

International Geographical Union  
**Commission on Islands**

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1. The ***Commission on Islands*** is a Commission approved by the IGU Executive Committee at the IGU **Brisbane** Regional Conference in July, 2006.
2. The ***Inaugural Meeting*** of the IGU Commission on Islands was held on October 29- November 3, 2007 at National Taiwan University in **Taipei, Taiwan**. (about 150 participants from 23 countries)

# 3. Steering Committee Members

- Chair: Chang-Yi David Chang
- Vice-Chair: Eric Clark
- Executive Secretary: Huei-Min Tsai
- Steering Committee: 13

Physical Map of the World, April 2004



# The Steering Committee Members

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# 4. Membership and Election

**4-1 Membership:** There is no formal list of membership. The participants of each conference and meeting are automatically on the mailing list for upcoming events. The number on mailing list is about 150, covering 25 countries (August, 2014)

**4-2 New Members and Partnership: Everybody in this conference is welcome. (no membership fee)**

## 5. Meetings organized and participated (2007-2015)

- 5-1 The Inaugural Meeting of the Commission was held on October 29- November 3, 2007 at National Taiwan University in **Taipei, Taiwan** (about 150 participants)
- 5-2 The 31st IGC **Tunis ,Tunisia** in August, 2008: Three sessions were organized: (i) *Island vulnerability and complexity*, (ii) *Island environmental history and development*, (iii) *Island culture, place and identity*. 20 papers from 8 countries (Russia, Netherlands, Sweden, UK, Ireland, Canada, Korea, Taiwan) were presented. There were about 50 participants in the sessions.



- 5-3 Participating in Islands of the World X, ISISA (International Small Island Studies Association) at Jeju Island, Korea, 25-29 August 2008. The conference theme was: Globalizing Islands: Culture, Peace, Resources and Sustainability. Steering Committee members played active roles in organizing sessions. Participation: ca 200.
- 5-4 Organizing workshop on: Timescapes of Islands in the Asia-Pacific Region: Environmental History and Time Horizons of Management, at Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan, 28-29 October 2008. The workshop was organized by steering committee members in collaboration with the of Center for Asian Pacific Area Studies, Academia Sinica, IHDP-Taiwan, and IIAS Leiden University. The selected papers have been published in a theme issue Journal of Asia Pacific, Vol. 44. 2009. Papers: 15. Participation: ca 80.



- 5-5 Organized workshop on *Re-thinking Sustainability: Historical-Political Ecology Perspectives on Islands*, at National Taiwan Normal University, 30-31 October 2008, in collaboration with Lund University and National Taiwan Normal University. **Taipei, Taiwan**, Papers: 18, Participation: ca 100.
- 5-6 The 3<sup>rd</sup> Nordic Geographers Meeting, 8-11 June 2009, **Turku, Finland**: participating in three sessions on Islands Studies: *Geography of coastal regions* and *Rethinking human/non-human associations: changing politics of nature*.
- 5-7 The First World Congress of Environmental History (WCEH) 4-8 August 2009, **Copenhagen, Denmark**. Organizing a session on *Ecological Imperialism Redefined*. Participating in four other sessions.

5-8 AAG 2010 Annual Meeting, 14-18 April 2010, **Washington, D.C., U.S.A.** Participating in sessions: (i) *Real Worlds and Environmental Visions I & II* (ii) *Rethinking Islandness: Discursive Spaces and Tidalectics in Island Worlds - I, II, III*

5-9 IGU Tel Aviv Regional Meeting, 12-16 July 2010, **Tel Aviv, Israel**; Participating two sessions in the IGU Commission on Islands meeting.

5-10 Participating in ISISA Islands of the World XI: Celebrating Island Connectivities, August 23-26, 2010, **Bornholm, Denmark.**

5-11 The 2010 IGU Commission on Islands Meeting and Conference, Finding Their Place: Islands in Social Theory 27-30 August 2010, **Ven, Sweden**. (Local Organizers: Eric Clark and Godfrey Baldacchino). Most of Steering Committee Members attended Committee Meeting; Participants: ca 120. \*Published theme issue on Culture Geography.

5-12 Collaboration conference: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Island Dynamics Conference- Taking Malta Out of the Box – Island Cultures, Economies and Identities, 11–15 May 2011, **Valletta, Malta**. Steering Committee members played key roles in organizing related sessions.

5-13 The First Conference of East Asian Environmental History (EAEH 2011), 24-26 November 2011, Academia Sinica, **Taipei, Taiwan**. Participating islands sessions.

5-14 **IGU** Regional Meeting, 14-18 November 2011, **Santiago, Chile**; Participating in the IGU Commission on Islands meeting and the Commission Business Meeting.

5-15 Participating in ISISA Islands of the World XII: *Globalization: Islands Adapting to Change*, 29 May – 1 June 2012, **The Virgin Islands (BVI)**

- 5-16 IGU Congress- The 32nd IGC Cologne 2012, 26-30 August 2012, **Cologne, Germany**. The IGU Commission on Islands Supported by LOICZ (UNIHDP Programme ) will organize a commission meeting and the conference sessions on the theme “ Human/Nature-Interaction on Small Islands- An Integrative Geography Perspective” (Local Organizer: Beate Ratter).
- 5-17 The 2012 IGU Commission on Islands meeting and Post Congress Fieldtrip, Human-Culture Interaction on **Norderney – East Frisian Islands, Germany**. 31 August-4 September, 2012. (Local Organizer: Beate Ratter).
- 5-18 IGU Commission on Islands meeting with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Island Dynamics Conference: Local Actions in a Global Context, 15-17 January 2013, **Longyearbyen Island, Norway**. 13

- 5-19 2013 IGU Regional Conference ,**Kyoto, Japan**, August ,2013. The Commission organized 2 islands sessions.
- 5-20 2013 IGU **Penghu Archipelago** Commission on Islands Meeting, **Penghu,Taiwan**, Oct. 1-5, 2013, organized by Prof. Kuo-Yuan Kau) (Joint Session with IGU Commission on Globalization, Marginalization and Local Response)(see the attached\*)
- 5-21 2014 IGU Regional Conference, Krakow, Poland, August,2014. The Commission organized 3 islands sessions.
- 5-22 2015 IGU Regional Conference, Moscow, Russia August,2015. The Commission organized 2 islands sessions.

