



**IGU E-NEWSLETTER**

Quarterly

URL: <http://www.homeofgeography.org/>

e-mail: [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org)

or: [giuliano.bellezza@gmail.org](mailto:giuliano.bellezza@gmail.org)



---

New Series 26

April

2018

---

Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

---

*This Newsletter is circulated to nearly 2000 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome. Please send them to [giuliano.bellezza@gmail.com](mailto:giuliano.bellezza@gmail.com) or [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org)*

---



**CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE**

- 1) Remarks from IGU President Yukio Himiyama**
- 2) Minutes of the ED Meeting, Tokio 9-12 April 2018**
- 3) Ballot for the usual partial biennial IGU EC Renewal**
- 4) Great News from IYGU**
- 5) Report from recent geographic initiatives**
- 6) In Memoriam**
  - 6.1) Christian Mathiessen**
  - 6.2) Stephen Hawking**

### 6.3) Dario César Sanchez

7) News from ICSU

8) News from Future Earth

9) Forthcoming events



#### 1) REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT YUKIO HIMIYAMA

At the beginning of February, i.e. immediately after the last issue of E-Newsletter, I flew to Delhi and then to Guwahati, India, to attend conferences. The conference at University of Delhi was on ‘Livable Cities’. The air pollution in Delhi and in other big cities in India is very serious, and it was impressive to see many geographers being involved in improvement of the situation in close cooperation with high officials of the related governmental departments, as well as with wide-ranging specialists including planning/architecture specialists, environmental scientists and sociologists. I also had an opportunity to visit a suburban village called Budhpur, where ‘Museum of Geographical Heritage’ was just opened. It is an exciting initiative to promote geography and geography education. The conference held at B. Borooah College in Guwahati was on ‘Environment and Sustainable Livelihood’. In both conferences and in the Museum, I felt the local geographers’ deep concerns on sustainability and strong intention of capacity building and outreach.

In the middle of March, Secretary-General Meadows and I visited Istanbul for two parallel meetings, namely a meeting of GeoUnions and a meeting with the organizers of IGC 2020. The former was originally planned as a formal meeting held in association with the ISPRS (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) Conference, but was later changed to an informal one due to the failure in getting sufficient participation of the Union members. Nevertheless, the meeting was a good opportunity to talk with some of the leaders of ISPRS, URSI (International Union of Radio Science) and IUGG (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics), and it convinced us of the importance of consolidating IGU’s relation with the other Geo Unions. There are common interests, such as disaster & risk management and issues related with geo data, and we haven’t been as close as desired so far.

The meeting with the organizers of the 34th International Geographical Congress Istanbul 2020 was also very fruitful. The discussion with the local organizers, headed by Vice President Barbaros Gönençgil and assisted by two experienced staffs from a convention company, was

practical and detailed, and the visit to Istanbul University, i.e. the Congress venue, showed every sign of willingness, preparedness, capability and hospitality of the local organizers and the University. Some tours in and around the city also showed good standard of public transportation, infrastructure, safety, and high level historical and cultural attractiveness of the region. It is also worth noting that the largest airport in Europe is expected to be opened in 2019, i.e. well in time for the IGC, in the suburbs of Istanbul.

In the middle of April, IGU Executive Committee held its first meeting this year in Tokyo-Sendai, Japan. The issues discussed and their outcomes are nicely outlined in the minute of the meeting as usual, thanks to our Secretary General, so I mention only a few here for your attention. The first is on the recent IGU EC elections. E-ballots for a Secretary General and three Vice Presidents were conducted in January-February successfully, with 48 voting out of 52 eligible national members. I would like to thank all the candidates and the national representative bodies, and congratulate those elected, namely:

- Secretary General and Treasurer: R.B. Singh (India)
- Vice Presidents: Elena dell'Agnesse (Italy), Iain Hay (Australia), Bojie Fu (China-Beijing)

Another election of a Vice President is underway, as the VP post currently occupied by Professor Singh will become empty when he becomes Secretary General & Treasurer at the conclusion of the Québec Regional Conference in August 2018.

The second point to mention is on the election of the members of the inaugural Governing Board of the ISC (International Science Council). It is my great pleasure to inform you that two out of three nominees of the IGU have been shortlisted as candidates as below:

- Michael Meadows, Secretary General and Treasurer of the IGU till August 2018, for the post of Secretary of the Governing Board of the ISC
- Ruth Fincher, Board Member of the ISSC and former Vice-President of the IGU, for the post of Ordinary Member of the Governing Board of the ISC

I believe they can do very good job if elected, with their very rich experiences in international academic organizations and their outstanding background and achievements as geographers, which help them tackle SDGs, Future Earth, ESD, and other urgent global/regional issues in the ISC.

Last but not least, I would like to mention an exciting new for the world geographic community. On 24th March, UNESCO stated that “UNESCO honours the discipline of Geography with a Chair in Global Understanding for Sustainability. It will form part of worldwide network of over 700 UNESCO chairs to support the teaching and research goals of the world cultural organization. The social geographer Prof. Benno Werlen, will hold the chair at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Germany).” For detail, please see: <https://igu-online.org/unesco-honours-geography-and-establishes-the-unesco-chair-in-global-understanding-for-sustainability/>

**Yukio Himiyama,**  
*President of IGU*



## 2) INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING, GAKUSHI-KAIKAN, TOKIO, 9-12 2018

### Welcome, Meeting Logistics and Introductions

The meeting was hosted and chaired by President Himiyama, who welcomed Past President Vladimir Kolosov, Secretary-General Mike Meadows, First Vice-President Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn and Vice-Presidents, Barbaros Gönençgil, Iain Hay, Nathalie Lemarchand, RB Singh and Elena dell' Agnese. Apologies were received from Vice-Presidents Rémy Tremblay and Chenghu Zhou.

### Adoption of the Schedule and Agenda

The schedule and agenda were discussed and adopted. President Himiyama outlined logistical issues for the meeting.

### Minutes

The minutes of the Amsterdam meeting in September 2018, previously approved via email, were tabled and confirmed. Tremblay, assisted by Lemarchand, had kindly facilitated their translation into French for distribution in the IGU e-Newsletter.

### Organization and Operations

**Executive Committee Member Reports.** All EC members tendered reports on their activities since the last meeting. A summary of all the EC activity reports will be made available to the General Assembly in Istanbul (2020).

**Executive Committee Meeting Calendar 2018 onwards.** The next meeting of the Executive Committee would be held in association with the upcoming IGU-CAG Regional Conference in (dates are 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018) – i.e. arrivals on 4<sup>th</sup> August, meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August and morning of 6<sup>th</sup>. Any newly elected EC members will be invited to attend the Québec meeting. Singh offered to host the autumn 2018 meeting in Aligarh with the following proposed schedule: Arrivals November 30<sup>th</sup> 2018, EC meeting December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018, field excursion 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018, departures 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018). It was initially suggested that an EC meeting should be held in association with the AAG in Washington DC, USA, in April 2019, although the alternative of a meeting in Ireland in May 2019 in association with the EUGEO Congress that several EC members will be attending anyway (venue and final dates to be confirmed). Gönençgil offered to host a meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, in September 2019. Hay offered to host a meeting in Adelaide in April 2020.

**IGU Financial Report and Projection.** Meadows presented a brief update on the financial situation in the three accounts held in Cape Town, as well as on the status of the Promotion and Solidarity Fund held in the United States under responsibility of former IGU President Abler. The IGU financial situation is stable and, indeed, the Promotion and Solidarity Fund (endowment) continues to grow (the balance exceeds US\$100k).

**IGU National Membership update.** Following the e-ballot, Kyrgyz Republic is accepted as a full member country of the IGU. Philippines has expressed an interest again in bringing membership up to date. It was affirmed that the IGU should maintain open communications with all of its national committees irrespective of their timely payment of dues with the hope of resumption of payment. Communications with Honduras and Madagascar are showing some promise. There was considerable discussion around the issue of membership fees but it was agreed at this stage that there is no compelling reason to change the structure.

**IGU Commission and Task Force update.** The Commission Excellence award sub-committee has considered the 2016-17 Commission and Task Force reports and has decided that the award for 2017 should be presented to the IGU Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change. Droogleever-Fortuijn has undertaken a detailed review of the IGU Commissions and Task Forces and noted that only two Commissions had failed to submit annual reports. While some commissions are less active (a small number reported no substantial activities in 2017) most continue to hold meetings, update their websites and distribute newsletters etc. The relevant EC members were requested to follow-up on those that were indicated to be less active. Droogleever-Fortuijn noted that there are some cases of dual steering committee membership (i.e. where an individual is listed as a member on more than one commission) and that these should be identified. As Secretary-General, Meadows will write to the chairs of the commissions in question, as well as the individuals so identified requesting a resolution.

**IYGU.** Although the International Year of Global Understanding project has had its closing ceremony in Jena, in November 2017, Benno Werlen continues to work on the project with a view to its further development. The Executive Committee congratulated Professor Werlen on his appointment to a UNESCO Chair in Global Understanding for Sustainability, which will be inaugurated on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 in Jena, Germany. Droogleever-Fortuijn will attend the event as representative of the IGU.

**IGU EC elections.** Meadows, as electoral officer, reported on the outcome of the e-Ballot for three Vice-President positions on the Executive Committee. Of the 52 eligible national member countries, 48 voted as indicated below. The votes were tallied by former IGU President Ron Abler, as well as Meadows himself as electoral officer. The results of the e-ballot are as follows: *Secretary-General and Treasurer*: Nominated: RB Singh; Votes for: 45; abstentions: 3. Professor RB Singh is duly elected as Secretary-General and Treasurer of the International Geographical Union for the period 2018-2022 and will take up office at the conclusion of the Québec Regional Conference in August 2018. The election of Professor Singh, as Vice-President, will create a vacancy in the Executive Committee from August 2018 onwards. It was agreed that a call for nominations for this vacancy should be made as soon as possible and to hold a further e-Ballot to ensure that it is filled immediately after the Québec conference. It was further agreed that, in order to facilitate the transition to the newly elected Secretary-General and Treasurer, Professor Meadows be appointed by the Executive Committee (in accordance with provisions in the Statutes) as Assistant Secretary-General and Treasurer for the period August 2018 to August 2020.

*Vice-President* (three vacancies).

Name of nominee	Country	Votes
Prof Elena dell’Agnese	Italy	34
Prof Bojie Fu	China-Beijing	21
Prof Iain Hay	Australia	34
Prof Rubén Lois-Gonzalez	Spain	20
Prof Negrete-Sepúlveda	Chile	14

Accordingly, Professors dell’ Agnese, Hay and Fu are elected as Vice-Presidents of the International Geographical Union for the period 2018-2022 and will take up office at the conclusion of the Québec Regional Conference in August 2018. The Executive Committee congratulated the successful candidates and thanked all nominees for being willing to stand.

**IGU Website and social media.** The IGU website continues to be updated periodically. Both the Facebook and Twitter social media links are regularly utilised. There remains a need to update the list of Congresses on the website (Meadows). Lemarchand noted that further improvements are needed in the French and Spanish versions of the website. Meadows agreed to address some of the structural changes required and that the assistance of the French and Spanish national committees could prove helpful in this regard.

**IGU Bulletin.** Volume 59-60 (for the years 2015 and 2016) has been printed and distributed by surface mail. There will be an opportunity for manual circulation at the 2018 Québec Regional Conference. A pdf of the volume will be posted on the IGU website, alongside all the others. The availability of the *Bulletin* in electronic form via the website indicates that the number of printed copies can be reduced in future.

**IGU eNewsletter.** The consistent efforts of former Vice-President Bellezza were again noted with much appreciation. The latest edition (Volume NS25) was published and circulated in January 2018. It is hoped that he will continue to produce the *e-Newsletter* and update the Home of Geography website.

**OurSus.** Ton Dietz is now retired but continues to work in this project; he has commenced work on extending *OurSus* activities with examples from African cities.

**Partner publishing proposal.** Edward Elgar have undertaken to support the IGU financially but the detailed nature of this still needs to be effected. Elgar has agreed to the publication of a new IGU book series (IGU Contemporary Geographies) edited by Hay and Meadows; suggested topics and authors have been communicated to Edward Elgar and representatives are at the AAG promoting the new series. The suggestion was made to approach the Commissions regarding further topics and authors and the point was made strongly that the author list should be inclusive of the multipole diversities of international geographies.

