate them. The IYGU fully matches the objectives of a number of major programmes at the national, European and global levels, including for instance *Future Earth*, *Europe-2020* or *Living*

*Together.* We believe that IYGU will become the basis of the long-term cooperation between its participants and stakeholders and will contribute to the advancement of many global and regional networks.



*Left to the right: Luiz Oosterbeek (President of CIPSH), Klaus Töpfer, former director of UNEP and federal minister of environment, Benno Werlen, Vladimir Kolosov and Anantha Duraiappah, Director of the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute in New Delhi.*

The opening ceremony started by the press-conference. Then the participants proceeded to the one of the main conference and concert rooms in Jena (*Volkshouse*). After some introductory words by the IYGU coordinator Benno Werlen, its proclamation was greeted by the officials: former Director of UNEP and federal minister of environment Klaus Töpfer (Germany), President of the Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena hosting the project's head-quarters, Professor Walter Rosenthal and to the Thuringian Minister of Economy, Science and the Digital Society Wolfgang Tiefensee. They were followed by the representatives of IYGU stakeholders: President of IGU Vladimir Kolosov (Russia), former minister and Honorary President of CIPSH (Conseil International de la Philosophie et Sciences Humaines) Adama Samassékou (Mali), Executive Director of International Social Science Council (ISSC) Mathieu Denis (Canada), and Martin Visbeck (Germany) from the International Council for Science (ICSU). The proclamation of IYGU was also welcome by Executive Director of *Future Earth* Paul Shrivastava (India/Canada).

The first conference of IYGY gathered an interesting constellation of key note speakers. Anantha Duraiappah (Malaysia), Director of the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute in New Delhi, devoted his presentation to “the tyranny of pedagogies” preventing humankind from approaching

the objectives of sustainable development: he proved that we need a new type of education which should not stimulate self-assertion, self-interest and self-optimization, narrow world view and focus on economic rationality but instead privilege self-doubt, social irrationality, global worldview, planetary well-being and collective optimization. He proposed some directions for changing the orientation of education. Jack Dangermond (USA), founder of CEO and ESRI companies specialized in GIS, spoke in his recorded video address about the role of new IT technologies in shaping a new vision of the world. Julia Marshall (Canada/Germany) analyzed the dynamics of carbon dioxide emissions and its flows in the atmosphere. Nico Stehr (Germany) considered the relation between climate change, inequality and democracy. Hartmut Rosa (Germany) shed light on social acceleration and de-synchronization. As this phenomenon is intimately familiar to all of us and certainly has a critical impact on sustainability, this presentation provoked an obvious interest in the audience. Two last speakers – Professor Allen Scott from USA, and Luiz Oosterbeek (President of CIPSH), and Helena Henriquez (Portugal) – discussed the projects that are already being developed in the framework of IYGU: respectively, publication of “primers for everyday life” (“eating – drinking”, “working – living”, etc.), and the creation of IYGU regional and national action centers. The participants profit of the occasion for establishing new contacts, in particular, at the reception organized after the conference. So, IYGU is inaugurated. It will be filled by diverse activities all around this year and beyond, and IGU wishes the project good luck and every success.

**Vladimir Kolosov**  
*President of IGU*



## **2) IYGU OPENING CEREMONY, JENA, 2 FEBRUARY 2016**

On February 2, 2016, the 2016 International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) was launched during a very successful Opening Ceremony at the Jena Volkshaus with prominent guest from all over the world. This day is a good moment, to have a look back at the track of its becoming, focusing on the most important steps. Here we will just remember the most important dates.

The path to the “International Year of Global Understanding” (IYGU) started around 2008, when we met in Rome at Villa Celimontana, the Home of Geography, to develop a new initiative concept for an UN International Year. For this occasion I invited Ron Abler (IGU-President), Anne Buttimer (IGU Past-President), Giuliano Bellezza, Ola Söderström, Jacques Lévy, Karl Donert (EU Parliament), Vladimir Kolossov (IGU ExC), and John Pickles.

In 2010, the first step to expand our contact network was made with the presentation to the General assembly of ICSU in Paris in April 2010, and in the same year to the General Assembly of ISSC, CIPSH, receiving from both a letter of endorsement and a support from ICSU, signed by Prof Yuan Tse Lee.



In 2011 the first Meeting of IYGU Steering Committee, called by Benno Werlen, took place in Weimar, attended by Shangyi Zhou, Lukas Sosoe, Margaret Robertson, Gordon McBean, Ron Abler, Adama Sammasékou, Anantha Duraiappah, Sebastian Lentz, Robyn Longhurst, Vladimir Kolossov, Ed de Mulder. In addition were attending the members of the newly constituted scientific panels: John Urry, John Pickles, Walter Spiess, Armin Reller, Yukio Himiyama, Alik Ismael-Zadeh, Richard Mechler, Allen Scott, Luiz Oosterbeek, and Mathis Stock as well as the new member of the Advisory board, Bruno Messerli.

In 2013, after encounters with Government of States in all Continents, finally the Rwandan government in April 2013, to take lead in the application process to UNESCO and finally to the UN General Assembly.

In November, the 37<sup>th</sup> UNESCO General Conference decided unanimously to support the Rwandan submission for the Proclamation of 2016 as IYGU to the UN General Assembly. Eventually, the UNESCO application process concluded with the Resolution of the Executive Board 192EX/39 (August 14, 2013) and the General Conference 37C (November 5, 2013) to declare 2016 as the International Year of Global Understanding.

In 2014 B.W. in several trips to New York could work as guest of the Rwandan Mission in UN and, after a long series of ups and downs, on 15 August 2015 a negative message arrived from UN. But we already had a Plan B prepared, so on Sunday, September 13, 2015, the three sciences councils (ICSU; ISSC and CIPSH) proclaimed at the World Social Science Forum at Durban, South Africa, 2016 as the International Year of Global Understanding. The session of proclamation held at 11:00 am -12:30 pm local time.

My thanks go once again to the presidents of the three science organizations – Gordon McBean (ICSU), Alberto Martinelli (ISSC), and Chao Gejin (ICPHS) – as well as to their Executive Directors Heide Hackmann (ICSU), Mathieu Denis (ISSC), and Secretary-General Luiz Oosterbeek (CIPSH). They were all very helpful and their support was absolutely crucial for getting plan B off the ground. The declaration in Durban presented, for the first time, that the three organizations jointly proclaim an international year.

The Opening Ceremony in Jena focused on the core aim of IYGU: to promote a better understanding of how the local impacts the global in order to foster smart policies, research, and teaching programs, as well as information to tackle critical global challenges such as climate change, food security, and migration.

The International Year has been officially inaugurated in Jena on February 2, 2016. A public opening ceremony took place at the Thuringian city's „Volkshaus“ from 2 p.m. Professor Klaus Töpfer, former German Federal Minister for the Environment and former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) delivered the keynote address. Furthermore, a great number of high-level guests from all over the world participated. Amongst them, several representatives of the involved scientific bodies as well as Jena University's president, Professor Walter Rosenthal, and the Federal State's Minister of Economy and Science, Wolfgang Tiefensee, delivered welcome speeches.

Alongside the ceremonial speeches, a range of IYGU's central topics and projects have been presented. It is the initiative's aim to not only enrich the debate on fundamental scientific questions, but also to support concrete everyday projects that help to foster Global Understanding, building bridges between global thinking and local action. IYGU shall encourage people to make their everyday choices in the light of global challenges. The opening ceremony was a well-attended public event. It was fully broadcasted and will be available in full length soon under [www.global-understanding.info](http://www.global-understanding.info).

## OPENING CEREMONY PROGRAM

### INTRODUCTION



Benno Werlen (Executive Director) and Klaus Töpfer (presenter)

### WELCOME SPEECHES

- President of the Friedrich Schiller University, Prof. Walter Rosenthal (Germany)
- Minister of Economy, Science and Education, Wolfgang Tiefensee (Germany)
- International Geographical Union (IGU), Vladimir Kolossov (Russia)
- International Council of Human Sciences and Philosophy (CIPSH), Adama Samassékou (Mali)
- International Social Science Council (ISSC), Mathieu Denis (Canada)
- International Council for Science (ICSU), Martin Visbeck (Germany)
- Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability (ICSU/ISSC), Paul Shrivastava (India)

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

- Prof. Klaus Toepfer (former Executive Director of UNEP and Federal Minister of Environment of Germany)

**Nine Billion People in the Age of Anthropocene – Challenges for the International Year of Global Understanding.**

### PRESENTATIONS

- **Anantha Duraiappah** (Malaysia, Director of the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute New Delhi)  
**The Tyranny of Pedagogies: Changing Mindsets to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Jack Dangermond** (U.S.A., Founder and CEO of ESRI)  
**The Vision of the International Year of Global Understanding: Our World is Increasingly Challenging**
- **Julia Marshall** (Canada, Max-Planck-Institute for Biogeochemistry, Jena)

### **Watching the Earth Breathe**

- **Nico Stehr** (Germany, Director of the European Center for Sustainability Research, Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen)  
**Governing a Warmer Planet: Climate Change, Inequality, and Democracy**  
(due to a sickness of Nico Stehr the text has been read by **Amanda Machin**)
- **Hartmut Rosa** (Germany, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies / DFG-Research Group on Post-Growth Societies)  
**Social Acceleration and De-Synchronization: Key Concepts for Global Understanding**
- **Allen J. Scott** (University of California, Los Angeles/UCLA)  
**Primers for Everyday Life – The IYGU Publications**
- **Luiz Oosterbeek** (Portugal, University of Tomar) / **Helena Henriques** (Portugal, University of Coimbra)  
**Role and Potential of IYGU Regional Action Centers**

### **FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE**



Benno Werlen and Volker

Wieprecht (Presenter)



The attendance.

