



IGU E-NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

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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 or g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org



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1) REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT YUKIO HIMIYAMA

The 2019 International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) was held at the [Education University of Hong Kong](#) from 30 July to 5 August 2019. The Olympiad was started in 1996 as a bi-annual event held in the years of IGC (every four years) and Regional Conferences. It became annual in 2011 when RC started to fill all non-IGC years, and it continues to be an annual event, even after RC returned to its previous four-years cycle after 2016. Thanks to the assistance of the iGeo organizers, I could attend part of it, namely the excursion to Honk Kong Geopark and the closing ceremony. I was able to witness the actual Olympiad, where students and teachers from all over the world were vividly learning, making friends, and experiencing the local geography (including even political turmoil and a typhoon). However, the refusal of entry of the Nigerian team by a Hong Kong airport official was a sad, indeed unacceptable, incident.

I participated in the Thematic Conference on "Transformation of Traditional Cultural Landscapes" held during 24-26 September 2019 in Koper, Slovenia, and its post-conference excursion. It was organized by five Commissions, i.e. Land Use and Land Cover Change, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Local and Regional Development, Mediterranean Basin and Land Degradation and Desertification. The effect of the mixture of commissions was felt in the excursions where on-site discussions were sometimes heated on such issues as land use terminology or soil acidity in the karst landscape. This conference is remembered for the quality of its site visits with such expert and informative guidance, not only by the local organizers but also by professional staff at each

site. The cultural landscapes were full of beauty and historical records including some painful from war, and post-war, times in the region.

Immediately after the Thematic Conference, the second IGU Executive Committee meeting in 2019 was held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 28 September to 1 October. The Istanbul IGC is less than a year away, so the primary aim of gathering there was to check the venue, situation and preparedness for it. Vice President Gönençgil, who is the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, reported that some 165 sessions have been proposed and more than 30 Commissions have indicated their participation already. Within five years we also have the Extraordinary Congress in 2022 in Paris to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the IGU, as well as IGC Dublin 2024, I am pleased to report that preparations for both are well underway. Vice President Nathalie Lemarchand, who is the Co-chair of the Local Organizing Committee of the Paris Congress, submitted a draft MoA and, following discussion and amendments, this was duly signed by the two parties (see the photograph attached).



Singh, Himiyama and Lemarchand signing the MOA for Paris 2022

I am writing this short note from Bogor, Indonesia, where the 3rd International Conference of the IGU Commission on Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering (AGLE) is held now on the theme "Rethinking the Impact of Urbanization on Agriculture and Land Use". On the first day, there were five keynotes and around fifty paper presentations, and there were impressively many questions and answers. I am particularly pleased to see the close cooperation between the Commission and the Indonesian National Committee for the IGU, which was re-activated a year ago after some dormant years. Obviously, the Indonesian National Committee supported the Local Organizing Committee wholeheartedly and, in turn, the Commission contributed to consolidation of the Indonesian geographic community.

Quality meetings on geography organized or sponsored by the IGU or its Commissions and Task Forces or National Committees are an important means of achieving the objectives of the IGU, which can be found in the IGU Statutes at <https://igu-online.org/organization/statutes/>. Organizing such meetings involves time-consuming, hard work, and comes at a substantial cost, but many geographers dare to do it because they believe they are of great value to their fellow geographers and broader society. I would like to remind you that the IGU adheres to the International Science Council (ISC), and its "Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science" (CFRS). This committee is the guardian of the principle of universality of science <https://council.science/topics/cfrs>. Geography is the Science for Sustainability. Let's enhance it through free, responsible, and high quality meetings.

Yukio Himiyama,
President of IGU



2) MINUTES OF THE EC MEETING GALWAY, 12-15 MAY 2019

2.1) ENGLISH VERSION

International Geographical Union

Minutes of the IGU Executive Committee Meeting

Istanbul, Turkey

28th September to 1st October 2019

Welcome, Meeting Logistics and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by President Himiyama, who welcomed Secretary-General RB Singh, First Vice-President Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn and Past-President Vladimir Kolosov, Vice-Presidents Barbaros Gönençgil, Iain Hay, Nathalie Lemarchand, Elena dell'Agnese, Ruben Lois-

González and Assistant Secretary-General Mike Meadows. Academician Bojie Fu tendered his apologies. Professor Giuliano Bellezza, as editor of the IGU e-Newsletter, was in attendance by special invitation.

