



**IGU E-NEWSLETTER**

Quarterly

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New Series 27

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Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

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*This Newsletter is directly circulated to about 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)*

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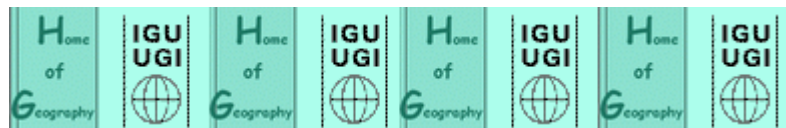
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### **1) REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT YUKIO HIMIYAMA**

Dear Colleagues,

On 4th-6th June, the IGU Thematic Conference on *Practical Geography and XXI Century Challenges* was held at the Russian Academy of Science, Moscow, with nine Commissions involved. The cooperation of so many Commissions under this challenging theme reflects geographers' increasing levels of concern regarding global problems. The Conference was dedicated to the centennial of the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Science, which was founded in 1918. The Institute has an outstanding record of contributions to IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel of Climatic Changes), IGBP (International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme), UNESCO-EOLSS (Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems) and other global programmes, and it is becoming more deeply involved in such global initiatives as Future Earth, which I see is of considerable international significance.

With the launch of the ISC (International Science Council) scheduled in early July, June was in fact the month to prepare for it. The IGU submitted a proposal to the ICSU/ISSC Secretariat immediately after the Moscow Conference concerning the promotion of science education and this was adopted as one of the eight 'test-beds' of the newly formed Council and was circulated and discussed at its Founding General Assembly in Paris. Later in the month I sent a letter to the Chairs of IGU Commissions/Task Forces and National Committees, as well as to some ISC national representatives, to recommend the nominees of the IGU as candidates for the inaugural Governing Board of the ISC. The heartfelt support expressed by the IGU community and even by those outside IGU was invaluable.

IGU Secretary General Mike Meadows, Vice President Nathalie Lemarchand and I attended the 'ISC Founding General Assembly and Inauguration and the associated events' including GeoUnions (GUs) meeting, held in Paris during 2-5 July, with Mike joining the events from the

second day. The first day, i.e. 2nd July, was devoted to the GUs meeting, which was attended by the representatives of all nine Unions, i.e. IAU, ICA, IGU, INQUA, ISPRS, IUGG, IUGS, IUSS and URSI. The full-day meeting was focused on such issues as GUs' future relationship in the new family of ISC, membership enlargement, possible new initiatives with social scientists on disaster risk or climate change, global problems related with soil, mapping of GUs to SDGs, education, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and the ISC Governing Board election.

3rd July was devoted to the 'Membership meeting' of the ISC, which was intended mainly to discuss the priorities of the ISC, their relevance to the vision and the mission of the ISC, anticipated impact, key performance indicators, activities, membership engagement, partners and resources, along the 'test-beds' mentioned above and even beyond. On 4th July Officers of the Governing Board of the ISC were elected so as to facilitate initiation of the work of the ISC. It is my great pleasure to inform you that two geographers, namely Professors Ruth Fincher from Australia and Anna Davis from Ireland, successfully made their ways to the ISC Governing Board as Ordinary Members. In fact there are four more geoscientists elected as Officers, and they together make up over one-third of the sixteen Officers of the ISC.

5th July was the day of Inauguration of the ISC. There were several important speeches and discussions by distinguished persons, including the first ISC President Professor Daya Reddy, and they can be found at:

<https://council.science/current/news/public-launch-event-of-the-council-explores-values-of-science-and-links-between-science-politics-and-society>

For those who wish to know where we are and where the ISC is now, probably the keynote speech by Professor Craig Calhoun, former President of the Berggruen Institute, might offer some quick clues, particularly on 'a voice for science in the contemporary world'. In any case, the ISC is just starting, and we geographers have a lot of things to do for, and with, the ISC.

The 2018 IGU Regional Conference, jointly held with CAG (Canadian Association of Geographers) Annual Meeting and NCGE (National Council for Geographic Education) Annual Conference, commences soon (6th August) in Québec City, Canada. An IGU Regional Conference is normally somewhat smaller than IGC (International Geographical Congress), but nevertheless it is truly international, with participants from all over the world. For the hosting country or region, it represents a great opportunity to consolidate the local geographic community, and for the participants from abroad, it offers the chance to get to see the region, feel the region, and learn from the region. The Conference is also timely to think about the roles of the ISC and geographers in local, regional and global context. Whether you are present in the Conference or not, let's think together.

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



## 2) FOUNDING CEREMONY OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE UNIONS REPORT FROM PARIS 2018: THE FUSION OF ICSU AND ISSC,



# International Science Council

Welcome to a special edition of our newsletter, bringing you news from the founding General Assembly of the newly created International Science Council.

