

***International Geographical  
Union Union Géographique  
Internationale***



**2017 Annual Report of the International Geographical Union**

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**Highlights of the IGU Executive Committee meetings of 2017**

Two Executive Committee meetings were held in 2017. The first was in Québec in May, the second was in Amsterdam in September.

The first EC meeting in 2017 was held at Québec City Conference Centre, Québec, Canada during 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting place was chosen with the IGU Regional Conference 2018 in mind; this is to be held in Québec in August 2018. It will be a joint IGU/Canadian Association of Geographers event. Details are available at <http://igu2018.ulaval.ca/>. Members of the Québec 2018 local organizing committee (LOC), chaired by Matthew Hatvany, attended the EC meeting for this item and presented a progress report including the latest information regarding organization and plans. The Conference theme is 'Appreciating Difference' and the vision is to build community with the conference and internationalize geography in Canada and reaching out beyond North America. Other highlighted items discussed include a proposal of new IGU Commission on Africa, which was approved under the name 'IGU Commission on African Studies'. Secretary-General Meadows presented an update on the national membership situation, and reported that

membership applications from Samoa and China-Macau had been approved through a General Assembly e-ballot; both are now full members in Category A. There was some discussion as to what is meant by the label 'IGU thematic conference' and the need to ensure that its meaning does not become devalued. Thematic conferences must be genuinely international (and therefore respect the two official IGU languages), should have a clear theme or topic that is of broad interest, and should specifically involve at least four IGU commissions. The EC must approve each thematic conference and applications should normally be made a minimum of eighteen months in advance; any overlap or conflict, either in timing or in terms of location, with other IGU events should be avoided. An IGU thematic conference can be proposed to the EC by one or more commissions and/or by a national committee; indeed, the involvement of the relevant national committee(s) in these thematic conferences is considered essential. Every effort should be made to encourage broad international participation. There should not normally be more than one thematic conference during an IGU Congress or Regional Conference year, and not more than two in a year in which there is no other major IGU event.

The second EC meeting in 2017 was held at University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, during 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September. The EC continued its efforts to consolidate IGU national membership, as there are regions in the world where the IGU is not adequately represented, countries trying to re-establish their IGU national membership, national committee chairs requiring better communication with the IGU, etc. The 'National Committee' model varies greatly between countries, so this issue will be raised at the IGU 'chairs' meeting planned for the Québec Regional Conference. As for Commissions, a new Commission proposal: 'Geography for Future Earth' submitted by Academician Fu Bojie (President of the Geographical Society of China, China-Beijing) was tabled for discussion. The link to Future Earth was recognized as a strategic and positive aspect of the proposal and, although the objectives were ambitious, it was approved with some technical amendments. IGU President Himiyama emphasized the importance of the IGU archives, highlighting the lack of knowledge in general regarding the IGU archives held in Leipzig. Information about the IGU archives should be accessible from the IGU website via an additional item and link. Commission and Task Force and National Committee chairs are reminded of the importance of submitting all IGU materials (publications meeting reports, photographs etc.) and of using the archives themselves. It was suggested that, if possible, the IGU archivist presents details on the IGU archives to both the Commission and Task Force and National Committee chairs at their respective meetings at the Québec Regional Conference. 2018 is the election year of IGU EC, so the call for nominations is to be made in mid-October, with a closing date of end-February 2018; the e-mail ballot of eligible member countries will take place thereafter up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. IGU Secretary-General Meadows will circulate the call and administer the election process with the assistance of an independent teller.