Adoption of the Schedule and Agenda

The President welcomed all and asked Professor Bellezza to say a few words, and he warmly thanked the EC for the invitation to attend. The agenda was duly adopted and Gönençgil explained the schedule and detailed the arrangements for the meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the Galway meeting in May 2019, previously circulated via email were approved.

Organization and Operations

Executive Committee Member Reports. EC members tendered reports on their activities since the last meeting. Reports were received from all EC members. A summary of all the EC activity reports will be compiled and made available at the General Assembly in Istanbul (2020).

Executive Committee Meeting Calendar 2019 onwards. The first meeting of 2020 is scheduled for Rome, Italy, as follows: arrivals Tuesday 31st March, EC meeting 1st and 2nd April, excursion 3rd April, participation in ‘La Notte di Geografia’ on evening of 3rd April, departures 4th April 2020. The EC meeting in association with the Istanbul 34th IGU Congress is scheduled as follows: arrivals 14th August, EC meeting on 15th and 16th; participation in the Congress opening ceremony on 17th August 2020. The November 2020 meeting will to be held at Santiago de Compostela (Spain); dates and details to be confirmed following the outcome of EC elections at the Istanbul General Assembly.

IGU bank account transfer and possible separation of Treasurer tasks. For a variety of reasons, it was agreed that Meadows should continue as de facto IGU Treasurer until the next General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey. The possibility of separating the duties of Secretary-General and Treasurer, due to the volume of work involved, was discussed. There is broad agreement that this is necessary. Any change requires General Assembly approval. It was agreed that a proposal should be drafted in time for the next EC meeting and, following EC approval, be tabled at the Istanbul General Assembly (Singh).



Relaxing on the Hotel terrace

Amendment to IGU Statutes. The amendment deemed necessary due to the establishment of the ISC and associated merger of ICSU and ISSC has been approved by the General Assembly by way of an e-ballot. The Statutes/Statuts need to be formally amended and noted as ‘Revised to 6th July 2019’ (Singh to amend the formal version of the Statutes/Statuts document).

IGU EC Elections. The elections for IGU President and four Vice-Presidents will be held during the Istanbul General Assembly. The call for nominations is to be distributed on 15th November 2019, with a closing date of 15th March 2020 (Singh, in consultation with Meadows).

Operations

IGU Financial Report and Projection. Meadows presented a brief update on the financial situation in the three IGU accounts held in Cape Town. Comparing the total balance of funds held for the same period each year (in this case end-September), it is clear that the financial position remains positive. The fact that no IGU Regional Conference, with associated costs, was held in 2019 has resulted in a larger balance in the current account compared to the same period over the last three years.

Transfer of Promotion and Solidarity Fund. Himiyama reported on the possible transfer of the Promotion and Solidarity Fund. Hay noted that there are several variables that need to be considered, including interest rates and minimum investment term (returns), currency stability, trust and enduring connections with IGU. These issues can be very effectively addressed

through the transfer to a bank account in Japan under the curatorship of Himiyama; it was therefore agreed to put in place the necessary procedures to relocate the balance in the fund from the United States, while noting the need for a failsafe mechanism to be established, and approved by the EC, in the event that the account signatory is indisposed (Himiyama). There was considerable discussion regarding the precise legal status of the IGU, which does needs to be clarified; Hay agreed to explore this issue and report.