The International Science Council, formed from the merger of two organizations representing the natural and social sciences, held its inaugural General Assembly in Paris on July 4. In a historic meeting hosted by the French Académie des Sciences, the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) merged to form the International Science Council, a unique global non-governmental organization representative of both the natural and social sciences



Founding General Assembly of the International Science Council



The meeting opened with addresses from Catherine Bréchnac, Secrétaire Perpétuel of the French Académie des Sciences, and Prince Albert II. of Monaco.

The main item of business for the meeting was the election of a new President and a new Governing Board to lead the Council for the next three years. Representatives of the Council's members elected Daya Reddy, a mathematician from South Africa, to be the first President. Peter Gluckman, the former Chief Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, became the President-elect, and will assume the Presidency at the next General Assembly in 2021.

The other officers of the Board are Elisa Reis (Vice-President), Jinghai Li (Vice-President), Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Secretary) and Renée van Kessel (Treasurer). The ordinary members of the Board will be Geoffrey Boulton, Melody Burkins, Saths Cooper, Anna Davies, Pearl Dykstra, Sirimali Fernando, Ruth Fincher, James C. Liao, Natalia Tarasova and Martin Visbeck.

In his acceptance speech, Reddy spoke about the importance of inclusiveness, of involving all regions of the world in the work of the new Council. He called for the involvement of early career scientists in partnerships and agenda setting.

“We have set ourselves an ambitious goal to be a powerful, visible, credible voice for science. There's no time to waste. Let's get to work!”

Participants also voted for the location of the next General Assembly of the Council, choosing between two bids, one from Montreal, Canada, one from Oman. The bid by the city of Muscat, Oman, carried the vote and it will host the 2nd General Assembly in 2021. Earlier in the day, President-Elect Gluckman spoke about his vision for the Council in remarks to participants before the vote.



He stressed that “The International Science Council must work to become the leading voice of science in leading fora of policy-making.” He added that “this requires a coherent and focused strategy asking where the Council is uniquely positioned — asking what the council should do, and what it should not do.”

The inaugural events concluded on July 5 with a public launch event at the Maison des Océans in Paris, with keynote addresses by Cédric Villani, Esther Duflo, Ismail Serageldin, Craig Calhoun and many others.

If you weren't able to attend the launch events in Paris, you can watch the speeches from the public event on You Tube. Photos of the General Assembly and the public launch event are available on our Flickr page.



### **3) GEOGRAPHERS WELL REPRESENTED IN THE NEW ISC**

Two well-known Geographers have been elected to the Governing Board of the newly established International Science Council. Professor Ruth Fincher (University of Melbourne) and Anna Davis (Trinity College Dublin) will both join the board as Ordinary Members.

In a historic meeting, the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) merged today to form the International Science Council, a unique global non-governmental organization representative of both the natural and social sciences. The meeting opened with addresses from Catherine Brechignac, Secrétaire Perpetuel of the French Academy of Sciences, and Prince Albert II. of Monaco. In her speech, Brechignac, who is a former President of ICSU, emphasised that the “natural sciences should no longer dictate the Earth system sciences research agenda, social sciences should be at least as important.”

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In his acceptance speech, the incoming president, Daya Reddy, spoke about the importance of inclusiveness, of involving all regions of the world in the work of the new Council. He called for the involvement of early career scientists in partnerships and agenda setting.

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Ruth Fincher and Anna Davies

In his remarks during the opening of the meeting, Alberto Martinelli, the last president of the ISSC, emphasized the role of the social sciences in the new organization: “ISSC is not finished but is starting a new life as equal partner with ICSU within a more powerful and influential world science organization.”

The founding events of the International Science Council will continue tomorrow with a public launch event at the Maison des Océans in Paris, with keynote addresses by Cédric Villani, Esther Duflo, Ismail Serageldin, Craig Calhoun and many others.

*About the International Science Council (ISC)*

The ISC was created in 2018 as the result of a merger between the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC). This makes the Council the unique representative body of both the natural and the social sciences.

More information about ISC is available on its website, <http://www.council.science>

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#### **4) ALWAYS REMARKABLE NEWS FROM IYGU**

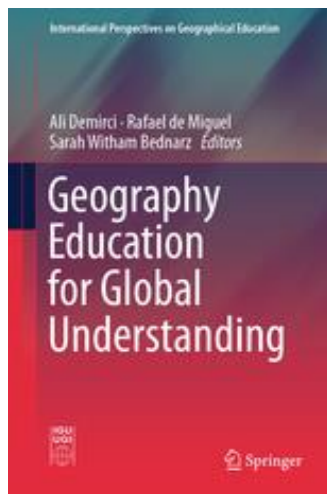
*In the last issue of this Newsletter Benno Werlen reported on the last activity of International Year of Global Understanding. He participated in Paris in the fusion Conference reported in the lines above, and had the possibility to present the IYGU, and not only: just read the lines below, a really remarkable success for our discipline.*

*He concluded the article announcing a recently published book (see front page at left): a book who gained a nomination for the UNESCO-Japan prize on education for sustainable development. The last words of the article were as such:*

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:

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





We will see.

