

International Geographical Union

Union Géographique Internationale



2018 Annual Report of the International Geographical Union

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1. Highlights of the IGU Executive Committee meetings of 2018

Three Executive Committee meetings were held in 2018. The first was in Tokyo in April, the second was in Québec, Canada, in August, and the third was in Aligarh, India.

The first EC meeting in 2018 was held at Gakushi Kaikan in Tokyo, Japan, during 9th-11th April. Prior to this EC meeting, IGU Secretary-General Meadows wrote an e-mail to IGU National Committee contacts in relation to two important matters that required a decision of the IGU General Assembly, namely a) election of four Executive Committee officers and b) the approval of a membership application by the Kyrgyz Republic. The deadline for the voting was set so that its results could be tabled in the EC meeting in August in time. Nominations were called for four positions on the IGU EC arising from the fact that four members complete their terms of office at the conclusion of the IGU-CAG Regional Conference in August 2018. The election of EC members is the duty of the IGU General Assembly but this can be arranged by way of an 'e-ballot'. The results of the voting were that Prof. RB Singh was elected as Secretary-General and Treasurer of the IGU, while Professors Elena dell' Agnese, Iain Hay and Bojie Fu were elected as Vice-Presidents for the period 2018-2022. In the same ballot, Kyrgyz Republic was accepted as a full member country of the IGU. 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. 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, Koper. It was approved as a Thematic Conference of IGU. There was further discussion around the criteria for IGU 'Thematic Conference'; the minutes of the Québec EC meeting in 2017 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. As for Commissions, it was decided that the Commission Excellence award for 2017 be presented to the Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change. The EC congratulated Professor Benno Werlen, the Chair of the Commission on Global Understanding, for his appointment to a UNESCO Chair in Global Understanding for Sustainability at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, which was to be

inaugurated on 2nd May 2018 in Jena, Germany.

The second EC meeting was held at Hôtel Château Laurier, Québec City, Canada, during 4th-6th August, i.e. shortly before the IGU Regional Conference 2018. The meeting place was within a pleasant walking distance from Québec City Convention Center, the venue of the Conference. IGU Vice President RB Singh's appointment as Secretary-General and Treasurer of IGU for the period 2018-2022 left a vacancy on the executive which necessitated a nomination call. Only one nomination was received and Professor Rubén Camilo Lois-González (Spain) was duly elected as IGU Vice-President for 2018-2022 by e-ballot. The appointment of Prof Meadows as Assistant to the newly elected Secretary-General and Treasurer for 2018-2020 was also confirmed. The IGU EC had been deeply involved in the process of creating ISC (International Science Council). IGU President Himiyama and Vice-President Lemarchand attended the GeoUnions' meeting ahead of the inaugural ISC General Assembly in Paris in early July, and reported on it in the EC. IUGG, one of the nine GeoUnions, has started 'mapping' their activities to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and it was agreed in the EC that the Commissions and Task Forces should be requested to provide this kind of information so that the IGU contributions to SDGs can be established and that this can enable the identification of research areas of synergy around the SDGs. The matter will be raised initially at the Chairs meeting at the Québec Conference but there will need to be a follow-up exercise to establish in more detail what particular initiatives and activities are being undertaken that relate to the SDGs. The inaugural General Assembly of the ISC was attended by Himiyama, Meadows and Lemarchand. A major item on the agenda was the elections for Governing Board members. Two Geographers, namely Professors Ruth Fincher and Anna Davies, were elected as ordinary members of the Governing Board. IGU has proposed 'science education' as an important element of the future work of the ISC and it is hoped that, among other initiatives, this will be promoted and followed up in particular by them. Soon after the closing ceremony of the Regional Conference, the new IGU EC had its first meeting at Québec City Convention Centre and made necessary arrangements to get it started.

