International Geographical Union
COMMISSION ON LAND USE/COVER CHANGE

NEWSLETTER 19

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IGU LUCC STEERING COMMITTEE (2016–2020)

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NEWS

IGU LUCC Website and E-mail Address

In 2016, new commission webpage was prepared with following address:

http://lucc.zrc-sazu.si/

You can find all important and updated information about our commission there. Please, visit our new web page and do not hesitate to inform us of any remarks or comments.

We would like to inform you about new address of IGU LUCC secretariat. It is:

lucc@zrc-sazu.si

Matjaž Geršič, secretary LUCC
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

IGU Thematic Conference on Land Use/Cover Changes, Biodiversity, Health And Environment, Local And Regional Development

BUCHAREST, TULCEA, ROMANIA, SEPTEMBER 11.–15., 2017, ROMANIAN ACADEMY

Connecting land use and biodiversity is essential to understand the relationships between ecosystems and socio-economic systems, ecosystem services, and the potential risks and benefits to regional specialization and human welfare. Such topic calls for investigations on how human activities and global environmental changes affect terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, human well-being and public health, what are the feedback and the potential local and regional futures. In this context, the rationale of the conference is to bring together scientists and stakeholders from various connecting fields to address different effects of ecosystems changes, to set-up mitigation and adaptation strategies and contribute with scientific information to local/regional land use, planning and environmental policies.

MAIN THEMES:
- Land Use/Cover Change and Land Degradation
- Impacts of Land Use/Cover Changes on Biodiversity Loss Causes and Consequences of Land Use/Cover changes Biodiversity Conservation and Management
- Extreme Weather Events, Socio-Territorial Vulnerabilities and Impacts on Public Health
- Environmental Changes and Human Health: Impacts and Inequalities
- Distribution of Health Resources, Access to Health Care and Spatial Justice Local Resources and Regional Specialization
- Local and Regional Development: socio-economic disparities Spatial Development and Territorial Cohesion
- Cross-border Cooperation and Neighbourhood Policies Governance and Policies in Planning, Land use and Biodiversity

PROPOSED SCHEDULE:
- September 10th – arrival of participants
- September 11th – Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session (Bucharest, Romanian Academy); departure to Tulcea
- September 12th – parallel sessions in Tulcea
- September 13th – one day boat trip to the Danube Delta
- September 14th – field trip to Dobrogea Region and Black Sea Coast (Tulcea – Măcin – Babadag – Jurilovca – Constaţa) – Bucharest
- September 15th – departure of participants

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:
FIELD TRIPS:
Danube Delta (together with the Razim-Sinoe Lacustrine Complex) is known to be one of the largest wetlands in Europe, famous for its original landscapes, morphology, hydrography and fauna. Due to the harmonious interaction between man and wildlife, Danube Delta won the Biosphere Reserve status in 1990 and included on the UNESCO’s Heritage List and, in 1991, on the List of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat. More than 90% of its surface is covered by lakes, ponds and swamps with reed and club rush. Danube Delta provides nesting place or passage for over 325 bird species, some of them of European or global interest (e.g. Pelecanus onocrotalus, Tadorna tadorna, Egretta alba, E. garzetta, Cygnus olor). A characteristic feature of the Danube Delta is the alternation of populated areas and unpopulated areas. The settlement systems, developed in-between the Delta arms, consists of one town (Sulina), and 7 LAU 2, totalling 23 settlements. The economic activities are mainly related to fishing, animal breeding (sheep and cattle), navigation and tourism. The area’s tourist potential resides in its natural diversity. The Danube Delta has a multi-ethnic structure, alongside the Romanians, several nationalities live and cohabit together (e.g. Lipovan Russians, Ukrainians, Turkish-Tatar).