**Summer School proposal.** The idea of running publishing workshops aimed at younger and low income country geographers was introduced by dell’Agnese. There is an identified need for such activities and it was suggested that they could be held initially in association with major

IGU events. Funding is the obvious constraint but if these are streamed or recorded, then the participation can be broadened. The Young and Early Career Task Force is already active in this regard and can be approached with a view to taking the initiative forward.

### **Cooperation and Outreach**

**Festival International de Géographie (FIG).** Lemarchand tabled a report on the latest FIG (September 2017). The roundtable discussion organized with the CNFG on "the new challenges of training in geography" held at the city hall, Saturday morning, ahead of the awards ceremony. With IGU and CNFG, three geographers' associations participated, French Geographers Association (AGF), Association of History and Geography Teachers (APHG) and the National Federation of Students in Geography (AFNEG). About 40 people attended and debates focused on geography training, teacher training and IGU action. Many topics were discussed, including the link between high school and university, improvements in pedagogy at university and jobs in geography, etc. Despite changes in the structure of the organization and the fact that less money is available, the link between FIG and the IGU is regarded as important

**IGU Representatives on International Bodies.** A brief report was received from IGU nominee on CROP (Professor Etienne Nel who is now chair of its Scientific Committee) about its activities. The IGU will be nominating candidates for membership of the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

**ICSU (incl. GeoUnions) and ISSC.** The legalities underlying the merger of the two bodies into the International Science Council (ISC) are underway and will be finalized in time for the inaugural General Assembly in Paris in early July. Meadows has been shortlisted for the position of Secretary and former V-P Fincher is shortlisted for a position on the board. Himiyama agreed to draft a letter to Commission and National Committee chairs with a view to their lobbying their relevant ISC national representatives to support Meadows and Fincher as it is important for geographers to be represented on the board of the ISC.

**CODATA and WDS.** Gönençgil had attended the CODATA meeting at the Royal Society in London. The issue of how to remain connected with CODATA was raised. IGU wishes to nominate an individual for one of the vacant Executive Committee meetings but attempts to contact this individual have so far proved unsuccessful. Gönençgil and Singh were nominated to explore the possibility of establishing a Task Force and will report back at the next EC meeting.

**WSSF.** Benno Werlen is organising a session at the World Social Science Forum to be held at Fukuoka from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**CIPSH.** Kolosov is still awaiting further news from the Secretary.

**EUGEO.** IGU continues to develop a special relationship with EUGEO. EUGEO will be represented in Québec and IGU members will be present at their next major meeting in Ireland. The possibility of a plurilingual, open access journal was again raised.

**EGAL/UGAL.** dell' Agnese reported that the next EGAL will be in Quito Ecuador, April 2019. The Commission on Latin American Studies is in discussion about the possibility of a post-conference seminar under the IGU banner.

**Relations with other organizations (e.g. AAG, RGS, ICA (All)).** ICA Conference is in Tokyo on 2019; Himiyama and RB Singh will attend and represent IGU. Relations with RGS continue to be very cordial. An invitation has been received from ISCU to attend the third Science Technology and Innovation (STI) multi-stakeholder forum in New York on 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018. IGU should be prepared to participate fully in this event in 2019.

**UNESCO-Japan prize.** UNESCO has launched the fourth edition of the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Funded by the Government of Japan, the Prize annually rewards three outstanding ESD projects and programmes with US\$ 50,000 each. There being insufficient time to nominate for the 2018 award it was agreed to consider this when the 2019 prize is announced and ensure that the IGU Commissions and Task Forces are consulted regarding projects suitable for nomination.

### **International Geographical Congresses, IGU Regional Conferences and Thematic Conferences**

**Regional Conference, Québec, Canada, 2018.** The Local Organizing Committee has all arrangements in hand and registrations appear to indicate good attendance. The number of travel grant applications is less than in previous conferences, although there is a strong indication of interest from Africa, including Francophone countries.

**IGU Congress 2020 Istanbul.** Gönençgil presented a brief progress report on the 2020 International Geographical Congress and the associated Olympiad. The Scientific, Local Organizing and Honorary Committees are all in progress. There is a clear action plan involving increasing visibility but much of the work will only begin after the Québec Regional Conference. The website is fully operational and the suggested timeline of activities is realistic. The appropriate marketing channels have been considered; the financial model is based on the estimate of 1700 participants (although it is hoped that there will be more).

**IGU Extraordinary Congress, Paris 2022.** Antoine le Blanc submitted a brief report on progress, which is proceeding on several fronts, including selection of a commercial conference organizing company and the next step will be to sign the contract. Lemarchand emphasized some elements of the report and noted that there will be a Paris 2022 presence at the Québec Regional Conference. The intention is that 2022 will be the ‘Year of Geography’ in France. ‘La Nuit de la Géographie’ event was held again on 6<sup>th</sup> April and was regarded as a resounding success and there were activities in dozens of European cities. UNESCO is very interested in developing this further as a fully international project.

Kolosov reported briefly on the two meetings of the Centennial Task Force, in Lille in 2017 and in Paris in March 2018. Two volumes of the centenary volume are planned and prospective chapters and possible authors have been identified, although the list remains work in progress. The incompleteness of the IGU archives (most especially prior to 1956) is a challenge; the suggestion has been made to contact the National Committees of different countries with a view to exploring their own archives in relation to IGU activities. The next meeting of the Task Force will be held in association with the Québec Regional Conference.

**IGU Congress Dublin 2024.** There is nothing further to report at this stage.

**Thematic conferences. Moscow, June 2018.** Kolosov reported that more than 1000 abstracts have been submitted and it is expected now that the number of registrations will ultimately exceed 600, rather more than originally anticipated. Ten IGU Commissions and Task Forces have proposed sessions. There will be a special day on geographical education and a programme for teachers.

**Koper, Slovenia, September 2019.** A proposal has been received from the Chair of the IGU National Committee for Slovenia regarding a Thematic Conference with the theme: Transformation of Traditional Cultural Landscapes, to be held at the University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities, Koper. The proposal indicates the involvement of four IGU



Commissions, viz. Land Use and Land Cover Change, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Local and Regional Development, and Mediterranean Basin. This was approved as a Thematic Conference of the IGU. The publicity documentation should be in French and English. Meadows will communicate this decision to the proposers. There was further discussion around the criteria for IGU 'Thematic Conference'; the minutes of the Québec meeting were referred to, in particular the fact that such proposals should reach the EC not less than 18 months in advance. It was agreed to change this wording to '12 to 18 months' in advance.

### Other Business

A recently received communication from geographers in Belgium indicates that as part of the reformation of compulsory education in the French-speaking part of Belgium it has been decided to remove Geography from the third year of secondary school onwards. Belgian colleagues are naturally very concerned about this and have asked if IGU would support their petition. Individuals can of course endorse the petition as individuals, but it was further agreed to ask the Belgian colleagues to prepare a draft letter, referring to the International Declaration of Geographical Education adopted jointly in 2016 by the IGU, EUGEO and Eurogeo, to be sent by the IGU President to the appropriate authorities.

Gönençgil tabled the invitation from the University of Eastern Mediterranean, Northern Cyprus, seeking support from IGU for a meeting under the theme of Women's Studies. It was agreed to put the proposers in contact with the chairs of relevant IGU Commissions, *inter alia*. Gender, Political Geography, Population Geography, Urban Geography, Cultural Approach, Sustainability of Rural Systems, Education, Mediterranean.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12h20 on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Himiyama was congratulated and thanked warmly for his fine arrangements and warm hospitality in facilitating the meeting.



### 3) BALLOT FOR THE USUAL PARTIAL BIENNIAL IGU EC RENEWAL

**ADVICE: Ballot had to be returned to the Secretary-General ([michael.meadows@uct.ac.za](mailto:michael.meadows@uct.ac.za)) by 12h00 GMT on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

***Only the Chair of National Committees and of the IGU Commissions were aware of this. All votes have been expressed by e-mail, and I am posting the results in the IGU Newsletter to make the Geographers Community informed as much as I can about the complete curricula of all the persons elected. In any event, complete curricula, including the ones of the non-elected candidates, were already downloadable from the first notice appeared some weeks ago in the HofG website, News 2018. March.***

**G.B. Editor.**

## Final Message of the IGU Secretary General Mike Meadows

Dear IGU Community

As electoral officer, I am pleased to report on the outcome of the General Assembly e-Ballot for the position of Secretary-General and three Vice-President positions on the IGU Executive Committee. Of the 52 eligible national member countries, 48 voted as indicated below. The votes were tallied by former IGU President Ron Abler, as well as myself as electoral officer. The results of the General Assembly e-Ballot are as follows:

**Secretary-General and Treasurer:** Nominated: RB Singh Votes for: 45; abstentions: 3. **Professor RB Singh is accordingly elected Secretary-General and Treasurer of the International Geographical Union for the period 2018-2022** and will take up office at the conclusion of the Quebec Regional Conference in August 2018. The election of Professor Singh, as Vice-President, will create a vacancy in the Executive Committee from August 2018 onwards. It was agreed to call for nominations for this vacancy as soon as possible and to hold a further e-Ballot to ensure that it is filled immediately following the Quebec conference. It was further agreed that, in order to facilitate the transition to the newly elected Secretary-General and Treasurer, Mike Meadows be appointed by the Executive Committee (in accordance with provisions in the Statutes) as Assistant Secretary-General and Treasurer for the period August 2018 to August 2020.

**Vice-President** (three vacancies).

Name of nominee	Country	Votes
Prof Elena dell’Agnese	Italy	34
Prof Bojie Fu	China-Beijing	21
Prof Iain Hay	Australia	34
Prof Rubén Lois-Gonzalez	Spain	20
Prof Negrete-Sepúlveda	Chile	14

**Accordingly, Professors dell’Agnese, Hay and Fu are elected as Vice-Presidents of the International Geographical Union for the period 2018-2022 and will take up office at the conclusion of the Quebec Regional Conference in August 2018.** The Executive Committee congratulates the successful candidates and warmly thanks all nominees for their willingness to stand for office.

The General Assembly e-Ballot also included a proposal from geographers of the Kyrgyz Republic as full member country of the IGU. The result was as follows: Votes for: 45; abstentions 3.

Accordingly, we congratulate the **Kyrgyz Republic as a new full member country of the International Geographical Union**

Yours sincerely

Professor Mike Meadows

Secretary-General and Treasurer, International Geographical Union

Department of Environmental & Geographical Science

University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7701 - South Africa

## CANDIDATES PRESENTATIONS

### A) ELECTED FOR THE POSITION OF IGU SECRETARY GENERAL: CURRICULUM

#### R.B. SINGH

Brief Curriculum Vitae and Statement of Intent for the Post of IGU Secretary-General

Institutional Affiliation: R.B. Singh is presently Professor and Co-ordinator UGC-SAP DRS III Program, Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India; Since 1983 served as CSIR Scientist's Pool, Lecturer, UGC Research Scientist-B (Reader), UGC Research Scientist- C (Professor), and Professor and Deputy Coordinator, UGC-SAP-DRS Program. E-mail: [rhsgeo@hotmail.com](mailto:rhsgeo@hotmail.com).



Education: M.A. in 1977, Ph.D. in 1981 (Geography), Diploma in Statistics in 1979 (all from the Banaras Hindu University), UNITAR Training in GIS Technology in the Field of Environment during 1988-89 from UNITAR/UNEP-GRID-Geneva and EPFL, Lausanne (Switzerland).

Professional Experience: R.B. Singh is presently Vice-President, International Geographical Union (IGU); Member, IUGG-IGU National Committee of the Indian National Science Academy; Chair, Research Council: CSIR-Central Food Technological Institute, Government of India; Springer Series Editor Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences; SDGs. He is representing IAP-Global Network of Science Academies in the UNISDR Science and Technology Conference, Geneva; Associate Faculty, Global Earth System Governance Project of ESSP, The Netherlands since 2008.

He was awarded prestigious JSPS Research Fellowship, Japan in 2013. He has also served as Secretary General of the National Association of Geographers, India, (NAGI) (2001-11) and Managing Editor of its Journal-Annals of NAGI; Vice-Chair-IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity; Special Representative-World Association of Soil and Water Conservation; Member, Study Group for Preparation of NCR Plan-2021; Ex South Asian Representative in Commonwealth Geographical Bureau (1992-2000); Member, ICAR Program on Indo-Gangetic Plains - Land use/Cover Change and Food Security; Nominated Member, Curriculum Development for Geoinformatics jointly nominated by UGC and Department of Space, Govt. of

India; President, Geography Section, Indian Academy of Social Sciences; Ex Provost, Gwyer Hall, University of Delhi and Ex-Recorder-Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA).