### **Report on the IGU Thematic Conference on Urbanization, Health and Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Goals, Hyderabad 17-19 March**

This conference was organised in collaboration with IGU Commissions on Urban Geography, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Local and Regional development, Land Use/Land cover Change. This 10<sup>th</sup> IGU India Conference is a theme-based conference organized by International Geographical Union (IGU). It was hosted by the Department of Geography and Geoinformatics, Osmania University, Hyderabad from 17-19 March, 2017. A total of 306 papers were presented in 25 technical sessions and in plenary session. Over 400 participants took part in the conference. Of this number, 345 participants came from 25 states of India and about 60 were from Hyderabad. Indian participants from universities, institutes,

government departments, industry etc. were present. Around 28 International participants from 15 countries (Japan, China, Russia, Switzerland, South Africa, Poland, Italy and Sri Lanka) also attended. Participants included IGU President Professor Y. Himiyama; IGU Urban Commission Chair Prof. Céline Rozenblat, IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity Chair Dr. Suraj Mal; Chair of Local and Regional Development Commission Prof. Jerzy Banski; LUCC Commission representative Prof. K. Kimoto; Ex IGU Vice President Prof. G. Bellezza; Chair of IGU National Committee-South Africa-Prof. Brij Maharaj; and ICSU Scientific committee Members on Urban Health and Wellbeing Prof. R.B. Singh and Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe from Sri Lanka.

The Urban Health and Wellbeing programme is a joint programme of ICSU/IAMP/UNU. Three ICSU Scientific Committee Members Prof. Rozenblat Céline, Prof. R.B. Singh and Prof. Saroj Jayasinghe together with Indian policy makers and academics were present in the session. A research project involving scientists from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal and dealing with Air-Water Quality Induced Challenges for Urban Health and Wellbeing: Application of Systems Approach in South Asian Cities has been planned .



Inaugural Session at IGU, Hyderabad

A wide variety of viewpoints were presented on the main themes, which were focused on Biodiversity and Climate Change, Natural Hazards and Disaster Management, Urban Planning and Infrastructure, Urban Morphology and Hierarchical System, Urban Transportation and Waste Management, Natural Resources and Environment, Sustainable Development Goals, Urban Health and Wellbeing. Youth, Gender and Society beside Urban Safety and Governance.

The IGU Young and Early Career Geographers Taskforce (IGU-YECG) and the Organizing Committee of X<sup>th</sup> IGU International Thematic Conference organised a poster competition for the IGU-YECG late Dr Manju Singh Memorial Young Scientist Award (poster) on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Hyderabad, Telangana, India. Mr. Gaurav Sikka (India) from the steering committee of IGU-YECG coordinated the event. The IGU's Young and Early Career Geographers Taskforce (IGU-YECG) was launched in 2016 at the 33rd International Geographical Congress in Beijing, China. The Taskforce Steering Committee comprises ten members globally and its primary aim is to encourage young geographers to participate in IGU activities. IGU-YECG aimed to present a special poster award, to encourage younger colleagues to present their work in the form of a poster. Posters were invited from young scholars on the theme and

sub themes of this conference. The award is instituted in the memory of Late Dr. Manju Singh, daughter of Prof. R.B. Singh (Vice President of IGU). Dr. Manju Singh, a young and dynamic academic completed her M.Sc. in the USA and a PhD in nanotechnology in Italy. Sadly, she passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 after a prolonged illness. Prof. R.B. Singh has been generous enough to provide financial support for this award.

Eleven poster presentations from India and abroad were made in this competition. The jury for the award competition comprised of Prof. Yukio Himiyama (President, IGU), Prof. Celine Rozenblat (Chair, IGU Urban Commission) and Prof. Aravind Mulimani (Karnatak University, Dharwad). Awardees were selected on the site by jury and award recipients were announced during the valedictory session of the conference. The award included a certificate of merit and monetary award of Rs 5100/-. Two consolation certificates were also given. The award was received by S. Abdul Rahaman from the Department of Geography, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu for his poster on "Assessment Of Human-Induced Land Degradation and Its Impact Through Geospatial Based MCE Approach In Kallar Watershed Of Tamil Nadu". The consolation certificates 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> position were won by Gaurav Kant Nigam from Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh and Tejpal Sharma from Kurukshetra University, Haryana respectively. The event was hailed by entire geographers' community and appreciated by the young scholars. The task force aims to make this competition a regular affair with organizing the poster award in XI IGU Commission Seminar 2018 scheduled in Assam, India.

