



IGU E-NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

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New Series 23

July

2017

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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 or g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org



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8.4) IGU Commission History of Geography, International Symposia, Rio de Janeiro, 23-29 July 2017

8.5) International Conference on Natural Computation, Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery, Guylin (China), 28-31 July



1) REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT YUKIO HIMIYAMA

The IGU Executive Committee held its first meeting this year from 8-10 May at Quebec City Conference Centre, where the next IGU Regional Conference will take place in August 2018. The Organizing Committee of the Conference and Canadian Association of Geographers kindly hosted the meeting. It was a good opportunity for us to meet the local geographers who are leading this major event, and to see something of the fascinating regional geography and history, as well as some sites that will be used for the Conference itself, including the venue, Université Laval campus and Forêt Montmorency, the world's largest teaching forest (the proposed site for the IGU Olympiad). It was wonderful to be able to reflect on the main theme of the Conference, namely 'appreciating difference' at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Quebec City.

Among the many items discussed at this EC meeting, I would like to focus on the following two points for your attention. The first is 'IGU thematic conference', which was reformulated in August 2016, but lacked a solid definition. It is now defined as a conference which is genuinely international, has a clear theme or topic that is of broad interest, and should specifically involve at least four IGU commissions. It can be proposed to the EC by one or more commissions, or by one or more national committees, for official approval. Travel grants to participants (up to a total of US\$ 5,000 per event) may be offered on request. For further details, please refer to the minutes of this EC meeting.

The second point to note is the growth of activities with strong regional focus or initiative, as

demonstrated by the selection of the IGU Commission on the Mediterranean Basin as winner of the 2016 Commission Excellence Award, the formal establishment of a new Commission on African Studies, and the successful conclusion of the Thematic Conference on Geographies for Peace held in late April in La Paz, Bolivia. The IGU EC has long placed high priority on the enhancement of the IGU presence in Africa and Latin America, but it has been less successful than desired. Now, however, there are some good signs of change for the better! It is hoped that we have many more member countries in near future, particularly from Africa and Latin America.

As for cooperation with other organizations and outreach, I would like to keep stressing the importance of contributing to *Future Earth* and SDGs. In addition to the positive involvement of *Future Earth* in SDGs, which I mentioned in the last Newsletter, may I draw your attention to the recent ICSU initiative in the contribution to SDGs, which is outlined in ‘A Guide to SDG Interactions: from Science to Implementation’ at <http://bit.ly/sdg-interactions-guide>. The document asks if interactions between the 17 goals of SDGs can be a key driver in the implementation of the SDGs, then presents four case studies, which provide a useful perspective and many hints to those geographers who are willing to contribute to SDGs.

In late May, I coordinated some *Future Earth* sessions in JpGU (Japan Geoscience Union) - AGU (American Geophysical Union) Joint Meeting 2017 held at Makuhari, Japan with some 8,500 participants. One of the speakers of the *Future Earth* Sessions was Professor Eric Davidson, the President of AGU, and the title of his presentation was ‘Developing a Sustainable Agriculture Matrix on National Scales’. In fact, his research interest is quite close to mine, and his election as the AGU President has changed my view on the AGU, which is becoming increasingly keen on sustainability and science-society relationships. Sustainability is a major common interest of geoscience now, and geographers can be expected to work increasingly with a wide range of geoscientists.

Last but not least, may I refer to the recent passing of some distinguished geographers who served the IGU greatly. Professor Masatoshi Yoshino, a former IGU Vice President, died on 4 July at age 89. He served the IGU as a Vice President during 1992-1996. Professor Anne Buttner, the IGU President during 2000-2004, died on 15 July at age 78. Our Indian colleagues also reported that India lost some of its greatest geographers recently. On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to express our deepest regret and condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the deceased, and wish that 2017 will be remembered not only for the year of the great loss, but also for the year of growing hope of geography. Let’s continue working together to realize it.

Yukio Himiyama
President of IGU



2) MINUTES OF THE IGU EC MEETING, QUÉBEC

Draft Minutes of the IGU EC Meeting, Québec Québec City Conference Center, 7-11 May

Welcome, Meeting Logistics and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by President Himiyama, who welcomed Past President Vladimir Kolosov, Secretary-General Mike Meadows and Vice Presidents Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Barbaros Gönençgil, Iain Hay, Nathalie Lemarchand, Rémy Tremblay. Apologies were received from Vice-Presidents dell'Agnese, Singh and Zhou.

Adoption of the Schedule and Agenda

The schedule and agenda was discussed and adopted.

Minutes

The minutes of the Paris meeting in November, previously approved via email, were tabled for noting and, with one minor amendment, confirmed. The matter of translating these minutes into French was raised but it was suggested that, if IGU were to consider employing a translator, then a more appropriate use of its funds would be in respect of the IGU website. It was agreed that, for the time being, the minutes would continue to be translated by Vice-Presidents Lemarchand and Tremblay for alternate meetings.

Organization and Operations

Executive Committee Member Reports. EC members tendered reports on their activities since the last meeting. It was suggested, and agreed, that support for the role of Treasurer, for example in terms of sending out invoices and reminders, would be helpful. Tremblay agreed to assist in this regard.

Executive Committee Meeting Calendar 2017 onwards. The Executive Committee schedule for the next two years was discussed. It was confirmed that the second meeting of 2017 would be in September in Amsterdam, with arrivals on 6th, meeting on 7th and 8th, field excursion on 9th and departures on 10th September 2017. Hotel bookings have been made but confirmation of attendance is required from all EC members by the end of May if possible. Himiyama reported on arrangements for the first meeting of 2018 in Tokyo. Arrivals on 9th April 2018, meeting 10th

and 11th, transfer to Sendai on afternoon of 11th and stay overnight, returning to Tokyo on 12th with departures 13th April 2018. Confirmation is required as soon as possible (where possible). In addition, there will be a meeting held immediately prior to the Québec Regional Conference in August 2018 (dates are 6th to 10th August 2018); arrivals on 4th August, meeting on 5th August and morning of 6th. Arrangements for the final meeting of 2018 can only be made once the outcome of the election of new EC members is known (mid-2018).

EC member responsibilities. There was some discussion regarding possible candidates for the 2018 election of a new Secretary-General and Treasurer. The new Executive Committee again considered the list of IGU National Committees and agreed to allocate liaison responsibilities with additional allocations due to the establishment of the new commission on Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering (MM) and new national committee members Samoa (IH) and China-Macau (ZC) (see Appendix 1).

IGU Financial Report and Projection. Final accounts for 2016 had been included in the 2016 annual report and indicated that small operating surplus had been achieved over the year.

IGU Commission and Task Force update and Commission Excellence award. Droogleever-Fortuijn presented a review of the Commissions and Task Forces. The question was raised as to how many commissions there should be and whether there should be a limit, although it was agreed that such a limit might be difficult to implement. The number of commissions has remained reasonably constant over the past few years; four commissions are currently still ‘suspended’. Some commissions are less obviously active and engaged; it was suggested that EC members follow up with these in particular. The sub-committee had convened and scrutinized the 2012-16 reports and decided that the Commission Excellence Award for 2016 be presented to the Commission on the Mediterranean Basin. The Québec 2018 Regional Conference local organizing committee needs to be appraised of this situation because a plenary session must be reserved for the delivery of the address (and that of the Commission on Geographical Education which won the 2015 award). The proposed new IGU Commission on Africa was presented; it was agreed that this is a welcome and strong proposal and that the new commission should be established under the name ‘IGU Commission on African Studies’. The absence of females on the proposed steering committee was noted and the Commission will be invited to extend the steering committee with female members and additional members from countries outside the African continent.