# 6. Proposed Meetings (2016-)

- 2016 IGU Commission on Islands meeting, June 25-30,2016 Taipei, Taiwan, organized by Professor J.C. Lin, National Taiwan University.
- 2017 Joint meeting with Island Tourism : Economic and Labor Market Implication, November 18-23, 2016, by Professor Godfrey Baldacchino , The University of Malta, Malta.



# 7. Cooperative Efforts

The Commission maintains communications with the Indigenous Peoples' Knowledges and Rights Commission, and collaborates regularly with ISISA (International Small Island Studies Association), Island Dynamics (an island studies network based on University of Aberdeen, UK, and Isle of Man), LOICZ (UNIHDP Programme), Environmental History (WCTH) and other Island Studies institutions.

7-1 2007 IGU Commission on Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge and Rights.

7-2 Participation in Islands of the World X, **ISISA** (International Small Island Studies Association) at Jeju Island, Korea, 25-29 August 2008. The conference theme was: *Globalizing Islands: Culture, Peace, Resources and Sustainability*. Steering Committee members played important roles in organizing sessions. Participation: 200

7-3 The 3<sup>rd</sup> **Nordic Geographers Meeting**, 8-11 June 2009, Turku, Finland: participation in three sessions: *Geography of coastal regions* and *Rethinking human/non-human associations: changing politics of nature I & II*.

- 7-4 The First World Congress of Environmental History (WCEH) 4-8 August 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark. Organized a session on *Ecological Imperialism Redefined*. Participation in four other sessions.
- 7-5 **AAG 2010 Annual Meeting**, 14-18 April 2010, Washington, D.C. Participation in sessions: (i) Real Worlds and Environmental Visions I & II (ii) Re-thinking Islandness: Discursive Spaces and Tidalectics in Island Worlds - I, II, III
- 7-6 Participation in **ISISA Islands of the World XI**: Celebrating Island Connectivities, August 23-26, 2010, Bornholm, Denmark.
- 7-7 Joint meeting with the 2nd Island Dynamic Conference in Malta, 11-15 May 2011.
- 7-8 Joint meeting with the 4<sup>th</sup> Island Dynamic Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, 2014.

7-9 Joint meeting with ISISA Islands of the World XIII, Penghu Archipelago, Taiwan, September, 2014.

7-10 Joint meeting with IGU Commission on Geomorphology and Society Taipei, Taiwan, October, 2014

# 8. Publications

8-1 The Commission website is regularly updated:  
<http://igu-islands.giee.ntnu.edu.tw/>.

8-2 Island Studies Journal

<http://vre2.upei.ca/islandstudies.ca/journal> is managed by Steering Committee member Godfrey Baldacchino and is one forum for publication of commission research.

8-3 Endorsement and supporting books and theme issues on island research.

- 8-4 Many publications of Commission members will be updated on websites.
- 8-5 After 2012 Cologne IGU, IGU Commission on Islands and LOICZ will look for a publication of the best presentations.(The local organizer, Professor Beate Ratter, has communicated with Dr. Hartwig Kremer, LOICZ).
- 8-6 Joint Publication with Island Dynamics Conference.
- 8-7 Special Issue for the Islands Commission in 2014 IGU Regional Conference at Krakow has been published by Professor Macirj Jedrusik.

# 9. Continuation (2016-18)

9-1 The name of “the IGU Commission on Islands” will be remained the same.

9-2 The main missions of the commission are:

(1)to promote island studies in geographical sciences among international geographical research communities.

(2)to provide a platform in connecting island studies with existing international programs and island networks.

(3)to promote the study of island geography in education programs at all levels, especially, but not exclusively, in island societies.

(4)to support and promote the publication of island geographic research.

(5)to collaborate with international and regional organizations to enhance dialogue on sustainable development of island societies.

# 9-3 The steering committee members of the IGU Commission on Islands (2012-2016) are as follow :

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## 9-4 The tentative work plan of the Commission on Islands will be :

- 1)IGU Commission on Islands meeting, June 25-30, 2016  
Taipei, Taiwan, organized by Professor J.C. Lin, National Taiwan University.
- 2)Joint meeting with Island Tourism : Economic and Labor Market Implication, November 18-23, 2016, by Professor Godfrey Baldacchino , The University of Malta, Malta.

9-5 The scholarly importance of the anticipated results of the IGU Commission on Islands (2016-18) will be :

- 1) As bounded arenas, islands have long facilitated examination of structural forces and mechanisms of interaction and change relevant to vastly broader contexts than the unique places they are.
- 2) Bringing these themes together in synthetic geographic research and international collaborative projects is an increasingly urgent task as humanity navigates its future in a rapidly and unevenly globalizing world. The IGU Commission on Islands seeks to work together with related IGU Commissions and other relevant national and international organizations in promoting research on and awareness of island development issues.