The third EC meeting was held at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India, during 1st to 4th December. RB Singh, who became the IGU Secretary-General and Treasurer in August 2018, suggested that the transfer of the IGU office from University of Cape Town to Delhi University was proceeding slowly but that with his assistants he can handle most of tasks going forward, including the IGU website. IGU National Membership continued to show good signs of increase. There were reports on a potential renewal of membership by Indonesia, Portugal, Brasil and Ecuador, and on resumed contacts with several countries. It was reminded that language remains a barrier and that more exposure for Spanish would help the IGU cause. There are indeed countries that are interested in IGU membership but have clear problems in raising the funds to join. Concerning the IGU Archives at University of Leipzig, Dr Bruno Schelhaas made an excellent presentation at the Chairs' meeting in Québec Conference, and there remains a need to promote the existence and availability of resources in the IGU Archives. The IGU Commission and National Committee chairs should be reminded of the responsibility to submit materials. The website can also be used to promote the availability of the archives. IGU Vice-President Gönençgil presented a brief update on the IGU Congress 2020 Istanbul and presented the draft second circular for comments and corrections. After making a number of suggestions on the contents of the circular including information about the venue, Congress website, registration arrangements, accommodation prices, financial support, keynote speakers and their lecture themes, and other things, EC approved the printed leaflet of 34th IGU congress (subject to final editorial input from Meadows and Hay). IGU Vice-President dell'Agnese presented information on the 2020 IGU Thematic Conference Lecce, Italy, in the form of a ppt including details regarding the suggested theme, IGU Commissions involvement, abstract submission dates, fee structure, venue location, transportation, scientific committee membership and partners etc. The Thematic Conference was approved with the following dates: May 31st to 2nd June, 2020. The first circular should be made available as soon as possible, following which IGU will promote it in the usual manner.

2. Report on the IGU Thematic Conference on Practical Geography and XXI Century Challenges, Moscow 4-6 June

The Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences (IGRAS: 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 held under the auspices of IGU on 4-6 June 2018 the Thematic Conference “Practical Geography and Challenges of the 21st Century”. It was sponsored by nine IGU Commissions, namely Biogeography and Biodiversity, Cold and High Altitude Regions, Environment Evolution, Geography of Governance, Land Use and Land-Cover Change, Population Geography, Toponymy, Urban Challenges in a Complex World, and Water Sustainability.



At Opening of the Conference

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 21st 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.

The opening ceremony was scheduled in Moscow Central Club of Scholars situated in the 18th century building not far from the Kremlin. The participants were welcomed 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.

The scientific programme of the conference comprised the sessions proposed by 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.

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.

Few symposia were held in the framework of the conference. The objective of the 12th 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.

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.

A 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.

This part of the report was originally provided by the Conference Organizing Committee, and edited by Himiyama, Singh and Meadows.

3. Report on the IGU Regional Conference, Quebec

A few words from the Local Organization President

Held in Quebec City (Canada) from August 6 to 10, the 2018 Regional Conference of the IGU was held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the **Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG)** and the **National Council for Geographical Education (NCGE)**. The fully bilingual conference was conducted in the IGU's two official languages (English and French) and featured 12 keynote speakers. It was the first time that an IGU conference has been held in North America in more than 35 years (Washington, DC, 1992) and the first time in more than 45 years in Canada (Montreal, 1972). With some 1300 participants, it was easily **the largest geographic gathering in the history of Canada**.

The theme of the conference, **"Appreciating Difference / Apprécier la différence,"** encouraged participants to recognize the importance of interpreting our world in all its diversity. A unique aspect of this congress was the presence of the NCGE, giving K to 12 Education a prominent place at an IGU event. Geography start with the youth, and it was beneficial to be reminded by NCGE participants that the IGU and CAG should not solely be about higher academic education. Clearly, an integrated approach to primary, secondary and tertiary geographical education should be emphasized at future IGU and CAG meetings in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of Geography.

It was equally a pleasure to host in Quebec City from July 31st to August 6th the **15th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo)**. There was a near-record breaking attendance of 40 countries and 43 teams, and an overall budget of over \$260,000 CDN for this event. It was inspiring to observe the world's best geography students compete for gold medals that were awarded at the Quebec City Convention Centre by IGU president Yukio Himiyama (Japan), Canadian Association of Geographers president Dan Shrubsole, and National Council for Geographical Education president Audrey Mohan (USA).

The hosts of the 2018 Congress, the Université Laval and the Canadian Association of Geographers, are proud to have welcomed the IGU-CAG-NCGE to Québec City. The international collaborations and partnerships that were built during the congress will be of importance to Quebecois and Canadian geographers for years to come.

