



## ***IGU E-NEWSLETTER***

Quarterly

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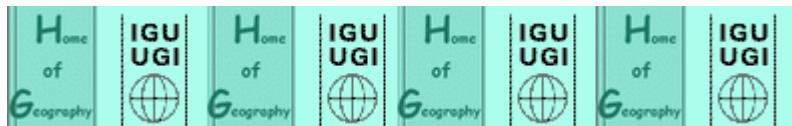
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Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

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*This Newsletter is circulated to nearly 2000 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome. Please send them to [giuliano.bellezza@gmail.com](mailto:giuliano.bellezza@gmail.com) or [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org)*

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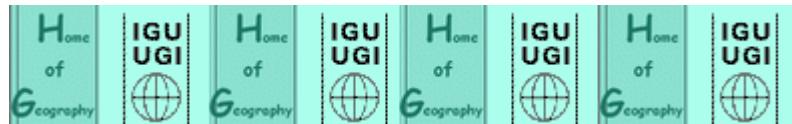
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## **1) REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT YUKIO HIMIYAMA**

How time flies and year 2018 is already underway! May I begin with reviewing where we are since the ICSU/ISSC meeting in Taipei in October 2017, during which ICSU and ISSC decided to merge and create *International Science Council*, or ISC. The ISC will start officially at 9 am French time on 30th June 2018 and, in creating this new body, we are demolishing the walls between natural and social sciences. The timetable for the emergence of the ISC is as follows:

23 February 2018	Deadline for submitting nominations for the Governing Board
3 March 2018	Preliminary shortlist of candidates sent to Members
3 May 2018	Deadline for re-submissions or submission of new candidates
11-16 May 2018	General Assembly to finalize merger treaty
3 June 2018	Electronic Final shortlist of candidates sent to Members
3-5 July 2018	Founding General Assembly in Paris

This lengthy process is necessary because of the difficulty and importance of the selection of the most appropriate people to form the inaugural Governing Board (GB). IGU is a long-standing member of both ICSU and ISSC, and their merger is therefore not ‘someone else’s business.’ In fact, the IGU has been deeply involved in the merger, partly because of our interdisciplinary nature, and partly because of our traditionally deep involvement in the initiatives of ICSU and/or

ISSC, such as IGBP, IHDP, IYGU, and Future Earth. It is desirable that the nominee(s) have deep understanding of the need for cooperation in scientific research and education; geographers are strongly supportive of this. Therefore, if we manage to find right geographer(s) and succeed in getting them into the ISC GB, they can really help the ISC unite in tackling global/regional problems that often require interdisciplinary approaches.

IGU is a member of the GeoUnions, a group of international academic unions belonging to ICSU, which comprises the following nine unions: International Astronomical Union (IAU); International Cartographical Association (ICA); International Geographical Union (IGU); International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA); International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS); International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG); International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS); International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS); and International Union of Radio Science (URSI). Considering the importance of geo-sciences in tackling geo-disasters and global environmental problems such as global warming, water problems, pollution problems, and land degradation, ISC GB without a geo-scientist is unthinkable.

In the GeoUnions meeting held prior to the ICSU/ISSC meetings in Taipei, the IGU proposed to make the promotion of science education a key issue for the ISC. Although it was not explicitly included in the joint statement of the GeoUnions read in the general assembly, the proposal was warmly welcomed by the GeoUnions members, in the Academic Unions meeting, and in the general assembly. It is hoped that the GeoUnions will play a leading role in strengthening science education in the ISC, thus contributing to society far more than its parent organisations. IGU, as the only union within the GeoUnions group that adheres to ISSC (International Social Science Council) as well as to ICSU, should be ready to work closely with the other members of the GeoUnions for the promotion of science education in a broader sense that incorporates sustainability.

Last but not least, 2018 is the year of the next IGU Regional Conference, which is to be held in partnership with the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) Annual Meeting & National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) Annual Conference in Quebec, Canada, from August 6 to 10. It is the first major meeting of the IGU held in North America since August 1992, when the 27th International Geographical Congress (IGC) was held at Washington D.C. It is therefore a great opportunity for geographers across the world to visit and see that part of North America, which has perhaps to some extent been in the shadow of its giant vocal neighbour. Let's join the Conference, and reflect on its main theme 'appreciating difference' at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Quebec City. For detail of the Conference, please visit <http://igu2018.ulaval.ca/>

**Yukio Himiyyama,**  
*President of IGU*

## **2) CLOSURE CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING**

The IYGU triennium – initiated by the IGU – was officially concluded in December 2017. The first common project undertook by the three Science Councils of the councils, comprising the natural (ICSU), social (ISSC), and human sciences (CIPSH) councils, was a resounding success. It was a very demanding and challenging experience, but also a highly rewarding one. The results were presented at the official – very well attended – closing ceremony in the Aula of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena in Jena, Germany on November 22. The closing ceremony underlined that we should continue our efforts for a ‘2020 Science Decade for Global Understanding (SDGU)’.



*Klaus Topfer, Carlos Torres, John Crawley*

The program included the IYGU executive director’s presentation of the triennium’s most important events of the more than 1,500 events around the globe, two keynote speakers, and contributions by the relevant Science Councils, as well as by UNESCO and the IYGU Global Arts Center, Paris. In his presentation of the most pinnacle events, the executive director first highlighted the phenomenal work that the more than 40 Regional Action Centers – established around the world since only 2016 – undertook. The network of regional centers includes cities such as Beijing, Hiroshima, Taipei, New Delhi, Tehran, Riyadh, Tunis, Melbourne, Hamilton, Paris, Santiago de Compostela, Athens, Warzaw, Lublijana, Belgrade, Zagreb, Kiev, Vilnius, Maçao-Coimbra, Istanbul, Skopie, Lueneburg, Dublin, Genoa, Tunis, Bamako, Ibadan, Washington, Quebec, Brasilia, Buenos Aires, Santiago de Chile, etc. The IYGU General Secretariat at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena was responsible for these action centers’ coordination. These centers were and will be the crucial interface between global and local levels of actions, as well as the most important tool for joint actions.

With so many IYGU events worldwide, millions of people were reached through publications, festivals, conferences, competitions, research projects, educational programs, film projects, scientific colloquia, a UNESCO-Chair program, and so much more. The IYGU sponsored events at the Glastonbury Festival, which about 200,000 people attended, the annual conference of the Brazilian Chamber of Industry in Rio de Janeiro, the ESRI-sponsored ‘Story map Competitions’ organized in cooperation with the IGU commission ‘Geographical Education’ for two different age groups which drew participants from all continents, as well as the drawing competitions in India, which drew ten thousands of participants, were especially highlighted. UNESCO also made “Global Understanding” a guiding theme of the World Science Day in 2017 and it is increasingly becoming a keyword for education and science-based politics. Together with all the presentations at the closing ceremony, the IYGU executive director’s detailed presentation of the events will be made available to the IYGU YouTube channel in the following weeks.

## ***Network of IYGU Regional Action Centers***



UNESCO also made "Global Understanding" a guiding theme of the World Science Day in 2017 and it is increasingly becoming a keyword for education and science-based politics. Together with all the presentations at the closing ceremony, the IYGU executive director's detailed presentation of the events will be made available to the IYGU YouTube channel in the following weeks.

The welcome addresses of the International Sciences Councils emphasized the IYGU's extremely significant contributions regarding transdisciplinary and international science cooperation. All of them underlined the need for a global perspective on the most pressing current problems. The current state of the world clarifies that the end of the IYGU should not be the end of efforts to make our lives' global condition better understandable. All of the welcome addresses expressed their readiness to continue our efforts for global understanding, and welcomed the idea of working towards a '2020 Science Decade for Global Understanding.'

In a world where pushing national interests and increasing isolation from the international community are yet again becoming a trend in political strategy, understanding the links between the global and the local is crucially important in order to make progress on many important issues.

This was the key message of the keynote speakers. In his presentation, ‘The Crisis of Multilateralism – A challenge for science,’ Prof. Dr. Klaus Toepfer (Germany), the former UNEP Executive Director, underlined our responsibility and identified appropriate geographical imaginations for the current problem constellations and their political processing.