IYGU. Werlen submitted an extensive report as well as a request for further funding from IGU totaling Euro 15,000 for each of 2017 and 2018. The funding was approved for the following: i) support for the publication of the IYGU final report, ii) subsidy towards publication of the remaining Springer Briefs series (subject to the IGU logo appearing on the front cover of the remaining and, if possible, on those already published) and iii) a contribution to a small closing ceremony. The EC confirmed that this funding represents the final IGU financial commitment to the IYGU as a special project and that the Commission on Global Understanding must now become the vehicle to develop and sustain future IYGU-related activities.

IGU National Membership Update. Meadows presented an update on the national membership situation. Since the Paris EC meeting, membership applications from Samoa and China-Macau have been approved through a General Assembly e-ballot and both are now full members in Category A. EC members renewed their commitment to attempting to renewing contact with those countries where links have been lost. Meadows agreed to draw up a list of IGU member countries for whom contact details are stale, post on the website and to circulate this via the usual email lists.

IGU Africa and Latin America initiative. Lemarchand reported the plans for two upcoming geography symposia in francophone African countries (Ivory Coast and Madagascar). Unfortunately, these are scheduled for the same time (end-October), but the involvement of IGU is considered important. It was therefore agreed that Lemarchand be funded to attend the Abidjan meeting and formally represent the IGU. The new African Studies Commission should be informed of the meetings and be encouraged to attend (NL). IGU contacts with Latin American geographers have obviously received a boost following the successful La Paz thematic conference (see below).

International assessment in Geography. There is nothing further to report on this item at this stage. The IGU Geographical Education Commission retains an interest in the matter.

IGU Website and social media. The IGU website continues, as usual, to be updated periodically. Both the Facebook and Twitter social media links continue to be used.

IGU Journals Project. The database has been updated and uploaded.

IGU Bulletin. Volumes 59-60 is being finalized and will be completed within the next few weeks for distribution. The printed copies will be mailed as usual but the next opportunity for manual circulation will be the 2018 Québec Regional Conference. A pdf of the volume will be posted on the IGU website as soon as it is available.

IGU eNewsletter. The efforts of former Vice-President Bellezza were acknowledged with appreciation. The latest version was published and circulated in late April 2017.

OurSus (Droogleever-Fortuijn). Ton Dietz will attend the next meeting of the IGU Urban Commission in Brazil in order to foster further internationalization of this project.

IGU Thematic Conferences.

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 that it 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.

In regard to travel grants, JD-F submitted the following proposals with respect to IGU Congresses and Regional Conferences were agreed: i) to award grants to young and emerging scholars but, at the same time, to provide for a limited number of travel grants (up to five) for senior scholars who have particular roles (for example session conveners or steering committee members from low income countries who are not able to find funding); ii) to request letters of endorsement from the chair or steering committee member of an IGU Commission or Task Force, or from the chair of the IGU National Committee, or from the conveners of the session in which the applicant would present his/her paper (note: letters of endorsement should not be written by IGU EC members as the EC selects the awardees). In respect of IGU thematic conferences, it was agreed that travel grants should be limited to a maximum of US\$5000 per event.

About the first two IGU thematic conferences:

Hyderabad, India: Singh submitted a brief report on this meeting, which appears to have been a considerable success. This conference was organized in collaboration with IGU Commissions on Urban Geography, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Local and Regional development, Land Use - Land Cover Change. It was hosted by the Department of Geography and Geoinformatics, Osmania University and a total of 306 papers were presented in 25 technical sessions and in plenary session. Over 400 participants participated, of which 345 participants represented 25 states of India, around 60 of whom were from Hyderabad. There were some 28 International participants from 15 countries (including Japan, China, Russia, Switzerland, South Africa, Poland, Italy and Sri Lanka). The participants included IGU President Himiyama; IGU Urban Commission Chair Prof Céline Rozenblat, IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity Chair Dr Suraj Mal; Chair of the IGU Local and Regional Development Commission, Prof Jerzy Banski; LUCC Commission representative Prof K Kimoto; former IGU Vice President Prof Giuliano Bellezza; Chair of the IGU National Committee-South Africa, Prof Brij Maharaj; ICSU Scientific committee Members on Urban Health and Wellbeing Prof RB Singh and Prof Saroj Jayasinghe from Sri Lanka.

La Paz, Bolivia, May 2017: dell'Agnese submitted a report with photographs. 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.

In terms of upcoming IGU thematic conferences:

Bucharest, Romania, September 2017: a travel grant subsidy of US\$5000 was approved in line with the thematic conference guidelines. Moscow, Russia, November 2018: the first circular has been distributed in English and French; a travel grant subsidy of US\$5000 was approved. Guwahati, India, February 2018: the meeting was proposed as an IGU thematic conference, but

does not meet the requirements indicated in the agreed guidelines. New Zealand has signaled an intention to propose an IGU thematic conference for December 2020.

MIT Press proposal. Hay reported on correspondence with MIT Press and tabled issues for discussion regarding possible additional publisher partnerships. MIT has made a formal offer and it was suggested that IGU approach other major publishing houses, up to a maximum of six, for a similar or greater level of financial support. Hay agreed to approach a range of publishers in this regard..

IGU Publications. Springer publishes several series with strong geographical relevance. It was agreed that the IGU logo should be used on the cover of these volumes provided, along with a short standard description of the IGU which Meadows agreed to draft.

Cooperation and Outreach

Festival International de Géographie (FIG). Lemarchand reported on the relationship between IGU and FIG and has received indication from the new director of the scientific committee that there is support for the idea of an IGU stand at this year's festival, jointly with the French National Geography Committee (CNFG), as well as a 'round table' with IGU and CNFG representation. Lemarchand also reported on the great success of the first 'La Nuit de Géographie' which was held on March 31st 2017, in Paris and 15 other cities, in partnership with the Associations of Students of Geography and professors of history and geography. The French academic community supported the event enthusiastically and there was a high level of participation by students and young geographers. The purpose of this event was to make geography, and the diverse contributions of geographers, more widely known and to make research accessible through revealing the world through the eyes of geographers.

IGU Representatives on International Bodies. Meadows expressed frustration that IGU nominations to major committees of ICSU, ISSC and related scientific bodies (for example IPCC) have seemingly been unsuccessful lately, despite the clear relevance of the discipline of geography and its holistic and integrative perspective on human-environment relations. The exception is CIPSH which, although IGU has a relatively new relationship with this body, does appear to offer more positive opportunities for the engagement of geographers in its management structure. IGU will continue its efforts to ensure participation of geographers in the appropriate high-level structures.