IGU National Membership update. Proposals for National Committee membership has been received from Namibia and Iran. The former, as a new application, needs to be formally approved following a General Assembly by e-ballot to be administered within the next month (Singh). dell'Agnese reported that she had engaged with geographers from Fiji and noted the technical difficulty of IGU membership arising from the fact that the University of the South Pacific represents an agglomeration of island nations and therefore would seem to necessitate a type of 'regional' membership. dell'Agnese suggested that the 12 island nations could affiliate to IGU as a single representation, with one vote and one membership fee; such a situation would not appear to require a change in the Statutes. She agreed to pursue this idea with her contact from Fiji and encourage the proponents to bring a proposal to the Istanbul General Assembly. Hay reported on efforts to foster membership from Palestine, but following initial progress there has been no further development. Lemarchand has successfully opened up contact with Madagascar and Bénin and will continue to pursue the possibility of formal membership. Communication and representation issues concerning national committee contacts was discussed at length. The question of what to do with lapsed member countries, in particular whether or not they should remain listed as 'member countries' on the website, was discussed. It is clear that there are a number of countries and contact persons listed on the website (and in the IGU database) for which there has been no meaningful communication, in some cases for many years. Each EC member is requested to write to the national committee chairs for which they have liaison responsibilities and check the status of communication (All). The outcome is to be reported to Singh by end-October, who will then consolidate and circulate a membership list indicating this status. The list is to be tabled at the next EC meeting with a view to classifying into national membership as 'active and in good standing' (Full Member), 'active but not in good standing (Observer Member) or 'inactive' (Membership lapsed)'. Himiyama reported on the proposal received from the chair of the Czech Republic requesting that the country be referred to in conventional IGU documentation as Czechia. This was approved.



Visit in the Istanbul University

IGU Commission and Task Force update. Hay noted that the putative Commission on Research Methodology had intended to formally present their application but there had been some delays; the proposal can be expected shortly. dell’Agnese reported that the proposed new Commission on Oceans has not yet made significant progress. A proposal was tabled for the re-establishment of a Commission on Mountain Studies from Professor Fausto Sarmiento. This was approved; Meadows suggested the name of a possible steering committee member from Africa and will forward the details to Kolosov as EC liaison member. Singh noted that two existing IGU Commissions had not submitted 2018 annual reports (Karst and Modelling). Himiyama recently met the chairs of the IGU Commissions on Hazards and Risks, and Land Degradation at the Koper thematic conference and both have provided input to the International Science Council call for comments on its first draft of the ‘Hazard List’. He encouraged EC members also to study the document and convey any comments to him for forwarding to the ISC Secretariat by mid-October. IGU Commissions still need to be encouraged in respect of mapping their activities against the SDGs (Singh).

IGU Honors and Awards. The Honours and Awards Committee Guidelines document was tabled for review. A call for nominations must be made in good time before the Istanbul Congress, preferably before the end of the year. The chair of the committee, Professor Ruth Fincher, is to be requested to organize the call and also to consider the composition of the committee, as terms of office are expired. It was agreed to allow the existing membership to continue until the Istanbul Congress and administer the next call. The committee should be asked to review the situation regarding the Mattei Dogan prize, since this has not been awarded for

many years. Fincher had, in fact, in 2017 suggested the establishment of a number of possible new IGU awards but this suggestion had not been discussed at an EC meeting. Himiyama (with the assistance of Singh and Meadows) is to write to Fincher and convey the various issues regarding awards.

IDGU. Benno Werlen sent a report concerning developments in the International Decade of Global Understanding. Werlen noted that there are several possible ways forward, including partnership with existing initiatives. Lois-González reported that he and Werlen had recently engaged with the Spanish representative to UNESCO in regard to this. Singh noted the importance of linking IDGU directly with the SDGs. The Executive Committee expressed its ongoing support for Werlen's continued efforts to develop IDGU.

IGU Website, social media and IGU publicity brochure. The IGU website is in the process of migration to Delhi and a proposal from a commercial company has been accepted. Regarding finances, Meadows will arrange transfer of the necessary funds. One of the initial tasks will be to improve the level of information on the French and Spanish versions of the IGU website. The link to the Facebook page needs to be maintained under the new management. Meadows, in consultation with Lemarchand and Lois-González, along with editorial inputs from others, have finalized new pdf versions of IGU publicity brochure in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, which need to be made available on the website (Meadows, Singh).