Additionally, Prof. Carlos Torres's (U.S.A., UNESCO Chair Global Learning and Global Citizenship Education) presentation on "Global Understanding and Global Citizenship" pointed in a similar direction, but emphasized the importance of education. This applies specifically to

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## **Closing Ceremony of the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU)**

1 p.m. November 21, 2017 Aula, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Fürstengraben 11

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Master of Ceremonies: Marie Kaiser (radioeins<sup>rbb</sup>, Berlin)

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### **Introduction**

Marie Kaiser & Benno Verlen

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### **Welcome Addresses**

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Prof. Dr. Walter Rosenthal, President of the Friedrich Schiller University Jena

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Prof. Gordon McBean (Canada), President of the International Council for Science (ICSU)

¶

Prof. François Djindjian (France), Vice-President of the International Council for Human Sciences (CIPSH)

¶

Dr. Mathieu Denis (Canada), International Council of Science & International Social Science Council (ISSC)

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### **Keynotes**

#### **The Crisis of Multilateralism & challenge for Science.**

Prof. Dr. Klaus Toepfer (Germany), Co-Chair of an independent Team of Advisors (ITA) to the UN Secretary-General, former UNEP Executive Director & Federal Minister of Environment

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#### **Global Understanding and Global Citizenship**

Prof. Carlos Torres (U.S.A.), UNESCO Chair 'Global Learning and Global Citizenship Education', Distinguished Professor University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)

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### **Break**

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### **Presentations & Round-table Discussion**

#### **Arts & Global Understanding**

Margalit Berriet (France), IYGU Global Action Center for Arts in Paris

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#### **UNESCO and the Legacy of IYGU**

John Crowley (United Kingdom), Chief of Section 'Research, Policy and Foresight', UNESCO

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#### **Round-table Discussion on 'Possible Futures of the IYGU' with the participation of Prof. Dr. Boos**

Droogleever Fortuyn International Geographical Union, The Netherlands), Dr. Mathieu Denis (International Council for Science, Canada), Prof. Dr. Carlos Torres (UNESCO Chair, UCLA, U.S.A.), Prof. Dr. François Djindjian (International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences, Sorbonne, France), and Dr. Karl Donert (EUROGEO, United Kingdom).

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### **Closing Remarks**

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### **Reception**

geographical education, as it is pointed out in the upcoming publication ‘Geographical Education,’ edited by Sara Bednarz et al. Geographical education has a key role to play in terms of assessing the currently held geographical worldviews, their origins, and previous applications, as well as regarding questioning their suitability to deal with present-day challenges, which include, for example, international migration, global social inequalities, and climate change. Since globalization is transforming – even revolutionizing – the geographical conditions of everyday life for each person on the planet, long-established worldviews, which guided our actions and served us well in the past, are no longer applicable. They no longer match that which we are confronted with on a daily basis.



*Marie Kaiser, Presenter; Karl Donert; Benno Werlen, Joos Droogleever Fortuijn*

An additional component of the Closing Ceremony was the presentation by Margalit Berriet, director of the Global Actions Center for Arts in Paris, on Arts & Global Understanding; Ms. Berriet showcased an array of impressive contributions to the global arts competitions, encompassing more than 150 from all over the world. In his video message ‘UNESCO and the Legacy of IYGU,’ Dr. John Crowley (Chief of UNESCO Section ‘Research, Policy and Foresight’) highlighted the supportive character of the IYGU action program for many of UNESCO’s own strategic goals, mainly the integration of the human and social sciences into sustainability sciences. He warmly welcomed the idea of the ‘2020 Science Decade for Global Understanding (SDGU),’ offered some key ideas for the program, and strong support for its implementation. Finally, in the closing ceremony, Dr. John Crowley’s and the panel members’ (Prof. Joos Droogleever Forthuijn, Prof. Carlos Torres, Prof. François Djindjian, Dr. Mathieu Denis, Dr. Karl Donert) suggestions, were debated very fruitfully in the concluding round-table discussion on the ‘Possible Futures of the IYGU.’

Overall the ceremony didn’t end the engaging, interactive, and successful Year of Global Understanding. It was, instead, an opportunity to draw an interim balance and to show ways to fertilize what has been achieved so far. However, the overall mood and atmosphere of all the members attending the ceremony and the many components, communities, and organizations which participated in the events year-round confirm that a Decade for Global Understanding is a

promising next Global Action step. In the coming months, a detailed report of the IYGU results will be published, and a transition team formed for the SDGU.

Prof. Benno Werlen  
Executive-Director of the IYGU



### 3) INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION UNION GÉOGRAPHIQUE INTERNATIONALE

#### In this issue:

Highlights of the IGU Executive Committee meetings of 2017  
Report on the IGU Thematic Conference on Urbanization, Health and Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Goals, Hyderabad  
Report on the IGU Thematic Conference on Geographies of Peace, La Paz Bolivia  
Report on the IGU Thematic Conference on Land Use/Cover Changes, Biodiversity, Health and Environment, Local and Regional Development, Bucharest & Tulcea  
International Conference of Turkish Geographical Society (TGS) 75th Anniversary Year Ankara on November 8-10, 2017.  
From one year to a decade of 'Global Understanding'  
Co-operation with other organizations  
Forthcoming events  
Communication and outreach  
Financials

#### 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, V.P. 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.



*Left: SWAT special session at IGU India Thematic Conference,*

*Right: 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>

### **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 Mahmadou, Heriberto Cairo Carou, Emiliano Díaz Carnero, Michael Shapiro, and Freddy Morales Ruitiña. 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.

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.



*Virginie Mahmadou opening the Conference during the initial Plenary Session*

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 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 Sept. 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: Socioeconomic 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 Bálteanu (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 Bálteanu and the discussions were held between the governor of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (Mr. Málin-Matei Musetescu), a group of scientists and stakeholders from the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (dr. eng. Sorin Nichersu, dr. eng. Ion Návodaru), the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy (dr. Monica Dumitrascu, dr. Diana Dogaru), the Romanian Geographical Society - Tulcea branch (prof. Gheorghe Básian) 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 - Crian - Dunărea Veche Chanel - Mila 23 village - Olgua Channel - Fortuna Lake - Sontea Chanel - Bácláneti 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 - Mácin Mountains National Park -Babadag - Jurilovca - Constanta - 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 - Brasov - Transfagarasan Mountain Road - Curtea de Arges - 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 socioeconomic 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 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).

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

### **International Conference of Turkish Geographical Society (TGS) 75th Anniversary Year Ankara on November 8-10, 2017.**

We are proud that we could welcome during our anniversary congress international keynote speakers and participants like Dr. Warren J. Eastwood from the University of Birmingham, Prof. Dr. Helmut Brückner from the Institute of Geography, University of Cologne and Prof. Dr. İbrahim Sirkeci, from the Regent's University of London. Also Prof. Dr. Kostyantyn Mezentsev from the Kiev University Economic and Social Geography Department and several other colleagues from different universities joined our guests.

The IGU General Assembly in Cologne in 2012 chose Istanbul as the venue for ICG 2020. Being the TGS a highly experienced organization, and also for the uniqueness of the city of Istanbul and Turkey as a whole, ICG 2020 will be held in a city located between Asia and Europe. It is

literally bridging the two continents, and it is one of the biggest airline hubs in the world; in 2017 Turkish Airlines is flying to 225 international destinations in 117 countries. And on the other hand Turkey has one of the easiest visa regimes, citizens from most countries can get their visa online within minutes.

Dear friends and colleagues, we as TGS are already busy preparing for this important event and already working hard to make 2020 IGC the most successful congress in more than 100 years of IGC's history, we are working on a very interesting program with many international academic, educational, and commercial events.

Our congress will also bring people and continents together!

We are looking forward welcoming you in Istanbul for IGC 2020, 17-21 August.. For some early information please visit our website <http://www.igc2020.org>.