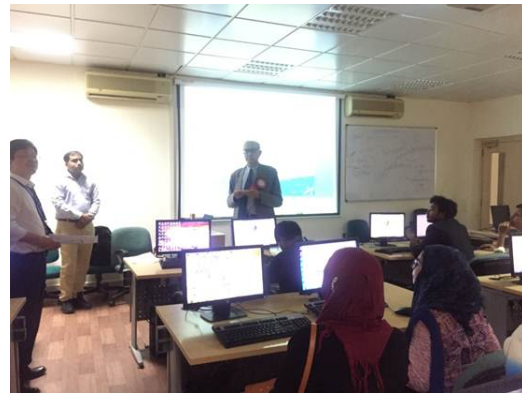


Participants of IGU-YECG Poster Award with jury and IGU-YECG representative

The CODATA PASTD – IGU joint action of the International Training workshop on Big Data for Science and Sustainability in Developing Countries was successfully held from 17<sup>th</sup> -19th March, 2017 in Hyderabad, India. Training workshop was the academic event of The Xth IGU International Conference on "Urbanization, Health & Well Being and Sustainable Development Goals". The Indian training workshop is one of three actions of CODATA PASTD on capacity building in 2017 supported by IGU and Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR, CAS). Other training activities will be held in Madagascar in September and in China in November. The training course aims to cultivate big open data publication and sharing idea and policy, and analysis and application abilities of young data scientist. Three days training workshop included lectures and hands-on practice, which aims to promote capacity building for preservation of

and open access to research data in developing countries.

Prof. R.B. Singh, Vice President of the IGU and Co-Chair of Strategy and Policy Sub-group of CODATA PASTD, and Prof. Yukio Himiyama, President of the IGU, attended the opening and closing ceremonies of the conference respectively. 56 trainees from 13 universities in India attended the training courses. CODATA PASTD member, Dr. Yunqiang Zhu, Co-chair of Capacity Building Sub-group of CODATA PASTD and professor from IGSNRR, CAS, and Dr. B. Srinagesh from Osmania University organized the training as co-chairs. Chinese scientists worked along with Indian colleagues to deliver courses on Open Big Data Discovery; data publication and sharing, India earth observation system, geospatial data interoperability; geospatial data infrastructure and data sharing principles. The training workshop has achieved favourable effects with active participation. Professor R. R. Singh and Dr. V. Raghavaswamy, Deputy Director of the National Remote Sensing Centre, India, hope that the PASTD training course will continue in future and cultivate new generations of young data scientists with growing awareness of international cooperation.



Prof. R.B. Singh, Vice President, IGU delivered the opening address



Prof. Yukio Himiyama, IGU President, awarded certificates.

A special technical session on Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) was organised at Xth IGU International Thematic Conference Hyderabad (India) on 19 March, 2017. The coordinator of the session was Dr. Pankaj Kumar. This session was chaired by Prof. Brij Maharaj (Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa) and Prof. Vasantha Kumaran, and witnessed 17 paper presentations by scholars and academics. There was a brief keynote address by Dr. QIU Dun-Lian, Senior Research Fellow, Executive Editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Mountain Science*, and Director of the Center of Sci-Tech Information and Dissemination, Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environmental Sciences. This was followed by scholars giving an outline of SWAT as a research tool that can be utilized to explain the impact of land use change on water balance in urban areas, identifying the suitable sites for water harvesting and estimating the direct run off from the

river basin. Scholars in their presentations also dwelled upon the delineation of watersheds for a sustainable development of land and water resources, calculation of stream flow and precipitation using SWAT, adaptation techniques, assessment of ecosystem services in a watershed and water efficiency for agriculture, SWAT analysis for hydro projects and impacts of urban and industrial growth on the transformations in spatial distribution of water bodies. Arc-SWAT tool used to delineate the boundary of watershed and Web Based Hydrography Analysis Tool was also discussed through presentations by the academicians. There followed a vibrant discussion.