ICSU (incl. GeoUnions) and ISSC. The ICSU and ISSC call to comment on the draft merger strategy document was discussed at length. IGU supports the overall statement of purpose and is of the view that, as geographers, it is consistent with the discipline that natural and social scientists should work more effectively together on some of the major global environmental and development problems. The emerging joint body should take the perspectives of individual disciplines seriously and maintain their strengths, while at the same time encouraging genuine participation in joint activities. Funding projects that require a collaboration across the traditional disciplinary boundaries may be one way forward, while at the same time ensuring that the social sciences in particular are not 'diluted' in the process.

Perhaps new subgroups of Unions can be developed to encourage this? IGU also feels that more attention should be paid to the developing world countries and, perhaps also to the smaller, less obviously powerful or wealthy Unions. Some degree of autonomy for the individual disciplines should be afforded, perhaps more especially (but not exclusively) the social sciences. Maintaining some key elements of existing structures may be one way to ensure this. There are concerns about the possible future name of the merged organization. The label 'science' is very loaded and may discriminate against the social sciences and humanities.

We question the veracity of footnote 1 in the draft strategy document. There are concerns about the use of the word 'science' and the statement that, in languages other than English, the word has an inclusive meaning. This is a contention that we think cannot be taken for granted, particularly in relation to the fact that English is actually the dominant language of science globally and that the a more restricted perspective on the meaning of the word may be more widespread than is suggested. This poses a problem for the social sciences and humanities in particular if the word 'science' is predominant in the new label. A name such as The International Knowledge Council is suggested for consideration.

CIPSH. The CIPSH World Humanities Congress will take place in Liège, Belgium, from 6th to 12th August 2017. Kolosov will convene the session on border studies, and there is a session also devoted to IYGU. The IGU Commission should be encouraged to be involved in future CIPSH activities and Meadows agreed to publicise the upcoming conference in the usual manner.

EUROGEO, EUGEO. Droogleever-Fortuijn attended the EUROGEO conference in Amsterdam from 2nd to 3rd March 2017 and there engaged with Karl Donert who proposed a joint EUROGEO/IGU session on Geography and Higher Education, possibly at the Québec 2018 Regional Conference. Four EC members will be attending the upcoming EUGEO conference in Brussels, Belgium in September 2017 and five sessions have clear IGU involvement. This meeting represents an excellent opportunity for IGU to meet with the EUGEO executive and, in addition, to circulate the Québec 2018 Regional Conference publicity material. Himiyama noted that, in relation to the SE Asian countries, geographical education appears to be gaining strength in the Republic of Korea and Japan in particular and that this may be influencing the other earth sciences in the region.

UGAL/EGAL Dell'Agnese had been unable to attend the La Paz meeting due to health issues but the report of the La Paz conference indicated an improved profile for IGU within Latin America.

IAG (International Association of Geomorphologists) Meadows is attending the upcoming (November) IAG Congress in Delhi, India and will engage in discussions regarding the proposed joint IGU/IAG Commission/Working Group along the lines of the Toponymy model.

Relations with other organizations (e.g. AAG, RGS, ICA (All)) In relation to the AAG in Boston 2017, the IGU booth was supported by Himiyama, Gönençgil and former IGU President Abler, and appears to have been well visited. It is recognized that developing a strong connection with the ICA in relation to the Paris Extraordinary IGU Congress in 2022 is important. Regarding JBGIS, the relevant contact individual should be the chair of the IGU GIS

Commission. The proposal from OSGeo that IGU sign a Memorandum of Understanding was discussed. There are certainly common interests and it was agreed that forging stronger links with each other is a good idea. Himiyama agreed to write to the chair and Meadows to draft the MoU. The tabled GISAP proposal was not approved.

International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences

Regional Conference, Québec, Canada, 2018. This will be a joint IGU/Canadian Association Geographers event. Members of the Quebec 2018 local organizing committee (LOC), chaired by Matthew Hatvany, attended for this item and presented a progress report including the latest information regarding organization and plans. It is hoped to attract at least 2000 delegates (plus students). 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. The conference website is functioning and will shortly indicate accommodation options etc. in time for the next Canadian Association of Geographers meeting in York. Accommodation in University residences is available at a budget rate to address needs of students and individuals from developing countries. Pre-conference meeting rooms are also available in the Laval University. The iGeo committee is already formed and a partnership has been established with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society regarding this. Various elements of iGeo have already been initiated, including planning for the iGeo fieldwork exercise and the IGU Olympiad Task Force is expected to make a site visit later in 2017.

A commercial company has been engaged to facilitate logistic arrangements including visa application processing. Several special publications are in progress. Early bird registration has been fixed at US\$420 (regular), which includes lunches and coffee breaks, and US\$220 for students; an element of the registration fee includes CAG membership subscription. The conference banquet is planned for the St Lawrence River. Fundraising is underway and sources continue to be pursued. Suggestions for so-called 'luminary speakers' are being sought, with the possibility that at least some of these presentations might be open to the public. The need for a plenary session to accommodate the two Commission Excellence Award presentations was noted. Several half-day and one-day mid-conference scientific excursions are in the planning stages, along with a number of multiple-day scientific and commercial excursions. The conference has already been widely publicized and upcoming meetings of CAG, AAG, EUGEO and FiG are being targeted. In addition, there are innovative suggestions around an invitation video (YouTube) as well as other social media. In terms of the scientific programme there is an ongoing concerted attempt at connecting the CAG Study Groups and IGU Commissions. The draft timeline for various registration and abstract submission dates was also presented. The LOC was requested to consider means of making travel grants available to young and early career geographers and those from developing countries, in line with practice in other IGU Regional Conferences. IGU-sponsored travel grants will be made available up to a maximum of US\$20,000.

Istanbul, Turkey, International Geographical Congress 2020. Himiyama reported that the publicity material was distributed at the AAG. The website is currently undergoing restructuring and will go live again shortly. More intense promotional activities are planned in relation to the

Québec 2018 Regional Conference. Progress is being made into other elements of the Congress, including iGeo.

Extraordinary International Geographical Congress, Paris 2022. Lemarchand reported that she and Kolosov attended a meeting with Mathieu Denis, Executive Director of ISSC, who has promised to support this event and offered valuable advice. J-R Pitte organized a meeting with Antoine Le Blanc, president of CNFG and Marc Galochet, Vice-President, on how, in respect of the IGU centennial and Société de Géographie bicentennial, the relationship with COFUSI (Committee for National French Committees which are members of International Scientific Unions) should be handled. There is also discussion regarding a possible “Year of Geography”, which would include a political event during the bicentennial of Société de Géographie in November/December 2021, and a scientific event as part of the centennial in July 2022. A meeting concerning these proposals between CNFG, Société de Géographie and the IGU is planned for early 2018. A sub-committee, under Laura Peaud as chair, has been created inside the CNFG to organize Paris 2022 and one of three companies to ensure the logistics of the Congress will shortly be selected. Kolosov reported on progress in relation to the Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force.

Other Business

IGU Planet and Humanity Award 2012. Meadows handed the 2012 medal to Tremblay who is tasked to present it in person to Lester Brown at a time and place to be determined (as soon as possible).

Lauréat d’Honneur. Meadows suggested that Ruth Fincher, as chair of the Awards subcommittee, be requested to organize the nomination process in good time for the Québec Regional Conference 2018.

iGeo. This is the first year that the Olympiad has taken place outside the domain of an IGU meeting. In consultation with the local organizing committee it was agreed that a member of the IGU EC should attend.