We wish you a peaceful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Barbaros Gönençgil

Head of Local Organizing Committee

Vice President of IGU

### **From one year to a decade of 'Global Understanding'**

The closing ceremony of the International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) 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 Topfer, 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.



*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)*

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, rigor 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 behavioral 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 for many decades, hopes that the need to improve science education will also become an important focus for the new organization.

**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.



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

### 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 2018, 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).

### IGU Thematic Conference dedicated to the centennial of the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences

#### Practical Geography and XXI Century Challenges - Moscow, 4-6 June 2018

The conference which will be held under the auspices of the International Geographical Union (IGU) is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) - the largest world-renowned geographical research organization in Russia. This occasion provides 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.

(All documents can be read in: [www.homeofgeography.org/news2018](http://www.homeofgeography.org/news2018))

### **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.iguonline.org](http://www.iguonline.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.

### **FINANCIAL**

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.

## **IGU Profit and Loss January through December 2017**

### **Ordinary Income/Expense**

#### **Income**

<b>Contributions</b>	<b>3,747.06</b>
Grants and Awards Received	
Nonprofit Organization Grants	30,000.00
<b>Total Grants and Awards Received</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>

#### **Investments**

Banking Accounts Interest	5,760.88
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>5,760.88</b>

#### **Program Income**

Country Member Duees	137,764.28
<b>Total Program Income</b>	<b>137,764.28</b>

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>177,272.22</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>177,272.22</b>

**Expense**

Awards and Grants	
IGU Travel Grants	17,027.89
Awards and Grants - Other	58,332.42
<b>Total Awards and Grants</b>	<b>75,360.31</b>

**Operations**

Collaboration and Outreach	
Conference, Convention, Meetings	1,285.19
Memberships and Dues	6,886.13
Total Collaboration and Outreach	8,171.32
Executive Committee Meetings	41,586.97

**Publications**

IGU Bulletin	3,220.00
Total Publications	3,220.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>52,978.29</b>

**Reconciliation Discrepancies** 12.77

**Secretariat**

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>	<b>11,142.42</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>139,493.79</b>

**Net Ordinary Income** 37,778.43

**Net Income** 37,778.43

**International Geographical Union  
01-17-18 Balance Sheet  
Cash Basis as of December 31, 2017**

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

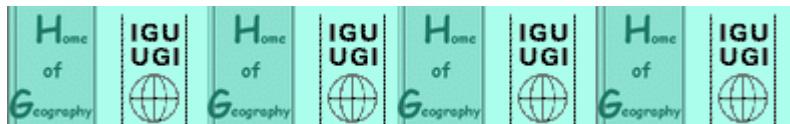
#### Checking/Savings

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
Total Checking/Savings	257,298.32
Total Current Assets	257,298.32
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>257,298.32</b>

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

### Equity

Opening Balance Equity	151,339.52
Unrestricted Net Assets	68,180.37
Net Income	37,778.43
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>257,298.32</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>257,298.32</b>

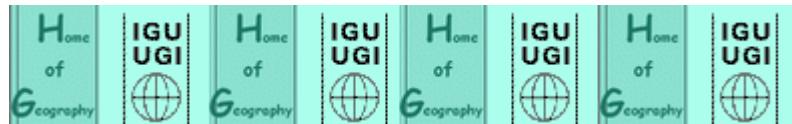


## 4) NOTE OF THE EDITOR

I've been appointed as Director of the Home of Geography in 2003 and the following year Adalberto Vallega was elected IGU President. In his will the HofG should upgrade from a simple IGU Archive to a researches center So, in 2005 he launched the program *Cultures and Civilisations for Human Development (CCHD)*: geographers from many countries expressed interest, but the terms culture and civilisation gave place to different explanations. The main problem suddenly exploded in 2005 when he was told to be cancer affected. So seriously to dye in 2006. In April 2007 the IGU EC in Tokyo Komaba University appointed Prof Benno Werlen as General Coordinator of CCHD, and he accepted, writing the following lines, posted by me in the newsletter n. 9, July 2007:

*The untimely demise of Professor Adalberto Vallega left a tremendous gap in terms of the further elaboration and revision of the IGU Initiative 'Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development' (CCHD). At the last meeting of the IGU Executive Committee at Tokyo Komaba University in early March this year, I was appointed to take over Adalberto Vallega's position as General Coordinator of the IGU Initiative for a UN Year.*

11 years later I and the colleagues at that time members of the IGU EC and of the CCHD Steering Committee, want to express congratulations to Benno for the relentless, successful work he dedicated to CCHD, starting with the name change in IYGU, more accepted globally. Also, we are glad because our choice demonstrated to have been the most appropriate.



## 5) PERCEPTION OF GEOGRAPHY IN GERMANY

FINDINGS OF A REPRESENTATIVE SURVEY AMONG THE GERMAN POPULATION  
By Paul Gans, Ingrid Hemmer, Michael Hemmer and Kim Miener

**Summary:** Presented here is a representative study of the German population which collected information on the perception of geography as a school subject, as a science, and on the job market. The theoretical basis utilised for this purpose is a two-dimensional attitude research approach which comprises cognitive and affective aspects. The measuring instrument was theory-based and developed by a team of geographers. According to the findings of the study, the perception of geography - both that of the school subject as well as the science - can be classified as highly positive. Geography lessons are seen as a subject which promotes spatial orientation, but also as a subject dealing with human-environment relationships. The science geography is understood above all as the science of the relationship between humans and their environment. However, both in schools and in science, geography is more strongly linked to physical geography topics and topics that deals with human-environmental relationships than with human geography topics. Respondents see jobs for geographers as being mainly in two areas: environmental planning/risks/protection and urban/regional planning. The findings of the study support the proposition that the perception of geography is influenced relatively strongly by how geography is taught. Contact to geographers also has a significant influence on perception. The article concludes with a discussion of the most important results and an outlook on further research.

### 1 Introduction

In subject policy discussions that take place in the German-speaking countries, geographers repeatedly bemoan the fact that the general public has a vague and often even negative perception of geography as a science and as a school subject (e.g. Blümel 2003). The basis for such impressions are numerous reports and opinions published in the press, from parents, or from politicians. However, such data is neither representative nor does it lie on empirical grounds. Although there have been repeated attempts in the past to investigate attitudes towards geography as a school subject (e.g. Köck 1997), as a science and/or university subject (e.g. Hard and Wenzel 1979), or on the job market (e.g. Monheim et al. 1999), and such studies paint a mostly positive picture of geography, these investigations are generally rather old, focused

only on a small, non-representative sample of the population (e.g. university students or school pupils), and always concentrated only on partial aspects, and not on geography as a whole.

Geography's image and third-party perception is an important factor not only for the public perception and dissemination of its scientific findings but also for the status of the school subject and the employability of graduates majoring or minoring in Geography.

The study presented in this article attempts to fill this gap. With a current, representative survey of the German population, its goal is to capture the perception of geography as a science, as a school subject, and on the job market. In addition, it aims to gain an overview of possible influencing factors. The division along the three above-mentioned areas is necessary because it would be reasonable to assume that these three domains are perceived differently; i.e. that there is not just *one* way in which geography is perceived.

This paper starts by introducing the general theoretical framework and the research questions (Chapter 2), proceeds to a brief description of the research design, sample, and instruments (Chapter 3), and concludes by describing selected results (Chapter 4), discussing these in light of the theoretical framework, formulating general conclusions (Chapter 5) and ends with reflection and outlook (Chapter 6).