SWAT special session at IGU India Thematic Conference, Hyderabad.  
Valedictory Ceremony

The closing valedictory session was graced by the presence of Prof. Yukio Himiyama, President of IGU and the Chair of the IGU Commission on Urban Geography and Dr QIU Dun-Lian.

Two volumes emerging from the conference are being planned under Springer Series: Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences: <http://www.springer.com/series/13113>

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

### **Report on the IGU Thematic Conference on Geographies of Peace, La Paz, Bolivia, 23-25 September 2017**

The conference has gathered together scholars from various parts of Europe, Africa, North America and Asia in La Paz, Bolivia, offering the possibility to meet with geographers from Latin America and know more about their work and research agenda.

In the three days of the conference, the concept of peace has been analysed from different theoretical point of views, and through diversified examples from research experiences, giving the opportunity to all participants to reflect on their role as geographers and to critically examine the idea of peace.

The plenary that opened the conference has set its general framework, with an overview of the historical relation between political geography and war/peace, some initial reflection on the different possible interpretations of peace and its distinction

from pacifism, and its relationship with fear and insecurity, with interventions by Virginie Mamadouh, Heriberto Cairo Carou, Emiliano Díaz Carnero, Michael Shapiro, and Freddy Morales Rutiña. After the initial plenary sessions, the conference reception has offered the attendants the opportunity to enjoy a traditional dance show organized by the students of the Faculty of Geography of La Paz.



Virginie Mamadouh opening the Conference during the initial Plenary Session

Despite some absences among the presenters, the parallel sessions organized in the following days were participated and rich in discussion, either in Spanish or English, depending on the attendees, and in some cases facilitated by simultaneous translation. In the various slots, peace has been analysed and discussed in terms of ecology, tourism, activism, borders, and from a historical perspective. The sessions were characterized by very different approaches and an impressive variety of geographical origins and/or focuses. Many presentations dealt with case studies based in Latin American, particularly interesting for scholars who have rarely the occasion to confront with non-Anglophone literature and research.

The theoretical and analytical level of presentations was very high, and it was interesting to see how scholars, besides those who already worked on the topic, were able to re-examine their research within the framework of peace.



Images from the parallel sessions

The concept was almost always used critically, both when applied to case studies analysis and when presented throughout the history of geographical thought. This was evident in plenary conversation between Simon Dalby and Nick Megoran, whose overview on the geographies of and for peace was broadly appreciated and concluded proposing an agenda for future research topics of great importance for maintaining the attention on peace, not just as a word emptied of meanings. The second plenary event was the ACME lecture with Silvia Rivera Cusicanqui, a feminist activist, sociologist, historian, and subaltern theorist from Bolivia, who gave an inspiring lecture about the landscape and its relationship with indigenous knowledge. The final plenary, held by Marina Calloni, John O' Loughlin, Sara Koopman, and Maria Lois, has also given interesting insight to continue reasoning around the concept of peace in geography and beyond, and some ideas for further research.



The conversation between Simon Dalby and Nick Megoran

The relatively small size of the conference, together with its openness in terms of approaches and areas of study, made it a very successful event, socially enjoyable and rich in contents. People could easily meet and discuss during and after the sessions, and this encounter was also facilitated by the participation in the different field trips proposed by the conference organizers, especially the cable-cab tour held on the morning before the conference opening, which saw a large participation and



was the occasion to know the social and geographical history of La Paz and El Alto.



The final Plenary Session

*This part of the report originally provided by Anna Casaglia and edited by Meadows*

**Report on the IGU Thematic Conference on Land Use/Cover Changes, Biodiversity, Health and Environment, Local and Regional Development, Bucharest & Tulcea, 11-15 September 2017**

Romania, through the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy and the Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest as main organisers, hosted the second IGU Thematic Conference. The IGU Thematic Conference took place in Bucharest and Tulcea between 11 and 15 September 2017 and had as main theme *Land Use/Cover Changes, Biodiversity, Health and Environment, Local and Regional Development*. The main rationale of the *IGU Thematic Conference* was to bring together scientists and stakeholders from various connecting fields in order to address different effects of ecosystems changes, to set-up mitigation and adaptation strategies and contribute with scientific information to local/regional land use, planning and environmental policies. The *IGU Thematic Conference* was jointly organised by the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy and the Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest and gathered four of the IGU Commissions: Land Use/Cover Change, Local and Regional Development, Biogeography and Biodiversity and Health and the Environment. The Romanian Committee for Future Earth – Research for Global Sustainability and Romanian National Geographical Committee were also partners of this scientific event.