During a Session

IGU Bulletin and IGU eNewsletter. Singh reported on progress regarding Volume 67-68 of the IGU Bulletin (for the years 2017 and 2018); he has requested Meadows for assistance in the final editorial process and this is underway. Hay suggested that all previous versions of the Bulletin be scanned and made available on the IGU website as a historical resource (Singh). Bellezza commented on the IGU eNewsletter and noted that he is happy to continue to edit this and manage the *Home of Geography* website. There needs to be clarification, both on the IGU and *Home of Geography* websites, and in the eNewsletter, regarding the nature of the relationship between IGU and *Home of Geography*. Appropriate text needs to be drafted (Bellezza) and circulated among the EC members for comment. Bellezza suggested sending an email to all IGU Commission, Task Force and National Committee chairs to solicit any relevant news for the next eNewsletter and for posting on the website (Singh). The publication date of the next eNewsletter issue is 31st October 2019; the draft is to be forwarded to Himiyama, Singh and Meadows at least five days ahead of the proposed publication deadline.

IGU Springer and Edward Elgar Series. Hay reported that there are currently three volumes in various stages of production; a proposal has been received regarding a possible volume on Environmental Problems in Africa, but this needs considerable revision. Dell'Agnese suggested that the idea of a series entitled '*World Geography Classics*' is still under discussion with the Chair of the Commission on the History of Geography, Professor Marcella Schmidt di Friedberg. Singh reported that there are two IGU Springer series, *Advances in Geography and Environmental Sciences* and *Sustainable Development Goals* now regularly producing volumes.

IGU Archives. The IGU archives continue to be collated professionally by Dr Bruno Schelhaas, who deals with queries from a range of sources very efficiently and quickly. While it is considered desirable to hold a future EC meeting in Leipzig, there is currently no EC member from Germany to facilitate logistics. Kolosov will explore this possibility, and/or the idea of holding a workshop on the IGU archives, with Sebastian Lenz who is visiting him in Moscow in the next few months.

IGU ppt. Gönençgil' agreed to circulate a draft ppt, including a version in French, for EC members to respond by not later than 31st October 2019.

IGU Journals project. Meadows reported that the new design/structure is live on the website and is also now available in French. Instructions as to how to deal with additions and inconsistencies are to be sent to the new website management (Meadows), along with the most recent versions of the journals database. Singh had communicated the need to provide updated journal lists to all IGU National Committees and will do so again (Singh). Lemarchand has convened a panel on geographical publications for the Istanbul Congress.

Cooperation and Outreach

Festival International de Géographie (FIG). Lemarchand circulated a further version of the draft MoU between IGU and FIG. It is suggested that signing of the MOU be postponed until the new FIG President is in position. The most appropriate time would seem to be around the time of the EC meeting in Rome, March 2020.

Night of Geography. The 4th edition of an international ‘GeoNight’ is scheduled for April 3rd 2020. The aim is to include as many nations as possible, and Lemarchand emailed all National Committees to share information about their proposed initiatives. Information and publicity about the 2020 event should be circulated early in the new year.

IGU Representation on International Bodies. Professor Cosimo Palagiano again attended the recent United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN) meeting on behalf of IGU and tabled a report, which had been previously circulated and published in the IGU *e-Newsletter*. The outcome of IGU’s nomination of a Chinese colleague to attend the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly is not yet known.

International Science Council. The latest ISC President’s letter had been circulated widely. The ISC Action Plan indicates that the organization acknowledges the importance of education. Geography is one of the few disciplines represented in the ISC that has a real focus on education, from primary level through to higher education. The IGU Charter on Geographical Education is a valuable document in this regard. The question as to how the IGU should engage with ISC around the issue of education was discussed. One possibility would be to propose the establishment of an ISC committee with a focus on education. Education is vital to sustainable development in the context of the SDGs, and the ISC should be encouraged to embrace this. The first opportunity to propose such a committee would be at the next ISC General Assembly scheduled for Oman in 2021. Hay suggested that Himiyama write to the two geographers on the Governing Board asking them how best the IGU could engage with ISC (Himiyama, Hay).