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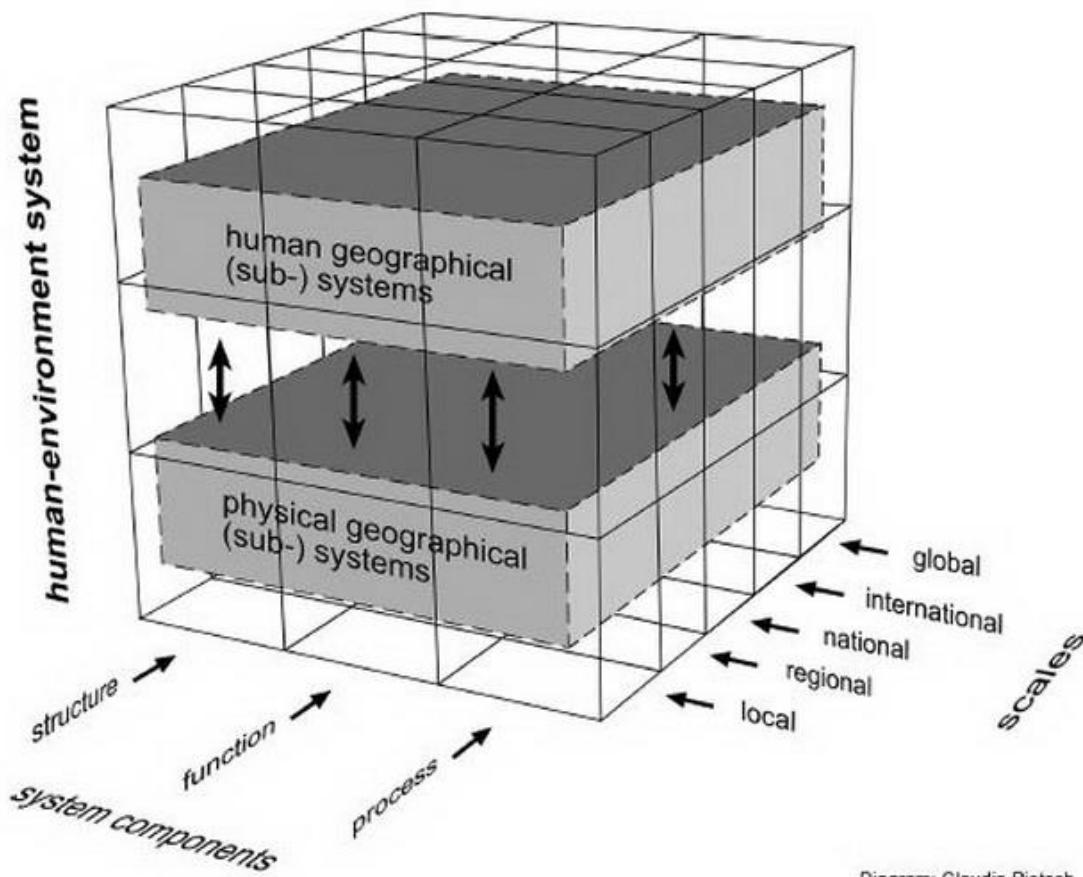


Diagram: Claudia Pietsch

Fig. 1: Basic concepts of the analysis of spatial relationships for geography as a subject. Source: GG3 2014, 11.

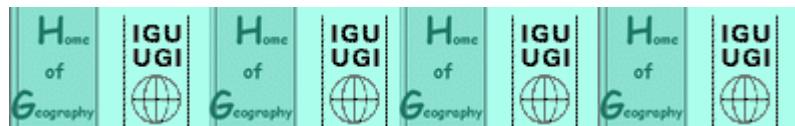
### **2.3.1 About the perception of geography as a science**

A number of studies reflected on the importance and image of geography in different national settings. Along these lines, Sengendo (1997) explored the role of the discipline in the public domain in Uganda, while Singh (2009) analysed people's perspectives on identity and image of the Indian geography perspectives on identity and image of the Indian geography. Back in the seventies, Petersen and Hoffmann (1972) conducted a small study among the members of the Association of American Geographers (AAG) which underlined the necessity of an evaluation of their own discipline.

In the German-speaking world, Hard and Wenzel (1979) utilised the methodological development of social psychology and applied measuring instruments from attitude research to the investigation of self- and foreign perceptions of geography. A comparison of the two different foreign perceptions collected demonstrated that the assumed perception of those studying geography was estimated as being significantly more negative than students of other subjects actually had of geography. Later studies confirmed this basic trend (Gassler and Rammel 1991; Klee and Piotrowsky-Fichtner (2003).

(from ERDKUNDE, 2018, vol.72.

Whole article, in [www.homeofgeography.org/news2018](http://www.homeofgeography.org/news2018))



## **6) REPORTS OF RECENT EVENTS**

### **6.1 GEOGRAPHY OF GOVERNANCE, ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

#### **Local Governance in the New Urban Agenda, Lecce (Italy) Italy, October, 19-21**

The 2017 Annual Conference of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance, held in the University of the Salento in Lecce, Italy, from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2017, addressed the theme "Local Governance in the New Urban Agenda". The Conference hosted about 80 researchers and scholars from 33 countries, working in the fields of Local and Regional Studies, Geography, Economics, Political Science, Architecture, Planning, Public Administration, History, Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities. Of the 100 abstract papers submitted and double-blind reviewed by an international scientific committee, nearly 3/4 were accepted, of which around 1/3 were authored or co-authored by PhD students. This was clearly an important result for the Conference, whose aim was to explore and discuss the changes, challenges and opportunities confronting Local Governance in the context of the new urban paradigm associated with the HABITAT III New Urban Agenda, a 20-year strategy for sustainable urbanisation adopted in October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador.

The conference program included also a guided tour of the city of Lecce and a visit to the Church of Saints Niccolò and Cataldo (next to the Olivetan Monastery, the building where the Conference took place), organised by the Italian Environment Fund, a gala dinner in the ancient setting of the Torre del Parco, a cocktail in the cloister of the Olivetan Monastery and a concert by “La Cantiga de la Serena” - Songs of joy, of prayer and of love, held in the D’Enghien hall in the Charles V Castle in the city of Lecce. These activities helped to make the Conference enjoyable and interesting from the cultural and social point of view as well as an opportunity for networking and for researchers to meet and discuss future research initiatives. Lastly, the conference participants were taken on a post-conference excursion in the Salento, which included meetings with local stakeholders and visits to the Church of Santa Caterina d’Alessandria in Galatina, the Cathedral and Castle in Otranto, and the Gallone Castle and Branca Ceramics workshop in Tricase. A light lunch, accompanied by local music and dance, was served at the Masseria Le Stanzie in Supersano during the excursion.

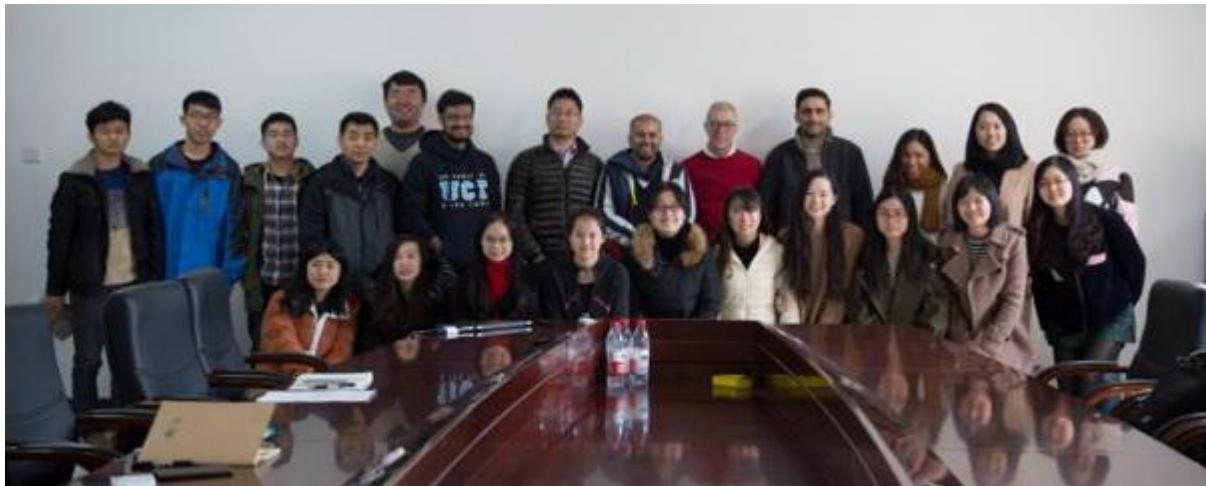
The conference was convened by Anna Trono (Department of Cultural Heritage of the University of the Salento, Lecce, Italy) and Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal and Chair of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance), with the patronage of the University of the Salento, the Municipality of Lecce and Lecce Provincial Administration. The conference report, by Carlos Nunes Silva and Anna Trono, is scheduled to be published in the International Journal of E-Planning Research, Vol. 7 (4), 2018. It is expected that a selection of conference papers will be published.