IGU archives. Himiyama suggested that we should publicise the existence of the archives in Leipzig and that the Commissions and National Committees should be reminded to send IGU-related materials to the archive (Meadows).

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 17h35 on 9th May 2017. Tremblay and his colleagues were congratulated and thanked warmly for the fine arrangements and warm hospitality in organizing the meeting.

APPENDIX A

EC member responsibilities: Commissions and Task Forces 2016-18

ID	COMMISSION/TASK FORCE	Chair 2016-20	EC Liaison
C16.01	Applied Geography	Lombard, USA	IH
C16.02	Biogeography and Biodiversity	Mal, India	RS
C16.03	Climatology	Matsumoto, Japan	BG
C16.04	Coastal Systems	Woodroffe, Australia	RS
C16.05	Cold Region Environments	Vlasova, Russia	VK
C16.06	Cultural Approach in Geography	Dupont, France	IH
C16.07	Dynamics of Economic Spaces	Tamasy, Germany	NL
C16.08	Environmental Evolution	Novenko, Russia	BG
C16.09	Gender and Geography	Johnston, New Zealand	JDF
C16.10	Geographical Education	Chang, Singapore; Brooks, UK	JDF
C16.11	Geographical Information Science	Sui, US; Su, China	CZ
C16.12	Geography of Governance	Nunes Silva, Portugal	VK
C16.13	Geography of the Global Information Society	Inkinen, Finland	IH
C16.14	Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change	Müller, Sweden	RT
C16.15	Geoheritage	Wei, China-Beijing	CZ
C16.16	Geomorphology and Society	Lin, China Taipei	MM
C16.17	Global Change and Human Mobility	Dominguez-Mujica, Spain	EdA
C16.18	Global Understanding	Werlen, Germany	YH
C16.19	Hazards and Risks	Oguchi Japan	YH
C16.20	Health and Environment	Krafft, Netherlands	RS
C16.21	History of Geography	Schmidt di Friedberg, Italy	VK
C16.22	Islands	Clark, Sweden	YH
C16.23	Karst	Trappe, Germany	MM
C16.24	Land Degradation and Desertification	Vacca, Italy	MM
C16.25	Landscape Analysis and Landscape Planning	Elizbarashvili, Georgia	BG
C16.26	Land Use and Land Cover Change	Gabrovec, Slovenia	YH
C16.27	Latin American Studies	Delgado, Peru	EdA
C16.28	Local and Regional Development	Bański, Poland	NL
C16.29	Marginalization, Localization, and Regional and Local Responses	Déry, Canada	RT
C16.30	Mediterranean Basin	Paradiso, Italy	BG
C16.31	Modelling Geographical Systems	Fotheringham, USA	CZ
C16.32	Political Geography	Mamadouh, Netherlands Murphy, USA	VK
C16.33	Population Geography	Piguet, Switzerland	RT

C16.34	Sustainability of Rural Systems	Schmitz, Belgium; Barcus, USA	YH
C16.35	Toponymy (Jointly with International Cartographic Association)	Palagiano, Italy	EdA
C16.36	Transport Geography	Knowles, UK	NL
C16.37	Urban Commission: Urban Challenges in a Complex World	Rozenblat, Switzerland	JDF
C16.38	Water Sustainability	Winde, South Africa	MM
C16.39	Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering	Liu, China	MM
C16.40	African Studies Commission	Moyo, South Africa	tbc
T16.01	Olympiad Task Force	Lomas, UK, She, China-Taipei	JDF
T16.02	Centennial and Sequicentennial Task Force	Kolosov, Russia	VK
T16.03	Young and Early-Career Geographers Task Force	Yenneti, Australia	JDF

IGU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	EC Liaison 2014-16	EC Liaison 2016-20
Country		
Albania	Kolosov	BG
Algeria	Soyez	BG
Argentina	dell'Agnese	RT
Armenia	Kolosov	VK
Australia	Hay	IH
Austria	Droogleever-Fortuijn	JDF
Azerbaijan	Kolosov	VK
Belarus	Kolosov	NL
Belgium	Droogleever-Fortuijn	JDF
Bolivia		EdA
Benin	Soyez	NL
Brazil	Hay	RT
Bulgaria	Abler	BG
Burundi	Soyez	NL
Cameroon	Soyez	NL

Canada	Abler	RT
Central African Republic	Soyez	NL
Chad	Soyez	NL
Chile	Saarinen	RT
China-Beijing	Zhou	CZ
China-Macau		YH
China-Hong Kong	Zhou	CZ
China-Taipei	Soyez	MM
Colombia	dell'Agnese	EdA
Comoros	Soyez	NL
Congo, Democratic Republic	Soyez	RT
Congo, Republic of the	Soyez	RT
Croatia	Kolosov	VK
Cuba	dell'Agnese	EdA
Cyprus	Hay	BG
Czech Republic	Himiyama	VK
Denmark	Saarinen	JDF
Ecuador		RT
Egypt	Meadows	BG
Estonia	Saarinen	VK
Finland	Saarinen	JDF
France	Kolosov	NL
Georgia, Republic of	Abler	BG
Germany	Soyez	JDF
Ghana	Meadows	MM
Greece	dell'Agnese	EdA
Hungary	Kolosov	VK
Iceland	Saarinen	JDF
India	Singh	RS
Indonesia	Singh	IH
Iran	Singh	RS
Ireland	Meadows	MM
Israel	dell'Agnese	EdA
Italy	dell'Agnese	EdA

Ivory Coast	Soyez	NL
Japan	Himiyama	YH
Kazakhstan	Kolosov	VK
Kenya	Meadows	MM
Korea, Republic of	Himiyama	YH
Kuwait	Singh	RS
Latvia	Saarinen	VK
Lesotho	Meadows	MM
Lithuania	Saarinen	VK
Luxembourg		JDF
Macedonia	dell'Agnese	BG
Madagascar	Soyez	NL
Malaysia	Hay	IH
Mauritania	Soyez	NL
Mexico	dell'Agnese	EdA
Mongolia	Kolosov	VK
Morocco	Soyez	BG
Mozambique	Meadows	MM
Netherlands	Droogleever-Fortuijn	JDF
New Zealand	Hay	IH
Niger	Soyez	RT
Nigeria	Meadows	MM
Norway	Saarinen	JDF
Oman		MM
Pakistan	Hay	IH
Palestine	Hay	IH
Papua-New Guinea	Hay	IH
Peru	dell'Agnese	EdA
Philippines	Himiyama	YH
Poland	Kolosov	VK
Portugal	dell'Agnese	EdA
Romania	Himiyama	YH
Russia	Kolosov	VK
Saudi Arabia	Zhou	CZ

Samoa		IH
Serbia		VK
Singapore	Hay	IH
Slovakia	Kolosov	VK
Slovenia	Kolosov	VK
South Africa	Meadows	MM
Spain	dell'Agnese	EdA
Sri Lanka	Singh	RS
Sweden	Saارين	JDF
Switzerland	Droogleever-Fortuijn	JDF
Tanzania	Meadows	MM
Thailand	Himiyama	IH
Togo	Soyez	NL
Tunisia	Hay	BG
Uganda	Meadows	MM
Turkey	Abler	BG
Ukraine	Kolosov	BG
United Kingdom	Meadows	MM
United States	Abler	RT
Venezuela		RT
Vietnam	Himiyama	YH
Zimbabwe	Meadows	MM



3) PRESENTATION OF THE NEW COMMISSION ON AFRICAN STUDIES

At its recent a new Commission on African Studies. The in Quebec, Canada, the IGU approved the establishment of a new Commission on African Studies. The intention is to foster networking and

develop teaching and research in all aspects of African geography. Further information may be obtained from Dr Innocent Moyo on: minnoxa@yahoo.com.