The event attracted about 85 participants from 20 countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Belgium, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and Turkey. The *IGU Thematic Conference* was also attended by outstanding members of the IGU such as: Prof. Yukio Himiyama, President of IGU, actual and former chairs of the involved commissions (Prof. Michael Sofer - Israel, Prof. Ivan Bicik – the Czech Republic, Prof. Jerzy Bansky - Poland, Prof. Matej Gabrovec - Slovenia). The main topics of this event were related to: Land Use/Cover Change and Land Degradation; Impacts of Land Use/Cover Changes on

Biodiversity Loss; Causes and Consequences of Land Use/Cover Changes; Biodiversity Conservation and Management; Extreme Weather Events; Socio-Territorial Vulnerabilities and Impacts on Public Health; Environmental Changes and Human Health: Impacts and Inequalities; Distribution of Health Resources; Access to Health Care and Spatial Justice; Local Resources and Regional Specialization; Local and Regional Development: Socio-economic Disparities; Spatial Development and Territorial Cohesion; Cross-border Cooperation and Neighbourhood Policies; Governance and Policies in Planning; Land Use and Biodiversity.

During the first day of the *IGU Thematic Conference*, four plenary lectures were given by leading geographers, also known for their prestigious activity within the IGU: *Environmental Change and Regional Development in Romania* given by Prof. Dan Bălteanu (Director of the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy), *Reorganisation of International Academic Community* by Prof. Yukio Himiyama (President of IGU), *Ecosystem Services as a Tool for Local and Regional Development* by Prof. Marek Degorski (Director of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences) and *The Changing Landscape of the Rural Urban Fringe: An Israeli Case Study* by Prof. Michael Sofer (Bar-Ilan University, Israel).

The second day of the *IGU Thematic Conference* was held in Tulcea, where the largest part of the lectures were presented in nine Panels dedicated to the four IGU Commissions, two thematic sessions on “Spatial Development and Environmental Risks”, one poster session and one roundtable entitled “Transdisciplinary research on environmental issues”. The Roundtable was moderated by prof. Dan Bălteanu and the discussions were held between the governor of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Mr. Mălin-Matei Mușetescu), a group of scientists and stakeholders from the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (dr. eng. Sorin Nichersu, dr. eng. Ion Năvodaru), the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy (dr. Monica Dumitrașcu, dr. Diana Dogaru), the Romanian Geographical Society – Tulcea branch (prof. Gheorghe Băisan) and several local actors.

The Land Use/Cover Change IGU Commission delivered 10 oral presentations in two Panels, the Local and Regional Development IGU Commission 15 oral presentations in three Panels, the Biogeography and Biodiversity IGU Commission 10 oral presentations in two Panels and the Health and the Environment IGU Commission 11 oral presentations in two Panels. In addition, the two thematic sessions focusing on Spatial Development and Environmental Risks gave 10 oral presentations. During the Poster Session, 9 posters were displayed and presented. The Conference Agenda also included the business meetings of two of the involved IGU Commissions: Local and Regional Development and Land Use/Cover Change.

Two types of excursions were organised for the participants during and after the *IGU Thematic Conference*. Thus, during the Conference, a scientific boat trip to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Tulcea – Sulina Arm – Maliuc – Gorgova – Crișan – Dunărea Veche Chanel – Mila 23 village – Olguța Channel – Fortuna Lake - Șontea Chanel – Băclănești Lake - Nebunu Lake — Mila 35 Channel – Tulcea) was organised on September 13th and a field trip in the Dobrogea Region and the Black Sea Coast (Tulcea - Măcin Mountains National Park – Babadag - Jurilovca - Constanța - Bucharest) on September 14th. During these two field trips, significant scientific information was provided by experts from the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, as well as by representatives of the two organisational institutions.