Dr. Singh has specialized in Environmental Studies, Disaster Management, Remote Sensing and GIS, Climate Change, Urban Regional Development. He received UNEPUNITAR Fellowship for Training in GIS Technology in the Field of Environment, at EPFLLausanne and GRID-Geneva. He has to his credit 13 authored books, 33 research volumes/books and more than 200 research papers published in international journals with few having high impact factor (i.e. Climate Dynamics, Atmospheric Science Letters, Climate, Environmental Science and Policies, Energies, Theoretical and Applied Climatology, Journal of Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment, Physical Geography, Advances in Meteorology, Physics and Chemistry of the Earth, Agriculture, Ecosystem and Environment, Hydrological Processes, Mountain Research and Development, Journal of Mountain Science, Environments, Geographia Polonica, Advances in Earth Science, Advances in Limnology, Geography, Environment and Sustainability, Asian Geographer, Environmental Economics, Tourism Recreation Research, Front. Earth Science, IAHS Red Books, Geographica, Acta hydrotechnica, Indonesian Jl. of Geography, Journal of Geography Education, AOGS Pub., Annals of NAGI, Transactions of IIG, The Geographer, HSOA Jl.of Community Medicine and Public Health Care, The Indian Geographical Jl.etc.). In 1988 the UNESCO/ISSC (Paris) awarded him Research and Study Grants Award in Social and Human Sciences.

He has supervised 33 Ph.D. and 78 M.Phil. students. He was also associated with Nordic Inst. of Asian Studies, Copenhagen (Denmark) in 1998 and Visiting Professor for delivering invited Lectures at the University of Turku (Finland) in 2008 and 2010. He was also one of the contributors in the famous-The World Atlas-Earth Concise, Millennium House Ltd., Australia. He is widely travelled and received several Fellowships/ Support from UNEP, UNITAR, UNU, UNCRD, WCRP, IAHS, IGU, NASDA, INSA, UGC, SICI, and MAIRS etc. for participating and presenting papers, Chairing session and discussing research projects in more than 40 countries from all continents of the world. He has been invited to serve as Special Issue Editor of famous International Journals like Advances in Meteorology, World Focus and Physics and Chemistry of the Earth. He is also Editorial Board Member of the famous Journals like Journal of Mountain Science, Peer J, Jl. Of Ecology and Natural Resources, Jl. Of Water and Land Use Management, World Focus, The open Atmospheric Science Journal International Collaborative Research Projects: He has completed a number of prestigious international collaborative research programs such as ICSSR-IDPAD Project with University of Groningen, The Netherlands as Project Director on Environmental Degradation and its Socio-economic Implications in the Rural -Urban Fringe of Delhi; CIDA-SICI Project with University of Manitoba, Canada as Chief Co-investigator on Sustainable Development of Mountain Environments and Urban Development and Environmental Impacts in Mountain Context; SHARP Research Project on Role of Public, Private and Civil Sectors in Environmental Management; DFID Res. Project with Imperial College, London on Enhancing Food Chain Integrity: Quality Assurance Mechanisms for Air Pollution Impacts on Vegetable Systems in India; Finish Academy of Sciences Research Project with University of Turku, Finland on Livelihood Security in Changing Socio-Economic Environment in Himachal Pradesh and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India on Perspective plan on land Resources etc..

### **Major Publications:**

#### **A. Recent Published Books:**

1. Singh, R.B. : Urban Sustainability, Health and Wellbeing and Disaster Risk Reduction, Prof.R.N.Dubey Foundation, Allahabad, Pages 80, 2015.
2. Panwar, M., Sharma, S.K. and Singh, R.B.: Medicinal Plants and Sustainable Livelihood, R.K.Books, New Delhi, Pages 342, 2010. (ISBN: 978-81-9100-591-2)
3. Singh, R.B. and Mal, Suraj: Environmental Change and Biodiversity, Rawat Publication, Jaipur, 2009 (ISBN: 81-316-0301-6).
4. Singh, R.B.: Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Analysis, IGNOU PG Diploma in Disaster Management- MPA-003, New Delhi., pages 355, 2005.
5. Kumar, B. and Singh, R.B: Urban Development and Anthropogenic Climate Change- Experience in Indian Metropolitan Cities, Manak Pub., New Delhi, pages 216, 2003 (ISBN: 81-7827-063-3).
6. Sen Roy, S. And Singh, R.B.: Climate Variability, Extreme Events and Agricultural Productivity in Mountain Regions, Oxford & IBH Pub., New Delhi, pages 232, 2002 (ISBN: 81-204-1565-5).
7. Singh, R.B.: Space Technology for Disaster Monitoring and Mitigation in India, INCEDE, Inst. Of Industrial Science, University of Tokyo, Pages 58, 1994.
8. Singh, R.B.: Geography of Rural Development, New Delhi, Inter India Publisher, 1986.

**B. Recent Edited Research Volumes:**

9. Mal, Suraj, Singh, R.B. and Huggel, Christian: Climate Change, Extreme Events and Disaster Risk Reduction, Springer, Switzerland, pages 309, 2018.
10. Singh, R.B., Schickhoff and Suraj Mal: Climate Change, Glacier Response, and Vegetation Dynamics in the Himalaya, Springer, Switzerland, pages 399, 2016.
11. Singh, R.B.: Progress in Indian Geography, A Country Report for IGU Beijing 2016, INSA, New Delhi, pages 214, 2016.
12. Singh, R.B. and Prokop, P.: Environmental Geography of South Asia-Contributions Towards a Future Earth Initiative, Springer, Tokyo, 2016 (ISBN: 978-4-431-55740-1).
13. Singh, R.B. : Urban Development Challenges, Risk and Resilience in Asian Mega Cities- Sustainable Urban Future of Emerging Asian Mega Region, Springer, Tokyo, 2015 (ISBN 978-4-431-55042-6).
14. Singh, R.B. and Hietala, R. : Livelihood Security in Northwestern Himalaya, Springer, Tokyo, Pages 258, 2014 (ISBN: 978-4-431-54867-6).
15. Singh, Mehtab, Singh, R.B. and M.I.Hasan : Climate Change and Biodiversity, Springer, Tokyo, 2014 (ISBN:978-4-431-54837-9).
16. Singh, R.B.: Progress in Indian Geography-A Country report for IGU, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, Pages 198, 2012.
17. Himiyama, Y., Kanda, F., Singh, R.B. and Hindson, J.: Glocal Environmental Education, Rawat Publications, Jaipur, Pages 246, 2010.(ISBN: 81-316-0363-6).
18. Gritzner, Charles F. et al.: The World Atlas-Earth Concise (with several other Contributors including R.B. Singh), Millennium House Ltd., NSW, Australia, pages 576, 2008 .
19. Park, Namsik, Nakakita, E., Yoo, C. and Singh, R.B.: Advances of Geosciences: Vol. 4: Hydrological Sciences (HS), Ed., World Scientific Publishing Co., Singapore, Pages 295, 2006 (ISBN: 981-256-982-0).
20. Singh, R.B.: Urban Sustainability in the Context of Global Change, Science Pub., Inc., Enfield (NH), USA and Oxford & IBH Pub., New Delhi, Pages 282, 2001(ISBN: 1-57808-166-1).

**C. Recent Peer Reviewed Research Publications with few high Impact Factor**

1. Haque, Senaul and Singh, R.B. (2017) Air pollution and human health in Kolkata, India: A case study, *Climate*, 5, 77; doi:10.3390/cli5040077, 2-16. (Scopus)
2. Nigam, G. K., Sahu, R. K., Sinha, M. K., Deng, X., Singh, R.B and Kumar, P.(2017) Field assessment of surface runoff, sediment yield and soil erosion in opencast mines in Chirimiri area, Chhattisgarh, India, *Journal of Physics and Chemistry of Earth*.DOI 10.1016/j.pce.2017.07.001 (Impact factor:2.237, scopus).
3. Manish Kumar, R.B.Sngh, Ram Pravesh, Pankaj Kumar, Dinesh Kumar Tripathi and Netrananda Sahu, (2017) Urban Growth Dynamics and Modeling using Remote Sensing Data and Multivariate Statistical Techniques, *Current Science*, In press.
4. Sahu N, Robertson A, Boer R,Behera S, DeWitt DG, Kaoru T, Kumar M, Singh RB (2016) : Probabilistic Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts of the Citarum River, Indonesia, Based on General Circulation Models,*Journal of Stochastic Environmental Research and Risk Assessment*, 2016, doi 10.1007/s00477-016-1297-4, (Impact factor:2.237, scopus).
5. Goswami, Nitu and Singh, R.B. (2017). Health Seeking Behaviour in Stress Management: A Case Study of French Tourist Community in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, *HSOA JI.of Community Medicine and Public Health Care*, 4:024
6. Singh,R.B., Janmajaya, Dhaka,S.K. and Kumar, V. (2015). Study on the association of green house gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) with monsoon rainfall using AIRS and TRMM satellite observations, *Physics and Chemistry of Earth*, 89-90 (2015),dx.doi.org./10.1016/j.pce.2015.04.004, 65-72. (Impact factor:2.237, scopus)
7. O'Shea, P. M., Roy, S. S., & Singh, R. B. (2015). Diurnal variations in the spatial patterns of air pollution across Delhi. *Theoretical and Applied Climatology*, 1-12. DOI: 10.1007/s00704-015-1441-y (Impact factor: 2.43)
8. Singh, R.B. and Kumar, Ajay (2015). Climate variability and water resource scarcity in drylands of Rajasthan, India, *Geoenvironmental Disasters*, 2:7, DOI 10.1186/s40677-015-0018-5, 1-10.
9. Singh, R.B. and Grover, Aakriti (2015). Analysis of urban heat island (UHI) in relation to Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI): A comparative study of Delhi and Mumbai. *Environments*, 2, 125-138; doi:10.3390/environments 2020125.
10. Singh, R.B., Grover, Aakriti and Zhan, Jinyan (2014). Inter-Seasonal Variations of Surface Temperature in the Urbanized Environment of Delhi Using Landsat Thermal Data, *Energies* 7, doi:10.3390/en7031811.
11. Singh, R.B. and Shi, C.: Advances in Observation and Estimation of Land Use Impact on Climate Changes: Improved Data, Upgraded Models and Case Studies, *Advances in Meteorology DX*. DOI.org/10.1155/2014/748169.
12. Singh, R.B. and Suraj Mal: Trends and Variability of Monsoon and other Rainfall Seasons in W. Himalaya, *Atmospheric Science Letters*, DOI: 10.1002/asl2.494, 2014.
13. Sahu, N., Singh, R.B., Kumar, Pankaj, Da Silva, R.V. and Behera, S.K: La Nina Impacts on Austral Summer Extremely High-Streamflow Events in the Paranaiba River in Brazil, *Advances in Meteorology DX*. DOI.org/10.1155/2013/461693, 2013.
14. Sahu, N., Behera, S.K., Ratnam, J.V., Da Silva, R.V., Parhi, P., Duan, W., Takara, K., Singh, R.B. and Yamagata, T.: El Nino Modoki Connection to Extremely-Low Streamflow of the Paranaiba River of Brazil, *Climate Dynamics*, DOI 10.1007/s00382-013-2006-3, 2014.
15. Ma, Maohua, Haapanen, Toni, Singh, R.B. and Hietala, R.: Integrating Ecological Restoration into CDM Forestry Projects, *Environmental Sc.and Policy*, Vol. 30, 2013.

16. Anand, Anupam, Chandan, Pankaj and Singh, R.B.: Homestays at Korzok: Supplementing Rural Livelihoods and Supporting Green Tourism in the Indian Himalayas, *Mountain Research and Development*, 32(2), 2012:pp.126-36.
17. Sen Roy,S., Singh, R.B. and Kumar, Manoj: An Analysis of Local Spatial Temperature Patterns in the Delhi Metropolitan Area, *Physical Geography*, Vol. 32, pp. 114-38, 2011.
18. Singh, R.B., Mal, Suraj and Kala, C.P.: Community Response to Mountain Tourism-A case in Bhyundar Valley, Indian Himalaya, *Journal of Mountain Science*, Vol.6, No.4, December, pp.394-404, 2009.
19. Singh, R.B.: Environmental Consequences of Agricultural Development: A Case study from the Green Revolution State of Haryana, India, In *Agriculture, Ecosystem and Environment*, 1637, 2000, 1-7. ISSN: 0167-8809
20. Singh, R.B.: Land Use/Cover Changes, Extreme Events and Ecohydrological Responses in the Himalayan Region, in *Hydrological Processes*, 12, 1998. pp 2043-2055. DOI: 10.1002/(SICI)1099-1085(19981030)12:13/14<2043::AID-HYP718>3.0.CO;2-0.