*(The complete report can be seen also in the website [www.homeofgeography.org](http://www.homeofgeography.org))*





### 3) PALESTINIAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL

Dear Sirs

It is the pleasure of the Palestinian Geographical Society to launch its peer reviewed journal titled “Journal of Palestinian Geographical Society” and we hope that you submit your manuscripts to be published in this new journal.

#### Editorial Board

##### Journal of Palestinian Geographical Society

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Hussein AL-Rimmawi Editor

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#### 4) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

##### 4a) China-Japan-Korea Conference and 1st Asian Conference in Geography



The 10<sup>th</sup> China-Japan-Korea joint Conference in Geography have been held jointly in the East China Normal University in Shanghai, China during Oct. 9 – 12, 2015.

The theme of the conference was “Urbanizing Asia: Diversity versus Globalization”. It attracted 323 geographic professionals from 8 Asian countries, namely, China, Japan, Korea, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Nepal, and Laos, as well as western countries such as the United States, Sweden, and United Kingdom. They were gathered in Shanghai to focus on the urbanizing Asia. Nearly 10 years after the first China-Japan-Korea Joint Conference on Geography hosted by The Geographical Society of China (GSC) in 2006, this conference was a broader platform for academic exchanges for Asian geographers. The conference was co-sponsored by GSC, The Association of Japanese Geographers (AJG), and The Korean Geographical Society (KGS), organized by School of Geographic Sciences of East China Normal University (ECNU), and co-organized by The Geographical Society of Shanghai, Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Research (ECNU), School of Urban and Regional Sciences (ECNU), Key Laboratory of Watershed Geographic Sciences (Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences), Key Laboratory of Virtual Geographical Environment (Nanjing Normal University, Ministry of Education), Key Laboratory of Beibu Gulf Environment Change and Resources Use (Guangxi Teachers Education University, Ministry of Education), and Beijing Lab of Water Resources Security (Capital Normal University).



*Prof. Chen Qun, (East China Normal University president), made welcoming remarks  
Academician Fu Bojie, (Geographical Society of China chairman) addressed the conference*

Some distinguished participants include Prof. Bojie FU (President of GSC, Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), Prof. Yoshio ARAI (President of AJG, University of Tokyo, Japan), Prof. Bo-Kyung YANG (President of KGS, Sungshin Woman's University, Korea), Prof. Woo-Ik YU (Former Vice President of IGU, Former Minister of Korean Unification Ministry, Former Korea Ambassador to China, Seoul National University, Korea), Prof. Yukio HIMIYAMA (Vice President of IGU, Hokkaido University of Education, Japan), Prof. Ram Babu SINGH (Vice President of IGU, University of Delhi, India), Prof. Batjav BATBUYAN (Director of the Institute of Geography, Mongolian Academy of Sciences, Mongolia), Prof. Prem Sagar CHAPAGAIN (Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University, Nepal), Prof. Kajsa ELLEGARD (Linköping University, Sweden), Prof. Yagasaki Noritaka (Former President of AJG, Nihon University, Japan), Prof. Lizhong YU (Vice President of GSC, Chancellor of Shanghai New York University, China), Prof. Guishan YANG (Key Lab of Watershed Geographic Sciences, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology, CAS, China), Prof. Guoyou ZHANG (Vice President & Executive Director of GSC, China), Prof. Shuying LENG (Vice President of GSC, National Natural Science Foundation, China), Prof. Changqing SONG (Former Vice President of GSC, National Natural Science Foundation, China), Prof. Shiyuan XU (Former Vice President of GSC, ECNU, China), Prof. Yanwei CHAI (Executive Director of GSC, Peking University, China), and Prof. Yungang LIU (Director of Youth Scholar Committee, GSC, Sun Yat-sen University, China).



*Prof. Yukio Himiyama (Japan) and Prof. Keebom Nahm (Korea) making academic reports.*

In the afternoon of October 9th, the opening ceremony was held at the Science Hall of ECNU, and chaired by Prof. Lizhong YU. Prof. Qun CHEN, President of ECNU introduced the history



of ECNU and its contribution to geography, personnel training and services to the community in his welcoming speech to the participants. Prof. Bojie FU described the background of the Conference, and pointed out China's current major trends in the community of geography, i.e., "One D, Two Es". "One D" denoted "deepen", suggesting that we should continue to deepen the basic research in geography, and strengthen the self-identity of geography as an independent discipline. "Two Es" represented "expand" and "extend" suggesting that we should, on the one hand, expand the research vision of geography, integrate cognate disciplines and fields into our research agenda, and give full play to the "comprehensiveness" of geography, and on the other hand, we must also expand international cooperation and establish long-term academic partnerships with interested individuals and organizations, to shape our future Asia and the future planet. Prof. Ram Babu SINGH introduced the development of India's geography, and shared the research areas of the Indian geographers. Prof. Bo-Kyung YANG, Prof. Kenta YAMAMOTO (on behalf of Prof. Toshio KIKUCHI), and Prof. Batjav BATBUYAN also delivered speeches. Prof. Ramiz MAMMADOV, Prof. Abdul GHAFAR, and Prof. Kanat BAIGARIN sent written speeches introducing the development and achievements of geography in their countries, and expressed their willingness to promote the development of geography together with the rest of Asian countries.

In the morning of Oct. 10th, the conference entered into Keynote Speech sessions. Prof. Woo-Ik YU, Prof. Yoshio ARAI, Prof. Weidong LIU, Prof. Ram Babu SINGH and Prof. Yuemin NING delivered their speeches, respectively. Prof. Min LIU, Secretary-General of The Geographical Society of Shanghai and Prof. Yukio HIMIYAMA chaired these sessions.

There were 13 parallel sessions in the afternoon of Oct. 10th and the morning of 11th. Nearly 100 presentations in 18 topics, such as population and urbanization, process of transformation in large cities, the sustainable development of cities and urban ecology, urban culture and economy, low carbon cities and climate change, urban pollution and human health, simulation prevention of urban disaster and risk estimates, city emergency systems and urban governance, etc., were delivered.



*Professor Ram Babu Singh and Professor Yu Lizhong delivering plenary lectures*

In addition, The 1st Asian Conference also pioneered 2 special units – "Women in Geography" and "Youth Gala". The purpose of creating Women in Geography was to investigate the issues and challenges that women geographers might encounter on their road to success and the corresponding coping strategies, to help women scholars grow. Youth Gala was intended to provide a young, fashion, and fun way to let Asian geographers gather together and enjoy cultural

characteristics of different countries besides academic exchanges, and to get closer and more intimate.



*Professor Woo Ik Yu and Professor Yoshio Arai delivering plenary lectures*

The Conference successfully concludes in the afternoon of Oct. 11th. Prof. Guoyou ZHANG reviewed and evaluated the achievements of the Conference in his closing remarks, and expressed sincere gratitude to the participants and the support of AJG and KGS. The Asian Conference on Geography was a whole new platform of academic exchange for all Asian geographers. He hoped this platform contribute to Asian and the world's geography. He said that, according to the suggestions of the experts, GSC would like to actively promote the building of Asian geography organizations. Prof. Jun WANG (Vice Dean of School of Geographic Sciences of ECNU) hosted the awarding ceremony of the Conference. The Conference set up Best Poster Award, Best Presentation Award, and Best Paper Award. A total of 20 representatives received these awards. Then, Prof. Min LIU delivered an affectionate speech, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, to express his gratitude to all scholars and students participating in the events, and thanks for the guidance and support from GSC, AJG and KGS, as well as the volunteers devoting for the Conference. Finally, Prof. Sasaki TORU and Prof. Hitoshi ARAKI invited the guests in attendance to meet again in Hokkaido 2016.