After the Conference, between 15 and 16 September, an optional excursion was organised to the Romanian Carpathian Mountains and the hilly region of the Subcarpathians (Bucharest – Sinaia – Braşov – Transfăgăraşan Mountain Road – Curtea de Argeş - Bucharest). Overall, the main scope of the IGU Thematic Conference was to connect land use and biodiversity in order to understand the relationships between ecosystems and socio-economic systems, ecosystem services, and the potential risks and benefits to regional development and human health and welfare.

A volume including the abstracts, the conference programme and the fieldtrip guide was published. The online version is available at [http://igutc2017.geoinst.ro/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/IGU\\_TC\\_Book\\_of\\_Abstracts\\_Field\\_Guidebook.pdf](http://igutc2017.geoinst.ro/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/IGU_TC_Book_of_Abstracts_Field_Guidebook.pdf)

For this event, IGU provided a travel grant subsidy of US\$5000 to be allocated to young researchers and outstanding senior scholars. The academics who benefited from the IGU travel grant belonged to both developed and developing countries (e.g. India, Poland, Turkey, Romania).

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

### **From one year to a decade of ‘Global Understanding’**

The closing ceremony of the International Year of Global Understanding (YIGU) was held on 21 November in Jena, Germany, and many prominent guests attended. The gathering, took stock of achievements to date as well as discussing the future. Global Understanding has become a global brand, as it was stated at the World Humanities Conference in August. Benno Werlen mentions that UNESCO proclaimed the annual World Science Day 2017 under the motto ‘Science for Global Understanding’. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova said on this subject: “This year’s theme for the World Science Day for Peace and Development, Science for global understanding, encompasses UNESCO’s approach to develop scientific cooperation between and within societies, combining global sustainability and local actions and knowledge.”

That this effect will be lasting is evidenced by the institutional conditions that have been created. In 2016 a total of 40 regional action centres were established worldwide, which, together with 20 additional cooperation partners, put on more than 1,000 events that spread the idea of Global Understanding. These included scientific conferences as well as art and technology festivals, television documentaries, special stamps, and numerous brochures, books and educational materials, with which the organisers touched millions of people. An important factor in the year's success was the support of a large number of well-known personalities, not only from all areas of science and culture, but also from many parts of society. A clear illustration of this was the ceremony in Jena, at which Prof. Klaus Töpfer, former German Environment Minister and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, and Prof. Carlos Torres of the UNESCO chair in Los Angeles, gave the keynote speeches.

In addition to the contributions from numerous well-known figures, the closing ceremony focused on presenting major IYGU highlights. A wide range of topics and projects were represented, which have spread ideas around the world to help form connections and build bridges. In his welcoming address, Prof. Walter Rosenthal, President of Friedrich Schiller University Jena, referred to a key dimension of Global Understanding that promotes internationality and therefore peace, for which one must struggle every day. The determination to spread the message of global understanding ever more widely is not limited to the many dedicated supporters of the IYGU and the regional action centres. The UNESCO chairs program will install a specific chair on "Global Understanding for Sustainability". And above all, there should be a scientific decade of Global Understanding in the 2020s – because even after the ceremony in Jena, Global Understanding should continue to be a significant theme.

For further information: [www.global-understanding.info](http://www.global-understanding.info)  
Contact: Prof. Benno Werlen

*This part of report was originally provided by Benno Werlen, and edited by Himiyama and Meadows.*