Matthew Hatvany, PhD

President of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE Congress
Professeur,
Département de Géographie, Université Laval

IGU2018 at a Glance

The International Geographical Union (IGU) is an organization dedicated to the development of geography worldwide. Its main purpose is to promote geography by initiating and coordinating geographic research and teaching in all countries of the world.

The 2018 IGU Regional Conference was held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) and the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) from August 6th to 10th, 2018 at the Quebec City Convention Center. More than 1,300 participants gathered to exchange and discuss the latest research and teaching advances in geography.





Entrance Hall

Quebec City Convention Center

Highlights of the 2018 IGU conference included the conjoint annual meetings of the CAG and NCGE, a fully bilingual program in English and French, as well as 12 keynote talks in human, physical and education geography addressing the conference theme “Appreciating Difference / Apprécier la différence”.

The 15th International Geography Olympiad

As an IGU Task Force, the International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) is normally held the week previous to an IGU conference in the same host country. The 15th International Geography Olympiad was hosted in Quebec City and the Charlevoix region from July 31st to August 6th 2018. It was co-organized by Ms. Beth Dye (British Columbia), Dr. Matthew Hatvany (Quebec) and Dr. Lynn Moorman (Alberta). Nearly 300 students, team leaders and volunteers from 40 countries and 43 teams participated in this prestigious event. The iGeo was an excellent opportunity to showcase the geographical skills and understandings of the world's best geography students, as well as a reward for student excellence.

The Gold Medal Ceremony recognizing the world's best young geographers was held at the Quebec Convention Centre on August 6th and was presided over by IGU Task Force co-chairs Ms. Sue Lomas (United Kingdom) and Dr. Su-Min Shen (Taiwan) in the presence of International Geography Union president Yukio Himiyama (Japan), Canadian Association of Geographers president Dan Shrubsole, and NCGE president Audrey Mohan (USA).

2018 iGeo Teams

Argentina	China-Macau	Kazakhstan	Serbia
Armenia	China-Taipei	Latvia	Singapore
	Croatia		
Australia	Cyprus	Lithuania	Slovakia
Belarus	Czech Republic	Mongolia	Slovenia
Belgium	Denmark	The Netherlands	Switzerland
Bosnia and Hercegovina	Estonia	New Zealand	Thailand
Brazil	Finland	Nigeria	Turkey
Bulgaria	Germany	Philippines	United Kingdom
Canada	Hungary	Poland	USA
China-Beijing	Indonesia	Romania	
China-Hong Kong	Japan	Russia	

Hosting an iGeo, with an overall budget of nearly \$300,000, is no small feat for a small country. Registration fees covered approximately 68% of the budget, while the remainder was raised by the local organizing committee. We wish to recognize the generous support of the Canadian Association of Geographers, the Faculté de foresterie, de géographie et de géomatique (Université Laval), the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, the Capitale-Nationale Secretariat (Quebec City), the Community Development Charity of Charlevoix, Tourism Charlevoix, the Observatory of the Charlevoix Geosphere, the Wildlife Foundation of Quebec, the Ministry of Education of Quebec, Natural Resources Canada, the Fonds de Sustainable Development (Université Laval), EF Educational Tours, and HERE Technologies.

The 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE Congress Comes to Canada

The 2018 IGU Regional Conference featured **12 keynote talks** in human, physical and education geography (delivered in English and French) on the conference theme "Appreciating Difference / Apprécier la différence." The program included **196 sessions, 1200 oral presentations, 82 poster presentations, and 9 field excursions** in the Quebec City and Charlevoix regions.

Participants came from **over 100 countries**, the majority from North America, followed by Asia (China, Japan), Europe (France, United Kingdom, Poland, Germany, Russia), and South America (Brazil). Approximately **67 % of the participants were from outside of Canada**, making this an ideal

opportunity for Canadians to develop important relations with geographers from around the world. Nearly one-fourth of participants **(23 %) were graduate students.**

The success of the 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE Congress, along with the iGeo, is thanks to the close collaboration developed between the Canadian Association of Geographers, the Université Laval, and the Quebec City Convention Centre. Planning began in 2012 when CAG president Jean Andrey first proposed hosting the IGU. Professors Guy Mercier, Matthew Hatvany and Laurent Bourdeau (Dept. of Geography, Université Laval) and Jocelyn Guertin (Quebec City Convention Centre) then presented a bid at the 2014 IGU meeting in Krakow, Poland. The bid emphasized **three Canadian and Québécois aspirations: 1) the reassertion of ties between the IGU and North American geographers, 2) the reaffirmation of French as an official IGU language, and 3) the bolstering of geographical education in Canada following the signing in 2013 of the St. John's Declaration on geographical education.** This third aspiration led to an invitation to the National Council for Geographical Education to join the IGU and CAG in 2018 in Quebec City.