*Vice chairman Zhang Guoyou made a speech*



*Guests and Students*

As mentioned in the opening speech of Prof. Bojie Fu, more and more people were aware of the role of geographic sciences in government decision-making and social development. The geography scholars were also facing new opportunities and challenges. “One D, Two Es” was the common mission for both the Chinese geographers and the Asian geographers. Asian



geographers should make good use of the Asian Conference on Geography to work together for shaping our future Asia and the planet!

During the Conference, the 15th National Young Geographers Committee and Young Students Academic Debate, GSC Youth Working Committee Meeting, and China-Japan-Korea Geographical Societies Meeting were also held.

*Yungang Liu*

#### **4b) India IGU International Conference, Pune, 4-6 November 2015**

##### **Eighth India International Geographical Union (IGU) Conference Report Landuse, Water, Climate and Urban Health in Changing Urban Environments**

The Eighth India International Geographical Union (IGU) Conference was organized by the Department of Geography, S. N. D. T. Women's University, Pune campus, Pune in collaboration with International Geographical Union (IGU) during 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. The theme of the conference was “**Landuse, Water, Climate and Urban Health in Changing Urban Environments**”. The theme was chosen to identify the socio-cultural, economic, institutional, political barriers, opportunities and mechanisms to promote the balance between needs, desires, growth, development and planning. Thus the omphalos of the conference was on the fundamental environmental, social and economic problems faced by our planet in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The conference highlighted the various environmental problems associated with development and changing climatic scenarios concerned with the urban environment. It provided a platform for multidisciplinary researchers, geographers, planners and policy makers to share their research experiences.

##### **Inauguration Programme (4<sup>th</sup> November 2015):**

The conference was inaugurated with the lightening of the lamp, followed by paying homage to Maharshi Dr. Dhondo Keshav Karve which was succeeded by the singing of SNDT Women's University song “Sanskrita Stree Parashkta”. The conference was inaugurated in the esteemed presence of the Hon'ble Chief Guest Shri. Pramod Kale, Ex-Director, Space Application Centre, ISRO, Past President, Indian Society of Remote Sensing, Hon'ble Prof. Vasudha Kamat, Vice Chancellor, S. N. D. T. Women's University. The inaugural function was attended by various eminent dignitaries such as Prof. Yukio Himayama (Emeritus Professor, Hokkaido University of Education, Japan, Vice President, IGU), Prof. K. R. Dikshit (Emeritus Geographer, Pune University), Prof. R. B. Singh, Delhi (Vice President, IGU) and various researchers and participants from all over the world.

Prof. Virendra Nagarale, Convener and Head, Department of Geography, SNDT Women's University, Pune Campus welcomed all the dignitaries and the participants to the conference and wished them a fruitful three days meet. This was followed by the addresses of IGU officials. Prof. R.B Singh commenced the addresses in which he riveted the role of IGU in the spread of the research in geography. This was succeeded by Prof. Yukio Himiyama, Vice President IGU, International Scientific Advisory Committee of the Conference. Prof. Himiyama focused on the role of IGU for the development of the subject through organization of international conferences and providing a platform for young and budding scholars. Hon'ble Shri. Pramod Kale, Chief Guest, Ex-Director, Space Application Centre (ISRO) discussed the current major problems like

the access of safe drinking water, excessive use of water in agriculture, river linking, problems of rural and urban environment, urban health and the Global Climate Change. Shri. Pramod Kale also explained the application of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System in the mitigation of above problems.

The keynote address was delivered by eminent geographer Prof. K. R. Dikshit, Pune on “Urbanization and Sustainable Development” in which he shared his views on the economic base of urbanization and Inter-linkages, the contemporary level of global urbanization, sustainability of the Urban systems vis-a-vis land, air and water and the role of geographers in the city planning.

The Presidential chair of the conference was graced by Hon’ble Prof. Vasudha Kamat, Vice Chancellor, S. N. D. T. Women’s University. Madam VC stressed on the purpose of the conference and also mooted on the impact of urbanization on human being. Madam VC congratulated Department of Geography on organization of International Conference in the centennial year of SNDT Women’s University and the Silver Jubilee of the Geography Department. In her presidential speech Madam VC advised that present research approaches should have multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to face the challenges of urban health.

#### **Themes, Sub themes, Special Sessions and Plenary Sessions of the conference:**

The focal theme of the conference was “**Landuse, Water, Climate and Urban Health in Changing Urban**”. The conference has organized two special sessions on ‘Urban Health and Wellbeing’ and ‘Future Earth initiative in South Asia’ which were discussed by various scholars. Urbanisation and Urban Sprawl, Urban Land Use Land Cover Change, Global Climate Change and Extremes, Population-Development-Environment Interface in urban Health and well-being, Integration of Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS in Urban Well-being and Development and Sustainable Urban Environment were the various sub-themes of this international conference.



*Left, Prof. K.R.Diksheet, lighting the inauguration lamp – Right. The audience*

#### **Plenary Sessions:**

The conference had five Plenary Sessions. Each session had two outstanding resource persons of international and national repute. Thus a total of 10 resource persons interacted with the delegates and delivered their outstanding lecture on their research topics during the plenary sessions.

#### **Plenary Sessions I (4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015) :**

**Prof. Bellezza (Italy)** presented a research work on “Today Threats to the Environmental and Human Health in the European Union”. In his speech he highlighted on the unstoppable flow of refugees from Africa and Asia, the economic crisis of Greece, the growing power of the ISIS in

the near East, the nearly war situation between Russia and Ukraine etc. Based on these geo political events he discussed on the role of these events on the political–economic situation of European Union and said that the major health problem in the EU cities today is not air pollution, but the mental insecurity due to fear of terrorism, anytime, anywhere.

**Prof. Debendrakumar Nayak**, Shillong NEHU presented his plenary speech on “Assessment of Vulnerability to HIV /AIDS in Mizoram : A Study of Groups –at-risk”. Mizoram is perceived to be highly vulnerable to HIV / AIDS owing largely to its geographical location in relation to its neighboring states and countries. The fact that the state is already experiencing a spurt in HIV positive cases and the vulnerability to HIV/ AIDS has been probed in his paper.



*Left, Plenary I: Nayak. Bellezza, Jadhav – Right. Prof. Nagarale felicitates Prof. R.B.Singh*

### **Plenary Sessions II (4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015) :**

**Prof. M. Sofer (Israel):** His plenary speech was on “The urbanization Process and Land Use changing in Arab settlements in Israel”. He investigated the land use changes resulting through the spread of urban functions- residential areas, commercial and industrial functions and their related activities during the period 1940 to 2013.

**Prof. R. B. Singh**, Vice President, IGU, Head of the Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi spoke on the role of IGU, Urban environmental degradation, Economic efficiency, social equity, environmental protection and institutional effectiveness are the four dimensions of sustainable development. According to him the innovative geospatial techniques are applied in the various fields like urban zonation, urban heat island mapping and vulnerability analysis.

### **Plenary Sessions III ( 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015) :**

**Dr. Nitin Dalaya**, Eminent Psychiatric, Pune in his plenary speech voiced on “Urbanization and Mental Health. The urban issues like Urban Mental Health, Depression, Positive and negative impacts of urbanization, physical stress, psychological disorders and consequences of urbanization on human health were discussed in detail. Dr. Dalaya also highlights about to overcome strategies of urbanization oriented mental problems.

A plenary speech by **Dr. M. Nandeshwar**, Kozikode (Retd Scientist, Chief scientist of CWRDM) on “ Emerging Trends in Water Crisis and Possible Management Practices : Geographical Perspectives with Special Reference to Indian Context” was delivered in this session. Dr. Nandeshwar discussed the various issues on water crisis like over-extraction of ground water by farmers and urban cities and over extraction of ground water by urban city. He also suggested water conservation methods to deal with these crisis situation through Integration and sustainability, Integrated Water Resource Management and rain water harvesting.

### **Plenary Sessions IV (5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015) :**

**Prof. Brij Maharaj** , School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Science, University South Africa of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban , South Africa presented his thought on Mega event impact in the Global South : Comparative experiences of India, Brazil and South Africa with special reference to the event of Commonwealth Games in Delhi, the FIFA 2010 World Cup in South Africa, and the FIFA 2014 World Cup Brazil.

**Prof. Shahab Fazal**, Department of Geography, Faculty of Sciences, Aligarh Muslim University “Urban expansion and Agricultural Land Fragmentation : A Case study Using Geo-Spatial Techniques, where he highlighted the landuse land cover changes of Aligarh city from 1980 to 2014.