The full program, the abstracts, the PowerPoint presentations, and a photo gallery of the conference are available online in the conference website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/geogov2017conference/>. For additional information, please contact the IGU Commission: [igu.geogov@gmail.com](mailto:igu.geogov@gmail.com).

## **6.2 JUST GET ON WITH IT, Academic Workshop by M.Meadows, Shanghai, 11-13 Dec.**

From December 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2017, IGU Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers organised an academic writing workshop “Just get on with it”; in collaboration with the Graduate Students Union of School of Geographic Sciences, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China. The workshop was planned for PhD scholars to orient them about the research and publication. Professor Michael Meadows, an eminent geographer and the Secretary General and Treasurer of IGU who also heads the Department of Environmental and Geographical Sciences at University of Cape Town as well as is an honorary professor at East China Normal University, volunteered to deliver this workshop.



The workshop was a great success, as more than thirty PhD scholars and faculty members participated in the workshop. The feedback session has been a lively affair with queries pertaining to adopting academic writing style, use of humour while presenting paper, preparing reference list, etc. was put to the resource person. Mr. Dhritiraj Sengupta, PhD candidate at the Geographic school of East China Normal University coordinated the event on the behalf of the IGU-YECG.



After the successful completion of this event, the Task Force has decided to conduct similar workshops globally. Our job as the Task Force would be to provide intellectual aid using the wide range of contacts among IGU family. Experts in Geosciences will be connected with graduate unions or departments to conduct interactive academic events. Institutions can reach out to us seeking intellectual aid and we will provide experts from nearest region. If you wish to conduct such event in your department or even volunteer for the same, please do get in touch with Komali Yenneti ([k.yenneti@unsw.edu.au](mailto:k.yenneti@unsw.edu.au)) and Gaurav Sikka ([gauravsikkageo@gmail.com](mailto:gauravsikkageo@gmail.com))

### **Gaurav Sikka**

*Secretary and Treasurer, IGU Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers*

*Message from IGU President Yukio Hii Miyama*

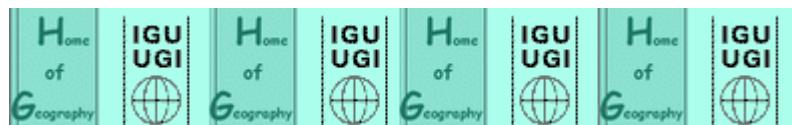
*Dear Gaurav,*

*Thank you very much for your report of the IGU-YECG Workshop held in Shanghai. It will certainly stimulate many other young and early career geographers to join the activities of your task force.*

*Good luck to you and YECG in 2018!*

*Sincerely Yours,*

*Yukio*



## **7) (excerpts from) RECENT REPORTS OF IGU COMMISSIONS**

*(All the complete Reports can be read in:*

[www.homeofgeography.org/Commissions-eArchive//After Beijing 2016](http://www.homeofgeography.org/Commissions-eArchive//After Beijing 2016)

### **7.1) C16.04, COASTAL SYSTEMS**

**Chair since 2015/ President**

Prof. Colin Woodroffe

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**Secretary/Secrétaire, Editor of Newsletter**

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Prof. Norbert P. Psuty (**co-editor Newsletter**)

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Number of Commission members **in total and by country** as of 28 December 2017. **494**

**MEETINGS** organised by the Commission on Coastal Systems in 2017.

**MARCH 30 - APRIL 2, 2017, COASTAL TRANSITIONS 2017. NEW HAVEN,  
CONNECTICUT, USA**

CCS was a sponsor of this meeting.

**APRIL 23-28, 2017, VIENNA, AUSTRIA, EUROPEAN GEOSCIENCES UNION (EGU)**

CCS convened two sessions at EGU in 20017. Session GM12.6 *Coastal zone geomorphologic interactions: natural versus human-induced driving factors*, continued the CCS focus on mechanisms responsible for coastal erosion and shoreline behaviour (advance or retreat), addressing also the many natural and anthropogenic factors involved. It was organised by Margarita Stancheva, Andreas Baas, Giorgio Anfuso, Hannes Tonnison and Guillaume Brunier comprised 6 oral presentations and 18 posters. Session GM12.5 *Coastal morphodynamics: nearshore, beach and dunes* was an additional development for CCS at EGU. This session, organised by Emilia Guisado-Pintado, Derek Jackson and Irene Delgado-Fernandez, was allocated two oral parallel sessions plus 25 very high quality posters featuring a range of coastal process themes.

**SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2017. LITTORAL 2017. LIVERPOOL, UK**

CCS was a sponsor for Littoral 2017, held at Liverpool Hope University and organised by Paul Rooney and the 'Sand Dune and Shingle Network'. This event brought together academics and coastal managers from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and the USA, as well as from several universities and agencies in the UK. Sand dunes were a particular focus.

**MEETINGS the Commission is organizing in 2018**

**APRIL 08 -13, 2018 EGU GENERAL ASSEMBLY, VIENNA, AUSTRIA.**

CCS will be sponsoring two sessions again at EGU in 2018: *Coastal zone geomorphologic interactions: natural versus human-induced driving factors* to be convened by Margarita Stancheva, Andreas Baas, Giorgio Anfuso , Hannes Tonisson and Guillaume Brunier; and *Coastal morphodynamics: nearshore, beach and dunes* to be convened by Emilia Guisado-Pintado, Derek Jackson and Irene Delgado-Fernandez.

**SEPTEMBER 03-06, 2018, ECSA 57: Changing estuaries, coasts and shelf systems, PERTH AUSTRALIA**

CCS is sponsoring a session on *Similarities, stressors and sustainability of southern hemisphere estuaries on wave-dominated coasts*, proposed by Kerrylee Rogers, Debora Freitas, Martinez Scherer, Janine Adams, Andy Green and Colin Woodroffe. This session will have a southern hemisphere focus.

**SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2018, CoastGIS 2018: Spatial planning and climate change, ISAFJÓRDUR, ICELAND**

CCS will sponsor this meeting; it has a focus on bringing together practitioners and researchers in the field of marine and coastal Geographical Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing and computer cartography.

**OCTOBER 04-05, 2018, COASTAL HAZARDS IN AFRICA, TANGIER, MOROCCO**

CCS will sponsor this meeting, organised by Abdelmounim El M'rini, which aims to bring together scientists and managers interested in the state of African coastal zones, identifying the main risks, discussing measures taken to confront these risks, and proposing measures to better manage them.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Two Newsletters are published each year; numbers 74 and 75 were produced in 2016 and 76 and 77 in 2017.

A special issue of *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* is being compiled by Emilia Guisado-Pintado, Derek Jackson and Irene Delgado-Fernandez, based on papers invited from the EGU special session; more than 20 abstracts have been received as expressions of interest.

URL Commission .igu<http://www.igu-ccs.org/>

### **Archival Contributions**

Copies of Newsletters 74-77 have been submitted.

**Colin Woodroffe, Chair and Margarita Stancheva, Secretary**

## **7.2) C16.05, COLD AND HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONS**

### ***2017 IGU Cold and High Altitude Regions Commission Report***

The Cold and High Altitude Regions Commission was created as a successor of Cold Region Environment Commission, and the former Periglacial Commission. A final decision on the continuation of the work of Cold Regions Environments commission (CRE) was taken at IGC 2016 in Beijing, in consultation with the IGU Executive, and included in the proposal to the IGU General Assembly in Beijing. A proposal to change the name of the Cold Region Environment Commission to “Cold and High Altitude Regions” (IGU-CHAR) was also accepted.