The 2018 conference theme, *Appreciating Difference / Apprécier la différence*, is a Québécois expression that invited participants to consider the world as a blank canvas upon which one must first decide how to depict it before putting down images and words. To appreciate is not only a question of what one finds significant and of value, it is also an awareness of differences and the ability to recognize them as meaningful to a more inclusive interpretation of the diverse world in which we live. During the 2018 congress, IGU commissions, CAG study groups and NCGE sections all reflected in unique ways on this thought-provoking theme.

Keynotes speakers

The conference was notable for an outstanding number of English and French speaking keynote talks addressing a wide diversity of themes in human, physical and education geography. These talks were generously supported by grants from **Wiley publishing, Québec Destination affaires, Centre d'études nordiques** (Université Laval), **Regroupement des géographes du Québec**, and **IGU Commission Awards.**

August 6th opening discourse, **Caroline Desbiens** (Université Laval, Canada): *Appreciating Difference: A View from Indigenous Rivers.*

August 7th, Québec Destination affaires Lecture, **Sarah Bednarz** (Texas A&M University, USA): *Geography's*

Secret Powers to Save the World.

August 7th, Centre d'études nordiques Lecture, **Michel Allard** (Université Laval, Canada): *Nunavik – Land of Change*

August 7th, IGU Commission Award, **Maria Paradiso** (U. of Sannio, Italy): *Mediterranean Basin Commission: sharing experience and knowledge*

August 7th, CAG Wiley-McKenzie Lecture, **Margo Greenwood** (UNBC, Canada): *Dialogues on Land, Water and Communities*

August 8th, IGU Commission Award, **Clare Brooks** (University College London, UK): *The Power of Geography Education*

August 8th, Regroupement des géographes du Québec Lecture, **Jérôme Dupras** (UQO, Canada): *Urban Futures, When Geography Embraces Nature, Arts and Economy*

August 8th, **Randy Widdis** (University of Regina, Canada): *On Globalization, Borders and Borderlands: A Historical Geographical Perspective*

August 8th, CAG-Wiley Lecture, **Shuaib Lwasa** (Makerere University, Uganda): *Appreciating the geographies of heterogeneity and unity in Africa: a socio ecological perspective*

August 9th, Québec Destination affaires Lecture, **Michael F. Goodchild** (UC Santa Barbara, USA): *Geography and GISCIENCE*

August 9th, **Robert Vézina** (Commission de toponymie du Québec, Canada): *Indigenous Languages in Quebec's Toponymy*

August 10th closing discourse, **Olav Slaymaker** (UBC, Canada): In Praise of the IGU: Fifty Years of Geography

Dr. Shuaib Lwasa speaking on the geographies of heterogeneity and unity in Africa.



Field Excursions

The congress featured nine field excursions in human and physical geography that were organized by geographers and foresters from Université Laval as well as invited contributors.

Excursions were held throughout the Quebec City area, the Montmorency boreal forest, and the First Nations village of Wendake. Most exciting was an excursion by bicycle along a segment of the St. Lawrence River – truly sustainable development in action!

1. Yaïves Ferland (Université Laval) Québec and the military: from “Gibraltar of America” to “Summit of Americas”
2. Étienne Bethold (Université Laval) A walking tour through the Old Quebec: history, architecture and heritage
3. Caroline Desbiens (Université Laval) Wendake: Tourist destination and living environment
4. Guy Dorval and Antoine Boisson (Université Laval) Bicycle Trip along the St. Lawrence
5. Nicolas Lanouette, Christian Paré and Julien Barbeau (Invited contributors), Geopoetic Walk Along the Saint-Charles River
6. Marie-Claude Dionne (former graduate student, Université Laval) Making Landscape Heritage at Cartier-Roberval
7. Matthew Hatvany (Université Laval) Mapping Québec through the Ages – A Visit to the Université Laval Map Library
8. Yaïves Ferland (Université Laval) La Belle Province: Toponymic fieldtrip in the Vicinity of Québec City
Louis Bélanger and Luc Bouthillier (Université Laval) The Forêt Montmorency: A Close Encounter with Quebec’s Boreal Forest



Guy Dorval (U. Laval), organizer of the field excursion by bicycle along the St. Lawrence River.