Dobrogea Region is a very attractive region which incorporates the oldest (Caledonian - Central-Dobrogea Plateau and Hercynian mountains – Mácin Mountains) and the newest Romanian territory (Danube Delta). It shelters a combination of Pontic, steppe and well-preserved Sub-Mediterranean and Balkan forest ecosystems (Luncavița beech forest is a Tertiary relict), as well as endemic and protected species (e.g. Vipera ammodytes, Testudo graeca ibera). It hosts two major protected areas in Romania: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve and Mácin Mountains National Park. It is renowned for its varied landscapes which include Hercynian mountains, karst forms, mesophyllous – thermophilous forests, xerothermophilous bushes, agricultural areas, traditional villages and houses, cities dating back to the Greek or Byzantine periods etc. In the east, starches the Romanian Black Sea Coast (245 km). Dobrogea has a diverse ethnic structure which includes, alongside the Romanians, Ukrainians, Lipovan Russians, Turkish, Tartar, Jewish, Greek, Armenians, Germans etc. The largest city of the region is Constanța, the fifth largest in Romania with a population of 470,961 inhabitants (2011 census). It is also the biggest port at the Black Sea and the fourth in Europe. The continuous expansion of the city over the surrounding territories favoured the development of a functional metropolitan area stretching north-south along the Black Sea coast.
Call for grants

For the upcoming IGU Thematic Conference which will be held in September 11-15, 2017 in Bucharest and Tulcea, the International Geographical Union will provide grants for outstanding young researches.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION. The grants will be given to junior researches, including Ph.D. Students covering travel expenses, accommodation and registration fee in a maximum amount of 700 UDS.

APPLICATIONS CRITERIA

An applicant’s proposal should include the following documents:

- Copy of valid passport or identity card
- Short CV (maximum 2 pages), including a list of papers related to the Conference themes
- Abstract to be submitted to one of the four IGU Commissions: Land Use/Cover Change, Local and Regional Development, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Health and the Environment.

The main criterion of selection used by each IGU Commission in evaluating applications is the intrinsic scientific merit of each applicant’s contribution to the IGU Thematic Conference. Applications must be submitted to the IGU Thematic Conference e-mail address igu.tc.2017@geoinst.ro until June 20th 2017.

NOTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE. The selection of candidates will be carried out by a Commission appointed by the Organizing Committee. Notifications will be made prior to applications evaluation and acceptance, no later than July 10th 2017.

For further information, please visit the IGU Thematic Conference website www.geoinst.ro/igutc2017.html or contact the Organizing Committee at igu.tc.2017@geoinst.ro

29th North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS) Biennial Conference

ASSAM, INDIA, FEBRUARY 8.–10., 2018, B. BOROOAH COLLEGE

INVITATION

The IGU LUCC Commission is collaborating in the 28th North East India Geographical Society (NEIGS) Biennial Conference which will be organized at B. Borooah College,
Guwahati on February 8-10, 2018. The local theme of the seminar is Environmental and Sustainable Livelihood. All members of geography fraternity including NEIGS and IGU members and researchers from allied disciplines are cordially invited to present their research papers and participate in the discussions and proceedings of the 3-day event.

THE LOCAL THEME
Change is inevitable and greatest challenge we face today is change in climate, environment, human migration, land use impacting livelihood, health and well-being. The process of change involves people, resources, environment and development. Development interventions aiming at more sustainable livelihood and sustainable resource management, must be informed by both an inner perspective and a perspective addressing the macro content with its impact on livelihood, as it also refers to the challenges of food security and access to freshwater and energy while land and water contribute to the healthy and sustainable management of agriculture system, the role of forests can not be underrated. The cover exploitation of resources like water and forest has lead to the problems like increased water scarcity and man-animal conflicts that directly impacts the environment and indirectly the livelihood of the people especially of rural communities that are directly dependant on their immediate natural base. To cope with the multiple problems related to climate changes, deforestation, over population migration etc, sustained effort will be required through a collective force and shared vision.

SUBTHEMES
Climate Change and Biodiversity
Land Use Change and Environment
Changing Mount Environment
Natural Hazards and Extreme Events
Sustainable Development: Governance, Policies and Conflicts
Population growth, Resource use and Environmental Charge
Globalization, Industrialization and Environment
Urbanization and Environment
Agricultural development and biotechnology
Agriculture, Modernization and Environment
Population, Development, Ethnic Conflicts and in India’s North east’
Environmental Changes and Challenges: Role of RS and GIS
Role of RS and GIS in weather monitoring
Development, Geopolitics and conflict resolution
Issues of gender, health and inequalities
Environment, Tourism and sustainable development
Changing human values and Environment
Integrated River Basin management
Deforestation and Man Animal Conflicts
Pollution and Environment
Mining, Development and Sustainability

IMPORTANT DATES
Conference Date: 8th to 10th February, 2018
Abstract Submission: 1st August to 31st October, 2017
Confirmation of Acceptance: 15th November, 2017
Payment of Registration Fee: From 1st to 30th November, 2017 (Early Bird)
From 1st to 15th December, 2017 (Late)
Full paper submission: 31st December, 2017
LAST MEETINGS