### **Plenary Sessions V ( 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015) :**

**Prof. Yukio Himiyama** (Japan), Emeritus Professor, Hokkaido University of Education delivered a plenary speech on “Global Land Project ( GLP) for Future Earth and International Year of Global Understanding ( IYGU) in Asian Context”. He pointed out that the GLP contributed to Future Earth not only directly through its research activities, but also indirectly by acting as a model of transformation to Future Earth.

**Prof. Pravin Saptarshi**, Emeritus Professor, University of Pune, Salisbury University presented his ideas of Urbanization in Pune city, the role of Development of IT Sectors and its impact on social and cultural fields. He discussed the overall changes in Pune city and pointed out the traffic problem and its solution in Pune city.



*Cultural event, performed by students of the PG Studies*

### **Technical Sessions :**

IGU conference received response of 198 delegates encompassing from a galaxy of researchers, academicians, planners not only from geography but also from allied disciplines like economics and psychology. The total research paper presentation was divided into 19 technical sessions. In these technical sessions, six to seven participants in the 90 minutes span was discussed in the presence of chairperson and co-chairperson of the particular session followed by reporter. The presented works were divided into urbanization and urban sprawl, urban health, climatic change and extremes , RS and GIS, Regional Governance of forest and its fringe, Land use land cover, water resources, urban psychological problems, population and development, Human aspect and changing environment, urban problems : Prevention and intervention, Agriculture and tourism parallel sessions for the ease of presentation. Thus a total of 132 participants presented their paper on the various subthemes of the conference during these three days meet.



The conference attracted the fascination of research and academic community world-wide which was evident from the huge number of dignitaries and delegates from various parts of the world - Israel, Italy, Japan, South Africa. Seven international delegates were participated in this conference. The delegates from the other states viz. Assam, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, UP and West Bengal were major representative from all over India. of Geogrpahy, Prof. Sachin Deore, Organizing Secretary of the conference, Dr. G. Y. Shitole, Campus Incharge and Principal, SNTD Arts, Commerce and BCA College, Pune.

The welcoming address of the valedictory programme was given by Dr. G. Y. Shitole, Campus Incharge and Principal, SNTD Arts, Commerce and BCA College, Pune. Dr. G. Y. Shitole also encouraged and congratulated the department of geography for hosting the conference and also applauded the other departments for their whole hearted support to make this event grand success. Organizing Secretary of Eighth India IGU Conference Dr. Sachin Deore Prof. Department of Geography, SNTD Women's University, Pune Campus presented the three days conference report.

The Valedictory function was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest Shri Kunal Kumar, Municipal Commissioner, Pune Municipal Corporation, Pune. In his address, he discussed the problems faced by the city of Pune due to rampant Urbanization. He also urged researchers and academicians to work in a co-ordinated way to find geographical solution to various problems which are being faced by the city in particular and the world in general.

Presidential address was given by Prof. Vandana Chakrabarti, Pro-Vice Chancellor, SNTD Women's University. She congratulated the organizers of the conference for the successful organization of the international conference. PVC Madam also stressed the importance of the theme of the conference. The Vote of Thanks was given by Prof. Virendra Nagarale, Prof. and Head, Department of Geography, Convener of Eighth India IGU Conference.

### **Valedictory Programme (6<sup>th</sup> November 2015):**

The Valedictory programme was started with the singing of SNTD University song "Sanskrita Stree Parashkta". The valedictory programme was commenced with felicitation of Hon'ble Chief Guest Shri Kunal Kumar, Municipal Commissioner, Pune Municipal Corporation, Pune and President of the programme, Prof. Vandana Chakrabarti, Pro-Vice Chancellor, SNTD Women's University. Prof. R. B. Singh, Vice President, IGU, Prof. G. Bellezza, Ex. Vice President, IGU, Prof. Virendra Nagarale, Convener and Head, Department



*Left: the speakers at the Valedictorian Ceremon. Right: Felicitation to Chief Guest Mr. Kunal Kumar, Municipal Commissioner, by Prof. Vandana Chakraborty, Pro-Vice Chancellor, of SNTD Women University.*



**A cultural programme** was well organized by Dr. Shital More, Department of Music, SNDT University on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 which was well attended and appreciated by the delegates and dignitaries.

The media responsibility for the event was taken up by Communication Media for Children Department. The interview of the dignitaries, the audio-visual recording of the conference and other activities related to media was completed by the same department.

The programme was anchored by Dr. Tapkir Dattatray, SNDT College of Education, Pune. He anchored inaugural and valedictory programme, his anchoring won various accolades from the dignitaries and delegates of the conference. All the above plenary sessions were anchored by Ms. Vrushali Nagarale (SNDT College of Home Science), Ms. Prajakta Chavhan of SNDT Arts, Com and BCA College, Pune.

### **Brief Note about the Conference**

The over-exploitation of some of the important earth resources like land and water has led to a number of environment related problems world over. At the same time, the natural and anthropogenic activities have led to increase of urbanization around the globe. In this context, the relevance of sustainability of earth resources for human survival has become a major international issue. This issue is closely linked with the issue of climate change and risks due to climate change are associated with changing urban environment. Holistic natural resource based spatio-temporal planning, development and management is essential for the urban development. This International Conference aims to highlight the various environmental problems associated with development and changing climatic scenarios concerned with the urban environment. The problem of Landuse, Water and Climate in Changing Urban Environments that are to manifest in various sectors of human life on the earth is an important area where the Geo-spatial tools can play a vital role.

Environmental perspectives and the scientific approaches including modern technologies are bringing spatial solutions to environmental and societal problems. Different geo-spatial tools like Remote Sensing, Geographical Information System and Global Positioning System help in assessing the results of various environmental problems both physical and social. This conference welcomes all geographers, health professionals, scientists, hydrologists, academicians, researchers, technologists, environmentalists, engineers, planners, policy makers, social workers, research scholars and other interested professionals from geography and its allied fields to share their research experiences.

The focal theme of the conference is **‘Landuse, Water, Climate and Urban Health in changing Urban Environments’** which has sub-themes such as Urbanization and Urban Sprawl, Urban Land Use Land Cover Change, Global Climate Change and Extremes, Population-Development-Environment, Interface in Urban Health and Wellbeing and Integration of Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS in Urban Wellbeing and Development Sustainable Urban Environment. Along this special session on ‘Urban Health and Wellbeing’ and ‘Future Earth Initiative in South Asia’ are also organized.

### **Note on the Contribution of the Conference**

The focal theme of the conference is ‘Landuse, Water, Climate and Urban Health in Changing Urban Environments’. Urbanisation and Urban Sprawl, Urban Land Use Land Cover Change, Global Climate Change and Extremes, Population-Development-Environment Interface in urban

Health and well-being, Integration of Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS in Urban Well-being and Development and Sustainable Urban Environment are the various sub-themes of this international conference. This International Conference aims to highlight the various environmental problems associated with development and changing climatic scenarios concerned with the urban environment.

The theme is chosen to identify the socio-cultural, economic, institutional, political barriers, opportunities and mechanisms to promote the balance between needs, desires, growth, development and planning. Thus the omphalos of the conference is on the fundamental environmental, social and economic problems faced by our planet in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Pressure of growing population, rapid urbanization and industrial development have resulted in over-exploitation of some of the important earth resources like land and water leading to a number of environment problems world over. At the same time, the natural and anthropogenic activities have led to increase of urbanization around the globe. In this context, the relevance of sustainability of earth resources for human survival has become a major international issue. This issue is closely linked with the issue of climate change and risks due to climate change are associated with changing urban environment. Holistic natural resource based spatio-temporal planning, development and management is essential for the urban development.

The problem of landuse, Water and Climate in Changing Environments that are to manifest in various sectors of human life on the earth is an important area where the Geo-Spatial tools can play a vital role. Environmental perspectives and the scientific approaches including modern technologies are bringing spatial solutions to environmental and societal problems. Different geo-spatial tools like Remote Sensing, Geographical Information System and Global Positioning System help in assessing the results of various environmental problems both physical and social. This conference welcomes all geographers, health professionals, scientists, hydrologists, academicians, researchers, technologists, environmentalists, engineers, planners, policy makers, social workers, research scholars and other interested professionals from geography and its allied fields to share their research experiences.

#### **4c) International Mountain Day in Delhi, 11 December 2015**

On 11th December, 2015 at Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi, a Conference on International Mountain Day Programme has been held. It has been organised in collaboration with IGU-IYGU, CSR Research Foundation (Regional IYGU Centre), Intellectual Federation in India. The conference was attended by Indian law Makers, Chair ICSU Programme on Health and wellbeing, Representatives from Int. Water Association, UN Youth Platform, and Young researchers and media.

IGU VP R.B. Singh co-operated in the organization and kindly sent photographs of the event.