Event Highlights at a Glance

LOCATION OF THE EVENT	Quebec City Convention Center, Canada		
EVENT BUDGET	\$899,932 CDN		
SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM	12 Keynote talks in English and French 1,200 oral presentations 82 posters 196 organized sessions		
FIELD EXCURSIONS	9 local and regional trips		
# OF EXHIBITORS	33		
PARTICIPANT PROFILE		GENDER RATIO	
Total participants	1313	Women	632
Volunteers	30	Men	673
Regular delegates	860	Non-identified	8
Students	307		
Exhibitors	41	AFFILIATIONS	
Guests	4	IGU	50 %
Organizers	29	CAG	32 %
Partners	27	NCGE	18 %
Keynote speakers	12		
Top Ten Participating COUNTRIES			
Canada	422		
USA	281		
China	92		
Japan	77		
France	49		
UK	24		
Poland	23		
Germany	21		
Brazil	17		
Russia	17		
South Africa	17		

Conference Financial Report

The 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE Congress, along with the 15th International Geography Olympiad, were events of nearly \$1.25 million CDN with an economic benefit of over \$3.5 million CDN for the Quebec City region. In addition to providing necessary staff and student volunteers for the local IGU and iGeo organizing committees, the Faculté de foresterie, de géographie et de géomatique (Université Laval) in partnership with the Canadian Association of Geographers, assumed many indirect costs of preparations over the four-year period 2014 - 2018.

The overall direct costs of hosting the 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE Congress was \$899,932 CDN. Registration fees covered approximately 84 % of all costs, while sponsorships and exhibitions covered approximately 17 % of the overall budget.

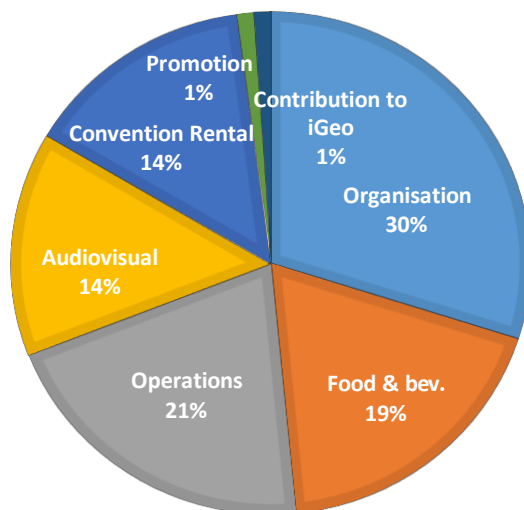
REVENUES

Conference Registration	\$749,242
Sponsorships and Exhibitors	\$150,689
TOTAL REVENUES	\$899,932 CDN

EXPENSES

Organization and Logistics	\$256,684
Food and Beverage	\$161,213
Operations	\$179,082
Audio-Visuel	\$126,176
Convention Center Rental	\$123,952
Promotion and Communications	\$12,873
Contribution to iGeo	\$ 9,700
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$899,932 CDN

2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE CONGRESS: AN EVENT OF \$899,932



Financial Partners

The capacity to adequately finance an IGU conference and iGeo event differs between countries depending on the GDP of the country, the degree of State support, the vigor of national, regional and local geography associations, and the degree of interest shown by the private sector. For a “Middle Power” country such as Canada, hosting the IGU and iGeo would not have been possible without the support of several key sponsors. We would especially like to note the participation of **Google Earth Outreach** as our **Gold partner** and **National Geographic** as our **Silver Partner**. **Bronze partners** were **Jarkarto Cartographie 3D** and **K2 Geospatial**. The workshops presented by these sponsors, their scientific input, and the many fruitful discussions and scientific interactions that they initiated added tremendous value to the congress. THANK YOU.