### **Statement of Intent and Priorities as IGU Secretary-General**

As IGU Vice President, I started Springer Series on Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences for publishing and disseminating IGU related research results (8 volumes released). Recently, a new Springer Series on Sustainable Development Goals (1 volume released) was initiated. I am able to do extensive mobilization of geography communities in the Asian region in general and South Asia in particular through Annual IGU India International Conferences in different parts of the country. The 12<sup>th</sup> Conference will be held at Panchkula during February 22-24, 2019. In India, we organized two IGU EC Meetings in March 2013 and 2016. I helped in establishing S. Asian focal point of the IGU initiated IYGU programme.

I have contributed for developing research linkages with International organizations like ICSU Urban Health and Well-Being; organize Future Earth Initiative for South Asia Meeting in 2015; representing IAP–Global Network of Science Academies in the UNISDR Science and Technology Conference for implementing Sendai Framework of DRR, Geneva in 2016; strengthened linkages with USA, China, Canada, Russia, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, UK, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, South Africa and Finland in terms of international research and collaboration. I am invited by ICSU official Prof. Daya Reddy to attend General Assembly in South Africa for contributing to IAP Panel-Disaster Emergency Response. Science Council of Japan together with UNISDR invited for Tokyo Global Forum on Disaster Resilience, November 23-25, 2017 for contributing towards Disaster Risk Mapping. I contributed to prepare and release IAP Global Network of Science Academies-Statement on Science and Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction with Representative of Science Academies from Japan, Australia, Iran, Albania, USA, South Africa, China, Georgia, Canada, Brazil, Italy, UK, and Mexico.

Since 1984 IGU Paris Congress, I have attended all Main Congresses and most of the IGU Regional Conferences and have been actively participating in the academic programs of various IGU Commissions and Working Groups. My previous assignments as Full Member in the IGU Commissions/Study Groups include Mountain Geocology and Resource Management (1988-92), Development Issues in Marginal Lands (1992- 1996), Land Use and Cover Change (1996-2004) and Biogeography and Biodiversity (2004-2008); Vice Chair of the IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity (2008-2012). As a geographer, I strongly believe in demonstrating interdisciplinary orientation and professionalism in the use of geographical knowledge and skills. In 1991, I had also organized an interdisciplinary IGU Seminar at Delhi in

which 4 IGU Commissions/Groups participated. As Head of the Indian Delegation to IGU Tunis (2008), I contributed in the IGU Finance Committee during General Assembly. I also Represented IGU as Vice President at a number of international events including CODATA General Assembly. Since establishment of IGU in 1922, India has not occupied the post of the Secretary-General and Treasurer. I will continue to engage various other nations for similar initiatives under the umbrella of IGU.

Future professional focus will include:

1. Organizing annual IGU events at regional levels like South Asia for communicating research results to various cross sections of the society.
2. Establishing a Global Open Day for Geography at National Level particularly in developing countries to promote interactions between geography with allied disciplines, national and international research organizations.
3. Suggesting national committees to help regular curriculum revision incorporating fundamental and modern techniques and contemporary paradigms such as climate change, Disaster Risk Reduction, Urban Health and Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Goals. There is a need for an IGU Manual on Curriculum Development.
4. As I have been collaborating with Indian Science bodies like Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Social Science bodies like Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), I am well equipped to promote Trans-disciplinary ways to connect IGU with Academies and Developing Communication Modules for Education.
5. Established Museum of Geographical Heritage at Delhi which was inaugurated by IGU President. I will assist different countries to establish such Museum.
6. As Successfully collaborated and provided leadership in International Collaborative Research with prestigious organizations from Finland, UK, Japan, Canada, The Netherlands, Poland, China, Germany and Switzerland, I shall create enabling environment to encourage fellow academics to seek collaborative research together with world leading Universities on contemporary paradigms.
7. Apart from serving second term as the Vice President of the IGU, I am Scientific Committee member of the ICSU. I served three years term as the Head, and led the Geography Department as Second best within Delhi University for showcasing best practices (2014). Looking global development in recent years, I will assist IGU to Contribute Towards Academy Outreach Activities linking SDGs, Paris Climate Action, Disaster Risk Reduction & Habitat III.
8. Promote IGU Congress to become a platform for dialogue and collaborative research programs on contemporary thematic areas and critical regions by bridging gaps between geographers, policy makers and community leaders in order to promote Science-Policy Interface.
9. For improving academic orientation of the IGU, organizing Side events on Publishing Practices, Youth Platform and Ethics in Future in order to maintain professional standards in the IGU.
10. Developing strategies for communication, focusing on geographers from developing countries for increasing their participation in Congress to make IGU more participatory together with involving them in my Springer Series-Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences and Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to assure all IGU office bearers, national committees and Chairs of IGU Commissions and Task Force to keep up with their expectations if re-elected as Secretary General.



## **B) CANDIDATES FOR A POSITION OF IGU SECRETARY GENERAL: CURRICULA**

### **1) ELENA DELL'AGNESE**

Dear IGU Colleagues and friends,

On behalf of Italian National Committee, I warmly and strongly propose the reelection of Elena dell'Agnese for Vice Presidency of the International Geographical Union.

Elena dell'Agnese is full professor at the University of Milano-Bicocca, where she is also Director of the Centre for Visual Research. She is a member of the Executive Board of the prestigious Società Geografica Italiana. She is one of the most prominent Italian geographers, thanks to her engagement in both scientific research and academic issues. Since 2014, she has taken part in the delicate task of scientific evaluation. The National Agency for University and Research Evaluation (Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca - ANVUR) has later nominated her as a member of GEV (Group of Evaluation Experts). As such, she has been responsible for the evaluation of geographical research in Italy (2011-2014).

In the International Geographical Union, she has been most active inside the Commission of Political Geography (CPG), and she has had continuous contacts with other commissions, like those working on tourism and gender. In 2004, she was nominated member of the Board of the CPG (2004-2012) and then she was elected its Chair. In 2014, she was elected Vice-President of the IGU.

Upon her first election, she promised to engage in the expansion of participation to IGU activities in a growing number of countries, thus enhancing the IGU as a global community. On this perspective, she acted as a *trait d'union* between IGU and EGAL and organized a thematic conference of the IGU in La Paz, with the active collaboration of seven IGU commissions, and the active participation of delegates from every corner of the world. The La Paz conference, focused on the contribution that geography, as a scientific approach, can bring to the promotion of peace. This conference presented a model for the format of IGU 'thematic conferences', a new kind of conferences organized by at least four IGU Commissions on a common theme.

In her first term, Elena dell'Agnese has undertaken the challenge of revitalizing some commissions, which have been less active than others have, but pertaining to essential aspects of the geographical research.

Me personally, as well as all of us at the National Community of Italian Geographers firmly believe that Elena dell'Agnese, if elected for the second term as Vice President of the IGU, will bring useful ideas and energy to keep on the advancing of the IGU into a global platform for scientific advancements, cultural exchanges, and intellectual debates.

Yours sincerely,

**Maria Paradiso**

Chair, Italian National Committee

**To IGU Secretary General and Treasurer**

Professor Michael Meadows

University of Cape Town, Private Bag X3

Department of Environmental and Geographical Science

South Lane, Upper Campus

Rondebosch 7701 South Africa

**Dear Professor Meadows,**

The National Committee of Russian Geographers nominates **Prof. Elena dell’Agnese (Italy)** for re-election to the position of IGU Vice-President. She is a well-known specialist in cultural and political geography and is Professor at the University of Milano-Bicocca. Since a long time Elena dell’Agnese participates at the activity of International Geographical Union: first as member and then as Co-Chair of the Commission on Political Geography, one of the most active in IGU. During her first mandate as IGU Vice-President she initiated and organized the first Thematic conference on Geography of Peace in La Paz which was marked by undoubted success. She has made an important contribution in re-establishing cooperation between IGU and the Latin American geographical community, and has successfully served as liaison between IGU and EUGEO, IGU and ISSC. Professor dell’Agnese accumulated a rich experience of international cooperation and scientific communication.

The National Committee of Russian Geographers believes that Elena dell’Agnese could develop the best traditions of our Union and adapt its activities to new challenges.

Moscow, 3 February 2018

**Vladimir M. Kotlyakov**

Chair of the National Committee of Russian Geographers  
International Geographical Union,  
Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences

**Elena dell’Agnese** elena.dellagnese@unimib.it - **Curriculum**

Born in Milano, Italy, in 1958. She is Full Professor at the University of Milano-Bicocca, where she teaches Cultural Geography, Political Geography and Political Geography of the Sea at Master Courses and PhD Programs. Since 2007, she has also been the Director of the Centre for Visual Research, at the same University.



In 2012 she was elected Chair of the International Geographical Union’s Commission on Political Geography, after being a member of the Executive Committee of the Commission from 2004 to 2012. In these functions she coordinated and organized the sessions of the IGU Regional Conference in Kyoto, 2013, and Moscow, 2015. The constant commitment within the International Geographical Union allowed her to be nominated as a candidate for the vice-presidency and to be elected in that role for the term 2014-2018.

In 2013 she was elected as a member of the Executive Committee of Società Geografica Italiana; in 2017 she has been re-elected and appointed as delegate for Società Geografica Italiana international research programs and activities, with the responsibility of the relationships between Società Geografica Italiana and all international geographical societies and association, included EuGeo and IGU-UGI.

**Former academic positions:** Tenured Assistant Professor, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano. Associate Professor, Università di Milano-Bicocca. Director, Master Degree in Tourism, Territory and Local Development, University of Milano-Bicocca. Director, Master in Cultural Tourism and Local Systems, University of Milano-Bicocca. Visiting professor, temporary professor or visiting fellow, at the University of Trento, Italy; School of Journalism of Regione Lombardia, Italy; Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy, University of Australia, Canberra:

Universitas of Indonesia, Jakarta; University of Hawai'i at Manoa; University of Colorado, Boulder.

**Activities of Scientific Evaluation:** 2014-2015, Research Group of the National Agency for University and Research Evaluation (Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca - ANVUR). 2015-2016, member of the GEV (Group of Evaluation Experts) appointed by ANVUR for the periodic evaluation of the quality of Italian research (Valutazione Qualità della Ricerca – VQR), as responsible for the evaluation of geographical research. Since 2017, member of the ANVUR Research Group for the Evaluation of Journals, with the responsibility for geographical and anthropological journals.

### **Editorial activities**

Editor in Chief, Book Series *Studi e Ricerche sul Territorio*, Unicopli, Milano.

Scientific board: Book Series *Geographica* (Università Europea di Roma); Book Series *Spazi* (Guerini, Milano); *Journal of Geographical Research* (National Taiwan Normal University); *Geotema* (Associazione Geografi Italiani, AGeI); *Geopolitics* (Taylor & Francis); *Studia z Geografii Politycznej i Historycznej* (University of Lodz); *GeoJournal* (Springer), *Geographia Polonica*

### **Research Groups**

Italian Association of Geographers-AGeI Working Group on “Small Islands and Archipelago States”, Chair (2015-)

Italian Association of Geographers-AGeI Working Group “Media and Geography”, Chair (2009-2015)

Association of American Geographers, Political Geography Specialty Group, Member

Association of American Geographers, Media and Geography Specialty Group, Member

Association of American Geographers, Geographical Perspectives on Women Specialty Group, Member

2006-2010, ACRE Accommodating Creative Knowledge: Competitiveness of European Metropolitan Regions within the Enlarged Union - 6th EU Framework, Milan research team, senior researcher

### **Publications**

Author or of 3 monographic volumes, and co-author of 3 textbooks; editor or co-editor of 10 edited books and of 2 journals special issues; author of 26 articles in peer-reviewed journals, of 90 book chapters, and of 16 research reports and other publications.

### **Conferences**

Elena dell’Agnese has been involved in the organisation of about 20 international and national conferences and seminars, and, in the last 15 years, has provided 61 communications/lectures/plenary lectures in national and international conferences and seminars.