Since the formation of the IGU in Brussels, Belgium, in 1922, it has grown in both scientific activity and the number of Commissions and Task forces. Notable developments include the Latin American Commission which deals with the geographies of Latin America. Although geographers from the African continent have consistently participated and featured in many of the IGU Commissions and sessions thereof, it seems as though the absence of a platform that deliberately and categorically speaks to and champions issues in and/or of Africa could have stifled and suffocated geographical debate on and about the continent. The African continent in and of itself offers a plenitude of 'material' for geographical scholarship that would benefit the discipline and humanity. Against this background, it is strongly anticipated that the formation of an African Commission will not only undo the foregone loss to scholarship and humanity caused by the absence of a dedicated commission that looked into things African, but will also assist in promoting and elevating African geographies in the IGU fold of programmes and activities and the cause of science, in general.

Based on the above aim, the objectives of the proposed African Commission are to:

1. Provide a platform for academic and scientific debate for scholars in Africa and abroad on Africa-specific issues, challenges and problems
2. Establish a channel for the international showcasing of African geographies
3. Establish a channel for the international showcasing of geographical research and scholarship in Africa
4. Achieve adequate representation of Africa in the IGU
5. Stimulate, improve and/or increase participation in IGU scientific activities by Africa-based scholars and researchers
6. Grow, nature and expand IGU scientific and other activities in Africa



4) REPORTS OF RECENT EVENTS

4.1) Region-2017: Human-geographical Aspects, Kharkiv, Ukraine, 19-20 April 2017

On April 19-20, 2017 the International Scientific and Practical Conference of Students, Postgraduate students and Young Scientists "Region-2017: Human-geographical Aspects" was held at the Department of Human Geography and Regional Studies, on which 94 theses of reports were submitted from 111 participants from Ukraine, Serbia, Hungary, Georgia, South Africa, Russian Federation. On April 19, 2017 within the conference the International Scientific and Practical Workshop "Spatial Transformations in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe"

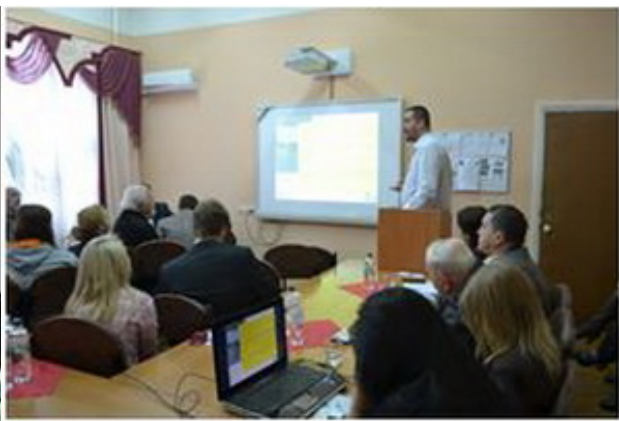
was held, attended by scientists from Ukraine, Hungary, Estonia and other countries of the world. The purpose of the workshop was to attract attention, in particular, young people to the acute problems taking place in Central and Eastern Europe, associated with transformational processes under the influence of the global crisis of modern civilization. Problems are geopolitical, ethno-cultural, demographic, which, in particular, threatens social security.

Within the workshop the reports were the following scientists made presentations:

- D.Sc. in Geography, prof. Konstantin Mezentsev (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine) on the topic: "Transformations of the urban space in Ukraine: between degradation and gentrification";
- PhD in Geography David Karachoni (Geographical Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary) on the topic: "Spatial transformation after nuclear disasters – comparison of Fukushima and Chornobyl";
- D.Sc. in Geography, prof. Mykola Baranovsky (Nizhyn Gogol State University, Ukraine) on the topic: "Post-Soviet transformation of rural space in Ukraine: from polarization to decentralization";
- PhD in geography, doctoral student Katerina Sehida (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine) on the topic: "Concept of the geodemographic system of the region: human-geographical research";
- D.Sc. in Geography, senior researcher Grigory Pidgrushniy (Institute of Geography, NAS of Ukraine, Ukraine) on the topic: "Visual information about urban public spaces as an indicator of social mood";
- PhD student Anastasia Mazurova (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine) on the topic: "A big city as a social and geographical system";
- Ph.D in geography, associate professor Anatoliy Melnychuk (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine) on the topic: "Reform of the territorial organization of power in Ukraine: state and prospects of forming capable united territorial communities".
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Left: Prof. Konstantin Mezentsev (Taras Shevchenko National University, Kyiv)



Right: Dr. David Karachoni, Academy of Science Geographical Institute, Hungary)

Within the workshop have been also held:

- presentation of the collective monograph "Innovative and Investment Potential as the Basis of Competitiveness of the Region (Case study of Kharkiv Region)" (edited by L.M. Niemets, K. Yu. Sehida);
- round table where young scientists, PhD students, master students discussed issues of the workshop "Human-geographical research in the aspect of civilizational challenges and modern regional problems". 12 people made presentations on the issues of regional socio-economic development, features of geodemographic research, recreational geography and tourism.

The scientists noted the importance of studying spatial processes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as those with transition economies, where civilization challenges are most acute, creating new problems of regional nature.

The next meeting of scientists on these issues will be held in September 2017 in Kharkiv on the basis of the Department of Human Geography and Regional Studies of V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University.

4.1) SOCIETÀ GEOGRAFICA ITALIANA, 150° BIRTHDAY

The Network of Geographical Societies for New Explorations of The World – 16 May 2017

For the celebrations of its 150 years of birth, the Italian Geographical Society organized the May 16th as the main initiative the International Conference entitled "The Network of Geography Society For new explorations of the world", with the participation of the President Sergio Mattarella.

At the event participated even other prestigious institutional and cultural personalities, such as the mayor of Rome, Virginia Raggi, Under Secretary of State for Heritage, Cultural and Tourism Activities, Antimo Cesaro.

In the crowded room "Giuseppe Dalla Vedova", the speeches of the guests and scholars were about the role of the Geographical Societies in the present moment, in a context of a changing globalization, with a specific focus on the relevance of geographical culture in the evolution of research activities and cultural contexts. Delegates from cultural and research institutions, as well as from other Geographical Societies, gave their contribution to the discussion, in a composite overview of geographical, cultural, scientific and socio-political networks.

President Mattarella underlined the role of Geography and of the Geographical Institutions in this historical moment, being a science able to understand the world, migration and environmental changes. President Bencardino focused his attention on the library and in the archives of the Italian Geographical Society, remarking the role of the Society in the national history.