Sponsorships and the participation of some 33 exhibitors contributed to the diversity of geographical offerings available during the congress. Exhibition fees helped to keep registration costs low, especially for graduate student. **Student rates were offered at several hundred dollars below actual cost.**

Other collaborating partners that helped make the 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE Congress the largest geographic gathering in the history of Canada were the Canadian Association of Geographers, the National Council for Geographical Education, the Faculté de foresterie, de géographie et de géomatique (Université Laval), Wiley, Québec Destination affaires, Esri Canada, Quebec Nature and Technologies Funds, Hydro-Québec, the Government of Quebec, the Sustainable Development program of the Université Laval, the Regroupement des géographes du Québec and the Centre d'études Nordiques (Université Laval). Please see the attached Annex of partners and exhibitors for a list of all our contributors.

Conclusion

The international networking and collaboration that took place between members of the IGU, CAG and NCGE was immensely stimulating. This was especially true for North Americans as this was the **first time in more than a generation of geographers (over 35 years) that the IGU was last on the North American continent**. For many Canadian, American and international graduate students, this was their first opportunity to interact with IGU commissions. As well, the 2018 meeting had special meaning for Canadians and Québécois as it marked the **first time in decades that an IGU simultaneously functioned in both official IGU languages of English and French, including a fully bilingual Internet site, keynote speakers, sessions and posters**.

For the first time in the history of the IGU, the National Council for Geographic Education (an American organization dedicated to K to 12 geographical education) took part as an organizing partner of the congress. With the presence of more than two hundred NCGE geography teachers, including leading experts in the field, productive exchanges were organized around the theme of geographic education. In addition to nearly 50 sessions in education geography, collaborative pre- and post-IGU meetings were held jointly by the CAG **Education Study Group** and the IGU **Geographical Education Commission**. These events should be viewed as milestones in the pursuit of **Goal 4 of IGU's 2015-2022 Strategic Plan** which states that "geographic education must be the focus of activities of the IGU". As well, it was a milestone in advancing Canada's **St. John's Declaration** on the advancement of geographical education. It is our aspiration that the links established between the IGU, CAG and NCGE will contribute meaningfully to achieving both Goal 4 of the IGU 2015-2022

Strategic Plan as well as the CAG 'St. John's Declaration'.

The 2018 Congress took advantage of many cross-sectoral areas in geography research and education. We hope that this year's attendees will be interested in participating in the next annual CAG meeting to be held in May 2019 in Winnipeg, Canada as well as the annual meeting of the NCGE that will take place in summer 2019 in Washington, DC (USA). Professors, researchers, students as well as industry partners and associations have much to gain by continuing to develop international collaborations and exchanges with the common goal of building strong and sustainable partnerships that will promote the advancement of the field of geography.



A North American first: IGU president Yukio Himiyama (r), CAG president Dan Shrubsole (center), and NCGE president Audrey Mohan (l), announce the opening of the IGU-CAG-NCGE Congress at the Quebec City Convention Centre, August 6th 2018.

This part of the report was originally provided by the Conference Organizing Committee, and edited by Himiyama, Singh and Meadows.

4. Co-operation with other organizations

ISC, ICSU, ISSC: The legalities underlying the merger of International Council for Science (ICSU) and International Social Science Council (ISSC) into the International Science Council (ISC) were underway till June, and were finalized in time for the inaugural General Assembly in Paris in early July. IGU submitted a proposal to the ICSU/ISSC Secretariat in early June 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 June Himiyama 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. Himiyama, Meadows and Lemarchand attended the 'ISC Founding General Assembly and Inauguration and the associated events' including GeoUnions (GUs) meeting, held in Paris during 2-5 July, with Meadows joining the events

from the second day. The first day, i.e. 2nd July, was devoted to the GeoUnions meeting, which was attended by the representatives of all nine Unions. 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. 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>

Photos from the ISC Founding General Assembly, July 2018, Paris



Photo 1



Photo 2

Photo 1. Standing from left: ICSU President Gordon McBean, ISSC President Alberto Martinelli, ISC President Daya Reddy

Photo 2. From left: IGU Secretary General Michael Meadows, INQUA President Allan Ashworth, ISC President Daya Reddy, IGU President Yukio Himiyama, IUGG President Michael Sideris