### **Statement of intents**

In my first statement, which I wrote as a candidate Vice President of IGU in 2014, I pledged to promote the objectives of the International Geographical Union, as set in its Statutes, and to work in this direction with the other members of the Executive Committee. Indeed, I believe that only implementing exchanges among researchers who represent different schools of thoughts, methodologies, and approaches to the discipline; geography can become what it “ought to be”, that is a powerful instrument to implement peace and global understanding. Specifically, I wanted to engage in advancing the participation of geographers from every part of the world in international meetings and events organized by the IGU and by other organizations in

collaboration with the IGU. I wanted to encourage the exchange of perspectives and the circulation of ideas and to enlarge the participation to IGU activities in a growing number of countries.

On this perspective, in my first term, I acted as a *trait d'union* between IGU and EGAL, the Encuentro de Geógrafos de América Latina. So, at first I participated to the meeting in Cuba, 2015, and then I organized a thematic conference of the IGU in La Paz, as a pre-conference of the EGAL meeting in La Paz, 2017.

The Thematic Conference was organized with the collaboration of 7 IGU Commissions and the active participation of delegates from every continent of the world. The La Paz thematic conference was focused on the contribution that geography as a scientific approach can bring to the conquest of peace.

It provided not only a scientific contribution to the topic, and a common ground for international delegates and IGU commissions; it also worked as a model for a new format of IGU Conference, the “thematic conference”, an international conference organized on a relevant topic, by at least four IGU Commissions.

If elected for a second term, my efforts will be again concentrated in these directions.

Specifically, I will try to

1. Enhance geographical research, promoting sub-disciplinary and interdisciplinary meetings, seminars, summer schools and conferences, aimed at coordinating efforts in the direction of international cooperation. In this perspective, my endeavors will be aimed at stimulating the collaboration between the IGU and other geographical associations, both in the Anglophone world and outside. Such a purpose is still my primary objective.
2. Promote the participation in IGU activities of geographers from every part of the world: in this lies the strength of the IGU, which is genuinely global in outlook. From this perspective, the Union organizes activities that are worldwide in scope and are attended by geographers from every corner of the planet. Working in this direction means not only maximizing the Union’s contacts with geographers throughout the world but also encouraging the involvement of researchers from every country. In this perspective, my primary goal will be to attempt of finding a possible way for overcoming the difficulties that can be caused by gender, income and language inequalities. Therefore, I believe it is necessary to act in connection with scientific foundations and international organizations, to mobilize resources to implement the IGU “Geography Promotion and Solidarity Fund”, aimed at furthering geography and supporting geographers, especially those experiencing the inequalities mentioned above. A specific project should be devoted to the worldwide organization of Research and Methodological Summer Schools, to provide to young scholars and early careers researchers the possibilities to publish in major journals, to promote their ideas and perspectives at the global scale.
3. Undertake the challenge of revitalizing some commissions, which have been less active than others, but pertain to essential aspects of geographical research. Specifically, I would like to address my efforts in the reorganization of the commission relating to indigenous knowledge, a topic of primary importance, which I believe deserves our utmost efforts.

## **2) BOJIE FU**

Dear President Yukio Himiyama

And Secretary General Michael Meadows,

Following the consensus of the Geographical Society of China (GSC), I herewith would

like to nominate Prof. Bojie Fu to be our Chinese candidate for the coming election of IGU Vice-President.



Prof. Bojie Fu is the Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Fellow of the Academy of Sciences for Developing World (TWAS) and Corresponding Fellow of the Royal Society Edinburgh UK. Since 2014 he was elected President of the Geographical Society of China. He worked as co-chair of the Organizing Committee of the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geographical Congress, held in Beijing in 2016. Last year the Commission on Geography for Future Earth: Coupled Human-Earth Systems for Sustainability he promoted was approved by IGU and he serves as the commission chair.

Prof. Fu is a professor of physical geography and landscape ecology at the State Key Lab. of Urban and Regional Ecology, Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences. His research areas are land use and land cover change,

landscape pattern and ecological processes, ecosystem services and management. He has Distinguished himself by winning more than 20 national prizes and international awards, including China National Natural Science Prize and Award of Distinguished Service from the International Association of Landscape Ecology. So far he has published more than 500 scientific papers and 9 books, including *Science* and *Nature Geoscience*.

We strongly support his candidacy and think he would be a suitable person for this position.

We believe if elected, he will play an active role in encouraging more Chinese geographers as well as more scholars from developing countries to get involved in IGU activities. Based on his highlighted contributions to the development of geographical study and collaboration, we sincerely hope IGU community could kindly consider Prof. Fu's nomination.

Yours sincerely,  
Professor Guoyou Zhang  
Vice President & Executive Director  
Geographical Society of China

**Prof. Bojie Fu's Curriculum Vitae**  
**Bojie Fu** [bfu@rcees.ac.cn](mailto:bfu@rcees.ac.cn)

Distinguished Professor at Beijing Normal University and Chinese Academy of Sciences;  
President of Geographical Society of China; Academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences,  
Corresponding Fellow of the Royal Society Edinburgh UK, Fellow of the Academy of  
Sciences for Developing World (TWAS)

#### **Education**

**PhD** *Physical Geography*, Split PhD Programme in Peking University (Beijing, China) and University of Stirling (Stirling, United Kingdom), 1989; **MSc** *Physical Geography*, Shaanxi Normal University (Xi'an, China), 1984; **BSc** *Geography*, Shaanxi Normal University (Xi'an, China), 1982 **Research areas:** Water, Vegetation and Soil Interaction; Ecosystem Services and Management; Ecological Restoration; Landscape Pattern and Ecological Processes; Land Use Change and Environmental Effects.

### **Academic Career in Brief**

After having completed my PhD at the Peking University (Beijing, China) and University of Stirling (Stirling, UK), I started my academic career in Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1989. During 1992-1994, I finished my post-doctoral research program in the Institute for Land and Water Management, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. In 2004 and 2009 I was elected as vice president of Geographical Society of China for two terms which lasted for 10 years. In 2014, I was elected the President of the Geographical Society of China. In 2016, I worked as co-Chair of Organizing Committee of the 33rd International Geographical Congress, which was a very successful Congress with about 5000 participants. My research focuses on interactions between human beings and the environments. I have published 10 books and more than 500 scientific papers; over 260 of them are in international journals including Science, Nature Climate Change and Nature Geoscience.

### **Employment** (last 20 years)

Distinguished Professor and Dean at Faculty of Geographical Science, Beijing Normal University, 2016-present. Distinguished Professor, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chair of Steering Committee, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences. 2012-Present: Professor, Vice Chair of Steering Committee, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2009-2011. Director-General, Professor, Bureau of Natural Resources & Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2001-2008. Deputy-Director, Professor, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 1996-2001.

### **Selected Professional Services and Honors**

Have been awarded 30 Chinese and international professional services and honors, some of the most recent are as follows:

Chair of IGU Commission on Geography for Future Earth: Coupled Human-Earth Systems for Sustainability, 2017-present

Member of Science Advisory Committee, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), 2017-2020

Director-General, Department of Geosciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2016- 2020

Corresponding Fellow of the Royal Society Edinburgh UK, 2015

Chair of China National Committee for Ecological Protection and Restoration, 2016-2020

President of the Geographical Society of China, 2014-2019

Member of Science Advisory Committee, Future-Earth Asia, 2015-2019

Director-General, Department of Earth Science, National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), 2014-2022

Vice President of International Association for Ecology (INTECOL), 2013-2017

Vice President of Future Earth China Committee (CNC-FE), 2014-2017

Fellow of the Academy of Sciences for Developing World (TWAS), 2012.

Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2011.

### **Editorial Service**

#### **Editor in Chief:**

Chinese Geographical Science (Springer), 2009-current;

Acta Ecologica Sinica, 2015-current

### **Editorial Board Member**

Landscape and Urban Planning (Elsevier), 2006- Landscape Ecology (Springer) 2006- Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability (Elsevier), 2015-

### **Academic Prizes and Awards**

Won more than 20 national prizes and international awards. The selected are as follows: The Ho Leung Ho Lee Science and Technology Prize-Geosciences, The Ho Leung Ho Lee Foundation, 2017

Outstanding Science and Technology Achievement Prize, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 2016

National Natural Sciences Prize, the State Council, 2005

National Sciences & Technology Advanced Prize, the State Council, 2012

Award of Distinguished Service, International Association for Landscape Ecology, 2011

### **Publications**

Published more than 500 articles on ecosystem services, landscape ecology, land use, land evaluation, and eco-hydrology, 261 of them are published on peer-reviewed international journals, including 9 peer-reviewed books and book chapters in English. The selected publications are as follows:

**Fu Bojie\***, Wang Shuai, Liu Yu, Liu Jianbo, Liang Wei, Miao Chiyuan. 2017. Hydrogeomorphic-Ecosystem Responses to Natural and Anthropogenic Changes in the Loess Plateau of China. Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences, 45, 223-243.

**Fu Bojie\***, Li Yan. 2016. Bidirectional coupling between the earth and human systems is essential for modeling sustainability. National Science Review, 3, 397-398.

Feng Xiaoming, **Fu Bojie\***, Piao Shilong, Wang Shuai, Ciais Philippe, Zeng Zhenzhong, Lü Yihe, Zeng Yuan, Li Yue, Jiang Xiaohui, Wu Bingfang. 2016. Revegetation in China's Loess Plateau is approaching sustainable water resource limits. Nature Climate Change, 6, 1019-1024.

Wang Shuai, **Fu Bojie\***, Piao Shilong, Lü Yihe, Ciais Philippe, Feng Xiaoming, Wang Yafeng. 2016. Reduced sediment transport in the Yellow River due to anthropogenic changes. Nature Geoscience, 9, 38-42.

**Fu Bojie\***. 2008. Blue Skies for China. Science, 321(5889), 611.

### **Plenary and Keynote Speeches on International Conferences**

Fu Bojie. Understanding China's Geography: Linking Science and Society. 2016, the 33rd International Geographical Congress, Beijing, China. (Plenary)

Fu Bojie. Ecosystem Services in Changing Landscapes. 2013, XI INTECOL International Congress of Ecology, London, UK. (Plenary)

Fu Bojie. Major Terrestrial Ecosystem Services and Eco-security in China. 2009, Conference of International Long-term Ecological Research Network, Brisbane, Australia (Plenary)

Fu Bojie. Land Degradation and its Restoration in China, 2005, The 17th World Conference on Ecological Restoration. Zaragoza, Spain. (Plenary)

Fu Bojie. Chinese Environmental Protection and Challenges in the 21st Century. 2005, The 55th Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference. Toronto, Canada. (Keynote)

### **Prof. Bojie Fu's Statement of Intent**

*Beijing, February 10, 2018*

Dear colleagues,

I am expressing my interest to be nominated as Vice President of the International Geographical Union (IGU). If elected, I have the following commitments for your consideration:

- (1) IGU needs to monitor new development and contribute to global geographical research. I would like to promote geography to play greater roles for future earth by initiating international research programs, holding regular conferences and workshops on geography and future earth. The theme of the program will seek harmony between the earth, human and the environment, which focuses on the underlying mechanisms of interaction between human and environment.
- (2) IGU needs to promote the importance of geography for sustainable world. I am eager to disseminate the concept of Global Understanding to both developed and developing countries by emphasizing the importance of our personal choices to the environment. Global Understanding will help to overcome the knowledge- action gap and support policy decisions that promote sustainability. With the support from IGU and the Geographical Society of China, I would like to integrate sustainability into the curriculum and promote sustainable activities in the community.
- (3) IGU needs to partner with other associations. I would like to promote cooperation and expand the influence of IGU, particularly in Asia. Asia has a growing influence on the global issues and consequently, an integrated research across the region is necessary to sustainably maintain region-wide growth. As Asia's largest economy, China in collaboration with IGU, can take the lead in supporting exchange between students and scholars across different universities and institutes, as well as organizing professional scientific meetings and research projects with Asia as the focus.
- (4) IGU needs to unite and to lead global scientists to carry out geographical research. So far Geographical Society of China has about 20,000 members, who will contribute a lot to the development of future earth. I'd like to build platforms to facilitate Chinese-speaking scientists' collaboration with international geographers and make more contributions to global geographical research.

I really appreciate your consideration and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

**Bojie Fu**

Distinguished Professor

Dean of Faculty of Geographical Science, Beijing Normal University

Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences E-

mail: bfu@rcees.ac.cn

### **3) IAIN HAY**

#### **Nomination of Distinguished Professor Iain Hay for position of Vice-President IGU**

Professor Iain Hay is eligible for re-election as Vice-President of the IGU Executive Committee (2018-2022). I have spoken with Professor Hay and he informs that he is very keen to secure a second and final term as Vice-President. The National Committee for Geographical Sciences of the Australian Academy of Science has voted unanimously to support Professor Hay's nomination for a second term.