#### 4d) Disaster Risk Reduction in Himalaya, Delhi 23 December 2015

The conference on “**Disaster Risk Reduction in Himalaya is necessary to save Cities and livelihood Security in the Indian Plains**” was chaired by Padamshri Prof. Indira Nath, Chair, ICSU Programme on Health and Well being as chief guest, Guest of honor Dr M. R. Bhutiya, Director, DTRL–DRDO, Prof S.K. De, Sectary General, IAG; Dr. R. B. Singh, Head and Vice-President, International Geographical Union (IGU), Department of Geography; Prof. Pami Dua, Dean (Research) Humanities and Social Science, DU was chief guest in the valedictory session and Prof. P.C. Joshi, Department of Anthropology, DU was guest of honor. R.B. Singh discussed four important international initiatives on Health & Well Being, Future Earth, Sendai Framework on DRR, Sustainable Development Goals and UNFCCC Climate Change and asked to contribute towards all these four initiatives at local level and to find the local solutions. He emphasized that the sustainable future earth can be achieved through co-design and co-production process and mentioned that traditional knowledge integrated with newer technologies can play very significantly role in achieving the sustainable future earth. Talking about the Glacier lake outburst flood in Himalaya in context of accelerating climate change he said that these events can bring havoc in the Indian plains and large scale damage to big cities therefore an effective DRR strategy is need of the hour. Dr. M.R. Bhutyani, showed concerns about the many impending changes in the Himalaya in the form of climate change and resource depletion and said that the issues should not be left with policy makers only but should also be taken up by the researchers and community. Talking about the hazards he made note that the hazards are not uncommon in Himalaya but have been there since its origin. Talking about the zonation map

prepared by researchers he suggested that the maps should be easy to understand by community. He further emphasized on effective pre and post disaster management strategies in order to make Himalaya livable.

Padamshri Prof. Indira Nath holds the view that increasing population and tourism activities are responsible for environmental deterioration in Himalaya. Prof. Nath emphasized on the regional cooperation for sustainable management of Himalaya as the Himalaya range passes across many countries. Due to the multidimensional nature of problem, it is necessary to use Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction strategies. She praised the efforts by the government during recent disasters as there were no diarrhea case has been registered during Srinagar flood and very few illness were registered due to Chennai floods. Emphasizing on exploring the use of traditional knowledge in DRR, suggested that community participation should be promoted as there is lot of functional literacy in our country.



*Opening Ceremony*

The conference has three sessions. The introductory session on DRR in the Himalayan Environment had a combination of macro and micro studies to highlight changing climate dynamics in Himalayan ecosystems and related challenges. Results from different sets of climate models predicting long term scenarios from 1970 to 2100 suggested further rise in extreme weather events in the region. In view of these climate changes in Himalaya, micro level studies produced evidence to strengthen the case for community's adaptive capacities and resilience to combat the menace of climate change. Emphasis was laid on the fact that local communities need to be mobilized and capacity building must be initiated urgently to generate alternative modes of livelihood for sustainable progress of societies. Studies from Kangra, Lahul-Spiti (Himachal Himalaya) and Pindari Glacier (Uttarakhand Himalaya) confirmed the evidence of climate change at micro level. These studies found that climatic stress on agriculture/horticulture related livelihood practices (smaller duration of cropping season and fall in yields per hectare) in the

region have increased. Furthermore, role of anthropogenic activities resulting into unscrupulous exploitation of natural ecosystem services in HR were also cautioned.

The group discussion session brought important inputs to be incorporated in the policies and disseminated to the community in order to reduce the disaster vulnerability and enhance the livelihood options. The first group had discussion on exposure, vulnerability and risk. They emphasized on the identification of exposure, vulnerability and risk at local level taking in consideration the social structure. Special attention need to be taken for women, children, elderly, differently abled people and animals. Urban centers in mountain areas due to expansion on unstable land and increasing density are considered to be more vulnerable. Resource inventory at local level should be promoted along with mapping of resources, zonation of vulnerable areas at micro level viz. panchayat or ward level. The group discussion emphasized on strengthening the local level decision making institution and decisions should be based on local knowledge, local resources and technology. Most importantly there should be uniformity of indicators in preparation of vulnerability index in order to have better comparison among regions.

The second group on science advice in emergency situation deliberated on various scientific measures that can be taken pre, post and during emergency situations such as use of GPS and GIS during pre-emergency situations for assessing vulnerabilities of various groups and during the emergency for locating important centers and institutions responding to the situation and also locating important and alternate routes etc. seems inevitable. Citing example of successful management story of 'hudhud Cyclone' in Orissa the group members asserted the need to have an early warning system in disaster prone areas. The group also emphasized the use of information and communication technology for swift response during emergency situation like use of community radios, use of mobile applications, satellite phones etc. These technologies could also be harnessed to ensure effective co-ordination between agencies and organizations dealing with an emergency. The role, media can play during emergency situations was also discussed. Adopting global best practices in the field of emergency situations was also emphasized. These practices should be learnt and adapted to suit the local conditions.

The third group on social science advice in emergency situation identified the major factors responsible for the damage during the disasters like the developmental activities, which cannot be avoided as they have emerged in response to the preferences of elegant life over simple life. The preferences for house and households, better means of communications, urban settlements, search of need jobs and infrastructural development are among the driving factors. Changes occurring in personal relation are key points that have held responsible for the present scenario. In this context it is important to attach people with nature create awareness through Panchayat raj institutions. Better forward and backward linkages need to be established to facilitate entrepreneurial development. Efforts and initiatives should be taken to promote traditional knowledge and wisdom. The group discussed the importance of Flax seed oil which is proved scientifically to combat triglyceride diseases (irregular increase of fat in liver leading to heart disease) commonly known as Linseeds. Similarly Anakara spice garden in Kerala (Mannar) is the famous destination for producing show cashing farm fresh organic produce and sold to tourists along with demonstration of spice plants. Such initiatives due care should be taken to preserve tribal tradition and culture. Institutions of social sector like health and education should be qualitatively developed and proper awareness on health and hygiene among the people living in remote area.

The fourth group on Livelihood Security emphasized on regional dimension of livelihood security with spatial diversity or regional diversity where Himalaya. The questions brought forward in the process were that what regional part one wants to get as each area is having different kind of environment. The basic question comes with what is livelihood? and how are



they related meaning thereby, how disaster or hazard is impacting livelihood? Are the showings any general trend. It is not livelihood security of human being but food to livelihood. To increase resilience is very important, where alternative livelihood will strengthen their community security. Livelihood in Himalaya is based on livestock, farming and tourism. The local people work on their land resources and never leave the area. As you go on north to south Himalaya the security differs. The education, language and go simultaneously, out migration should be stopped, and how their original livelihood can be strengthened. The group summarized that regional dimension on disaster occurrence from East to west and north to south need to be considered for livelihood security.

The fifth group on health and well-being in mountainous regions observed that health is a very dynamic phenomenon where it varies from person to person and from region to region. That's why it is very subjective and difficult to generalize. The problem regarding health is varies to those of the plain areas while comparing with mountainous areas. Well-being is a combination of all sort of requirement that a person is needed in terms of basic needs, housing, livelihood sources, availability of water sources at their vicinities, source of education and many more. The issues and challenges for the researchers are to study the health problems separately at the lower part of the mountains in comparison to that of the upper parts. Youth should be guided properly and to provide them carrier opportunities so the male out migration could gat controlled. Traditional medicine and related industries should be promoted where participation of local communities is required. Indicator of health and well-being should be matched or collaborated with those of the social and economic indicator so that better management could be practiced. Better waste management practices should be practiced where more focus is needed to those of the tourist behavior. Air lifting and implementation of some technologies should be used as secure measures to those of the more vulnerable areas.

*R.B. Singh*

#### **4e) International migrations and new local governance, Poitiers, 2015**

The international seminar “International migrations and new local governance”, held in Poitiers on 10 and 11 December 2015, gathered scholars from four continents to address the relation between urban governance mutations and international migrations. The seminar was organised thanks to the support of Migrinter research lab at the University of Poitiers, the Integrim programme – Marie Curie Actions, and Mobglob programme.

Inspired by a neoliberal approach to governance, decentralisation reforms and structural adjustment plans (SAP) deeply transformed urban governance modes. In hosting countries, integration policies and multicultural policies are devolved to the local level. The question of “diversity” seems a path chosen to “position” the city and create a “brand” which can be levered for economic purposes (Myrte Hoekstra, Hilary Sanders, Alexandre Tandé). In sending countries, local authorities exploit the connections they develop with expatriated residents in order to mobilise new resources for development (Hawa Coulibaly, Hamidou Dia, Lorena Gazzotti, Stéphanie Lima).

The seminar's objective was to confront observed experiences in the North and the South in order to pinpoint their specificities, but also to determine common issues. Empirical studies spread around 14 different countries worldwide were showcased. This global span enabled the identification of new prospects.