IGU nominations to ISC Committees. The outcome of the IGU nomination for the Committee of Freedom and Responsibility in Science is still awaited.

GeoUnions. The position of IGU within the GeoUnions was discussed; Himiyama again emphasised the importance of IGU engagement with the GeoUnions as the group is a powerful lobby within ISC. The Deep-Time Digital Earth initiative of IUGS/IUGG is supported by IGU. Singh noted the draft proposal to establish a ‘Mini-Earth Theme Park’ that has the potential to reach policy-makers and the general public. Dubai has indicated some interest in this idea, but it appears to require further development before warranting IGU support.

CODATA and WDS. Singh has assumed responsibility to liaise with these initiatives.

CIPSH. Kolosov had circulated a report about the latest developments in CIPSH. In summary, the report indicates that the CIPSH chairs programme is a success, that the Global History of Humanity project has reached consensus regarding its structure, the World Humanities Report is making progress, and the preparation of a new UNESCO initiative/programme, anchored in the Humanities, is underway.

EUROGEO, EUGEO. It should be confirmed if Zoltán Kovács (EUGEO) has offered a session for the Istanbul Congress and, if not, he should be invited to organize a joint IGU session and to be offered a booth at the Exhibition (Kolosov, Gönençgil). Hay agreed to encourage participants

at the upcoming Geographical Education Conference that he is attending to propose education-related sessions for Istanbul 2020. EUROGEO met in Slovenia in August and will have its next conference in Madrid, Spain, in April 2020. Lois-González remains in good contact with this group and will attend the conference.

EGAL/UGAL There is a conference of the Departments of Geography of Argentina Universities in October 2019. Lois- González will attend and use the opportunity to continue his efforts to liaise with Latin American geographers.

Relations with other organizations. AAG has invited IGU to open a booth at their next annual meeting. Given the timing, it is difficult for EC members to participate but individuals who are attending can be invited to run the booth on behalf of IGU (All). Relationships with the Asian Geographical Association are very positive; Himiyama and Meadows will both attend the conference scheduled for Beijing in early November. The International Cartographic Association (ICA) successfully held its 29th ICC in Tokyo in July 2019. Gönençgil suggested that he will send a personalized invitation to the chairs of relevant GeoUnions (including ICA) encouraging their participation in Istanbul 2020.

UN-GGIM. The sixth High Level Forum of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) will be held in Windsor, United Kingdom, in April 2020. Hay agreed to explore the possibility of his participation and study the possible effect of IGU's deeper involvement in UN-related meetings such as UN-GGIM



Dinner in the Hazzo Pulo Restaurant

Support for Bilim Akademisi, Turkey. Having been approached to provide a letter of support for the membership of this organization to the ISC, Himiyama has already done so on behalf of the IGU.

Day of Geography. Discussion on this item was held over to next EC meeting.

UNESCO-Japan prize. Meadows confirmed that he will contact the ISC President regarding a possible nomination for the 2020 prize.

IGU Congresses, IGU Regional Conferences and Thematic Conferences

IGU Congress 2020 Istanbul. Gönençgil noted that session proposals had opened in March and the deadline was extended to 9th August 2019. In total, some 165 sessions have been proposed and more than 30 Commissions have indicated their participation. Abstract submission is now open on the website in a very easily accessible format (closing date is 13th January 2020, which allows sufficient time for authors to apply for travel grants etc. following acceptance. The ‘earlybird’ registration deadline date is 6th April 2020. The announcement of the IGU travel grant programme is to be made soon (Droogleever-Fortuijn in consultation with Gönençgil). The two winners of the IGU Commission Excellence award (for 2017 and 2018, viz. Urban, and Tourism) must be added to the list of keynotes and invited by Gönençgil. The iGeo website is now fully operational, indicating a diverse programme of activities. The iGeo medal ceremony will take place in association with the Istanbul Congress Opening Ceremony.