Moreover, the speakers recalled repeatedly the interest in Geography that has never failed, especially in a globalizing phase like the present era, characterized by increasingly intense cultural and social exchanges, in which the description of territorial realities and the results of the

relation between spaces and human relations are crucial to outline the future and progress of humanity.



President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella accompanied by SGI President Filippo Bencardino
President Mattarella giving the Opening speech

The Head of State at the end of the first session visited the halls that hosted the exhibition of 150th anniversary, titled “Geographies of a History - 150 Years of the Italian Geographical Society”, with the guidance of Professor Margherita Azzari, who showed some of the immense historical heritage of the Society.

At the end of the visit, President Sergio Mattarella, alongside the President of the Italian Geographic Society, Filippo Bencardino, of the Mayor of Rome, Virginia Raggi, and the Undersecretary Antimo Cesaro, discovered a commemorative plaque to remind the 150-year foundation of the Society. At the end of the Conference, during the evening, a concert of the Marching Band of Carabinieri and a final vin d'honneur closed the Anniversary day.



5) IN MEMORIAM

The International Geographical Union regrets to announce the passing of two of its great servants. Former President (and first female President) of the IGU, Professor Anne Buttimer, passed away last week – just a few days after the death of former IGU Vice-President Professor Masatoshi Yoshino (see below). Professor Buttimer’s obituary was compiled by her colleagues, Alun Jones and Stephen Mennell, who are duly acknowledged **Anne Buttimer (1937–2017)**



Geography has lost one of its true stars with the passing of Anne Buttimer on 15 July. Anne devoted much of her life to the discipline of Geography and was a staunch supporter of its goals and values. Her passion for the subject transmitted to all who had the good fortune to meet her. She was generous with her time, praise and compassion. She was devoted to her country and its international promotion and reputation.

Anne was a graduate of University College Cork, and after gaining her Master's degree in 1959, she became a Dominican nun in Seattle. She remained in the order for 17 years. She received her PhD in Geography at the University of Washington (Seattle) in 1965. During her

distinguished career she held research and teaching positions in Belgium, Canada, France, Scotland, Sweden, and the USA. She was appointed Professor of Geography at University College Dublin (UCD) in 1991, a post she held until her not-very-retired 'retirement' in 2003. After that, Anne continued to work relentlessly, attending overseas meetings, giving invited lectures and engaging in debates on the promotion of social science, European cooperation and the world of geographical knowledge production and its circulation.

Anne possessed a steely determination that would see her rise to become President of the International Geographical Union (2000–4) and the first geographer to be elected Vice-President of Academia Europaea in 2012. She was a powerful advocate of the discipline. She was truly international in her work, vision and activities; a gifted multilingual scholar with a sharp intellect. Her scholarship on place, space and the spirituality of everyday human existence was truly ground breaking. One paper that had exceptional impact was "Grasping the dynamism of lifeworld", which appeared in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* in 1976, and has been cited well over 700 times. It drew upon the social phenomenology that was then widely influential in the other social sciences, and applied it to the culturally defined spatiotemporal setting or horizon of everyday life. In her work she promoted the emancipatory role of humanism, and championed calls for Western scholars to seek better communication with colleagues from other cultures to address global environmental challenges. Anne's work received deservedly numerous international awards and honours. Most recently these included: the Wahlberg Medal of the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography in 2009; the Lifetime Achievement honour from the Association of American Geographers, presented to her at the Annual Conference of the AAG in Tampa in 2014; and the Vautrin Lud prize (often referred to as the 'Nobel Prize' in Geography) in 2014.

Anne was deeply committed to her family, friends and colleagues and she will be greatly missed by us all.

Alun Jones, Stephen Mennell

Memories from friends of Professor Anne Buttimer

Sad news indeed. I had not heard that she was ill, although I was somewhat surprised that she did not come to Beijing. She was an imaginative and highly productive scholar.

Ronald F. Abler, Emeritus Professor of Geography
The Pennsylvania State University

Dear friends

We all were sad to read the announcement - telling of Anne Buttmer passing away. Ann was known for her academic researches, but moreover for her kindness and readiness to help any colleague who asked for her advice. Anne participated in Israel Geographical Society Annual Meeting in 2014, and we all remember her excellent lecture on the changes that have taken place in the field of geography, the new trends and future expectations. I am sure that her devotion and contribution will not forget.

Prof. Irit Amit-Cohen

Head, MA program - Preservation Planning and Development of Cultural Heritage and Landscape
Department of Geography and Environment
Bar Ilan University, Israel
President of ICOMOS Israel
amitcoi@biu.ac.il

The Israeli Geographical Association was sad to hear the news of Anne's death. Anne dedicated much of her life to World Geography. She was a fervent friend of Israeli Geography. Many Israeli Geographers benefited from her experience and judgment, her appropriate advice and her unstinting support.

Anne readily accepted my invitation to be Guest Lecturer at the Israeli Geographical Association Conference in 2014. She was delighted to meet up with her old friends, colleagues, and students, with whom she had been in close touch over the years. World Geography and the Israeli association have lost a dear friend and researcher.

May her Memory be a Blessing.

Prof. Noga Collins-Kreiner,

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Haifa, Israel,
Vice-President of the Israeli Geographical Association (IGA)

This is sad news indeed and a great loss for the geography community.

Joos Drooglever Fortuijn

Dear friends and relatives of Anne Buttmer,

I join the great community of professional colleagues and personal friends in mourning. Anne was a very special personality: warm and amiable in personal encounters, challenging and inspiring in academic affairs, engaged in pursuit of (geographical) developments of which she was convinced - and surely not always easy to deal with. But this was part of her convictions for which she stood up. Her contribution to the history of geography and her manifold stimulations on "Geography and the Human Spirit" will remain with all of us for a long time.

May she rest in peace!

Eckart Ehlers

Anne Buttimer, a leading scholar, a leading teacher and long time leading in international geography, but for me she was a friend, first and foremost. This approach, from both of us, lead our connections, that started in Prague with the IGU 'Commission for the History of Geographical Thought', and ended in her unforgettable visit to Israel and the University of Haifa. Anne, I find it difficult to call her 'Prof. Buttimer', had also been a real and close friend to Israeli geography and geographers, a strong advocate against all 'colleagues' who tend to involve academy with politics. A great loss, great sorrow!

Professor Haim Goren

Tel-Hai College

Upper Galilee 12210, Israel

gorenh@telhai.ac.il

Anne was a pioneering scholar, a powerful leader, and a woman with an open heart for so many people worldwide. I'll remember her as a close and caring friend.

Prof. Emeritus Aharon Kellermann

University of Haifa, Israel

Dear friends and colleagues!

It is a very sad news, totally unexpected for me. Anne was a great, world known scholar, the first woman-President of IGU, devoted to geography, a very warm, friendly and open minded person always ready to help. I will never forget our conversations and walks in Paris, Tokyo, Rome and other places after the sessions of IGU EC. Her books were translated in Russian, she visited Moscow for many times attending different IGU events, and many colleagues from my country express their condolences. We will miss her.

Vladimir Kolosov

Past President of IGU

Dear Colleagues – friends of Anne Buttimer,

It is very sad for me to hear about the death of Professor Anne Buttimer.

I appreciated the cooperation for many years with Anne. She was the first woman- President of the IGU and I supported her very strongly.