*Well Benno, now everybody has seen; for the ones who didn't see yet, it will be enough to read the new message in the following lines below.*

Dear colleagues, dear geographers,

As reported by Mike Meadows yesterday, two geographers have been elected as ordinary members of the ISC Governing Board at the inaugural General Assembly of the International Science Council: Professor Ruth Fincher of the University of Melbourne and Professor Anna Davies of Trinity College, Dublin.

This is a big success for the IGU and for its flagship project “International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU)”. The IYGU was in many ways a catalyst for the merger of the International Council of the Natural (ICSU) and Social Sciences (ISSC). Many of the driving forces of the merger have been members of the IYGU since 2010. The importance of the IYGU for the merger has been underlined several times by the presidents and the executive directors of ICSU and ISSC over the last years. Several positions of the ISC will be held by members of the IYGU in the future, like the General Secretary Prof. Alik Ismael-Zadeh (Russia), the ISC Science Director Dr. Mathieu Denis (Canada), the ISC Chief Science Officer Heide Hackmann (South Africa), as well as another ordinary member of the ISC Governing Board, Prof. Martin Visbeck.

Based on the quite impressive success of the IYGU, with far more than thousand events around the globe, the establishment of “Global Understanding” as new brand and potentially new paradigm for geography education the idea has gained in stature, to continue with the promotion of "global understanding" on the the basis IYGU achievements. Last November, this ambition has been strengthened by the proclamation of the World Science Day in 2017 as “Science for Global Understanding” by UNESCO.

With the wonderful development of ISC now the time is ready to test the ground for launching the “2020’s Science Decade for Global Understanding” (SDGU). During the inaugural General Assembly I was able to talk with several key persons for such a project, including the UNESCO Assistant of Director-General for Natural Sciences Flavia Schlegel (Switzerland, and the UNESCO Assistant of Director-General Social and Human Sciences, Nada Al-Nashif (Lebanon), John Crowley (UNESCO MOST program, GB), Noble Prize Laureate Prof. Yuan-Tse Lee (China Taipei), outgoing president of the ICSU, Gordon McBean (Canada), the former director of the LSE, Craig Calhoun (U.S.A.), Alik Ismael-Zadeh (Russia), and Mathieu Denis (ISC). All of them were expressing their strong interest to continue with teh support of the “Global Understanding” project or to come on board.

With this really strong support we have a well-prepared road ahead. I’m inviting the community of geographers to engage in the preparation of this new (institutional) adventure by identifying

first key persons in their national/regional context that could be helpful for the implementation of the project, and secondly by announcing their interest to participate in the process.

I agreed with Prof. Alik Ismael-Zadeh and Dr. Mathieu Denis that I will prepare a first outline of the SDGU for the (last) World Social Science Forum in Fukuoka (Japan) and to submit it to the ISC as a potential outreach project.

I will send the outline to all persons that announce their interest to participate as soon the draft version will be ready in the second half of September.

Benno Werlen  
Executive Director of the IYGU  
Chair of the IGU Commission Global Understanding



## **5) REPORTS OF RECENT GEOGRAPHIC INITIATIVES**

### **5.1) « A century of geography»: IGU Thematic Conference dedicated to the centennial of the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences**

*(photos by the Russian organization)*

The Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences (IGRAS: [www.igras.ru](http://www.igras.ru)) located in Moscow is the largest and the most known geographical research organization in Russia. This year it celebrates its centennial. On this occasion the Institute hold under the auspices of IGU on 4-6 June 2018 the Thematic Conference “Practical Geography and Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”.

The conference provided an opportunity to make an overview of the domestic and international trends in geography’s development – to analyze the growing impact of scientific research internationalization, the aggravation of global problems, changing theoretical paradigms, radical renewal of research methods and predictions’ validity, as well as to strengthen the integration between social and environmental branches of geography. In addition to the fundamental research, IGRAS has been closely associated with practical demands aimed at solving urgent national issues related to its research agenda. Its staff actively participated in the development and examination of territorial concepts, laws and norms regulating environmental protection and large-scale economic programs. Therefore, the main task of the conference was to sum up

Russian and international experience in practically oriented research in the fields of social and environmental geography meeting the diverse and critical challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The event was co-organized by the Russian Academy of Sciences, Faculty of Geography of Moscow State University, Russian Geographical Society, and Russian branch of World Wild Foundation. The conference was also sponsored by Vernadsky Foundation, Russian Foundation for Basic Studies, and “Russian Textbook” publishing house (the general media partner).

It was attended by 754 participants including 242 foreign geographers from 36 countries. Like at IGU Regional Conference in Moscow (2015), the largest group of participants came from China (46) and India (35), as well as from Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary and USA (12-17 participants from each of these countries). Russian geographers were represented mostly by the inhabitants of Moscow and Saint Petersburg but also by scholars from 25 other cities. A special programme on geographical education gathered 74 school teachers, mostly from Moscow.