It has been stated that the new IGU-CHAR Commission will contribute to the realization of the goals of the International Geographical Union by:

- 1) enhancing, supporting and encouraging inter- and trans-disciplinarity in the study of cold social-ecological systems through geographical research in Arctic, Antarctic and High Altitude regions.
- 2) producing and disseminating new knowledge, and developing new frameworks for analysis, synthesis and innovation at cross-cutting scales from local to global; and
- 3) contributing to international cooperation, governance and adaptation for greater sustainability by developing more effective and creative scenarios for the future, in response to emerging threats such as climate change affecting sustainability.

### ***Meetings***

Biennial Conference of the South African Association of Geomorphologists – Manzini, Swaziland, 25-28 July 2017 (70 participants).

Themes of relevance to CHAR included:

- 1 Periglacial Geomorphology
- 2 Antarctic Geomorphology
- 3 Techniques and Methods for Geomorphological Research (e.g. Cosmogenic nuclide dating, unmanned aerial vehicles)

A major discussion at the Biennial Conference of the South African Association of Geomorphologists was the call to strengthen practical and fieldwork skills training in the current Geography undergraduate programmes offered at universities across South Africa. (D.Hedding).

Arctic-FROST: Arctic Frontiers Of Sustainability: Resources, Societies, Environments and Development in the Changing North. Annual Meeting. Sept 12-19, 2017. (75 participants). The theme of the meeting is “Community Sustainability in the Arctic: What sustainability theories

and practices work and what fail in Arctic Communities?" Qaqortoq, Greenland. (A.Petrov,T.Vlasova, N.Shiklomanov).

EGU General Assembly 23-28 April,2017. Vienna (Austria). Micu D. presentation "Space-time analysis of snow cover change in the Romanian Carpathians (2001-2016)" (D.Micu).

International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences IX, Umea, Sweden. June 12-16,2017) - Organizations of joint sessions in cooperation with the International Arctic Social Science Association. These sessions were devoted and contributed to international cooperation, governance and adaptation for greater sustainability by developing more effective and creative ways and scenarios for the future, in response to emerging threats such as climate change affecting sustainability. (A.Petrov, G.Fondhal, T.Vlasova).

Arctic Science Summit Week. March 30-April 4, 2017. Prague. IGU-CHAR commission co-organized with IASC sustainability sessions. One of which was devoted to Sustainability and resilience monitoring in the Rapid Changing Arctic (T.Vlasova, A.Petrov, W. Ziawa. ) Three members took part in IGU-CHAR Steering committee meeting (T.Vlasova, A.Petrov, W. Ziawa. )

IASC ISIRA Workshop: Facilitating International Cooperation in the Russian Arctic. 7-8 November 2017. Moscow, Russia.

International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) International Science Initiative in the Russian Arctic (ISIRA) is a Russian and international cooperative initiative which provides a forum for linking on-going or planned bilateral projects, facilitates improved scientific cooperation and access in the Russian Arctic. ISIRA convened a workshop at the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow to build the ISIRA network, revisit challenges facing international and interdisciplinary Arctic science, and provide suggestions as to how IASC, through ISIRA, could help overcome some of these issues. Over 50 participants (half Russian, half representing 12 other countries) participated, including a number of Indigenous participants as well as early career researchers. (T.Vlasova)

American of Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, Boston, MA (April 10-14, 2017). "Polar Geography" sessions (A.Petrov)

International Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation Tool Kit Development for Himalaya, on 3-4 October 2017, New Delhi. Participants from Australia, China, Nepal and India. (P.Tiwari).

World Resource Forum 2017 (WRF 2017), Geneva, Switzerland. October 2017. Professor Prakash C. Tiwari made presentation on 'Trans Boundary Headwater Governance in Hindu Kush Himalaya' and 'Women's Innovative Farming Systems under Climate Change in Himalaya'. (P.Tiwari).

International Course on South American Geocryology at the Universidad Nacional de San Juan, Argentina. (November 2017) Participants from Argentina and Chile. (D.Trombotto).

2<sup>nd</sup> Asian Conference on Permafrost (ACOP2017) held at Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan. 2017. Dario Trombotto. Member of the International Science Committee. (D.Trombotto).

Working meeting with the CLIC group in Wellington, New Zealand. 2017, February. Presentation in an extra and plenary session for the debate on the processes that occur in mountain permafrost. With the assistance of Dr. Lawrence Hislop from the Polar Institute of Norway. A regional Himalayan-Andes work commitment was established between Dr. S. Kang of the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS, China, member of the executive committee, with his South American pair D. Trombotto Liaudat (CONICET). (D.Trombotto).

Arctic Circle 2017, October 2017, Reykjavik, Iceland. Problems of IGU-CHAR (including international collaboration in organization of research activities) were discussed during several sessions. This conference was the biggest (c. 2000 participants) scientific-political conferences on the Arctic. Such conferences are being organized every year in Reykjavik in October. (W. Ziaja).

**Chair Tatiana Vlasova**

### **7.3) C16.09, GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY**

**Chair Prof. Lynda Johnston**, Waikato University, New Zealand

**Treasurer: Prof. Ann Oberhausen**, Iowa State University, USA

The Steering has 9 more Members, from Universities of: France, Israel, India, Canada, Germany, Brasil, New Zealand, Japan, UK.

Twice each year, list members receive a newsletter (issued in English, French, and Spanish) via the Gender and Geography Commission's listserv ([igugender@list.arizona.edu](mailto:igugender@list.arizona.edu)) with reports of activities of members and a substantial multilingual bibliography. In 2016 the Commission launched a new webpage: <https://igugender.wixsite.com.igugender>.

**Conference:** International Conference on Gender and Space and Seminar on Gender and Sexualities in Mexico, Mexico City, 26-29 May 2017.

**Planned for 2018:** Feminist geographies of care and mentoring, Auckland 10-12 July

Feminist Geography in During Troubled Time, Montreal 4-6 August

Several Sessions in the IGU Regional Conference, Quebec City, 6-10 August.

In addition, various steering committee as well as ordinary members of the Commission regularly attend and organise conference sessions with other international and multi-disciplinary groups, including the main association conferences in the US and UK and we are seeking to collaborate with ISSC and ICSU Programs.

The Gender Commission's Biennial Newsletter appeared in November 2016 and 2017

A publication by Huang, Shirlena. Monk, Janice. Droogleever Fortuijn, Joos . Garcia-Ramon, Maria Dolors. and Henshall Momsen, Janet in 2017, examines the development of our commission over the last three decades. The article documents paternalistic hierarchies, neoliberalism, corporatization, and inequalities in publishing across space and place.

As noted above, all issues of the IGU Gender Commission's newsletters, beginning with n.1 (1988), may be downloaded directly from the Commission's web site.

*Report prepared by Professor Lynda Johnstone in consultation with all Steering Group members.*

### **7.4) C16.10, GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION**

**Commission on Geographical Education News**

**IGU-CGE now on Facebook**

We hope to reach out to geographers all over the world. As a start, the page will be used to post relevant news from IGU-CGE about conferences, activities and journals. We are planning to investigate the possibilities of the social media platform. You can find it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/igucge/>

**IGU-CGE Treasurer's report**

As Commission Treasurer, Michael Solem manages a checking account held at Wells Fargo

Bank in Washington, DC. On November 1, 2017, the account balance was USD 5,004.21.

### **The new International Charter on Geographical Education for the 21st Century**

The Charter is now available on the website in English, Chinese and Spanish and there are plans to translate the Charter into other languages. The Commission will continue to sustain its efforts in disseminating the Charter. If you are interested in translating the Charter into your language, please contact Danny (daniela.schmeinck@uni-koeln.de).

### **History of the Commission**

The Commission started an initiative to document its historical development. Norman Graves & Joseph Stoltman made a first draft of a history of the IGU Commission on Geography Education. The Commission recognises that as with any historical account, it is subjected to multiple interpretations. The document has been hosted on the website (see [www.igu-cge.org](http://www.igu-cge.org)) and further input from members are invited.