33rd International Geographical Congress in Beijing

On August 22-25, 2016, the 33rd International Geographical Congress was held in Beijing. Thanks to its taking place in the most populous country of the world, it also became the congress with the historically record high participation. The previous record number of participants in a geographical congress (3199) in Cologne from 2012 was clearly surpassed. According to the preliminary data, the main session was attended by 3412 participants. The seven pre-conferences were attended by 758 participants (since most of them subsequently took part in the congress itself, the figures cannot be automatically summed up). The Geographical Olympiad taking place in parallel had 292 participants, mostly pupils and students, and the participants also included 230 volunteers and 50 organisers. At least one participant represented 95 countries from the whole world. The most numerous were the Chinese (2236), accounting for 65.5% of all participants, while Hong Kong (34) and Macau (2) were counted separately. Apart from the organising Chinese, the most numerous representations were from Japan (122), India (100), the USA (99) and Russia (88). When it comes to Europe, most geographers came from Britain (56), Germany (49), Spain, Poland (25 each) and France (23). From Czechia, there were 14 participants and a group of 7 people took part in the International Geography Olympiad. Within the programme, there were 9 plenary lectures and 156 partial sections, to which 2600 papers were sent (but many of them were not delivered because some, primarily domestic, participants eventually did not come). In addition, there were 44 sessions dealing with key topics, 16 special sections, 26 discussion forums and 20 business meetings.

The congress was held in the Olympic compound, within sight of the Bird’s Nest stadium, in the building that served as a fencing arena and the press centre during the 2008 Olympic Games. At present, this is a huge congress centre in which two to three big events can be held simultaneously. The localisation has the advantage of a large accommodation capacity in the form of several big hotels in the close proximity of the Olympic centre and a good accessibility by the underground from other parts of the city.

The congress was held under the slogan Shaping Our Harmonious Worlds indicating that a large part of the papers were to be devoted to the co-existence of nations as well as co-existence of man with nature.

The congress elected the venue of the congress to be held in 2024. There were four candidates: Melbourne, Dublin, Copenhagen along with Malmö and Prague. The General Assembly of national representatives was holding the vote on the second day of the congress, on Tuesday, August 23. The result was surprising. Although the IGU board strongly favoured Melbourne, a clear victory was gained by Dublin (24 votes), before Melbourne (10), Prague (5) and Copenhagen along with Malmö (4). The victory went to the smallest of the running towns. Perhaps this proved decisive: after all the metropolises in which congresses were held, the delegates may have felt like visiting a smaller town, in which everything is within the reach and in a human dimension.
The congress also elected the new IGU president and five new vice presidents. The elected IGU board for 2016-2020 is as follows: President Yukio Himiyama (Japan), Past President Vladimir Kolosov (Russia), Secretary General Michael Meadows (South Africa) and Vice Presidents: Elena dell’Agnese (Italy), Joos Drooglever-Fortuijn (Netherlands), Nathalie Lemarchand (France), Barbaros Gönençgil (Turkey), Iain Hay (Australie), Zhou Chenghu (China), R. B. Singh (India) and Rémy Tremblay (Canada).

At the congress, changes were also made in the composition and boards of the individual commissions. After years in the board of the Commission of IGU Land Use and Land Cover Change, Ivan Bičík ended in it. The IGU/LUCC commission will now headed by Matej Gabrovec (Geographical Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia).

The next big event of the International Geographical Union will be the regional conference in Quebec in 2018, while another congress will be held in 2020 in Istanbul. After two years, an extraordinary congress on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the IGU will be held in Paris.

If the activities of the IGU/LUCC commission in Beijing are to be summarised in brief, we have to state that the issue was discussed in five separate blocs always after the planned four to five lectures. Unfortunately, a part of the domestic participants failed to come. I consider this an organisers’ failure as they were unable to arrange this. On the other hand, it should be stressed that at least in another four blocs, the LUCC issue was discussed. However, this was mostly in connection with a different main topic (regional development, nature conservation, nature risks, etc.). This means that this issue, widely using the technologies of remote sensing and GIS, was among the most frequently presented ones at this congress, too.