*Moscow, Central Palace of Scientists, main venue many Sessions*

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The opening ceremony was scheduled in Moscow Central Club of Scholars situated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century building not far from the Kremlin. The participants were welcome by the officials from Russian Academy of Sciences, Academician Vladimir Kotlyakov, the deans of geographical faculties at Moscow and Saint Petersburg State Universities Professors Sergey Dobrolyubov and

Kirill Chistyakov, IGU President Yukio Himiyama and Past-President Vladimir Kolosov, Directors of geographical institutes of the Polish and Hungarian Academies of Sciences, Professors Jerzy Banský and Karoly Koscice, Principal Professor at the Institute of Natural Resources and Geographical Studies of Chinese Academy of Sciences Dong Suocheng.



**Dong Suocheng**

Doctor of Sciences, leading professor of Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Science



**Dominique Raynaud**

Emeritus CNRS research director at Laboratoire de Glaciologie et Géophysique de l'Environnement at the Université J. Fourie in Grenoble

The scientific programme of the conference comprised the sessions proposed by 9 IGU Commissions and by groups of scholars – altogether 105 time slots of 90 minutes each. There were 11 plenary lectures. First, the director of IGRAS Professor Olga Solomina and her deputies, Professors Vladimir Kolosov and Arkady Tishkov reported about current research projects in different fields. The list of key speakers included well-known scholars, Professors Dong Suocheng (China), Claude Grasland (France), Dominique Raynaud (France), Christian Vandermotten (Belgium), John O'Loughlin (USA), Martin Wikelski (Germany), Yukio Himiyama (Japan), Evgeny Schwartz (Russia) .

The conference was widely covered in media. Few interviews with leading geographers appeared on TV channels. All in all, 87 materials were put on the sites of news agencies and of federal newspapers and published in their printed versions.



**Christian Vandermotten**

Vice-director of the Class of Letters of the Belgian Royal Academy of Sciences, President of the Royal Belgian Geographical Society



**Claude Grasland**

Full Professor of Geography and Spatial Analysis at the University Paris 7 Denis Diderot

One of the world leading world experts in the field of paleoclimatic studies and contemporary glaciation Dominique Raynaud spoke about global climate change and the role of greenhouse gases in this process. The coordinator of the large international project on birds' migrations ICARUS Martin Wikelski considered the results of space observations on transcontinental movements of different species. Christian Vandermotten devoted his lecture to the role of geography in the elaboration of regional policy and physical planning in Belgium and other EU countries. John O'Loughlin presented a large-scale interdisciplinary project on the impact of climate change on civil conflicts and violence in Africa (the case of Kenya). One of his key points was the conclusion that the poorest cattle raising area often suffering from draughts and starvation are the most exposed to sharp conflicts. The lecture of Claude Grasland concerned the influence of distance and socio-cultural factors on the territorial pattern of global flows, in



particular, foreign trade. Evgeny Schwartz stopped on the mechanisms of voluntary corporate responsibility based on market principles in environment management. Dong Suocheng made an overview of the first results of multidisciplinary scientific expedition studying the perspectives of Russia-Mongolia- China international economic corridor and coordinated by him. Yukio Himiyama devoted his lecture to the concept of sustainable development in geographical education on all levels in the light of the most important international agreements reached last years.



**Evgeny A. Shvarts**  
Director of Conservation Policy  
of WWF-Russia



**John O'Loughlin**  
Distinguished Professor of  
Geography and Faculty  
Research Associate in the  
Institute of Behavioral Science  
at the University of Colorado,  
USA

Few symposia were held in the framework of the conference. The objective of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Geospatial Health convened by Svetlana Malkhazova, Laura Rinaldi, Robert Bergquist, Sherif Amer and Fedor Kurennoy was to discuss progress in the creation of models for forecasting the spread of diseases by the means of GIS and their mapping depending in natural and social environment. Presentations on this symposium shed new light on comparisons of population health by the regions of European countries, the relations between the social status, the attitude of people to their health and the frequency of the use of medical assistance, the change of infant mortality as an indicator of the quality of life and the results of the work on the Medical-Geographical Atlas of Russia.



**Olga Solomina**  
Director of the Institute of  
Geography RAS,  
Corresponding Member of the  
Russian Academy of Sciences



**Karl Donert**  
Consultant, researcher and  
education specialist. He is  
Director of the European  
Centre of Excellence, elected  
President of EURO GEO

The symposium “Shaping “Big Eurasia” and the Chinese “One Belt - One Road Initiative” organized by Dong Suocheng, Vladimir Kolosov and Viacheslav Shuper provoked a particular interest of Chinese and Russian participants. They received much more abstracts than the number of presentations that time constraints allowed including to the programme. The objective was to analyze the processes of economic integration and cross-border cooperation on different levels potentially leading to the emergence of “Big Eurasia”. A number of presentations were focused on the concept of “green development” in different natural and socio-economic conditions and to the creation of transcontinental railways between the Pacific ports and Europe via the territories of Russia and Kazakhstan. The speakers emphasized the complementarity of natural resources and other factors of production along these railways, especially the availability

of water. They also discuss a potential impact of new railways on the development of international tourism.