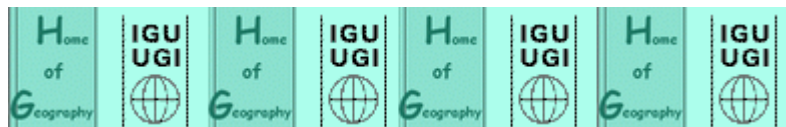
#### **4f) UNISDR, GENEVA, 27-29 JANUARY 2016**

The UNISDR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Science and Technology Conference on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 took place from 27 to 29 January 2016 at the Geneva International Conference Centre, Geneva, Switzerland. The conference has been an outcome of the Sendai Framework, that highlighted the important role of science and technology to advance disaster risk reduction. The objective is to launch the Science and Technology Partnership for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework and to endorse the Science and Technology Roadmap to 2030.

IGU VP R.B. Singh had been invited to participate as a moderator in the Working Group 2 on "Vulnerability and Exposure" of Workstream 2, which took place as scheduled on Thursday 28 January 2016.



*Left: R.B. Singh interacting with Special representative of UN Secretary General on Disaster Dr. Robert Glasser. Right: Group of participants.*



#### **5) REPORTS OF MOSCOW 2015 BY AWARDEES OF IGU GRANTS**

*Dear Future friends,*

*Please, take this notes as a following of the Master class on improving capacities held in Moscow by Joop and Joos. So, please, forgive me for small amendments in your texts: some were just too long to enter in a Newsletter. It has been only a question of space.*

*I am now gathering all the texts in a single file, and after sending the Newsletter I'll post it in internet: [www.homeofgeography.org/news2016](http://www.homeofgeography.org/news2016). Let me take this chance to advertise on this minor website of IGU: my only helper is myself.  
My very best wishes to all of you,  
Giuliano Bellezza*

### **Ali Ahmed, Dakha**

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I attended the full length conference, the Opening ceremony to the Closing Ceremonies. I presented my paper "Assessing Health Status in Relation to Ecosystem Services in the Coastal Areas of Bangladesh", and the audience received this presentation very well. Focusing my major interest on Health and Environment, Climate Change and Urbanization and Land use Cover Change, I participated to several sessions relating to above themes and, moreover, to the plenary sessions and the poster presentations. Beside these, I visited Kremlin, Gorky Park and Red Square; the historic places at Moscow city in Russia as a part of our excursion trips.

The conference has been attended by a giant scientific community from all over the globe, so I shared thoughts, research ideas, and organization's specialties among them: a great opportunity to exchange and enrich my practical research knowledge. It was a unique platform for me to understand extensive usage of geography, geographical information and RS, GIS data, will help me to do more evidence based study and visual representation, enhancing quality of my research work in future.

After a safe return to Dhaka, I really want to thank my center support and IGU 2015 award, which helped me to actively participate in the conference.

### **Nathalie A. Caraballo-Arias**

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Since the arrival in Russia, the imposing landscape of Moscow, the Cyrillic script and the diverse types of foods already gave a very special mood to the 2015 IGU Regional Conference.

In the opening ceremony, the human advances in technology were demonstrated by the connection of the conference and the astronauts of the International Space Station. We really felt how close we are to the outer space and how far the human being has gone in exploring the universe.

The session dealing with Geographical Education at school level confirmed me that geographers are the only ones able to understand the environment in a holistic way, from a cultural to a natural point of view. Opinion reinforced by plenary lecture "The relevance of cartography" by Georg Gartner, one of the best I attended in the conference.

During my oral presentation I could exchange research experience with persons working on similar investigation fields, sharing my results with others and getting from the audience feedbacks and ideas for improving my research guidelines. On the same day, I attended the only presentation about my home country Venezuela, a country now going through a strong political, economic and social crisis, even though we are one of the richest world countries in oil reserves, and, paradoxically, we suffer the highest poverty and inflation rates. I fully realized the importance to work with real data and not with "political" data and "improved" statistics given by politicians manipulating the real information.

The poster sessions were also very enriching, showing research from all over the world with very interesting ideas.

*As usual I traveled with my little son Diego, and this experience was very pleasant and inspiring for our culture and my career. I would like to acknowledge the IGU travel grant program and the Local Organizing Committee for funding this enriching experience: every minute was worth the meeting. I hope we will be able to meet again for updating experiences in Beijing 2016. Hasta la próxima!*

### **Anna Costales**

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I have learned much about the different ways of analyzing the situation of each reality, and particularly new information about Gender factors in other regions of the world, about educational ideas about how to learn and teach geography. It was very interesting to learn about health and health care problems and ideas to develop this area of social security, about the different human processes, and population changes, specifically in mountain regions.

After all, I understood that, almost in all places in the world, the problems are very alike: I mean, the symptoms of the problems are very different, but finally, the real problems are very similar: this kind of “opening” for me, is a new information, because I always thought that “each family is unfortunate on their own way”. In every country the problems are different, but I realized in the conference that, we have more in common than I expected before: the solutions can be found if we learn from the experience of each other and work together for new issues to performance.

From the business meeting with other Latin American researchers I understood that we are out of the world trends about researching. I want to investigate, explore and find more new ways to solve our local problems: if we are not informed about all the world processes, researches and discoveries, how can we develop in our own way? We shall develop our own reality with knowledge about others’ experiences, which could help us to take better decisions about problems that are common nearly everywhere

### **Ing. Sofía Enríquez Zarria**

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I attended sessions which dealt with different topics, and found especially interesting the plenary session “The Relevance of Cartography” and the different presentations related to GIS, Climate Change and Geographical Education, all topics related to my daily work as a Geographer.

Presenting the research which I took part, “*Perception and adaptability of the population in the Ecuadorian Andes to the climatic variability. Multicultural comparative analysis*”, I felt a great satisfaction for the interest showed by the attendance and positive comments we got. In other sessions and presentations, it has been very pleasant to discover how many topics researches are related to the ones my colleagues and I have been developing since the last five years.

I was glad hearing scientist and researchers from different countries talking to them, exchanging ideas, thinking about future collaborations. From my country only three people were present, and I felt even more motivated to position Ecuador in the other researchers' minds.

I realized that Latin American countries have a small representation within IGU, though we count with valuable young, enthusiastic people, willing to change this situation, joining IGU activities and getting more involved in international events. I hope that the opening of the IGU representatives will soon organize concrete activities of mutual benefit for IGU and Latin America.

Time in Moscow and in State University, was an unforgettable experience, but far too short for all the events of my interest: so I regret because couldn't participate more in the program for Young Scientists

Moreover, I want to emphasize that getting the Travel Grant was a great help for me, and not only in the economic sense: I took it as a true incentive to take best advantage of programmed activities.

### **Chakrabarthi**

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Delegates from all over the world joined the Conference for intense program of scientific papers, enriched by eight thematic lectures, eight keynote addresses, special days for school teachers, a youth program, the Olympiad, a reception in honor of the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russian Geographical Society and a series of free half-day excursions in the city (Museum of Earth Sciences at the top of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, and other activities.

Talk of Professor Georg Gartner on Geodesy and Cartography, and of Professors John O'Loughlin, Gordon McBean and Alexander Murphy also enlightened other branches of geography. Geographical education and integration of young scholars was central to each of the conference themes, with special sessions

(Academic Geography for Secondary Schools and Teaching Geography in the University". events: the day of young scholars, special. Recognition, development and preservation of Arctic regions also received special attention and in the framework of the scientific program researchers had a

discussion on regional sustainability, city space environment conditions, international and domestic tourism, migration etc.

More than 1500 delegates shared experience and results of their research works; discuss global conflicts and ways of resolving them, climate change, environmental quality in megalopolises



discussion on regional sustainability, city space environment conditions, international and domestic tourism, migration etc.

More than 1500 delegates shared experience and results of their research works; discuss global conflicts and ways of resolving them, climate change, environmental quality in megalopolises



and different aspects of geo-ecology. I am grateful to IGU, having received one of the travel grants awards to young geographers.

I gave an oral presentation on “GIS based flash-flood runoff simulation model of Upper Teesta River Basin – Using ASTER DEM and Meteorological data”, an attempt to simulate surface runoff in upper Teesta basin by creating a system based on GIS technology, directly related to catastrophic flood events, a paper appreciated by the chairperson and attendees of the session. I noted down four comments/suggestions from the experts Russian Hydro-Meteorological Service for future refinement of the model. Best Geographic greetings.

**Aya Haya Greenfeld,**  
***PhD student, Urban Planning and Preservation***

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When I arrived in Russia a month ago, I couldn't have expected the learning experience that awaited me, but the excitement and expectations were pale in comparison with the learning and traveling experience.