### **Research in Geography Education**

A reminder also for any new research in geography education to be added to our web-based template to collect and collate information on Geography Education MA, MEd, EDD and PhD theses around the world. Creating this collection will greatly enhance our knowledge about geographical and environmental education. The on-line spreadsheet can then be made available for researchers through the IGU-CGE website. We hope that all geography educators with the help of the regional representatives would be able to contribute information on the existing Geography Education theses. (Geography Education Collection:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nrbVzveqZWWDWWdouJfnKAK-ctHDdKwOdt7xxt34mee8/viewform?usp=send\\_form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nrbVzveqZWWDWWdouJfnKAK-ctHDdKwOdt7xxt34mee8/viewform?usp=send_form)

### ***IGU CGE Conference News***

#### **Quebec City 6-10 August 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE conference**

The 2018 International Geographical Union (IGU) – the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) – National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) conference will be held in Quebec City from August 6 to 10 2018. The theme of the conference is ‘Appreciating Difference / Apprécier la difference.’ Registration and abstract submissions for the conference will be open online November 8th continuing until March 15th 2018. For more information, please see: <http://igu2018.ulaval.ca>.

The Commission will also organize the pre-conference symposium from **3-5 August** 2018 in Quebec City that uniquely brings together researchers and practitioners. While there will be sessions that are specifically research focused, there will also be opportunities for practitioners to attend these sessions.

#### **London 15-17 2019 CGE Meeting**

The Commission is working with the UK Committee for IGU-CGE to organise the 2019 meeting, the theme of which will be ‘Recontextualising Geography’. The collaboration between the Commission, the UK Committee and the UCL Institute of Education is likely to take place in April 2019. More information will be available in due course.

**Claire Brooks and Jongwon Lee**

## **7.5) C16.18 GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING**

The International Geographical Union’s commission C16.18 “Global Understanding” was established at the 33rd IGC in Beijing to further harvest the achievements of the 2016 International Year of Global Understanding. This major IGU initiative has promoted Geography’s role in sustainability research and greatly enhanced inter- and transdisciplinary

approaches in the field. The commission was founded during the central stage of the IYGU triennium – preparatory year (2015), international year (2016), harvest year (2017) – as a means to accompany and support IYGU's work within the geographical community and build up enduring cooperation with other IGU commissions. It serves as a central link between the IYGU secretariat and the Regional Action Centres on the one hand, and the geographical community on the other. The commission's steering committee is comprised of researchers from both the Global North and South, as well as seasoned and younger scholars. Together with its partners from the IYGU-network, the steering committee will organize and support the initiative to transform IYGU into a global science decade. This possible “2020's Science Decade for Global Understanding” (SDGU) will not only foster the discipline as a key bridge builder between different scientific cultures and initiate new research on current global challenges, but it will also develop new paradigms for geographical education in schools, colleges and universities. The commission C16.18 will thus intensify IYGU's collaboration with the commission on geographical education and seek close cooperation with other agents from the education sector in order to promote the idea of a 2020's science decade. Together with IYGU's Regional Action Centres, the commission will furthermore initiate and support school and university courses on Global Understanding. Two initial steps have been made with an international seminar in Maçao (Portugal) in early 2017, and a winter school in Santiago de Chile in mid 2017. After the IYGU's great success we hope the commission will become a central hub for promoting geographical research and teaching on Global Understanding.

Benno Werlen (Chair)

### **Meetings**

#### **International Seminar “Education, training and communication in the cultural management of landscapes”, March 29–April 8, 2017, Maçao (Portugal)**

Together with Prof. Luiz Oosterbeek (Instituto Politécnico de Tomar/Portugal and general secretary of CIPSH) and the “Apheleia” program “Integrated cultural landscape management for local and global sustainability” an international seminar on “Education, training and communication in the cultural management of land-scapes” was organized in March 2017. Through generous support by the European Erasmus+ funding program, more than 50 students from universities all across Europe (e.g., Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Spain) were given the opportunity to participate and engage in debates on topics such as knowledge and sustainability in early societies, learning beyond schools, outreach strategies for sustainability programs, or intercultural difference in education proces-ses. The commission will strongly advocate the initiative for a follow-up funding and support the further development of the program.

#### **World Humanities Conference (WHC), August 6–11, 2017, Liège (Belgium)**

In collaboration with the IYGU network the commission organized two sessions at the 2017 World Humanities Conference in Liège (Belgium). Both events focused on discussing the approach of Global Understanding and mobilizing wider audiences from the humanities for the International Year and the respective follow-up projects. The first session was titled “The Program of the IYGU as a Lever for Sustainability” and included the following speakers and topics: Benno Werlen (commission chair, IYGU Executive Director) on “The program of IYGU as a lever for sustainability”, Vladimir Kolossov (Past-President of the International Geographical Union and IYGU Steering Committee member) on “The IYGU and the transition to the green develop-ment”, and Karl Donert (President of European Geographers Association and IYGU Outreach Panel member) on “Open geographic information and people politics”. The

second session was titled “Reflecting and Reviewing IYGU” and took the format of a roundtable discussion. The participants of the round table were Luiz Oosterbeek, Vladimir Kolossov, Inguelore Scheunemann, Benno Werlen, Karl Donert, and Marga-lit Berriet. The round table not only sketched possible futures of IYGU as an international science decade (potentially proclaimed by ICSU/ISSC, and CIPSH), but also argued for a stronger integration of the arts in promoting Global Understanding. With regard to the institutional structure of the International Year, the commission C16.18 was presented as a IYGU’s central hub in the geographical community. Furthermore, the submitted UNESCO chair “Global Understanding for Sustainability” (in case of positive evaluation located at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena/Germany) was discussed as a means to further anchor the concept of Global Understanding in the scientific debate and promote respective research.

**Winter School “Patagonia’s geographical imagination. Language, discourse, and everyday regionalization”, September 4–15, 2017, Santiago de Chile**

Succeeding the highly thriving Summer School “Political Ecology and the Spatial Turn. From ‘Living Spaces’ to Global Understanding”, held in mid 2016 at the University of Jena, several members of the commission’s steering committee organized the international Winter School “Patagonia’s geographical imagination. Language, discourse, and everyday regionalization”, held from September 4–15, 2017 at the Universidad de Chile (Santiago de Chile). The event was organized under the auspices of Enrique Aliste and Benno Werlen, supported by Verónica Hollman and Karsten Gaebler. During the classes and field trips a group of 13 students and young researchers from Germany and Chile investigated the historical and contemporary construction of Patagonia as a frontier land, a supplier of energy and resources, or as a politically contested region. The students and young researchers intensively debated the challenges and pitfalls of regionalism and regional identity under globalized conditions. During a five-day field trip to Northern Patagonia (Huinay research station) the German participants received first-hand insights into current environmental conflicts in Patagonia and different strategies of representation. The Winter School proved to be a highly worthwhile experience in transdisciplinary, transcultural teaching and research, and will be a prototype for future events on Global Understanding.

## **7.6) C16.26, LAND USE/COVER CHANGE**

**Matej Gabrovec (Chair)**

**Ján Feranec (vice-chair)**

**Members:** Monica Stefania Dumitrascu; Mehtab Sing; Ernan Rustiadi; Koichi Kimoto; Uragoda Appuhamilage Chandrasena; Luca Simone Rizzo; Lucie Kupková; Bernd Cyffka; Nicolai Dronin.

Secretary and web page Administrator: **Matjaž Geršič**. e-mail: lucc@zrc-sazu.si.

### **Last Meetings: INDIA, Hyderabad, 17–19. 3. 2017**

**ROMANIA, Bucharest, Tulcea, 11–15. 9. 2017.** 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-LUCC Commission organized two sessions (10 oral

presentations/3 posters) on September 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

In 2018 the Commission will be present in:

**INDIA, Guwahati, 8.–10. 2. 2018; RUSSIA, Moscow, 4.–6. 6. 2018; CANADA, Québec, 6.–10. 8. 2018; SLOVENIA, Koper, September 2019 (Commissions on Development in Mediterranean Basin and on Biogeography and Biodiversity agreed to participate).**

### **Publications**

Dumitrașcu, M., Grigorescu, I., Dumitrache, L. (eds) 2017: IGU Thematic Conference on Land Use/Cover Changes, Biodiversity, Health and Environment, Local and Regional Development: Programme, book of abstracts, field guidebook. București: CD PRESS.