**Vladimir Kolosov**  
Deputy Director of the Institute  
of Geography RAS, IGU Past  
President



**Yukio Himiyama**  
Professor of Geography,  
Hokkaido University of  
Education at Asahikawa, IGU  
President

Few IGU Commissions sponsored the sessions «Land-Based Solutions in Changing Environment» co-chaired by German Kust, Barron Orr and Alexei Naumov. It was devoted to the optimization of land use and the protection of land resources and their components in the conditions of climate change and increasing demographic pressure. They discussed the concept of land degradation neutrality and the perspectives of new UN Strategy of the struggle with

desertification in different regional contexts which should be based on a synthesis of methods and achievements of physical and human geography.



The objective of the round table on “Mountain Agenda-21” with the participation of practitioners organized by Yuri Badenkov was to estimate the contemporary state of mountain environment of Russia and other post-Soviet countries and to formulate the ways to its sustainable development till 2030. The participants considered the threats to it, especially depopulation, poverty and isolation, and raised the questions of legal regulation of regional development. They stressed that the priority should be given to biological and landscape diversity as the basis of economic development and noticed that it can be sustainable if it is not focused

only on tourism and recreation but grounded also on other functions – agricultural and industrial adapted to specific conditions in mountains.

The programme of the conference was rather diversified, and it is impossible to summarize the results of all sessions in a short review. The main themes were climate change, geographical education, urbanization and urban geography, water resources and water use, political geography and border studies, problems of polar regions, organization and functioning of natural parks and reserves, etc.

The principal question discussed at the sessions on climate change was whether the observed growth of temperature and precipitations matches the results of models describing the anthropogenic increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the expected dynamics at non-tropical latitudes of the Northern hemisphere. The answer was definitely positive; in Russia, the growth of temperature and precipitation is twice as high as the global average. However, they emphasized considerable regional discrepancies on climate change: for instance, in South Siberia winter temperatures and precipitations in winter in East Siberia are down. The increasing volatility of daily temperature in summer and in winter and the growing frequency of weather anomalies are an important trend. Using the Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI), the authors from IGRAS compared the perceptions of warmth conditions in Russia by seasons in 1961-1990 and 2001-2010. They came to the conclusion that higher winter temperatures did not considerably affected discomfort while the rise of summer temperatures doubled the number of observation points with comfortable conditions. An analysis of relationships between climatic conditions and socio-economic variables showed that in Russia climate affects first of all migrations of population, but only under the condition that this impact acts in parallel with economic change. The authors of some presentations submitted the evidences of shrinking glaciation in different parts of the world; the others considered the dynamic of the rivers' run-off under the influence of precipitations' change and the shifts in the different components of environment and human activity in the Arctic. Russian geographers presented the Atlas of the Arctic which just came out of print.

The participants noticed an interdisciplinary character of many presentations and their high academic level and that much attention was paid to the interplay between the scales of analysis and to theoretical questions. It is planned to publish special issues of the journal *Geography. Environment. Sustainability* including the papers submitted to the conference.

**Vladimir Kolosov**



## 6) FROM FUTURE EARTH

futureearth



### ***Seedbeds of Transformation - sustainability in Africa: tensions and opportunities***

Over 300 researchers, practitioners, industry leaders, policy makers, and others participated in a highly interactive [landmark conference](#) to discuss tensions and opportunities towards sustainability in the context of Africa. View [highlights](#) from the conference, including session livestreams and interviews. Read about a [session](#) on food systems in Africa and a [summary](#) of the conference.



### **Creating Smart Sustainable Cities: Challenges and Opportunities**

[The Global Carbon Project-Tsukuba International Office](#), has been coordinating and steering the project titled [“Urban and Regional Carbon Management \(URCM\)”](#) for over 10 years. To build on its experiences, the GCP organized a Workshop on “Towards Green Smart Cities in the IoT Era” from March 19-21 in Tokyo. [Read more...](#)

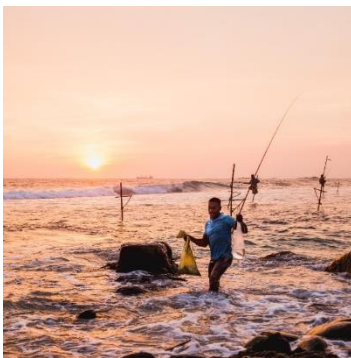
## **Knowledge-Action Networks**





## A New Policy Brief on the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Consumption

The Knowledge-Action Network on [Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production \(SSCP\)](#) has published a paper entitled "Why Achieving the Paris Agreement Requires Reduced Overall Consumption and Production". The paper outlines three reasons why whole systems of consumption and associated production need to be the focus of the global research and policy agenda. [Read more](#) and [download the paper](#).