Ivan Bičík
Head of the IGU/LUCC 2004–2016, Charles University, Prague, Czechia
Head of the Czech Geographic Committee Tadeusz Sziwek, Ostrava University, Ostrava, Czechia

10th International Geographical Union (IGU) Conference on ‘Urbanization, Health & Well Being and Sustainable Development Goals’

This conference is the 10th in the series of Theme based organized by International Geographical Union (IGU) in the recent past. It was hosted by the Department of Geography& Geoinformatics, Osmania University, Hyderabad from 17-19 March, 2017 at the Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute (MCR-HRD) Institute at Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad, Telangana, India.

A total number of 306 papers were presented in 25 technical sessions and in plenary session. For the first time a Poster Session was organized in the conference and it carried three best young scientist (poster) awards. Over 400 participants took part in the
deliberations of the conference. Of this number 345 represented 25 states of India and about 60 were from Hyderabad. Indian participants from universities, institutes, govt. departments, industry etc. were present. Around 28 International participants from 15 countries (Japan, China, Russia, Switzerland, South Africa, Poland, Italy and Sri Lanka) also attended.

The conference has discussed a variety of viewpoints to the topics, milieus and methods of study covered in the conference. The main themes focused on Biodiversity and Climate Change, Natural Hazards and Disaster Management, Urban Planning and Infrastructure, Urban Morphology and Hierarchical System, Urban Transportation and Waste Management, Natural Resources and Environment, Sustainable Development Goals, Urban Health and Well being, Youth, Gender and Society beside Urban Safety and Governance. Besides the President of the IGU, three Presidents of different IGU Commissions were present for all the three days of the conference. Simultaneously with the Conference, an International Training Workshop on Big Data for Science and Sustainability in Developing Countries was also held. It was organized by representatives from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Around 57 participants took part in this three day workshop.

Students of Osmania University presented a ‘cultural fiesta’ on day one. The conference concluded with valedictory function on the last day, in which the (Late) Dr. Manju Singh Memorial Young Scientist (Poster) Awards were distributed to the winners.

Dr. B.Srinagesh  
Chairman, BOS  
Department of Geography, Osmania University, Hyderabad
European Landscape Dynamics - CORINE Land Cover Data

Jan FERANEC, Tomas SOUKUP, Gerard HAZEU, Gabriel JAFFRAIN (eds.)

Four unique pan-European datasets, the CORINE land cover, that is, CLC1990, CLC2000, CLC2006, and CLC2012 datasets, offer the first time opportunity to observe the European landscape by means of land cover and its change. It is precisely what this book contains: methodology of identification, analyses and assessment of land cover of Europe and its changes over four time horizons. Also examples are presented in which CLC data play a role in offering solutions to European environment problems such as the monitoring of urban dynamics, land fragmentation, ecosystems mapping and assessment, high nature value farmland characteristic, etc. Additionally, it discusses the future of CLC data generation.

KEY FEATURES

- Provides the first comprehensive overview of pan-European landscape
- Supplies extensive information sets obtained by a single methodology applied from 1990 to 2012 on CLC projects
- Studies Europe as a diverse landscape with diverse cultures and a long history of development of land cover change and innovation in land use planning
- Presents results obtained by the application of satellite technology and emphasizes its increasing role in cognition of our planet
- Explains via LC/LU, the importance of human prints for sustainability and global change

REVIEWS

The book provides a concise overview of 25 years of land cover mapping and monitoring of Europe and examines future possibilities. The innovative methods developed and used in this project not only helped improve our scientific understanding of land cover dynamics of Europe but also proved to be an excellent resource for land change scientists and practitioners all over the world.

Chandra Giri, Ph. D - Research Physical Scientist, United States Geological Survey/Adjunct Faculty. Duke University
Land use/cover change has been an exciting but difficult challenge to pursue in such complex region as Europe. CORINE has done it beautifully with professional scrutiny. This book shows its achievement convincingly, with many informative original maps, diagrams and tables. It is hoped that this book is read widely, and gives clues to those who wish to develop similar land use/cover change data base in their countries or regions.

Yukio Himiyama, Emeritus Professor, Hokkaido University of Education, Japan

Reading such unique work will be a beacon to those who are professionally interested in the theme of land cover. Specialists in satellite remote sensing can appreciate the value of the book in the first place. However, the publication will give many useful and new information also to researchers of natural sciences as well as officers in national and regional government, and managers in commercial companies.

Jan Kolar, Associate Professor, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

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