Over the past four years as Vice-President, Professor Hay has made important contributions to the work of IGU. For example, he offered strong – but judicious – support for the Melbourne/New Zealand bid to host an IGC; he has encouraged Samoa to join the IGU as a full member and continues to work with Fiji to secure their full membership status. Iain is presently leading efforts to secure substantial corporate support for IGU activities and is working with international publishers to initiate two book series and, if possible, a new high-profile open access scholarly journal.

The National Committee for Geographical Sciences strongly endorses Professor Hay's nomination for re-election to the position of Vice-President, so that he may continue with this important work for IGU.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Stephen Turton DFIAG

**Chair, National Committee for Geographical Sciences**

Australian Academy of Science

### **Biographical Sketch of Professor Iain HAY**

Iain Hay is Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor of Geography and Dean (Education) in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at Flinders University, South Australia. He is the former Australian Learning and Teaching Discipline Scholar for the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (2009-2011). Over the period 2000-2006 he was Head of the School of Geography, Population and Environmental Management at Flinders University.

He was born in New Zealand and received a BSc (1st class Hons) from the University of Canterbury (1982) and an MA (with Distinction) from Massey University (1985). He completed a PhD at the University of Washington (Seattle, USA) in 1989 as a Fulbright Scholar and has a LittD from the University of Canterbury for 20+ years of postdoctoral work on geographies of domination and oppression. He also has postgraduate qualifications in education. Iain has dedicated his career to supporting geographical research and education in Australia and beyond. Over and above his recent work as Vice-President of IGU he has encouraged Antipodean geographers' engagements with the Anglo-American core of much contemporary geography by leading collaborative

publications, founding international journals, and establishing international networks. For example, Iain co-founded the International Network for Learning and Teaching Geography in higher education (INLT) in 1999. He served as one of the founding Directors, helping to establish INLT as a successful network dedicated to improving the quality and status of learning and teaching of geography in higher education internationally. He co-founded the journal *Ethics, Place and Environment* (now *Ethics, Policy and Environment*) and served as its first Commissioning Editor for the Asia-Pacific (1997-2005). He also maintains a long association with *Journal of Geography in Higher Education*, having worked as its foundation Australasian Editor from 1995-2005.

Professor Hay's service to the discipline been expressed further through leadership roles such as President, Vice President, and Secretary of the Institute of Australian Geographers and as a



former member and Chair of the Australian National Committee for Geography. As the Australian Federal Government's Discipline Scholar for the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities he worked determinedly with colleagues to place Geography strategically within government regulatory reforms.

Iain has written over 175 papers and chapters and is author or editor of fourteen books including *Money, Medicine and Malpractice in American Society* (Praeger 1992); *Qualitative Research Methods in Human Geography* (4th edn Oxford 2016); and *Handbook on Wealth and the Super-Rich* (Elgar 2016). He is immediate-past Editor-in-Chief of *Geographical Research* (Wiley-Blackwell) and has had editorial roles with such journals as *ACME*, *Applied Geography*, *Erdkunde*, *Norsk Geografisk Tidsskrift-Norwegian Journal of Geography*, *New Zealand Geographer* and *Social and Cultural Geography*.

Iain has always sought to maintain vibrant, productive relationships between research, teaching and service. That this has been successful is evidenced by a number of awards from several geographical and other organisations. In 2006, he received the Prime Minister's Award for Australian University Teacher of the Year. He later received the 2009 Taylor and Francis Award of the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers); the 2010 inaugural Association of American Geographers' E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Award for 'outstanding contributions to the discipline of

geography'; and more recently was awarded the NZ Geographical Society's Distinguished New Zealand Geographer Medal. In 2013 he was admitted as a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK) and in 2014 as a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (UK).

Aside from a broad range of scholarly and leadership experiences, Professor Iain Hay brings energy, a dedication to inclusive geographical communities, and a demonstrated commitment to international collaboration and communication that will help him continue to fulfil duties as IGU Vice President should he be re-elected.

### **Statement of Intent – Iain HAY**

My overall approach to leadership and my role of IGU Vice President is that of a facilitator. I work on the assumption that scholars involved with IGU are already deeply motivated to advance the Union's interests. Therefore a fundamental role of the Union's leaders is to enable and enhance opportunities for those individual talents, energies and ambitions to be strengthened and intensified through respectful co-operation. A second important role is to shape the IGU in ways that attract diverse new groups of outstanding and enthusiastic geographers to its activities. If re-elected as a Vice President of IGU my work – about which I am passionate – will continue to be dedicated to the following six areas.

1) Promoting the participation in IGU of all geographers irrespective of race, citizenship, language, political stance, wealth, or gender. In particular, I seek to raise the global profile of IGU, enhance North-South connections by encouraging Commissions and Task Forces to convene meetings in a wider variety of places, and (re)integrate those countries and geography colleagues who are outside the Union. As Vice President, I have, for example, worked to recruit nations of the Pacific (e.g. Fiji, Samoa) to the IGU.

2) Facilitating interaction and scholarly collaborations (e.g., joint research and collaborative curriculum development and exchange) across regions, sub-disciplines and geography's cognate disciplines, being sure to embrace appropriate technologies and ways of engaging with one another at the global scale. Notwithstanding challenges of the 'digital divide', I have actively supported continuing development of the IGU website as a vital collaborative resource and as an

important means of propagating geographical information (e.g. journals, Commissions and Task Forces, national committee activities).

3) Nurturing talent and building geographical research capacities by, for example, supporting multilingual research and publication and increasing the involvement of early career scholars (e.g. post-doctoral geographers) and women geographers. These ends are achieved by demonstrating the value of participation in IGU activities, promoting special sessions at IGU conferences, and developing awards for early career scholars. During my term as Vice President I have been working very actively to this end with publishers to develop two new IGU book series and a high quality Open-Access journal.

4) Connecting research, policy and practice by supporting and enhancing the IGU's capacity to provide trusted and respected contributions to other members of the (social) scientific community, governments, civil society, and the private sector. I am especially keen to ensure robust relationships between IGU and the newly launched International Science Council (formerly the Council for Science [ICSU] and the International Social Science Council [ISSC]).

5) Contributing resources for international research priorities by, for example, providing to interested parties uncomplicated access to global geographical expertise, resources and networks. My leadership of IGU work with book series and journal publishers is a key part of this endeavour.

6) Improving IGU's financial position by seeking out new and innovative funding sources. As Vice President I have been especially active initiating work to secure significant corporate funding.

Over and above this specific six-point agenda, I will work closely and collaboratively with the other executives to advance the objectives of the Union, as prescribed in its Statutes.



#### **4) GREAT NEWS FROM IYGU**

*In the last week, while the period for finalizing and diffusing this Newsletter was beginning to be more and more hectic, I received from Benno Werlen some wonderful news: the International Year of Global Understanding is now officially being transformed in a Decade. Perhaps somebody remembers that the initiative began in the second half of 2005, when the decision was taken as conclusion of a Workshop held in Roma by the IGU President Adalberto Vallega (namely: the International Workshop on Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development, Rome, Home of Geography, October 12-14, 2005). Attended by 98 individuals from 26 countries, it had been designed as a follow up of a three-days brain storming of the Cultures and Civilizations Steering Committee, held in Rome, October 5-7.*

*As Member of the Steering Committee and Director of the HofG, I took care of organising both events. The following year, after the untimely demise of IGU President Adalberto Vallega, Benno Werlen, Chair of the Commission on Cultural Approach in Geography, took the baton: he somehow changed sails and led the initiative to what I consider as the IGU major success ever. And the effectiveness of my judgement is confirmed in President Himiyama's last lines opening this Newsletter: "UNESCO honours the discipline of Geography with a Chair in Global*



Understanding for Sustainability. It will form part of worldwide network of over 700 UNESCO chairs to support the teaching and research goals of the world cultural organization. The social geographer Prof. Benno Werlen, will hold the chair at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena (Germany).” For detail, please see: <https://igu-online.org/unesco->

[honours-geography-and-establishes-the-unesco-chair-in-global-understanding-for-sustainability/](https://igu-online.org/unesco-honours-geography-and-establishes-the-unesco-chair-in-global-understanding-for-sustainability/).

*And I strongly invite all the readers to click on this link.*

*Now let me, please, come back to the news I received directly from Benno on 21st April, in less than half an hour: I ordered the mails in their chronological sequence, opening with the one he had written to Joanne Kauffman, Advisor, IR3S in The University of Tokyo:*

Dear Joanne Kauffman,

Hope this email finds you well!

About two years ago we met briefly at the Inception Symposium on Broadening the Application of the Sustainability Science Approach in support of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in April 2016. At that occasion I gave – as it’s Executive Director and founder - a program overview of the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU). You contributed to the symposium regarding the history of the evolution of the sustainability science approach and therein commented about the International Year of Global Understanding. Due to another presentation in Manchester I could not attend fully the first day. So, unfortunately, I missed your presentation. As reported by Luiz Oosterbeek, in your address you also mentioned the APHELEIA and the IYGU with something along the lines that it is “a highly (or even most?) innovative program in sustainability research of the last years”. It is in search of these words that I am emailing you.

As you are a key adviser for sustainability for UNESCO, your words have weight in two manners for the future of the IYGU program. First, as promoted by the UNESCO World Science Day in 2016 "Science for Global Understanding", the IYGU, and its stakeholders are pushing to proclaim the “2020’s Science Decade for Global Understanding (SDGU)”, taking the objectives, network, and successes of the IYGU and furthering it beyond only a year.

Second, the executive-directors of the International Science Councils (ICSU, ISSC and CIPSH) have suggested to recommend the IYGU for the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This prestigious prize would provide a number of outstanding contributions to the IYGU, from further support, spread of the program, to financial support for furthering the agenda of the IYGU to the Science Decade for Understanding. Herein, for both future endeavors of the IYGU, I am asking if you would be so kind as to reply to my email, recollecting your comment and/or thoughts about the IYGU.

Any words of acclamation you could put forward would be greatly appreciated and further support the call for a Global Decade of Understanding. The application and documentation for both causes of the IYGU's next steps (decade and prize) are due in quite soon; I must submit everything until the middle of next week. Therefore, if you would be so kind as to send me a short email with a quotation until the beginning of next week, I would greatly appreciate it.

I thank you in advance for your work in sustainability, your support for the IYGU, and I look forward to further collaboration in the spirit of Global Sustainability. As mentioned briefly at our short meeting in Paris, it would be really great if you could become a patron of the IYGU and its potential successor SDGU – together with Prof. Yuan Tseh Lee, Dr. h.c. Eliezer Batista, Dr. h.c. Jack Dangermond, HE José Manuel Ramos-Horta, and Prof. Klaus Toepfer. This would be really great.

Best regards,

**Benno Werlen**

*On 21 April a very rewarding answer arrived:*

Dear Professor Werlen,

In response to your recent inquiry, I am pleased to reinforce my support for the efforts of the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) to increase global understanding of the challenges all of humanity faces to achieve a sustainable and just planet. As an advisor to the UNESCO initiative on sustainability science, I emphasized the innovative ways in which the IYGU worked to build such understanding by linking local (even individual) actions to global consequences. Each and every one of us has the potential to move societies in the direction of change for a better, more sustainable world. And as noted by renowned psychotherapist Nathaniel Branden “the first step toward change is awareness”. What today could be more important than continuing to raise such awareness of the global sustainability challenges that plague planet Earth and how we can contribute to meeting them? I congratulate IYGU on touching the lives of millions through its support of initiatives to do just that around the world from scientific conferences to the provision of educational materials to festivals –from scholarship to play. And I fervently hope that this work will continue for the benefit of humanity and its precious natural world.

I would be honored to accept your invitation to support the IYGU as a patron of your continuing efforts. Best wishes, and I look forward to hearing from you on the successful outcome of future initiatives.

Very kind regards,

Joanne Kauffman, Ph.D.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (retired)

Advisor, IR3S, The University of Tokyo

book series: *Science for Sustainable Societies* (Springer)

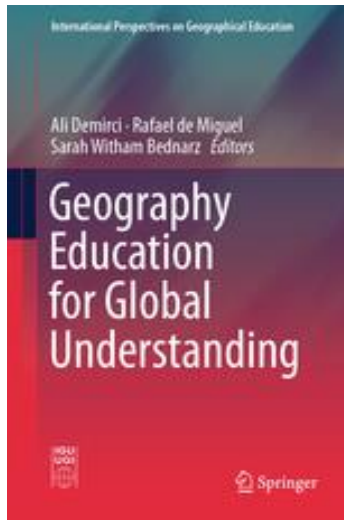
*Here follows the third new sent us by Benno: but one example of the diffusing concept of Global Understanding in geographical terms.*

Dear all,

The book "Geography Education for Global Understanding" -initiated by the former president of the AAG, Sarah Bednarz- is out now. This is a very important step, done in cooperation with the IGU commission for Geographical education.