It was a thrilling experience for me to present my research, "Sharing Knowledge via New Technology" in a manner that I've learned through the young scientist programs. My talk aims at inspiring communities to participate in preservation process and to share knowledge about their heritage by using technology.

To further my Geographical research knowledge I took part in special events for students and early-career scholars, such as: Master Class, Workshop, Panel discussion, Networking and Geoquest. It was an eye-opening experience to see myself and others learn and improve so effortlessly with the help of our guide and peers.

All of the above was made possible owing to The IGU travel grant that I received: I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that was given to me.

I stayed in Russia for additional, yet unplanned, seven days: a great supplement to complete what I have encountered during the IGU Regional Conference. I was thus given the opportunity to further my knowledge of geography and landscapes of the hosting country, Russia.

Russian friends shared the experience, and grew to be like family for me, while traveling in Moscow and St. Petersburg. I learned about their hopes and dreams, lived in their homes, ate authentic Russian food and drinks, conversing in a mixed English-Russian: my love for geography grew each day as I experienced what I only knew in theory. I left Russia knowing much more and reeling to share it with others.

**Dmitry Kaverin,**  
***Institute of Biology Komi SC RAS, Syktyvkar, Russia***

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During the conference, I listened the reports of the sessions of the IGU Commissions on Cold Region Environments; Mountain Response to Global Change; Resources, Well-Being and Sustainable Development; Cold Region Environments & Hazard and Risk. After the sessions, we discussed the most currently important topics in permafrost studies with scientists from Russia, USA and Japan.

In my opinion, the most interesting and most currently important reports concerned the issues of permafrost thawing affecting the settlements, transport and technogenic objects, permafrost dynamics under global Climate Change, permafrost thaw and river hydrology, methane in the ground ice, evolution of permafrost peatlands.

On 21 of August, I presented the oral report “Landscape evolution on the bottom of drained thermokarst lake (a case study in the European Northeast of Russia)” at the session on “Anthropogenic influence on natural hazards and risks”. The report, based on field data revealed during 1979-2011, concerns the evolution of land cover accompanied with drastic changes in ground temperature regime in the basin of artificially drained thermokarst lake after its emptying (southeastern part of the Bolshezemelskaya Tundra). The audience has been very interested on the reports based on the analysis of long-term monitoring of ground temperature, with attention to the seasonal dynamics of soil temperature. Some participants recommended broadening this report and presenting it on the next International Conference on permafrost.

### **Haresh Kumar,**

***Research Scholar, Western Himalayas India***

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I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude towards IGU for providing me travel grant for this prestigious event. Thank you for giving me such platform. So I could learn a lot and interact with worldwide, geographers, scholars, and social workers. I attended the conference from 17<sup>th</sup> August to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015, and so I got opportunity to interact with researchers also working on issues concerning with the disturbance of ecosystem and at this wonderful platform I got a chance to know about the works being done in different parts of world in this domain.

The title of my research paper was “*Environmental and Social Impacts of large Scale Hydro Power Projects in Kinnaur a Tribal District of Himachal Pradesh, in Western Himalayas India*”, which I presented in thematic session on Indigenous People and their Rights. It was a highly productive session for me and I came to know how other countries indigenous communities are handling their issues in different ways. I could then meet Mr. Brad Coombes, who chaired the session: his research and work for indigenous community in Auckland inspired me a lot.

The other major event which I joined was young scholars’ programme, where I learned several new things based on research, interacting with new and young scholars across the world and acquainted myself about their research and work on different areas.

I learned from other scholars about how to advocate the indigenous issues on international platforms such as UNO commission for indigenous people etc. My major objective to attend this conference was to share my research with special emphasis on conflict between indigenous people and project developers in western Himalayas India.

I had the chance to meet Professor Tatiana Vlasova, Co-Chair of Cold Region Environment Commission, and other scholars, working on environment, biodiversity and ecosystem.

As I come from a very remote tribal area with limited means and resources, returning from the conference I was welcomed as a hero and role model to the young tribal generation. All this would not have been possible without your kind and benevolent support for me.

### **Pierre Lardeux**

***PhD Student Glaciology Aberystwyth University, Wales, UK***

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The first day of the conference, I attended the two Cold Regions Commission sessions. In the morning there were interesting presentations on super-cooled water at the front of calving glaciers and on underground glaciations in the Russian permafrost. In the afternoon, I went to the modelling session on hydrological processes, listening to some good presentations.

especially one on combining glacier, permafrost and hydrology modelling in Alaska. The ice-breaker allowed me to talk to one potential P.I. for a postdoc.

The day of the Mountain Cryosphere sessions followed, and I was the most interested and in the first morning session I delivered my presentation. *Everything went well and the session was interesting.* Presenting my work in front of an international audience was a challenging experience, and I could solicit input from the broader community on my project, beginning to build my reputation as a researcher.

I also attended the second Mountain Cryosphere session and the fifth cold regions session. These sessions included talks about isotopic composition of snow in Slovenia and an oceanographic study of the Bering Sea, which added useful variety and different perspectives than the permafrost talks.



I particularly enjoyed the plenary lecture by Alexander Murphy and the interesting thematic lecture entitled “Changing the map: future visions of virtual maps” on crowd-sourcing emergency mapping: I am thinking about getting involved in the presented projects.

I also took advantage of my visit to Moscow to explore and discover a bit of Russian culture. I visited the impressive and monumental campus of the Lomonosov Moscow State University (host of the conference). Passing the main historical building which includes a Thermometer/Barometer tower, my visit led me to point of view on the Olympics site and

the ski-jump facilities where some people were training. Due to scheduling errors on the conference website, I could not go to one of the free half-day field excursions, so I spent Thursday exploring Moscow on my own, visiting some of the Metro stations, “Stalin Skyscrapers”, Red Square, Gorky Park and “Christ The Saviour” cathedral.

**до свидания (do svidaniya)!**

## **Julia Longinova**

*PhD Candidate, The University of Melbourne, Australia*

*Project coordinator in Russia, Thematic Network on Local and Regional Development in the North, the University of the Arctic, Russia--Norway*

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My interest to participate in the IGU Conference 2015 in Moscow was evoked by its substantial attention to the polar regions. I thought my current research on the governance of transformations of resource-based cities and communities in a changing climate, with regional interest in the Arctic, would fit in the program. Following my fieldwork in northern Russia, I dived into the vibrant atmosphere of cutting-edge research across disciplines at the majestic campus of Lomonosov Moscow State University.

As an early-career researcher, I give the particular value to the opportunity to feel part of an academic community. At the sessions organized by the Commission 'Cold Regions Environment' I could share the main arguments of my on-going research with those in my field and gain valuable feedback. The Commission covered a diverse range of topics and

stimulated cross and trans- disciplinary dialogue over the issues of sustainable development in the Arctic.

Various sessions and the conference itself became a platform for networking with and between experienced scholars and early-career researchers during formal and informal events kindly organised by the organising committee. A number of workshops, master-classes and informal events for early career scholars provided opportunity for learning and sharing experiences. Among those was a master-class on how to improve presentation skills organized by Joos Droogleever Fortuijn and Joop van der Schee, which I would like recommend to early careers scholars to attend in future.

It is never easy for young researchers being integrated into the academic world, given the competitive nature of it, the uncertain perspectives and often limited resources. The support the IGU organizing committee provides to early career scholars is an important contribution towards enriching geographical research and advancing knowledge. I am grateful for the support the IGU organizing committee provided to me and I hope that our research will have valuable output for improving people's well-being and leading to positive changes.

## **Osidele Olujimmi**

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First, my sincere gratitude to the IGU for awarding me with travel grant, which allowed me in my up-keeping while in Moscow. On 18 August, after a smooth registration, I started attending sessions.



The following day I participated in organised half-day free excursions, walking to the Cultural and Educational Center ETHNOMIR and to the Museum of Earth Sciences on 20<sup>th</sup> of August, which was on the 28<sup>th</sup> floor of the Moscow State University, giving us a good overview of Moscow city at large.

The conference gave me opportunities to interact and engage with other young scholars, attending programmes designed to equip, prepare and assist young scholars into been the next generations of academics/geographers. In the session on “Master Class: Fundraising and writing proposals”, Dr. Streletskiy and Dr. Petrov gave us informative and enlightened information :

this will further assist me in my future fundraising proposal writing. The workshop on “How to organise your research”, co-chaired by Prof. Sokratov really gave us in-depth understanding on what researchers should give attention to when writing up research reports.

I took part in the geo-tradition, alternative to the conference gala dinner. A very exciting event, and am proud to say my team won two of the three competitions proposed. During the closing ceremony I was amazed seeing my name displayed on the screen as proud recipient of the IGU Moscow 2015 Travel Grant Award.