IGU Extraordinary Congress, Paris 2022. Lemarchand reported that the draft design for the conference flyer is under review. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) is now established under co-chairs (Lemarchand and Le Blanc). Each team member has a clearly stated mission. The LOC has already conducted a site visit to the Sorbonne/Société de Géographie/Institut de Géographie venues to plan locations for sessions, posters, General Assembly, and Commission chairs meetings etc. The LOC is exploring the possibility of an event/exhibition in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. Lemarchand then presented the draft MOA which had been previously circulated. Following discussion and amendment, the document was signed by the relevant parties (Lemarchand on behalf of the LOC, and the IGU President and Secretary-General). Kolosov reported on progress regarding the Centennial Task Force and the planned publication; he presented an outline of the proposed chapters with editors and authors. Several suggestions were made regarding additional or alternative contributors. Open access arrangements could be made at a cost of around Euros 15,000; a decision on this needs to be made at a future EC meeting. It was agreed that limited IGU funding be made available to subsidise the next meeting of the Task Force.

IGU Congress Dublin 2024. The proposal of the LOC to change the identity of the theme to ‘Celebrating a World of Difference’ was accepted. Some edits to the MOA are necessary and the draft is to be returned to the Dublin LOC for comment. (Himiyama).

IGU Regional Conference 2026; IGU Congress 2028. The call for proposals for these two meetings will be distributed in October (Singh).

IGU Thematic Conference, Koper, Slovenia, September 2019. Himiyama recently attended the conference and anticipates that the LOC will submit its report in due course, hopefully in time for publication in the IGU *e-Newsletter*

IGU Thematic Conference Lecce, Italy. This is scheduled for May 31st to 2nd June 2020. The conference website is operational and session proposals and abstracts are already being received.

IGU Thematic Conference, Mexico. Under the theme: ‘Governance in Historical Cities’, (with the support of several IGU Commissions including Governance, Geoheritage, Urban, Latin American Studies) this is planned for August 2021. There is EC support for the idea; a formal proposal is due for presentation around 12-18 months before the agreed date.

IGU Thematic Conference, Quito, Ecuador. Lois-González had previously circulated a proposal for this thematic conference and, while there is merit in the idea, a formal proposal can only be tabled within 12-18 months of the suggested date.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 18h00 on 30th September 2019



3) CHINA-MACAU NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

National Committee report 2019 of CHINA-MACAU: Geography and Education Research Association of Macau (AIEGM) (Sep2018-Aug2019)

Introduction

Geography and Education Research Association of Macau (hereafter as AIEGM) is the only geographical academic association in Macau, China. Founded in 2003, AIEGM obtained a high reputation in the region regarding to its effort on promoting geography to the public. AIEGM has been an official member of the International Geographical Union since 2017.

AIEGM aims at promoting geography to the public, facilitating the reform of pedagogy in geography and participating in various academic activities. In short, there are 3 roles that AIEGM has been focused on for years, as follow:

1. An advisory partner of the Government in facilitating the reform of geography education;
2. A practical partner of local schools in promoting geography education;
3. A participant in regional and international geographic academic activities.

Dr. Iat-Hang Vong was the first President of AIEGM. Cheng-Cheung Sun and Kin-Fan Che has been elected as the Chairman and Chief Director respectively in the current tenure 2018-2020. Dennis Tat-In Tam, now the Honorary President of AIEGM, still serves as the national representative of CHINA-MACAU in IGU.

Recent Activities:

Being the only non-governmental geographic academic association in Macau, AIEGM puts very much effort on promoting geography, especially contribute to the recent reform geography education. Activities in the last year (2018-2019) undertaken by the executive members of AIEGM are listed as follow:

1. Participating in international and regional academic activities

AIEGM is always eager to participate in various academic activities in different scale. This year we have attended to some international and regional conferences.

1) 2018 The 4th Asian Conference on Geography, Dec 6-10

All of our major leaders attended to this conference in Guangzhou in last December. As one of the founders of the Asian Geographical Society (AGS), representatives of AIEGM also participated in the Launch Ceremony. Dennis Tat-In Tam, the Honorary President of AIEGM, signed on the co-operating agreement in the ceremony on behalf of AIEGM.