My preface is describing the connection of the book with the IYGU program. It would be great if you could make the book known in your professional networks.



Together with the UNESCO Chair, the nomination for UNESCO-Japan prize on education for sustainable development by ICSU, ISSC and CIPSH, the support from Joanne Kauffman (key adviser for sustainability for UNESCO, and hopefully soon a new patron of the IYGU), the conditions to call for the "2020's Science Decade for Global Understanding (SDGU" and the sustainable establishment of "Global Understanding" as a global brand (as Vladimir called it at the WHC in Liège), have been taken some important steps further.

The opening ceremonies of the UNESCO chair will be attended by an important number of high profile persons. According to the German UNESCO commission so far never such an opening ceremony was attend by such a high representative of the German ministry for Foreign Affairs, nearly all German UNESCO Chairs and high ranked representatives of International Sciences organizations, including UNESCO itself. This is a strong booster for geography. The list of the most important VIP's is attached.

In addition, I'm now in close touch via social media with Kofi Annan and António Manuel Oliveira Guterres. I wrote to them, after they responded positively to my first message:

"Thank you so much for your prompt reply. I feel very honored! As the UNESCO chair "Global Understanding for Sustainability" I'm right now preparing in cooperation with the international councils of sciences (natural, social and human sciences) the "2020's Science Decade for Global Understanding (SDGU)". It would be fantastic if you could support us with your advice. I'm a professor of geography, based at the Friedrich Schiller University Jean (Germany). Yours, Benno Werlen".

The former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan already responded positively. To the current General Secretary I wrote just last night.

We will see.

Hope that all this will lead to a highly positive outcome for geography and beyond.

Best wishes,

Benno



## 5) REPORTS FROM RECENT GEOGRAPHIC INITIATIVES

### LA 2EME NUIT DE LA GEOGRAPHIE EN EUROPE, POUR UNE 3EME NUIT DE LA GEOGRAPHIE DANS LE MONDE

Le 6 avril 2018 s'est tenue la 2eme Nuit de la géographie dans toute l'Europe. Près de 80 événements ont eu lieu. En ce qui concerne la France et le Comité National Français de Géographie qui avaient initié la première Nuit de la géographie en 2017, 25 manifestations se

sont réparties dans toute la France (<http://www.eugeo.eu/nuitgeo-geonight.html>) mais aussi 37 en Italie, 12 en Hongrie, sans parler des autres villes et associations au Portugal, en Espagne, en Grèce, en Pologne.

L'objectif de cette manifestation est de mieux faire connaître et de mettre en valeur la géographie et les géographes. Pour cela, diverses manifestations ont été proposées pour présenter les regards du géographe sur le monde. Dans la mesure du possible, les manifestations ont été gratuites et ouvertes au grand public. Les événements ont eu lieu le soir et la nuit de manière à accueillir un public varié et non seulement académique, et pour mettre l'accent sur les aspects insolites, parfois ludiques, sans doute méconnus, de la géographie.

Cette année, les géographes et leur public se sont réunis dans des lieux variés, à l'université bien sûr, dans les halls et dans les salles de cours, dans des équipements culturels ou de l'ESS, dans des cafés et aussi dans la rue. Les comités d'organisation étaient très variés et spécifiques à chaque lieu. Parfois, l'évènement était organisé par une association d'étudiants de licence ou master, parfois par des enseignants du secondaire ou du supérieur, des laboratoires de recherche, le plus souvent par des partenariats combinant étudiants, enseignants du secondaire et du supérieur, personnels administratif ou de recherche, tous bénévoles et engagés dans la promotion de la géographie. Les activités proposées ont été très nombreuses et parfois surprenantes, en tout cas avec à chaque fois un grand succès : il faut citer le karaoké géographique ou le *comedy club* pour la géographie-spectacle, le *memory* ou les quizz pour la géographie-connaissance, la nécessaire synthèse de la thèse en 3 images. Mais il y a eu aussi de nombreuses conférences soit spécialisées sur un thème pour toute la soirée, soit au contraire très différentes pour exprimer la diversité de la géographie. En appui, les visuels ont été beaucoup sollicités à travers les photographies et les films sous forme de clips ou de films de recherche de 20 minutes. La plupart des sites ont hébergé des expositions photo avec parfois un concours thématique (Bouge la Nuit ou Capture la Nuit). Une véritable géographie multi sensorielle a été aussi mise en place en travaillant l'odorat, l'ouïe et le toucher dans plusieurs villes. De nombreux ateliers ont été aussi élaborés autour de la cartographie participative ou non, de formations rapides en géomatique ou de modèles de simulation dans l'espace à travers les épidémies ou les catastrophes naturelles. Des ateliers ont été aussi organisés autour de la gastronomie donnant lieu à de véritables buffets internationaux et même à un gâteau volcanique. Dans tous ces ateliers, il s'agissait bien de mettre en pratique une géographie active, ludique et à la portée de tous. Mais la géographie a été aussi ouverte sur la société contemporaine à travers la présentation des biffins, les carnets de voyages des étudiants emprisonnés ou le repérage dans la ville des lieux des migrations internationales ; ou des débats sur l'engagement du géographe ou l'enseignement de la géographie. Enfin, les nombreuses balades de nuit à pied ou en vélo ont attiré un large public à travers les 25 villes françaises notamment alors qu'en Italie la reconnaissance du terrain a été faite par un survol de drone.

Le public, plusieurs milliers de personnes à travers l'Europe, composé notamment de jeunes et de très jeunes géographes a donc répondu présent indiquant ainsi qu'il y a une véritable demande sociale pour une géographie ouverte sur le monde à l'instar de cette 2eme Nuit de la géographie et en attendant le 3eme qui se déroulera **au printemps 2019**.



**Left: one of many posters. Right: European cities organizing events**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> “Geography Night” Worldwide

The second “Geography Night” was held across all of Europe on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Around 80 events took place. In France, 25 events were spread out throughout the country, as well as 37 in Italy, 12 in Hungary, without mentioning other cities and associations in Portugal, Spain, Greece, Poland, and in Ireland.

The goal of “Geography Night” is to better understand and recognise geography and geographers. Thanks to this, diverse events were proposed and they presented the facets of global geography. Whenever possible, the events were free and open to the public. These events were held in the evenings and nights for a varied and (non-necessarily) academic public in order to highlight the unique, the fun, and the sometimes unknown aspects of geography.

*AP Hellequin (VP communication et manifestations CNFG), contact : [nuitdelageo@cnfg.fr](mailto:nuitdelageo@cnfg.fr)*



## 6) IN MEMORIAM

### 6.1) Christian Matthiessen

*Death of IGU stalwart Prof Christian Wichmann Matthiessen*

The International Geographical Union regrets to announce the death of one of its most prominent colleagues, Professor Christian Wichmann Matthiessen, who passed away on Thursday 8 March 2018. Professor Matthiessen was Danish delegate to the International Geographical Union (1998-2012), and member of the steering committee – and subsequently Chair – of the IGU Commission on Urban Geography (2000-2012).

Christian Wichmann Matthiessen was born in Fredericia in 1945, where he spent his childhood. He matriculated from Fredericia Gymnasium in 1964, and after two years of military service, he





started his studies of Geography at University of Copenhagen, where in 1972, he graduated as an Msc in Geography, with a dissertation on the distribution patterns for the population and housing structures of Copenhagen. In 1974, Christian Wichmann Matthiessen was appointed assistant professor at the Department of Geography, University of Copenhagen. He remained at the Department until his retirement in 2011, as an associate professor from 1976, and subsequently as a professor from 1988. He was proud of being employed in the Department as he attached great importance to being associated with the only Danish academic geographical environment with roots far back in Denmark's university history.

Christian Wichmann Matthiessen's interest was in the field of human geography and especially in the field of urban geography. His research focused on urban and regional geographical issues and on themes relating to infrastructure, regional development, and the change of the urban system. He was interested in the Triple Helix model (binding regional interaction between the research community, businesses and public management), in cluster analysis, in cultural institutions and value creation, and in the impact of infrastructure on urban and regional growth. His research resulted in a doctoral dissertation in 1985, entitled "The growth of Danish cities", where a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the composition and development of the Danish urban system was presented for the first time.

His great interest was urban competitiveness, especially the potential of Copenhagen in a globalised world that changed after the fall of the Berlin wall and later after the construction of the Øresund Bridge, linking the Øresund region. Finally, he was also interested in the development of the Copenhagen metro and its localisation, and his research resulted in a number of important books, articles and reports on the Øresund region and the Fehmarn Belt region as well as on regional development, urban competitiveness and the global urban system. Internationally, he was the Danish representative and research director of the research project "Cost of urban growth", and he participated in a large number of international projects.

Christian Wichmann Matthiessen was a member of a large number of professional groups and associations, often in a management function. For example: Member of the Danish National Committee for Geography from 1986-2013, Secretary General from 1992-1998 and President 1998-2012. Member of the council of The Royal Danish Geographical Society for 24 years, of the executive committee for 18 years, vice president from 2007-2013. Member of the executive committee of the European Institute of Comparative Urban Research, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam from 1993-2012. Member of the executive committee of Management of the European Metropolitan Region between 1995-2012. Member of the executive committee of the Commission on Urban Geography of the International Geographical Union for a number of years and its president from 2008-2012. Member of the board of representatives of Wonderful Copenhagen and of its executive committee from 2003-2009. Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Oresund Institute 2002-2013. In addition, Christian Wichmann Matthiessen was Head of Department at Department of Geography University of Copenhagen for two periods, 1986-1990 and 1996-1999 when he headed the development of the department into a modern university department with close ties to Danish society.

Finally, Christian Wichmann Matthiessen was awarded a number of orders and prizes in appreciation of his service. He became a Knight of the Order of Dannebrog in 1998 as well as

Knight 1st Class of the order of the Dannebrog in 2010. He was awarded C.N.M. Christiansen's Grant in 1991 as a token of appreciation for his research into a possible stronger position for the Copenhagen area on the European scene. He received the Brobyggerprisen in 1994 and Helsinki University Medal in 1999.

Christian Wichmann Matthiessen will be remembered as a strong advocate of the role of geography research in development of society in Denmark. Through his research and his instruction of hundreds of geography students, he has played an important role in the development of urban geography in Denmark and internationally.

On behalf of the staff at Geography, University of Copenhagen.

Professor Morten Pejrup, Associate Dean

Professor Ole Mertz, Section Head

Professor Henrik Breuning-Madsen, Vice President of The Royal Danish Geographical Society

## **6.2) Dario César Sanchez**

### ***GÆA - SOCIEDAD ARGENTINA DE ESTUDIOS GEOGRAFICOS***

Fundada en 1922

Ciudad de Buenos Aires, 14 de abril de 2018

Estimados socios y amigos:

En mi carácter de Presidente de GÆA Sociedad Argentina de Estudios Geográficos debo comunicar la lamentable desaparición de la vida terrenal del eminente colega Prof. Dr. Darío César Sánchez. Sin duda los últimos días no han sido muy felices para la Geografía Argentina. La pérdida de este amigo de gran envergadura académica, así como de sus excepcionales condiciones humanas ha golpeado fuertemente en la comunidad geográfica. Darío se nos fue, pero la acción por él desarrollada a lo largo de muchos años en la Sociedad no ha sido vana, dedicó gran parte de su vida a enaltecer a nuestra querida Institución a la que amó con profundidad, y trabajó en ella con una dedicación incondicional y absolutamente desinteresada. Como investigador científico desarrolló una activa labor desde muy joven. Comenzó como Becario de Iniciación entre el 1º de abril de 1984 y el 31 de marzo de 1986, fue Becario de Perfeccionamiento entre 1986 y 1988, Becario de Formación Superior entre 1988 y 1991. Desde el 6 de septiembre de 1991 perteneció a la Carrera de Investigador Científico (CIC), desempeñándose en la categoría Asistente hasta el 31 de octubre de 2002, en la categoría Adjunto sin Director hasta fines de 2013, y en la categoría Independiente desde el 1º de enero de 2014. Fueron 34 años ininterrumpidos de su labor como investigador científico en el CONICET, con unas 300 publicaciones, 35 de ellas en el exterior, 35 años ininterrumpidos de docencia universitaria de grado y de posgrado, 133 conferencias en más de 50 universidades y centros de investigación de 11 países distintos, 38 de ellas en el exterior. Además fue Director de numerosos proyectos científicos y evaluador de 23 publicaciones científicas (11 en el exterior). Darío recibió 18 premios y distinciones (2 en el exterior).