GeoUnions: A GeoUnions meeting was held on 2nd July, i.e. the first day of the 'ISC Founding General Assembly and Inauguration and the associated events', it was attended by the representatives of all nine Unions, i.e. IAU, ICA, IGU, INQUA, ISPRS, IUGG, IUGS, IUSS and URSI, and Himiyama and Lemarchand represented the IGU. 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. IUGG (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics) has established a programme that involves 'mapping' their activities to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and it was supported by the other member unions including IGU. The matter was raised in the IGU at the Chairs meeting at the Québec Regional Conference, and a follow-up exercise is being undertaken. The information on the IUBS-INQUA-WRP project entitled 'TropICSU' was sent to the broader IGU community and the project was advertised at the Chairs meeting at the Québec Regional Conference. There was another GeoUnions meeting in November in Istanbul, and Gönençgil

attended it on behalf of IGU. There had been no further discussion of the GeoUnions 'mapping' exercise that former chair, Alik Ismael-Zadeh, had proposed.

CIPSH: IGU Past President Kolosov reported that a meeting of CIPSH was held in Xiamen immediately after the Tokyo EC meeting in April 2018, although he was unable to attend it in person. He reported that CIPSH continues to seek new members among relevant associations. Strategic initiatives were discussed, among which the 'Global History of Humanity' in which a number of thematic histories would be brought together. There was a proposal to develop an integrated report on the Social Sciences and publish this online or in the form of a book but without funding this is unlikely to come to fruition. A third proposal to establish CIPSH Chairs along the lines of the type established by UNESCO; the requirements for such Chairs and their functions have already been worked out by a special commission. Kolosov suggested that some of the IGU Commissions can participate in one or more of these initiatives but further details are required before the Commission chairs can be approached. Kolosov tabled a report in which he noted his attendance at a UNESCO meeting in CIPSH. Singh met recently with the Chinese representative of CIPSH at the World Culture Forum at Beijing. CIPSH has established a CIPSH chair initiative along the lines of the UNESCO chairs, with funding from the host University. Further discussion at the next meeting on this matter is recommended.

CODATA and WDS: Requests are regularly received from both CODATA and WDS for action but IGU does not as yet have a systematic means of dealing with such requests. An IGU Task Force (or special Committee) related to geographical data, including big data, is one possibility. IGU Vice-Presidents Gönençgil and Singh were nominated to explore the possibility of establishing such a Task Force. They were unable to attend the CODATA meeting in November in Gaborone, Botswana. Professor Fenzhen Su, the co-chair of the IGU GIS Commission, agreed to attend it on behalf of the IGU, but failed to obtain a visa in time. President Himiyama reported that the Botswana meeting was well attended (800+ delegates) and that CODATA is attempting to increase membership and to encourage IGU participation in its various task forces, including the Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in/for/with Developing Countries (PASTD) task force. Himiyama commented on WDS (World Data System) which aims to facilitate scientific research under the ISC umbrella by coordinating and supporting trusted scientific data services for the provision, use, and preservation of relevant datasets, while strengthening their links with the research community. He noted that there is a strong European flavour to their activities and that it should be encouraged to involve developing countries more actively.

EUROGEO, EUGEO: The first IGU EC meeting in 2019 is scheduled to coincide with the EUGEO Conference in Galway, Ireland in May 2019, where the relationship of EUGEO and IGU can be further consolidated. Several joint EUGEO/IGU sessions are proposed and approved.

EGAL/UGAL: IGU Vice-President dell' Agnese reported that the next EGAL will be in Quito Ecuador, April 2019, and that it will be a huge event for Latin American and Spanish speaking Geographers. IGU Vice-President Lois-González reported on the situation of IGU in Latin America. He noted the imperatives for IGU in a continent where geography is so important and suggested the following objectives: a) to increase the number of IGU member countries, with membership subscriptions up to date; b) to ensure that, in those countries where the historical representation of the IGU corresponds to poorly renovated geographical or cartographic institutes, an important part of their IGU National Committee role should be to increase the number of academic geographers; c) to further consolidate and improve the relationship between IGU and countries with an existing National IGU Committee. He noted

that Latin American geographers are very keen to host an IGU conference, and agreed to explore the possibility for one in 2021.