2) The 23rd International Geographical Conference of Taiwan, May25-26

Vice President Winda Wai-Sum Chow attended to this conference. As a senior educator in geography, Winda shared her pedagogical ideas with participants from various high school in Taiwan.



3) Professional Development in Geography Education

AIEGM has been a major stakeholder cooperated with the Macau Government in the process of curriculum reform since it was first founded in 2003.

During last year, we've made visits to different departments and had very well interactions with different policy makers. We've expressed our concerns on teacher training programme to the Education Bureau, as well as concerns on strategy of promoting Geography to the Science and Technology Council. Our suggestions were partly accepted by the government and there will be a series of teacher training programme provided in the coming academic year.

In the past several months, we have organized seminars aimed at professional training for secondary school geography teachers. Speakers from Hong Kong and Taiwan were invited to give talk in these seminars. After receiving some very positive feedbacks we decide to arrange similar activities in the coming year.

2. International Geography Olympiad 2019

We have been participating in iGeo since 2012. This year we also arranged teachers and students to participate in iGeo organized in Hong Kong. Four students were selected from ten talented participants after the annual local competition. After iGeo, we also launched a seminar for the public as a means to promote geography.

3. International Earth Science Olympiad 2018

This is the second year that we participated in the International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO). The IESO was organized in Korea this year in late August. This year, one of the team members from CHINA-MACAU won a Bronze medal and two of the members received Gold medals in their poster presentation respectively. This is undoubtedly a successful step and we will try our best in the future.



International Earth Science Olympiad 2019



Macau Geography Olympiad

4. Macau Geography Olympiad

As an iconic activity of AIEGM, Macau Geography Olympiad first started at 2011 and is organised annually. The aims of this competition is not only to select talented students to participate in the international one, but also to facilitate the reform of local geography education and to raise the effectiveness of teaching and learning to an advanced level.

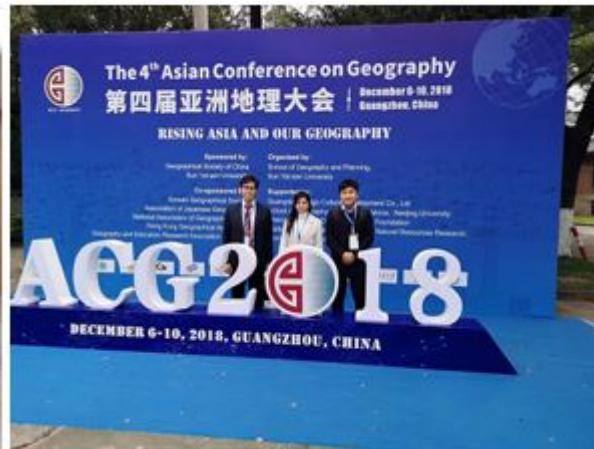
This year the competition draws attention from most of the local schools. More than 85% of the schools participated in the 2019 competition. The ten gold medal winners will have the opportunity to be the members of team CHINA-MACAU participating in iGeo2020 in Istanbul, Turkey.

5. Publication

1). Shieh, Jin-Jy. Sun, Cheng-Cheong. 2018. Practice and Challenge to the Concept amid 'Teachers as Curriculum Evaluators': A Case Study of a Secondary School Geography Teacher in Macao. *Secondary Education*, 69(4), 36-55. doi:10.6249/SE.201812_69(4).0041 (originally published in Chinese)



Left: Official visit to Fund for Science and Technology Development, Macau S.A.R



Right: Participating in the 4th A.C.G. in Guangzhou, China

Launch Ceremony of Asian Geographical Society



Honorary President Dennis Tam keynote speaker in the 1st Macau MUN Conference



4) REPORTS OF RECENT GEOGRAPHICAL INITIATIVES

4.1) INITIATIVE OF GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION OF MYANMAR

GAM news in Myanmar.