### **Co-operation with other organizations**

**ICSU & ISSC (incl. GeoUnions):** Himiyama and Meadows attended the ICSU 32nd General Assembly, ISSC Extraordinary General Assembly, Joint ICSU-ISSC Meeting and associated events in Taipei, 21-28 October 2017. And on Thursday 26th October, the Joint ICSU-ISSC Meeting took the momentous decision to merge into a single dynamic organisation to take science forward in an evolving global context. A merger of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) forges a new organisation – to be known as the *International Science Council* – to advance the creativity, rigour and relevance of science worldwide. It creates a unified, global voice of science, with a powerful presence in all regions of the world and representation across the natural (including physical, mathematical and life) and social (including behavioural and economic) sciences. The importance of scientific understanding to society has never been greater, as humanity grapples with the problems of living sustainably and equitably on planet Earth. The Council will defend the inherent value and values of all science at a time when it has become harder for the scientific voice to be heard. It will strengthen international, interdisciplinary collaboration and support scientists to contribute solutions to complex and pressing matters of global public concern. It will advise decision makers and practitioners on the use of science in achieving ambitious agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by world leaders in 2015. And it will encourage open public engagement with science. IGU,

which was a founder Union in ICSU and has been a member of ISSC for many decades, hopes that the need to improve science education will also become an important focus for the new organisation.



Photo: Khotso Mokhele facilitating discussion at the joint ICSU-ISSC meeting. L-R: ISSC President Alberto Martinelli, ICSU President Gordon McBean and ICSU Executive Director Heide Hackman (Photo: MEM)

**CIPSH:** IGU Past President Kolosov attended the first CIPSH World Humanities Congress that took place in Liège, Belgium, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2017. One of the key themes was 'Borders and Migrations' and IGU hosted a session within that theme albeit with rather disappointing attendance. The General Assembly re-elected Luiz Oosterbeek as Secretary-General and Kolosov was elected to membership of the CIPSH Board. There is potential for this body to increase in status and profile following the merger of ICSU and ISSC and the organization needs to be made more visible to the IGU community

**EUROGEO, EUGEO:** Several IGU executive members attended the EUGEO conference in Brussels, Belgium (September 2017) along with more than 300 other delegates. IGU Past President Kolosov reported on the meeting between representatives of the IGU and EUGEO that took place there. There was agreement to cooperate in the field of education, including defining and disseminating what is best practice in teaching geography, both at school and at university, and in the preparation of a book on new ideas in teaching geography at universities (different curricula, content, methods, etc.). There was agreement that future EUGEO conferences should preferably be held during years when there is no IGU Congress or Regional Conference. The 'metajournal' concept, as a kind of revival of *Bibliographie Géographique Internationale* (supported by IGU but no longer published) was raised with a view to further exploration by both IGU and EUGEO. The CNFG has proposed 'Le Nuit du Géographie' (the night of geography) as a potential field of cooperation with considerable support indicated from several European nations. Liaison between IGU and EUGEO is clearly needed to coordinate cooperation and Droogleever-Fortuijn, supported by Lemarchand were nominated. A joint IGU-EUGEO event at the Istanbul Congress 2020 is planned. Two additional projects were proposed, viz. i) how to increase the visibility and the status of geography across the world ii) wider distribution of the Charter on Geographical Education, translated into various national languages. IGU National Committees and national

geographic societies can play a key role in both initiatives.

**UGAL/EGAL** : La Paz, Bolivia, May 2017: IGU Vice President dell’Agnese submitted a report. The conference brought together scholars from various parts of Europe, Africa, North America and Asia, offering the possibility to meet with geographers from Latin America and know more about their work and research agenda. In the three days of the conference, the concept of peace was analysed from various theoretical points of view and through diversified examples from research experiences. This represented an opportunity for all participants to reflect on their role as geographers and to critically examine the idea of peace.

### **IAG (International Association of Geomorphologists)**

IGU and the International Association of Geomorphologists signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the Beijing IGU Congress in 2016 with the overall aim of working more closely together to promote our common aims. This was given significant impetus at the IAG quadrennial congress, held in New Delhi, India, in November with the establishment (already approved by the IGU EC) of a joint IAG Working Group/IGU Commission on Geomorphology of the Anthropocene: Geoarchaeology, Geomorphology and Society. The first meeting of the new body will take place ahead of the European Geophysical Union annual conference in Vienna in early April 2017.