## Research and Engagement Plan for the Nexus KAN

The Nexus Knowledge-Action Network's objective is to promote sustainable and equitable delivery of water, energy and food for all. Their [Research and Engagement Plan](#) was published earlier this year and sets the basis for the future work of the KAN.

### *What are Knowledge Action Networks?*

These networks bring together researchers and experts in policy, business, civil society and more. They build the knowledge and tools the world needs to tackle key sustainability challenges, from sustainable cities to planetary health. Learn more in this [video](#).

## Global Happenings

## Renewables market going strong one year after US withdraws from Paris

### Accords

Even after President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, many large American companies are voluntarily undertaking emissions cuts and a switch to renewable energy. [Read more...](#)



### ENERGY CLIMATE CHANGE

#### Energy efficiency could limit global warming and raise living standards for all

It should be possible for everyone in the world to enjoy a good life without a surge in energy demand and carbon emissions, researchers report in the journal *Nature Energy*. The study shows that the global warming target of 1.5°C can be reached even as living standards rise in developing countries. [Read more...](#)



### BIODIVERSITY

#### Without seagrass we'd lose one-fifth of our biggest fisheries

Seagrass—the aquatic plant that forms lush, flowering, undersea meadows—underpins the survival of the 25 most-fished species on our planet, a new study finds. Writing in *Conservation Letters*, a team of researchers says that if these fragile ecosystems succumb to the multiple threats they face, it would lead to certain decline in fish stocks that could threaten global food security. [Read more...](#)

## Events & Opportunities

**Future Earth vacancy: Coordinator (Montreal, Canada)**

**Start of contract: As soon as possible**

[Work with the Head of Coordination on supporting the development and streamlining of processes to ensure operational excellence.](#)



### **8) FROM UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY (2018 July 7)**



*(The whole issue is readable in [www.homeofgeographt.org/news2018](http://www.homeofgeographt.org/news2018) )*

The past few weeks have seen an extreme heatwave in parts of the Northern hemisphere. In Canada's Quebec province alone, the government reported an estimated 70 deaths connected to unusually high temperatures.



Photo: UNsplash/Moshkovska

Global climate change continues to be a pressing concern and extreme weather events are on the rise. These include highly visible events such as hurricanes and floods; however longer-term gradual changes such as heatwaves also have a severe impact on society and its vulnerable groups, especially in urban spaces.

Here are five facts on heatwaves and their impacts

### **1. Heatwaves are expected to become common.**

Heatwaves represent an increasing threat in urban settings. Although not as visible as and therefore less reported than disasters such as cyclones and floods, the effects of extreme heat are severe, and can be deadly. [In 2003 and 2010, record breaking temperatures were recorded across Europe. Events of such magnitude are expected to occur with growing frequency.](#)

### **2. Heatwaves affect colder-climate countries too, and can have severe consequences.**

As illustrated by the example of Quebec, rising temperatures and heatwaves are an increasing hazard in countries of comparably cold climate as well as in warmer climates. According to a [report published by UN Climate Change](#), higher temperatures due to climate change cause heatwaves which affect human health. For example, in Germany alone, [the heatwave of 2003 resulted in nearly 7,000 deaths and many heat-related illnesses due to heat stroke, dehydration, and cardiovascular disease.](#)

### **3. Impacts of heatwaves can be particularly severe in urban areas.**

Ongoing urbanization processes and increasing surface temperatures due to climate change result in increased heat stress risk in many urban areas around the world. [Particularly densely built-up urban areas are prone to urban heat island effects where temperatures hardly cool down over night.](#) Measures such as open green spaces or bodies of water and wind corridors have proven to be efficient countermeasures that can and should be included in urban planning strategies.



#### **4. The effects of weather-related disasters are most severely felt by vulnerable populations.**

Overall, increased heat will have a negative effect on health. Heat islands, a term used to describe areas with a high heat pollution threshold, are mainly concentrated in heavily populated and densely built-up urban areas. Vulnerable groups like elderly, young children or low-income households are likely to particularly suffer most from the adverse effects linked to climate change, as they tend to live in denser areas. As such, heatwaves represent an increasing threat to cities in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres.

#### **5. Adaptation and mitigation measures are needed, but are not yet adequate.**

Without mitigation measures to counter the weather-related hazards caused by climate change, it is likely that heatwaves will be more frequent, affecting human health and increasing costs.

City governments therefore increasingly should consider heatwave hazards in their development strategies. However, currently the lack of effective planning instruments related to heat hinder active implementation. Part of the challenge in the urban context is cities' long-term dependency on existing buildings and infrastructure that are often not optimal in terms of weather-related hazards. As of yet our understanding is limited.