Pero no reside solamente en estas facetas y en sus muchos merecimientos académicos lo singular de su personalidad, pues otras virtudes –quizá menos ostensibles- le particularizaban y moldeaban su carácter: su honorabilidad sin tachas y su acendrado culto de la amistad. Por todo ello siempre apreciaremos a Darío como un distinguido colega pero mucho más lo añoraremos por su calidez de amigo cabal. Ya se fue y no está entre nosotros. Afectados por la desazón y la pena que nos produce la desaparición de Darío, lo recordaremos con esa sonrisa que nos recibía

siempre. Darío, consocio, colega y amigo, por nuestro intermedio, GÆA te rinde nuestro humilde y sincero homenaje y eleva al altísimo sus preces para que su alma descanse en paz y otorgue a su abnegada esposa y demás deudos cristiana resignación. Que así sea.

Adiós amigo

*Cnel. Ing. Geog. Julio César Benedetti*  
*Secretario*

*Prof. Dr. Daniel Oscar Lipp*  
*Presidente*

### **6.3) Stephen Hawking**

#### **A Tribute to Celebrity and Inspirational Scientist of this Generation**

*One of our VP sent me for publication this tribute to one of the most excellent scientists of the last decades. I am sure that all geographers will appreciate the inclusion of this memory. G.B.*

#### **A Tribute to Stephen William Hawking (January 8, 1942 to March 14, 2018)**

Ever since our childhood we have been hearing and taught the names of great scientists notably Sir Galileo, Sir Newton, Albert Einstein who left the immortal contribution to the contemporary science and society. The great privilege of our generation is that we live our life in the time of great celebrity scientist Sir Stephen Hawking (the Scientist of our generation).

#### **Inspirational for Youth**

The man, whose body was so feeble and seemed to fail his genius, did not give up. It will not be wrong to say that technology saved him. In fact, this was only the beginning to what led him to become the greatest scientist of the age. The unique life of Prof. Hawking was full of achievements that often attracted filmmakers. Various documentaries, feature films were made on his inspirational life, scientific contributions and achievements.

#### **Strong Willpower and Personality who saved the future COSMOS**



At the age of 21, Hawking started to develop the first symptoms of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (a type of motor neurone disease) which would eventually cost him almost all neuromuscular control. He has been inspiration-incarnate as he survived a condition that may seem spine-breaking to many. Scientific achievements of Prof. Hawking got thicker and better and he quickly set a succession of scientific insights on his contribution towards theory of black holes.

#### **Learning lessons for Disadvantageous Section of Society**

The life of Prof. Hawking will always be an inspiration for the disadvantageous section of society particularly in developing nations (*see him in the photo at left, young and smiling*). Hawking had to aggressively face his own adversity every single day; instead, he continued his approach of living every moment of life by creating something. While remembering Swami Vivekananda Ji, I appeal to our fellow Indians to enhance the approach of explore, evolve and excel without frustrations and without degrading our will power.

### **Educational Administrators should not forget Prof. Hawking while revising Curriculum**

Today, when the life has turned into a rat race, it's a high time to make our younger generation aware with Prof. Stephen William Hawking: An Immortal Legend. Stephen Hawking, a name that resonates with the power of the beautiful mind, an illustrious victory of intellect over adversity. It is a pressing need for the Government of India to incorporate the life-sketch of Prof. Stephen William Hawking in NCERT, CBSE and CBCS curriculum.

### **Illustrious Personality and Cosmologist Par Excellence**

The legendary British scientist Prof. Stephen William Hawking, famed for his work on black holes, died quietly at his home in Cambridge aged 76. He was widely known for his contributions to the fields of cosmology, general relativity and quantum gravity, especially in the context of black holes. The death of Prof. Hawking has left an intellectual vacuum in his wake. During the decades of 1960s and 1970s, he extensively worked on ground-breaking theorems regarding singularities within the framework of general relativity, and made the theoretical prediction that black holes should emit radiation (known today as Hawking radiation). He was also credited with several publications of popular science in which he discussed his own theories and cosmology in general, including the runaway bestseller "A Brief History of Time", and he was came to be thought of as one of the greatest minds in physics since Albert Einstein. In his own words: "My goal is simple. It is complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all". The University of Cambridge, where Prof Hawking completed his PhD and went on to become Lucasian Professor of Mathematics- a role once played by Sir Isaac Newton- described him as "an inspiration to millions of differently abled people across the world".

### **Early Life (*Honhaar Veervaan Ke Hot Cheekney Pat*)**

Prof. Stephen William Hawking was born on 8 January 1942 in Oxford, England, in the middle of World War II. In 1950, Hawking moved with his family to St. Albans, where he attended St. Albans High School for Girls from 1950 to 1953, and from the age of 11, he attended St. Albans School, where he was a good, but not an exceptional student. In 1959, he earned a scholarship to University College, Oxford, his father's old college, where he studied physics under Prof. Robert Berman, who ignited Hawking's particular interests in thermodynamics, relativity, and quantum mechanics. In the year 1962 he graduated with a First Class BA degree. After graduating from Oxford, he spent a short time studying sunspots at Oxford University's observatory. However, he soon realized that he was more interested in theory than in observation, and left Oxford for Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he studied for a time under Prof. Fred Hoyle, the most distinguished English astronomer of the time.

### **Prof. Hawking, Turning Points and ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)**

Soon after arriving at Cambridge, at the age of 21, Hawking started to develop the first symptoms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or "Lou Gehrig's disease"), a type of motor neurone disease which would eventually cost him almost all neuromuscular control. Although doctors predicted (incorrectly, as it turned out) that Hawking would not survive more than two or three years, he did gradually lose the use of his arms, legs and voice, until he was almost completely paralysed and quadriplegic.

In the year 1965, an important turn came in his life when he attended a lecture by the English mathematician Roger Penrose, who had recently produced a ground-breaking paper on space-time singularities (events in which the laws of physics seem to break down). It re-energized Hawking and he got engaged with renewed vigour in the study of theoretical astronomy and cosmology, particularly in the area of black holes and singularities. He would later collaborate

with Penrose on several important papers on these subjects. Another turning point in his life also occurred in 1965, with his marriage to a language student, Jane Wilde. With her help, and that of his doctoral tutor, Dennis Sciama, Hawking went on to complete his PhD and to become a Research Fellow and, later, a Professorial Fellow at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

### **Scientific Contributions of Prof. Hawking and his Evolution as Pole Star of Science**

Stephen started his research work on cosmology at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (DAMTP) at the University of Cambridge in the year 1962, there being no one was working in that area in Oxford at that time. After gaining his PhD (1965) with his thesis titled 'Properties of Expanding Universes', he became, first, a research fellow (1965) then Fellow for Distinction in Science (1969) at Gonville and Caius College. In 1966 he won the Adams Prize for his essay 'Singularities and the Geometry of Space-time'. Stephen moved to the Institute of Astronomy (1968), later moving back to DAMTP (1973), employed as a research assistant, and published his first academic book, *The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time*, with George Ellis. During the next few years, Stephen was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society (1974) and Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Scholar at the California Institute of Technology (1974). He became a Reader in Gravitational Physics at DAMTP (1975), progressing to Professor of Gravitational Physics (1977). He then held the position of Lucasian Professor of Mathematics (Professor Stephen Hawking had worked on the basic laws which govern the universe. With the active contribution of Roger Penrose he attempted to show that Einstein's general theory of relativity implied space and time would have a beginning in the Big Bang and an end in black holes (1970). These results indicated that it was necessary to unify general relativity with quantum theory, the other great scientific development of the first half of the 20th century (1979-2009).



*In 2007, in the Kennedy Space Center, NASA satisfied a long time Hawking's desire: experiencing the zero-gravity*

One consequence of such a unification that he discovered was that black holes should not be completely black, but rather should emit 'Hawking' radiation and eventually evaporate and disappear (1974). Another conjecture is that the universe has no edge or boundary in imaginary time. This would imply that the way the universe began was completely determined by the laws of science. Recently Stephen has been working with colleagues on a possible resolution to the black hole information paradox, where debate centres around the conservation of information. Publications of Prof. Hawking include, *The Large Scale Structure of Spacetime* with G F R Ellis, *General Relativity: An Einstein Centenary Survey*, with W Israel, and *300 Years of Gravitation*, with W Israel. The popular books of Stephen Hawking include his best seller *A Brief History of Time*, *Black Holes and Baby Universes and Other Essays*, *The Universe in a Nutshell*, *The Grand Design* and *My Brief History*.



Professor Stephen Hawking had thirteen honorary degrees. He was awarded CBE (1982), Companion of Honour (1989) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (2009). He was the recipient of many awards, medals and prizes, most notably the Fundamental Physics prize (2013), Copley Medal (2006) and the Wolf Foundation prize (1988). He was also a Fellow of the Royal Society and a member of the US National Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

### **Hawking's visit to India**

It was January 2001 when British physicist Stephen Hawking came to India for the first time, later describing the 16-day long tour as "magnificent". Hawking addressed an international physics seminar at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Mumbai. He was felicitated with the first "Sarojini Damodaran Fellowship" during the "Strings 2001" conference. He inspired many Indian Physicists and Mathematicians, particularly paradox using String Theory such as by showing the consistency of Hawking Radiation with quantum mechanics. Hawking delivered several lectures during the five-day seminar, including one titled "The Universe in a Nutshell" and he also praised the Indian efforts towards the development and advancement of Physics and Mathematics.

### **A Tribute**

On behalf of the World Geographic Communities, I pay my humble tribute to Prof. Stephen William Hawking and thanks God for blessing the Universe with such a beautiful, creative and productive star scientist.

*Prof. R.B. Singh (Vice-President: International Geographical Union, [rbsgeo@hotmail.com](mailto:rbsgeo@hotmail.com))*



## **7) NEWS FROM ICSU**



21st World Conference of Soil Science (WCSS). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 12-17 August 2018.

30th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union. Vienna, Austria. 20-31 August 2018.

19th International Microscopy Congress. Sydney, Australia. 9-14 September 2018.

World Social Science Forum 2018. Fukuoka, Japan. 25-28 September 2018.



## 8) FROM FUTURE EARTH



International Science Council Founding General Assembly. Paris, France. 3-5 July 2018.

International Science Day. Paris, France. 5 July 2018.

EuroScience Open Forum 2018, Toulouse, France. 9-14 July 2018.

42nd COSPAR Scientific Assembly and Associated Events. California, USA. 14-22 July 2018.

<http://futureearth.org/news/PREPdata> International partnership launches new portal for climate data



## 9) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2018)*

**9.1) Landscapes: Perception, Knowledge, Awareness and Action, Bucharest-Maneciu, Romania; 11-13 May**

**9.2) Understanding Problems of Inland Waters, Baku, 12-14 May**

**9.3) Rencontres Franco-Italien de Géographie Sociale, Perpignan, 14-15 May**

**9.4) Working Group of Peace and Development Conference, London, 26-30 March 2018**

**9.5) International Conference on Earth Systems Sciences, Chengdu, 1-3 (2nd call)**

**9.6) Political Geography and XXI Century Challenges, Moscow, 4-6 June 2018**

**9.7) Moscow 150 Years, Sessions list.**

**9.8) Summer Seminar on Nationalism, Religion and Violence, Prague, 18-29 June**

**9.9) HEA'd International Conference on Higher Education Advances, Valencia, June 20-22 2018**

**9.10) Productive Mountains, Venice, 21-23 June 2018**

**9.11) Seesox, Greece in Crisis, Greeks abroad, Oxford, 22.23 June 2018, CFP**

**9.12) European International Studies Association, Conference Groningen, June 2018**

**9.13) Utrecht, Global Criminology, 27-29 June 2018**

**9.14) AESOP, "Sustainable Food Planning", Turin, 28-30 June 2018**

**9.15) Association for Borderland Studies, 2nd Conference, Vienna 10-14 July 2018**

**9.16) Global Histories of Geography 1930-1990; Warsaw, 16-20 July 2018**

**9.17) 2018 Singapore Regions and organizations infrastructures Sept-Oct**