IAG (International Association of Geomorphologists). The IAG and IGU jointly launched a new Working Group/Commission under the working title: Geomorphology and Society: Past, Present and Future. The Inaugural Meeting of the Joint IGU-IAG Commission/Working Group on Geomorphology and Society: Past, Present, and Future took place from 7-8 April 2018 in Vienna, Austria. This meeting was organized by Jiun-Chuan Lin, National Taiwan University and Margreth Keiler, University of Bern, Switzerland. The field trip was organized by Christine Embleton-Hamann, University of Vienna, Austria, and Sven Fuchs as well as Christopher Lüthgens, both BOKU University, Vienna, Austria. 20 international researchers attended the meeting which was organised as workshop and field trip. Participants at that meeting are shown in the photograph below and included geomorphologists from Europe, Africa and Asia.



AAG: Cooperation with the AAG continues to be very constructive. The AAG stand was set up in the IGU Regional Conference 2018 Québec and the AAG will offer reciprocal arrangements at the upcoming AAG Conference in Washington.

5. Forthcoming events

13-15 May 2019: IGU EC meeting in Dublin-Galway, Ireland. Arrivals on 12th May 2019, meeting 13th and 15th, transfer from Dublin to Galway on 13th 2019.

24-26 September 2019: IGU Thematic Conference on 'Transformation of Traditional Cultural Landscapes', Koper, Slovenia. The first circular (in French and English) has been distributed, co-sponsored by five IGU Commissions.

6. Communication and outreach

The main communication tools of the IGU are its quarterly newsletter, compiled by former Vice-President Giuliano Bellezza and its website, maintained by Secretary-General R.B. Singh and Assistant Secretary-General Mike Meadows. As usual, four issues of the new series of the e-Newsletter were published in 2018 and can be downloaded from the website by following the newsletter link from www.igu-online.org. The IGU Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Geographical-Union/282917935136850>) continues to attract 'likes' and the IGU website also attracts

many visitors.

7. Financials

The financial situation of the IGU remains sound, with a slight operating surplus obtained during 2018 (see Appendices 1 and 2). This is encouraging, especially given that, due it being a year during which a regional conference was held and several new members were elected or re-elected, the Executive Committee had three meetings during the year. In addition, both the President and Secretary-General attended the inaugural ISC meeting in Paris. It is pleasing to note that operating grants disbursed to Commissions and Task Forces, coupled with travel grants for the Québec Regional Conference represent more than two-thirds of the total expenditure. It is remarkable that the IGU annual membership fee rates have not been increased since 2008. The IGU Promotion and Solidarity Fund (balance US\$ 100,968.32), which is not drawn on for any operational requirements, remains invested as a fundamental cushion against possible unforeseen circumstances. The IGU Executive Committee is seeking ways of investing these funds in an interest-bearing account with a higher interest rate.

International Geographical Union
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2018

Internatioanl Geograhical Union
Balance Sheet
As of December 31 2018

Dec 31 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Johnson Bank IGU Endowm	100,968.32
Johnson Bank Operating Ac	1,565.91
Petty Cash	590.95
SBCT Market Link	137.52
SBCT Money Market	84,923.60
SBCT Operating Account	13,049.28

Total Checking/Savings	<u>201,235.58</u>
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Total Current Assets	<u>201,235.58</u>
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TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>201,235.58</u></u>
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Balance Equity	151,339.52
Unrestricted Net Assets	105,960.54
Net Income	2,954.16

Total Equity	<u>260,254.22</u>
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TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>260,254.22</u></u>
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International Geographical Union
Profit & Loss
January through December 2018

	Jan - Dec 18
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Investments	
Banking Accounts Interest	4,931.45
Total Investments	4,931.45
Program Income	
Country Member Dues	125,357.14
Total Program Income	125,357.14
Total Income	130,288.59
Gross Profit	130,288.59
Expense	
Awards and Grants	
IGU Travel Grants	17,362.99
Total Awards and Grants	17,362.99
Operations	
Collaboration and Outreach	
Memberships and Dues	5,126.68
Total Collaboration and Outre...	5,126.68
Executive Committee Meetings	39,805.68
IGU Commissions	53,979.18
Publications	
IGU Bulletin	2,998.39
Total Publications	2,998.39
Total Operations	101,909.93
Secretariat	
Banking Fees	2,025.96
Internet and IGU Web Site	3,454.22
Secretarial Assistance	1,620.14
Supplies	961.19
Total Secretariat	8,061.51
Total Expense	127,334.43
Net Ordinary Income	2,954.16
Net Income	2,954.16