*At UNU-EHS, the [ZURES project](#) seeks to address these various issues. It deals with heat pollution and accompanying heatwaves in heavily populated urban areas referred to as heat islands. Together with local partners, ZURES is analyzing current and future heat trends in the pilot cities of Bonn and Ludwigsburg with the goal of developing planning tools that can enable the integration of adaptation strategies into urban development processes. An ongoing household survey aims to assess the perception of urban heat of different groups of urban residents as well as individual adaptation measures already in place.*



#### **8) ASAHIKAWA CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL MAP CONTEST**

*I received the following announcement too late to include in the Homeofgeography website in the NEWS 2018. No children's school (and teacher, let me say) could now prepare such an endeavor for September, given that schools in the northern hemisphere are usually closed in Summer.*

*But this initiative, arrived now to the 28<sup>th</sup> year, is really worth to be known, in the hope that other schools will soon try to imitate. So I not only compliment the Organizers, moreover I am glad that several IGU Commission are already sponsoring the initiative, in the hope that soon the IGU Task Force for Olympiads will join.*

*G.B. Editor*

## **INVITATION TO THE 28th ASAHIKAWA CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL MAP CONTEST**

The map contest is held annually at Asahikawa City, Japan, in order to enhance environmental awareness of school children, and to improve their skills of out-door observation, map-making and map-use. The works are evaluated by specialists of geography and environmental and map education, as well as experienced teachers. Distinguished works are commended and displayed in the exhibition. Application is open to all school children of primary and secondary school levels (6 to 18 years old) throughout the world.

### **Organiser**

The Society for Environmental Map Education (SEME)

**Sponsors:** This is 2017 sponsorship. We are planning to apply for new sponsorship as soon as possible. Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, Hokkaido Prefectural Government, Asahikawa City Government, Hokkaido University of Education, Hokkaido Education Authority, Asahikawa Education Board, Asahikawa Junior High School Principals Association, Asahikawa Primary School Principals Association, Association of Japanese Geographers (AJG), Japan Cartographers Association, IGU Commission on Land Use/Cover Change (IGU-LUCC), IGU Commission on Geography Education (IGU-CGE), IGU Commission on Hazard and Risk (IGU-CHR), Hokkaido Geographical Society, National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan Map Centre, Japan Geographic Data Center, Mapping Enterprises Association Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU), Hokkaido Senior High School Geography Education Society, Hokkaido Map Education Society Asahikawa, The Association of Geography Educators of Japan, Asahikawa Education Society Social Studies Division, Hokkaido Shimbun Press, Asahi Shimbun Asahikawa, Yomiuri Shimbun Asahikawa, NHK Asahikawa, HBC Asahikawa

### **Application**

- The maps must be based on the applicants' observations of their environments. The applicants can choose either "free theme" or "specified theme". This year, the specified theme is "**Smell**" in one's environment.
- The maximum size of the map is 1091mm x 788mm. 3D model is unacceptable.
- The following information should be clearly stated on a separate sheet: **student's name & age, teacher's name, school name, school address, tel. & fax. number, e-mail address (if any), title of work, short note about the work.**
- The works should be received by the organizer no later than **21 September 2018.**



**「ベリーからベリーへ続く道」**  
The Road Leading to the Berry's Farm  
池内 美晴 (13 years old)

**「CUD Map in Little Hand」**  
CUD Map in Little Hand - Color-World People's View  
見澤 裕人 (10 years old)

**「常盤市洪水マップ」**  
常盤市洪水マップ  
高見 陽葵 (13 years old)

**「緊急時における病院選択とその行き方」**  
Choice of a Hospital in an Emergency and the Way to Get There  
長野 生貴 (14 years old)

## The 28th ASAHIKAWA CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL MAP CONTEST-2018

# 第28回 私たちの身のまわりの環境地図作品展

## 作品大募集

**展示場所と期間**  
展示期間  
2018年 10月27日(土)  
28日(日)  
展示会場  
旭川科学館サイバル  
北海道旭川市南1条3丁目  
TEL: 0166-31-3166  
FAX: 0166-31-3310

**表彰式**  
2018年 10月28日(日)  
13:00~14:00  
場所：旭川市民運動交流センター  
CoCoDe(ココデ) (サイバルと隣り)

**今年の指定テーマは**  
身のまわりの環境地図です！

ASAHIKAWA CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL MAP CONTEST  
環境地図教育研究会  
<http://environmentalmag.jp/>

**Ecosystem Services in Urban Areas: CASE OF SWARN JYANTI PARK, DELHI (India)**  
Jasmine Anand (11 years old)

**「坂道いっぱいさっぽろ円山動物園」**  
No Many Slopes in Sapporo Maruyama Zoo  
澤田 遼晴 (10 years old)

**「レジ袋いる？or いらない？ 区界の店の調査から」**  
Do You Need a Plastic Bag or Not? From the Surveys of Stores across the Ward  
大野 地鉄子 (13 years old)

**「まだ自然は残っている？ 桑園エリアの野草de押し花MAP」**  
The Nature Still Remains? Map of Wild Grasses in Sannan Area with Pressed Flowers  
高田 もも (10 years old)

**「Welcome to Taito ようこそ台東区」**  
ようこそ台東区  
宮澤 泰貴 (10 years old)

### **Exhibition**

The exhibition of distinguished works is held at Asahikawa Science Center during **27~28 October 2018**.