On July 19 2019 Members of Geographical Association of Myanmar (GAM) including Chairman Professor Dr. Thein Tun, Vice Chairman Professor Dr. Aung Win Kyi and Members of Central Executive Committee, Patrons of GAM, Rector, Teachers and students from University of Mandalay, Yadanabon University, National Youth Development Degree College, Kyaukse University participated and planted together at the elephants camp of Wanetchaung in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, Upper Myanmar. All of us planted the valuable varieties of tree at that place.



4.2) TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD" – PRAIA, CABO VERDE, 4 - 7 SEPTEMBER 2019



The 2019 Annual Conference of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance, organized in collaboration with the University of Cape Verde, was held in Cidade da Praia, Cape Verde, from 4 to 7 September 2019. The Conference explored and discussed the changes, challenges, and innovations confronting Local and Urban Governance worldwide in the context of the new global urban agendas. It was a forum for the discussion of the state-of-the-art of research on local and urban governance, in the different regions of the world, and provided the opportunity for comparisons between African municipalities and African cities as well as comparisons with those in other regions of the world, in particular in the Global South. Overall, the aims of the conference were fully achieved.

The Conference was convened by Carlos Nunes Silva (Chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance & University of Lisbon, Portugal) and by José Maria Semedo (University of Cape Verde). The Local Organization Commission was constituted by five colleagues, professors in the University of Cape Verde: José Maria Semedo (Chair of the Local Organization Commission), Sílvia Monteiro, Lourenço Gomes, Romualdo Correia, and Vera Alfama. Paper abstracts were reviewed for relevance and appropriateness to the conference by an international scientific committee with 21 members.

The Conference was organized around two main tracks: Track 1 - Local and Urban Governance and the New Global Urban Agendas; and Track 2 - Local and Urban Governance in Africa. The first track - Local and Urban Governance and the New Global Urban Agendas - addressed and discussed new trends, innovations, and future challenges in the field of local and urban governance, independently of the world region or continent. This track comprised 55% of the papers presented. The second track - Local and Urban Governance in Africa - addressed and discussed specific governance issues in the African context, with emphasis given to the history of local and urban governance in the continent, as well as to the possibility to learn from the African experience in the field of territorial governance. This track explored local and urban conditions and processes in Africa and their implications for territorial governance and provided the opportunity for comparisons between African cities but also with other cities in the Global South.

The conference was organized in 15 sessions, 1 plenary and 14 parallel panels. A number of sessions similar to previous annual conferences. Participants or delegates came from 25 countries, in Europe, Africa (North and sub-Saharan), America (North and South), a number of countries similar to previous years. Participants in the conference work in the broad area of Urban, Local and Regional Studies, Geography, Economy, Political Science, History, other Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities. The Conference brought together researchers, students and planners from academia and from other sectors. The Conference was an excellent opportunity for informal networking, for researchers to meet and to discuss future research initiatives. It is expected that a selection of the conference papers will be published in Journal issues and in a volume.

The program included three study visits, one per day, the first in the historical centre, the second in the informal urban areas in the capital city, and the third a visit to Cidade Velha, the old capital city, all guided by colleagues from the Local Organization Commission. The program included, in the last day, a post-conference excursion in the island of Santiago, also guided by the colleagues from the Local Organization Commission.

Important for the success of the conference was the excellent work done by the Local Organization Commission, Conference Scientific Committee, chairs and discussants of the fifteen sessions, and by the speakers. A special word for the institutional support provided by the Rector of the University of Cape Verde (UNICV), the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Cape Verde, and the Dean of the School of Business and Administration of the same University. Important was also the work done by the Administrative and Financial Department of UNICV, the Department of Communication of UNICV, the Technical and IT Department of UNICV, and by the group of Students of Geography that collaborate in the organization during the 4 days of the Conference.

Additional information (program, abstracts, presentations, photo gallery, etc.) is available in the Conference website: <https://sites.google.com/view/geogov2019/home>



5) INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE



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8) COMMITTEE ON DATA FOR SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY (CODATA)

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9) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2019)

9.1) ACLA Conference in Seoul, 18-20 November

9.2) Disaster, Marginalised Regions Conference, Katmandu, 8-14 December

9.3) 41st Indian Geography Congress, December 28-30, Central University, Sagar (India)