It is moving to see the reactions to the sad news: many friends of the days of our IGU cooperation whom we knew are appearing again and we greet you all warmly! And of course all the next friends and relatives of Anne who have been with her till her passing away. RIP.

With kind regards

Bruno Messerli and Beatrice

In September 2003 prof. Paul Claval organized in Gorizia with me a Conference on “The cultural turn in Geography”. Anne Buttimer was a honour guest and presented a significant paper. President of the International Geographical Union, professor in the University College of Dublin and geographer with a relevant university career she was for me the model to imitate.

After the Conference, I hosted her in my home and leaded to discovering Trieste and surroundings. We had conversations, we coked Irish and Slovenian foods, we had fun, we spoke

not only about difficulties of the academic career for woman, but about our private lives as well. During those wonderful days in September we had time, and our relation became a real friendship. Time to chat and time to know each other better, beyond greetings and set phrases. Later our encounters remained restricted to short meetings in Conferences or mails, but friendship remained strong.

She was as strong as a timid person. For seventeen years she was a sister of the Dominican Order and from that experience she learnt a special discretion, a peculiar empathy with everybody, a unusual tenderness in human relations, with a strong faith penetrating her academic research as well. Another important point of her life has been the love for her husband after her husband, and she could not resign to his death.

After long time sick in hospital, she died at home, and her cousin, Mary Kelleher, informed me about her death at July 15 around 9 a.m. I'll forever save a memory of Anne, of her delicate smile, her elegance and kindness, her interior beauty. A great geographer and a great woman

Prof. Maria Paola Pagnini,
Università Nicolò Cusano, Roma

The Italian geographers learned with immense pain of the passing of former IGU President Professor Anne Buttner. Anne produced pioneering ideas in her extensive research in geography over the years. She served the IGU, as well as the social science community worldwide, as a leader of newness and passion. As Italians, we owe a special debt of gratitude to Anne for her dedicated and inspiring cooperation with the late former IGU President Adalberto Vallega. We wish to express our deep condolences to Anne's family.

Maria Paradiso, Chair of IGU Italy National Committee

Very sad news. She was a very good scholar and warm person.

Jarkko Saarinen

After Professor Yoshino, I have the misfortune of getting sad news about Professor Buttner with whom I interacted during IGU Conferences and became close contact in India. In 2005 Home of Geography, Rome I participated in the IGU Conference on Culture and Civilisation for Human Development which gave birth of IYGU later. I invited her to deliver in the First NAGI India International IGU Conference and within no time she accepted and came at Hyderabad; friends and geographer colleagues in India and other countries are pained to hear this. She is household name among professional Geographer due to her original thinking and publications. She gave new direction to Geography. I feel saddened and disturbed specially because I received her one book with her signature and reviewed it and appeared in the NAGI JI. long back. As Ex Secretary General of the NAGI, National Ass. of Geographers of India, we felicitated her as Fellow of NAGI. I convey my deep condolences to the family members and professional colleagues of the departed soul and pray God to grant peace to soul.

R.B. Singh

Vice President: International Geographical Union (IGU)

As a student of Anne Buttimer I had the privilege to follow her development of ideas about geographic thought and social geography. I was always impressed by the intellectual contribution of Anne to geography, to her moral and humanist approach that gives voice to different cultures, narratives and experiences from around the world. Her contribution to history and philosophy of geography makes her a major anchor point in understanding the development of geographic ideas. Her contribution to social geography makes her a major anchor point in understanding human styles of use of everyday life spaces and human agency in spaces and environments. For me Anne was a mentor, a friend and a major source of stimulation.

Izhak Schnell

Tel Aviv University

I met Anne Buttimer for the first time during the IGU congress in Glasgow. I took on myself to re-establish the commission on Local Development (which later became the Commission on Local and Regional Development) and approach Anne in her capacity as the president of the IGU. Since then I was in touch with her on issues concerning the commission's activities and enjoyed her guidance and support to our events. I always found a sympathetic ear and honest support. Her departure is a loss to the whole world geographical community and her memory will remain with the Israeli geographical community for long time.

Professor Michael Sofer

Chair National Committee of Geography to the IGU

Department of Geography and Environment

Bar-Ilan University

Ramat-Gan, 5290002 Israel

Dear friends of Professor Anne Buttimer:

It is really sad news that Professor Anne Buttimer left us.

She was distinguished scholar, respected leader and beloved friend.

I appreciated the friendship with her for many years as colleague of the IGU executive committee.

Praying for the repose of the deceased, we geographers send deep condolence to her family.

Yu Woo-ik

Honorary Professor

Department of Geography

Seoul National University

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from the Editor of the IGU Newsletter

Passing of Anne is a really great loss for me. I feel obliged to remind just one memory, going back to the beginning of 2007, in Rome. We were discussing about the recent loss of Adalberto Vallega, and she told me to convince the Italian National Committee to propose me as next IGU VP. It was easy to convince them, just telling who was making the proposal. I left the Direction of the Home of Geography, nevertheless continuing to edit website and Newsletter. So, after my

election, I had the chance to meet her again several times, discovering nice character traits and taking several photos. Look at her face, she is never bored, and always expressing something: if not happiness, it is interest.



Left, 2002: Durban, Awarding Nelson Mandela Madiba;
Center-right, chairing Sessions: 2005, in Hyderabad and in Rome.



Right, Rome: Award from the Società Geografica Italiana (2007)

Left, Tampa: from Julie Winkler on behalf of the Association of American Geographers (2014)



Left, 2006: in Egypt, to sustain the Vallega Project CCHD (later become IYMU).

Right, Tunis 2008: with IGU President José Palacio Prieto, felicitating the election as VP of the friend photographer (appearing somehow too moved)



2000, Roma, Inauguration of the Home of Geography; at left IGU President Bruno Messerli. Right, 2013, with IGU President Kolosov: Meeting in the University La Sapienza in Roma, facilitating Cooperation among EUROGEO and EUGEO



2007, Taiwan, in Taroko natural reserve: dancing with Huey Min Tsai (some minutes later she was singing “O Sole mio” in an impromptu organized choir). Right with Ron and Barbara Abler, the Chair of Taiwanese Geographers Chang David Chang and Ester (Italian Geographer: among her minor quality, she is wife of the photographer).

Too bad that in Tunis 2008 when I have been elected VP, her term as IGU Past President was also coming to an end: her 16 years of real high-quality service for our community ceased. My possibility to take personal photos dwindled a lot.

Still, I hope that this small collection will allow you to see her easiness to get into any joyful moment even with totally unknown people. You will surely understand why I consider myself honored to have been for years in some more than good friendship with her.

Professor Masatoshi Yoshino (1928-2017)

Prof. Dr. Yoshino Masatoshi (Professor emeritus of the University of Tsukuba, Former senior adviser to the United Nations University) passed away (Jan. 1st 1928 – July 4th 2017). Prof. Yoshino was the 2007 Luke Howard Award winner from the IAUC and made significant contributions to

various aspects of regional and urban climatology, along with his teaching and service to a number of academic societies.