The ceremony of awarding an honour is held on **28 October 2018**

**Poster:** Have a look above, to the invitation poster of the 2018 event, remembering that the organizer is willing to send to the interested person a copy containing information on application etc. as well as some of last year's distinguished works on request.

**Website** <http://www.environmentalmap.org/>

**Poster** [http://www.environmentalmap.org/report/img/2018\\_chizuten\\_poste\\_A3\\_200dpi.jpg](http://www.environmentalmap.org/report/img/2018_chizuten_poste_A3_200dpi.jpg)

### **Contact**

#### **(Submission of maps & inquiries)**

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## **9) SPRINGER VERLAG**

### **Call for Editorial Board Members**

#### ***Population and Environment***

**Volumes 40 - 44, 2019 - 2023**

*Springer* and *Population and Environment* invite nominations for the 2019– 2023 editorial board of the journal. This leading scientific journal in the fields of population and environmental studies, published by Springer, publishes one volume of four issues per year. It is the sole social science journal focused on interdisciplinary research on social demographic aspects of environmental issues. The journal publishes cutting-edge research that contributes new insights on the complex, reciprocal links between human populations and the natural environment in all regions and countries of the world. Disciplines commonly represented in the journal include demography, geography, sociology, human ecology, environmental economics, public health,



anthropology, environmental studies, and others in which population and environment are topics. The journal publishes original research, research brief, and review articles. Quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods contributions are welcome.

The Editorial Board of *Population and Environment* consists of approximately twelve members who report to the Editor in Chief. The Editorial Board members will participate in an annual virtual advisory board meeting; consult with the Editor in Chief on manuscripts in their area of expertise; recruit manuscripts; and otherwise promote the journal. The Editor in Chief is responsible for accepting and rejecting manuscripts on the basis of the quality of the research presented and the suitability of the subject matter; guiding manuscripts through the review process; overseeing revisions; and planning issues. Nominees should have proven excellence in peer-review publication and expertise in population and/or environmental studies. A good command of English is a requisite, as all manuscripts are submitted in this language. This is a volunteer position.

Self-nominations for membership on the Editorial Board are encouraged. The Editorial Board members' names will appear on the masthead. Appointments will be made in the fourth quarter of 2018.

Send a short letter of nomination and a CV by E-mail to:

Springer, attn. Evelien Bakker at: [evelien.bakker@springer.com](mailto:evelien.bakker@springer.com)  
and to the Editor in Chief at: [elizabeth\\_fussell@brown.edu](mailto:elizabeth_fussell@brown.edu)

For further information on *Population and Environment*, please visit our website [www.springer.com/11111](http://www.springer.com/11111).

**The deadline for nominations is September 15, 2018.**



## **10) FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

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

- 10.1) IGU Regional Conference 2018, Université Laval, Québec, 6-10 August**
- 10.2) After Laval 2018, Conference on Higher Education, 10-12 August**
- 10.3) Heritage Contestation: Memory, Time, Forgetting. Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, 1-6 December**
- 10.4) 50 years of Local Governance, Lisboa, 4-5 September**
- 10.5) Water Resources and Wetlands, Tulcea (Romania), 5-9 September**
- 10.6) Tercero Congreso Brasileiro de Geografia Politica, Niteroi, 10-14 September**
- 10.7) Lodz Political Conference, Gniezno (Poland), 10-14 September**
- 10.8) Physical Geography and Society, Coimbra (Portugal), 20-22 September**
- 10.9) Europe Agendas for Reform, Athens, 21-23 September**
- 10.10) DAAD Summer School, Urban Transformation in SE Asia, Koeln, 17-26 September**
- 10.11) World Social Science Forum in Fukuoka, 25-27 September**
- 10.11) Infrastructure, Regions and Organisation, Singapore, 29 Sept.-7 Oct.**
- 10.12) Conference on Borders and Mobility, Joensuu (Finland), 4-5 October**
- 10.13) European Week of Regions and Cities, Bruxelles, 7-11 October**
- 10.14) North-South Dialogue in Border Management: Ibadan (Nigeria) and Cotonou (Benin) 15-18 October**
- 10.15) Desigualdades urbanas en America Latina, Santiago, 23-25 Octubre.**