



IGU Commissions

- African Studies
- Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering
- Applied Geography
- Biogeography and Biodiversity
- Climatology
- Coastal Systems
- Cold and High Altitude Regions
- Cultural Approach in Geography
- Dynamics of Economic Spaces
- Environment Evolution
- Gender and Geography
- Geographical Education
- Geographical Information Science
- Geography for Future Earth: Coupled Human-Earth Systems for Sustainability
- Geography of Governance
- Geography of Information, Innovation and Technology
- Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change
- Geoheritage
- Geomorphology and Society: Past, Present and Future
- Global Change and Human Mobility
- Global Understanding
- Hazard and Risk
- Health and Environment
- History of Geography
- Islands
- Karst
- Land Degradation and Desertification
- Landscape Analysis and Landscape Planning
- Land Use and Land Cover Change
- Latin American Studies
- Local and Regional Development
- Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses
- Mediterranean Basin
- Modeling Geographical Systems
- Political Geography
- Population Geography
- Sustainability of Rural Systems
- Toponymy (Jointly with International Cartographic Association)
- Transport and Geography
- Urban Commission: Urban Challenges in a Complex World
- Water Sustainability
- Olympiad Task Force
- Centennial and Sesquicentennial Task Force
- Young and Early Career Geographers Task Force



How to join the IGU

Formal 'membership' in the IGU is by countries only through organizations that represent the geographical community in that country as a whole. However, individual membership is possible via one of the IGU's research Commissions. Joining them is actually very easy – and there is no cost involved. The IGU has around 40 'Commissions' – these are clusters of geographers who are interested in particular elements of the discipline, such as Climatology, Urban Geography or Population Geography. Each commission has its own steering committee and organizes conferences and workshops (often, but not always, in conjunction with major IGU congresses and conferences), publishes newsletters focused on its speciality (including of course the news of any upcoming meetings), and books and special issues of journals related to the topic. Anyone can get involved with one or more of the commissions totally free of charge and without commitment – simply write an email to the appropriate commission chair and let them know you would like to become a commission member. You can find a full list of all the commissions, with details of contact persons and their own website addresses etc., on the IGU home page – follow the links to 'Commissions'.

igu-online.org



IGU Executive Committee 2018–2020

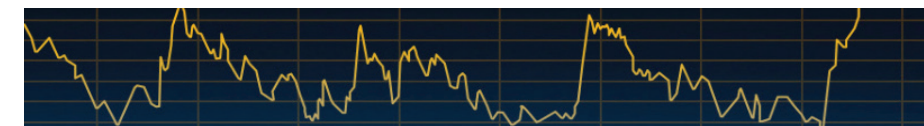
President: Yukio Himiyama, Japan
First Vice-President: Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, The Netherlands
Past President: Vladimir Kolosov, Russia
Secretary-General and Treasurer: RB Singh, India
Vice-Presidents: Elena dell'Agnese, Italy; Barbaros Gönençgil, Turkey; Iain Hay, Australia; Nathalie Lemarchand, France; Rubén Lois-González, Spain; Bojie Fu, PR China



International Geographical Union



2018–2020





What is the IGU?

The International Geographical Union, founded in 1922, is an organization that represents the academic discipline of geography globally and is a truly international body. There are hundreds of national geographical societies and associations, but the IGU is the only organization that attempts to unite the global community of geographers under a single umbrella.

The purposes of the IGU are primarily to promote the discipline of geography through initiating and coordinating geographical research that is truly international in scope through its Commissions and Task Forces. The IGU hosts the International Geographical Congress every four years and also promotes Regional Conferences and other meetings that further the discipline of geography. The IGU also facilitates the participation of geographers in the global community of scientists through formal membership of the International Council for Science (ICSU).



A brief history of the IGU

The IGU was formally established in Brussels in 1922. However, the history of international meetings of geographers began earlier. The first of a series of International Geographical Congresses met in 1871 in Antwerp. Since its early days the IGU has consisted of three major components: a General Assembly of the delegates appointed by the member countries which meets at the time of the Congress and is the highest authority of the Union; an Executive Committee which consists of a President, nine Vice--Presidents and a Secretary-General and Treasurer; and Commissions and Task Forces which continue their work between General Assembly meetings. The working languages of the Union are English and French.



Major IGU initiatives

Aside from supporting the ongoing activities of all the IGU Commissions and arranging regular regular Congresses and Regional Conferences, the IGU currently is engaged in three major projects:

Science Decade for Global Understanding

IGU championed the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU; declared in 2016) which is now proposed as the Science Decade of Global Understanding. Global action towards resolving the problems arising from global social and climate change requires a global level of understanding. This initiative aims to bridge the gap in awareness between local actions

and global effects. SDGU aims to facilitate understanding of global processes, to encourage everyone everywhere to make daily decisions in light of global challenges and to contribute to bottom-up initiatives that connect individual, local action to global sustainability. More information is available at:



<http://global-understanding.info/>

Journals Project

Globally, hundreds and perhaps thousands of journals deal with the broad discipline of geography. In recent years the domination of major publishing houses in the scientific journal market has increased and it is clear that many geographical journals are published that have lower profiles and yet could provide invaluable resources for geographers – researchers and teachers alike – in particular national or regional contexts. It was for this reason that the IGU embarked on a project to establish a searchable global database of geographical periodicals. Information, including contact details, impact factors (where appropriate) and website addresses of more than 1000 journals from more than 80 countries worldwide are now available online. Follow the links on <https://igu-online.org/>



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN Sustainable Development Goals

The IGU, as a member of the International Science Council for Science (ISC), strongly endorses the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. The Goals interconnect and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve each Goal and target by 2030. For more information see:

www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/



Future Earth

The IGU strongly supports the ISC's Future Earth initiative, which overlaps with the mission of the IGU, which regards itself as 'the science for sustainability'. The aim of Future Earth is to develop the knowledge required for societies worldwide to face the challenges posed by global environmental change and to identify and to seize opportunities for a transition to global sustainability. Future Earth must answer fundamental questions about how and why the global environment is changing, what future changes are likely, what are the implications for humankind and other species, and what opportunities reduce risks and vulnerabilities, enhance resilience, and create prosperous and equitable futures. Future Earth will show how this knowledge can inform and support actions for sustainable developments that enhance human wellbeing. For more information visit: <http://www.futureearth.org/>