### **IGU LUCC Commission Newsletter No. 19**

All Publications available at our URL: <http://lucc.zrc-sazu.si/>

## **7.7) C16.28, COMMISSION ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### *Report 2016-2017*

1.1. Chairperson of the Commission

**Jerzy Bański**, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences, 00-818 Warszawa, Twarda 51/55, POLAND, +48 602391453,  
[jbanski@twarda.pan.pl](mailto:jbanski@twarda.pan.pl);

1.2. Vice Chair

**Benjamin Ofori Amoah**, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI 49008-5433 USA, (269) 387-3410, [ben.ofori@wmich.edu](mailto:ben.ofori@wmich.edu);

#### **1. Annual meetings organized during the period 2016-2017**

Date	Title	Place	sessions	papers	participants
August 16-20, 2016	<i>IGU Local and Regional Development Conference</i>	Vladivostok	4	16	20-25
August 21-25, 2016	<i>IGU Geographical Congress</i>	Beijing	11	25+29 post.	100-120
September 11-15, 2017	<i>IGU Thematic Conference (Tulcea, jointly with Comm's Land Use Cover Change, Health Environment, Local Reg. Devel.)</i>	Tulcea	4	15	25-30

### **MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND CONTINUATION**

The IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development provides an international forum for the study of issues related to such matters as local and regional development, reorganization of space, local development in the urban and rural space, and the role of institutions in the spatial organization. The interests of the Commission

are exhibited in developing and developed regions and nations. Our mission is to advance international research, scholarship and knowledge in a variety of domains concerning local and regional development through:

- the development and dissemination of theoretical, conceptual and methodological frameworks concerning local and regional development;
- the discussion of wide range of empirical and policy issues;
- to widen of the scope of the debate on the topics of “local and regional development” in different national and institutional contexts.

The Commission is a dedicated group of scholars aiming to advance international knowledge of a variety of issues concerning local and regional development. The Commission's program involves organising meetings each year and expanding its intellectual network through academic conferences, publications and website. The Commission proposes to continue to be active through both its established international steering committee and by expanding its list of corresponding members. We have a number of plans and challenges, that we would like to pursue in the future

## **7.8) C16.32, POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY**

*(Taken from the last Commission's Newsletter)*

Since the last edition of Commission's newsletter in February 2016, the foundations of the contemporary political-geographic order have been shaken by the British vote to leave the European Union and by the election of a new wave of populist leaders in different parts of the world—most obviously Donald Trump in the United States. At the same time, territorial conflicts continue to rage in Southwest Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, northern Africa, and eastern Ukraine (to name but a few), and tensions are growing in the South China Sea, the Korean peninsula, the Horn of Africa, and elsewhere. At smaller geographic scales, clashes among gangs are still wracking countries such as El Salvador and Honduras, ethno-national conflicts continue to play out in settings as diverse as eastern Myanmar and southeastern Turkey, and both Europe and the United States are facing politically explosive struggles over migration, even as migrants in these and other places confront growing threats of detention and deportation.

There are, of course, bright spots—an agreement in Colombia that may bring down the curtain on the long, troubled battle between the central government and the FARC, an accord with Iran that has reduced the prospects of conflict over that country's nuclear program, and a steady decline in recent years of the percentage of the global population living in extreme poverty. Taken as a whole, however, it is hard to escape the conclusion that we live in profoundly unsettling times—sufficiently unsettling that it can be a challenge not to succumb to feelings of deep disillusionment, if not outright depression. Yet it is vital that the community of political geographers not let discouragement turn into retreat, for many of the issues roiling the contemporary world are rooted in political geographic conditions, ideas, and understandings that cry out for analysis and assessment.

It is no exaggeration to say that geopolitical circumstances, territorial ambitions, and political-geographic arrangements are at the heart of every one of the issues enumerated at the beginning of this commentary. Moreover, these are just a subset of the issues with important political-geographic underpinnings that are shaping the world of the early twenty-first century. Any serious effort to grapple with the challenges presented by human-induced climate change, destabilizing socio-economic inequalities, entrenched racism, gender-based discrimination,

human rights violations, uneven development, and resource depletion must include some consideration of the political-geographic context within which they are embedded. It follows that thoughtful, informative, creative, and engaged work in political geography is not just useful; it is of vital importance. What are the lessons from the period leading up to World War I for the contemporary political-geographic moment? How are particular geopolitical representations—whether grounded in actual or imagined circumstances—gaining ground, and to what effect? Dozens of other question wait for operative answers..

In that spirit, I encourage those involved with the CPG to embrace the opportunity to share ideas in La Paz, Quebec, and some of the other places hosting meetings that are outlined in the pages that follow. Please also let me and my extraordinary co-chair, Virginie Mahmadou, know if you have ideas that can help move the commission forward. Urge your friends and colleagues working on political geographic topics to become involved, and let's collectively see what we can do to advance an intellectual project that has such obvious import for the chaotic times in which we live.

**Alexander (Alec) Murphy CPG Co Chair**

## **7.9) C16.33, POPULATION GEOGRAPHY**

### **Annual Report 2017**

#### **Commission on Population Geography Steering Committee**

**Chair: Prof Etienne Piguet**

**Vice Chair: Professor Jianfa Shen (Vice-Chair)**

**Secretary: Dr. Nikola Sander**

**Commission's URL**

The Commission has a website <http://www.igu-popgeo.org/>. managed by Nikola Sander.

### **Meetings and other events planned by the Commission, 2018**

#### **IGU 2018 Thematic Conference**

Practical geography and XXI century challenges - Moscow, 4-6 June 2018

<https://igu-online.org/2018-igu-thematic-conference-moscow-june-2018/>

SSessions organized by the commission:

- Migration, Mobility and Climate change an overview with a specific focus on Russia and neighbouring countries

#### **IGU 2018 Regional Congress**

Québec, 06/10.08.2018

<https://www.ggr.ulaval.ca/igu-ugi-congres-regional-2018-quebec>

1. **Refugee migration: Policies and practices in multi-scale perspectives** Convenor of the session : Rainer Wehrhahn and Zine-Eddine Hathat
2. **Population Mobility in a context of Climate Change and its demographic consequences** Joint session with Commission on Global Change and Human Mobility  
Convenors of the session : Josefina Dominguez and Etienne Piguet
3. **Understanding processes of population change and migration** Convenor of the sessions : Jianfa Shen and Yu Zhu
4. **International Students Quo Vadis? Grasping their Mobilities and Tra-jactories and the Policies that Shape their Paths** Convenors of the session : Yvonne Riaño and

Etienne Piguet

5. **Population mobilities in Africa** Joint session with Commission on African Studies  
Convenors of the session : Papa Sakho and Etienne Piguet
6. **Geographies of Global Aging** Convenor of the session : Andrea Rishworth

## Publications

### Newsletter

The Commission has produced one Newsletter each year. All Newsletters are available on the website.

### Journals

Members of the steering committee are all very active in advisory board of among the best journals in population geography where they also publish regularly.

## 5 Archival Contributions

The content of Newsletters is archived on the website. Copies are always sent to IGU secretary general upon publication.



## 8) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

- 8.1) Environment and Sustainable Livelihood Guwahati, Assam, 8-10 February
- 8.2) Association Tunisienne de Géographes, Conference, Tunis, 2018
- 8.3) EUROGEO Conference, Koeln, 15-16 March
- 8.4) Geoinformation for disaster management, Istambul, 18-21 March
- 8.5) Nuit de la Géographie a niveau Européenne
- 8.6) EGU Conference, Wien, 8-13 April
- 8.7) Political Geography, Pre AAG Conference 2018
- 8.8) Borderland Studies, 4-8 April 2018, S,Antonio (Texas)
- 8.9) AAG Annual Conference, New Orleans, 16-18 April
- 8.10) Geoinformation in for Disaster Management, Istambul 18-21 March 2018
- 8.11) Moscow 2018, call for sessions and form
- 8.12) Digital Earth Summit, 17-19 April 2018, ISDE Awards for Students