**AAG**: The IGU stand was set up in the AAG Annual Conference held in April 2017 in Boston. Many people visited the stand and signed up to become a corresponding member of receiving IGU E-Newsletter, and collected leaflets of IGU Regional Conference 2018 Quebec, IGC 2020 Istanbul, IGU brochure, etc.



Photo: IGU Stand at AAG 2017 Boston. L-R: IGU President Himiyama, IGU ex-President Abler, Marie-Pierre Guy-Dorion from IGU Quebec Regional Conference Organizing Committee, IGU Vice President Barbaros Gönençgil

## **Forthcoming events**

10-12 April 2018: IGU EC meeting in Tokyo, Japan. Arrivals on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018, meeting 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, transfer to Sendai on afternoon of 11<sup>th</sup> and stay overnight, returning to Tokyo on 12<sup>th</sup> via the Pacific coast area hit by gigantic earthquake & tsunami on 11th March 2011, with departures 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

6-10 August 2018: IGU Regional Conference on 'Appreciating Difference' in Quebec, Canada. Newly elected EC members will be invited to attend the Québec meeting. There will be an EC meeting immediately prior to the Québec Regional Conference in August 2018 (dates are 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018) – i.e. arrivals on 4<sup>th</sup> August, meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> August and morning of 6<sup>th</sup>.

Arrangements for the final meeting of 2018 will only be made once the outcome of the election of new EC members is known (mid-2018).

## **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 Mike Meadows. As usual, four issues of the new series of the e-Newsletter were published in 2017 and can be downloaded from the website by following the newsletter link from [www.igu-online.org](http://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.

## **Financials**

The IGU has managed to keep its annual membership subscriptions at 2008 levels which, given the tough financial environment, is quite remarkable. We ended the year with a modest positive operating surplus, despite the fact that more than US\$ 75,000 was distributed in grants to seed fund the Commissions and Task Forces, IYGU and travel grants for two thematic conferences. See Income and Expense and Balance sheets that follow.

**International Geographical Union**  
**Profit & Loss**  
January through December 2017

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	<u>Jan - Dec 17</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions	3,747.06
Grants and Awards Received	
Nonprofit Organization Grants	30,000.00
<b>Total Grants and Awards Received</b>	<u>30,000.00</u>
<b>Investments</b>	
Banking Accounts Interest	5,760.88
<b>Total Investments</b>	<u>5,760.88</u>
<b>Program Income</b>	
Country Member Dues	137,764.28
<b>Total Program Income</b>	<u>137,764.28</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>177,272.22</u>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	177,272.22
<b>Expense</b>	
Awards and Grants	
IGU Travel Grants	17,027.89
Awards and Grants - Other	58,332.42
<b>Total Awards and Grants</b>	<u>75,360.31</u>
<b>Operations</b>	
Collaboration and Outreach	
Conference, Convention, Meet...	1,285.19
Memberships and Dues	6,886.13
<b>Total Collaboration and Outreach</b>	<u>8,171.32</u>
Executive Committee Meetings	41,586.97
Publications	
IGU Bulletin	3,220.00
<b>Total Publications</b>	<u>3,220.00</u>
<b>Total Operations</b>	<u>52,978.29</u>
Reconciliation Discrepancies	12.77
<b>Secretariat</b>	
Banking Fees	2,878.47
Internet and IGU Web Site	4,793.51
Printing and Copying	2,167.87
Supplies	1,302.57
<b>Total Secretariat</b>	<u>11,142.42</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>139,493.79</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>37,778.43</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>37,778.43</u></u>



International Geographical Union  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of December 31, 2017

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	<u>Dec 31, 17</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Johnson Bank IGU Endowment	100,968.32
Johnson Bank Operating Account	1,565.91
Petty Cash	590.95
SBCT Market Link	795.58
SBCT Money Market	127,198.78
SBCT Operating Account	26,178.78
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>257,298.32</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>257,298.32</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>257,298.32</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	151,339.52
Unrestricted Net Assets	68,180.37
Net Income	37,778.43
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>257,298.32</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>257,298.32</b></u>