After the conference, I took part in the paid organised tour to Saint Petersburg, enjoying another wonderful experience of the cultural capital of Russia “Venice of the North”.

I am grateful for the wonderful opportunity provided to me by IGU to participate in a IGU Conference: I shall now make effort to attend IGU Conferences yearly to give my paper/presentation contributions toward success of each conferences and also to network with other academics.

### **Mirela Paraschiv, PhD**

*University of Bucharest*

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In the first day, after registration, I participated at the opening ceremony in the plenary hall, where, I had could meet with Prof. Ana Firmino, co-chair of the Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems, and collaborator of our research centre. Later in the day, I attended different sessions of the IGU Commission on Urban Governance. Ice-breaker party provided me the occasion to meet and discuss with different research partners across Europe (Prof. Ronan Paddison, Prof. Ruben Lois, Prof. Michael Sofer), and to establish new connections with other professionals (i.e. from Hungary and India interested in future collaborations).

On Tuesday, in the session Urban Challenges in a Complex World: Contested Social Spaces 2, I presented the paper entitled “*Homelessness impact on the quality of urban social environment*”. In the same morning, I presented a poster on “*Local governance in mitigating the urban heat island effects*”, one of the research project I am involved in. After I was attended the presentations of the session on Geography of Governance and later in the day, I visited the Museum of Earth Sciences in the Moscow State University.

Wednesday I participate in the excursion to the Ethnomir Cultural and Education Center visit, which enabled me to discover particularities of the Russian culture and of different world territories.

My participation at the conference continued on Thursday with attending several sessions organised by the Urban and Local and Regional Development Commissions. The side-event organised in the evening –GeoTraditions– represented a suitable framework to connect with young researchers from Lomonosov University and other countries from Asia, Africa and Europe.

On the last day of the conference, I attended the presentations of the Urban Geography of Arts and Global Change and Human Mobility sessions, and the poster exhibition. At the closing ceremony, I found out about the upcoming IGU conferences and meetings.

### **Marie-Jeanne Sarah Royer**

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Arriving in Moscow on Sunday afternoon, my travel companions and I were greeted by the friendly volunteers in bright orange shirts that we would see throughout the conference. I take this opportunity to thank all of them for their valuable help during the sessions and throughout the conference. We then made our way to the campus of Lomonosov Moscow State University to register and were wowed by the venue. The next morning we attended the opening ceremony to hear welcome speeches from the Rector of the university, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, the First vice president of the Russian Geographical society, the President of the International Council of Science, the Honorary President of the Russian geographical society, the President of the IGU and readings of the words of Russian President, Vladimir Putin. Very impressive has been the contact with the cosmonauts currently in the space station. This was followed by a lovely recital.

I went off to the Cold Region Environments (CRE) Commission session on “Cold Regions: Monitoring, Observing, Understanding”, where I was co-chairing and presenter. This session ran over six time slots and included very interesting presentations, from glaciology to tourism and everything in between. The final slot was for the annual business meeting of the CRE commission,; where we discussed the commission’s future orientation. Tuesday was taken up with the co-chairing of the session except for the morning where I briefly met with members of the IGU EC. On Wednesday morning, though I was again co-chairing the CRE session, I was free to sit in on some other presentations. On Thursday morning, after having put up my poster, I was off to the meeting of the Young CHE (Commission of Health and Environment to discuss further development of networks between early career researchers working in health geography. After it was time to head back up to talk to other researchers at the poster sessions. Amid the co-chairing of sessions and meetings I also made time to attend the plenary sessions, the daily posters sessions, and exploring the campus’s beautiful grounds. In the evenings it was off to discover Moscow city center, with its iconic Red square, its famous Arbat street and its spectacular churches.

On Friday the conference was, much too soon, drawing to a close. After attended as listener to a last session, I attended the closing ceremony: not so impressive as the opening one, but interesting nonetheless. We were enticed to attend future conferences in Beijing, Quebec and Istanbul, as well as recognising the important contributions of staff and volunteers during this conference. It has been impossible attending all the sessions I wanted to, in such a short time. A good dilemma and the sign of a very content rich conference when you wish you could divide yourself into three to hear more speakers. I look forward to doing it all again and more in Beijing next year. Spasiba and Zaijian.

## **Hans Nibshan Seesagur**

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It was an immense honor to participate in the IGU 2015 held in The Russian Federation, a symbolic country from which mankind’s first giant geographical leap of sending a human being into space originated. Geographers from around the world convened at the Moscow State University to address critical issues and to strengthen collaboration efforts in an attempt to respond to the global challenges of our time.

The two papers that I presented during the conference were:

1) *Geographies of International Student Mobility: the Roles of Immigration Policies, Universities and Recruitment Agencies* and 2) *African Students Mobility towards the Land of Confucius*.

So I participated in sessions of C12.33 Political Geography and C12.38 Transport and Geography, and could develop my understanding of my primary research interests, that is migration issues and China's Geopolitics of Transport.

Moreover, I participated in the special session and workshop "*IGU and African countries: Which way to pursue?*", during which numerous African delegates stressed the importance of creating an appropriate platform to address geographical issues on the African continent. The session made me aware of the lack of young African scientists participating in research ventures on subject matters relevant to geographical issues. These topics are, however, crucial for the development of a continent like Africa.

I believe that this meeting enhanced collaboration efforts between African delegates, who will now set up an appropriate platform for discussion and exchange between African geographers. This will likely enhance the process of preserving the Earth's beauty; another milestone and giant leap forward for the human race that might originate, this time, from Africa.

Yours truly,

**Pushpendra Singh,**

**PhD Research Fellow** *Department of Humanities and Social Sciences,*  
*Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee India (push.dhs2015@iitr.ac.in)*  
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My participation in the IGU Conference 2015 in Moscow has been made possible by IGU awarding me with one of the Young IGU-UGI scholarship. Although I had acquired some basic knowledge about the activities of IGU from my Supervisor before going to Moscow, I have really been boosted up to work more on my field of interest. I had my oral presentation on "*Coal Mining and Rural Livelihoods in Chhattisgarh, India: An Empirical Analysis*" in the first technical session of Commission C12.18 Hazard and Risk. A quite impressive number of renowned Geographers as well as promising scholars were attending that session, and Professors Sergey A. Sokratov and Sue Ching Jou informed us to submit our papers, to be published in an edited volume.

On the other day I attended several other sessions, like Sustainable Development in Karst Environments, Hazard and Risk, 'Urban Challenges in a Complex World, Sustainability in Rural Systems, Environment Evolution and many more.

After selecting several oral presentations, I went through some remarkable posters, gathering huge knowledge on different fields of geography, mainly sustainable development. The Keynote lecture delivered by Prof. John O' Loughlin on Climate change and conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa, was really memorable for me, listening his frontiers of research, from other planets and satellites to the bottom of oceans. I attended young scientist program and enjoyed field trips of old Moscow.

It is important for me as a PhD student to attend international conferences as part of professional development. Preparing and delivering a presentation at such a conference gives the student the opportunity to disseminate their research to an international audience, develop a reputation in their specific field and have their work critiqued by established experts in that field. The whole experience builds both, not only the student's confidence in their academic abilities but also their self-confidence conversing with other researchers. The process of developing international contacts is a strong aid in the student's future career. I would like to continue my researches, and publish findings in different international journals, achieving the most

prestigious IGU Fellowship, in future. I once again thank the IGU to give me the opportunity to participate the conference.



## 6) LATEST NEWS FROM ICSU

<http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/news>



## 7) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2016)*

- 7.1) NZGS Conference, Dunedin, University Otago, Aotearoa, 1-4 February 2016
- 7.2) Borders Studies Down Under, Wellington (New Zealand), 7-7 March 2016
- 7.3) City as global political Actor, Antwerp (Belgium) 9-11 March 2016
- 7.4) Land Use Change, Climate Extremes and Disasters Risk Reduction, Delhi, 17-20 March 2016
- 7.5) Undisciplinated Environments. Cfp Session Decolonizing methods: disseminating research results beyond academy, Stockholm 20-23 March 2016
- 7.6) Land use, climate extremes and risk reduction, Delhi, 10-20 March 2016
- 7.7) Association of American Geographers, Annual Conference 2016, San Francisco, 29 March-2 April
- 7.8) Urban e-Planning, development and future challenges, Lisbon 31 March- 1 April 2016 (Flyer 2
- 7.9) The return of Geopolitics, University of Arizona, 4-5 April 2016
- 7.10) Association for Borderland Studies, Reno, 13-16 April 2016
- 7.11) Association Estudios Frontelizos, Reno, 13-16 April 2016
- 7.12) Urban health - communicating results for policy and action, Xia Men (China), 28-29 April 2016