Masatoshi Yoshino was a Senior Programme Adviser (ESD) at UNU and Professor Emeritus, University of Tsukuba, Japan. He was a member of the Science Council of Japan, President of the Association of Japanese Geographers, Vice President of the International Geographical Union, and Chairman of the National Committee of IGBP-Japan. Also, he was a member of many international and national committees and in the editorial board of journals of learned societies. His research fields have been: local and micro-climatology, agro-meteorology, climatic change, global environmental problems, desert and desertification, and rice-cultivation in humid tropics. Author of 10 books and monographs, he published about 250 articles.

An Italian superstition considers 17 an unlucky one., and 2017 hit hard the Indian Geographical Community, as following lines from Prof Rana P.B. Singh, University of Banaras tell us.

Prof. Vijaya Ram Singh (01 February 1936 ~ 10 March 2017)

Prof. Vijaya Ram Singh, our revered teacher and an established agricultural geographer of international repute was passed away on 10 March 2017, night. He had received M.A. 1957 and Ph.D. 1962, in Geography from the Banaras Hindu University, where he became Lecturer as in January 1963. He worked as Reader in Agricultural Geography at S. V. University, Tirupati during July 1977 to Aug. 1979, and returned back to his alma mater as Reader, where he was promoted as Professor in 1993. He had also served as Head, department of Geography at B.H.U. during August 1995–January 1996. Beside attending 30 national and international conferences, he has been an Asian member on the Executive of the I.G.U. Commissions on Rural Development (1980-84, on Changing Rural Systems (1984-88), and member of the I.G.U. Commission on Agricultural Typology (1972-76). Life member of NGSI, DGS, UBBP, IIG, NAGI; and he had also served as Elect Hon Treasurer of the ICG (1970-1971). He had served as Assistant. Secretary of the National Geographical Society of India, and also as an Executive Editor of its quarterly, *National Geographical Journal of India*. His publications included 5 books, and 60 research papers. Under his supervision 16 PhD dissertations were awarded from Banaras Hindu University. He presented papers in his visits abroad in Asia, Africa and Europe. He was the founding Editor of a quarterly journal, *Rural Systems, an International Quarterly* (1983-1987).

Prof. Dibya Kishor Singh (24 August 1934 ~ 08 June 2017)

With deep sorrow and pain, this is noted that Prof. Dibya Kishor Singh is passed away on 08 June 2017 in Bhubaneswar, after suffering since some years for Alzheimer. In 2012 he lost his wife and academic partner, Dr. Vijayalakshmi Singh. He knew her as classmate and academic partner Vijayalakshmi Singh in 1957-59, and married soon. He left one son (in USA) and one daughter (in Mumbai). Educated and trained in Banaras Hindu University (having M.A. in Geography in 1959 under the guidance of Prof. R.L. Singh), Indiana University as a Fulbright Scholar and Bristol University as a Senior Commonwealth Fellow (under Prof. Peter Haggett). He contributed immensely for the growth of geography discipline and more particularly quantitative geography

in various universities (Jabalpur, Gauhati, and Utkal), as an expert involvement in UGC, INSA, Indian Science Congress Association and many other national and international institutions. He was also a Fellow of Royal Geographical Society of London, Life Member and Officer bearers of a large number of Geographical Societies of India. As a human being he was the nicest person and followed the path of religious ethics and moral code and theosophy throughout his life. It is great loss to the Geography fraternity of India and abroad. He will remain as an icon in geography. We pray the Almighty that his noble soul be settled in the heaven.

Prof. Bireswar Banerjee (2 August 1930 ~ 17 June 2017)

One of the Grand Masters of Geography, Prof. Bireswar Banerjee, a former emeritus professor of geography at University of Calcutta, Kolkata, passed away on 17 June 2017. He was awarded PhD on “*Agriculture of West Bengal – A Geographical Analysis*” under the guidance of Prof. Glenn T. Trewartha at University of Wisconsin, Madison (USA) in 1954. After he was awarded by D.Litt. from the University of Calcutta (1958), where he later served in the Geography Department during 1963-1995. He also served as a member of the University Council, National Lecturer, was member of INSA, editor of the *Geographical Review of India* (1984-1986), etc. Successor of the India-Japan Rural Study Project “Transformation of Rural Settlements in South Asia” that was started in early 1980s, he was closely linked to the team of Banaras Hindu University. He was the only geographer who served the Asiatic Society of Bengal in the capacity of its Secretary. Under his supervision, about thirty students were awarded PhD degrees.

Prof. Subhash Chandra Mukhopadhyay (1941~ 23 June 2017)

With deep grief and sadness, we have noted passing away of our very dear and respected Geomorphologist of India, an emeritus colleague at Department of Geography, Calcutta University Kolkata, and founder of the Institute of Landscape, Ecology and Esthetics (ILEE, 1983) and its bi-annual journal- *Indian Journal of Landscape Systems and Ecological Studies* (ISSN: 0971-4170), Prof. S.C. Mukhopadhyay, on 23 June 2017 morning in the Birla's Calcutta Hospital, Kolkata. He was a spiritual person, living simple life practicing noble human qualities and was source of inspiration to young geographers. We pray the Almighty to grant peace to the departed noble soul. This is irreplaceable loss to the Indian Geography that we all realize in near future.



6) NEWS FROM ICSU JULY 2017



**INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE**

Declaration of International Council for Science on the United States intent of United States to withdraw from the Paris agreement on climate change

The International Council for Science (ICSU) expresses its concern about the decision, warning that climate change is a problem that can only be tackled through international cooperation. The Council's stance is that policy should always be informed by the best available science. The Paris Agreement is the result of an unprecedented effort to build an international agreement. Its development was informed by the thousands of scientists, including those who contributed to the research of the World Climate Research Programme, the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (now part of Future Earth) and other global research programs sponsored by the International Council for Science and its international partners. This research was assessed globally by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

The science shows that the human influence on the climate system is clearly causing unequivocal warming of the climate system. Changes in extreme weather and climate events, including heat waves and extreme precipitation events will become more intense and frequent. Global mean sea level is rising and threatens coastal communities around the globe, including the United States. Climate change is dangerous, and actions to limit its consequences are urgent. Greenhouse gas emissions threaten the stability of our Earth system, which supports life and is vital for our economies. As the world's second biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, the United States has a responsibility to work with the rest of the world to implement the agreement.

"You can't build a wall around climate change. No matter how hard you try to ignore it, this problem is not going away. The consequences are being felt in the USA – through extreme weather and sea-level rise and other impacts. Tackling the problem of climate change is also in the best interests of the USA," said Gordon McBean, President of the Council.

"What were once considered extreme climate events have now become the norm. 2016 was the hottest year ever recorded. The biggest global problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, ocean acidification, are problems that transcend the short-term lens of national politics. They can only be solved if we put aside our national interests for the greater good of humanity, now and for generations to come," he added.

News

The First UN Oceans conference, held in New York from June 5-9, closed with a joint “call for action” intended to highlight the position of the ocean in the sustainable development agenda. The conference was the first international gathering dedicated to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 on conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and maritime resources. ICSU played an active role in the conference as part of its commitment to supporting the implementation of the SDGs, hosting two side events and facilitating scientist participation. ICSU also partnered with Future Earth which launched its Ocean Knowledge-Action Network during the week.

ICSU President Professor Gordon McBean has been announced as the winner of the 62nd International Meteorological Organization (IMO) prize by the World Meteorological Organization. The award, which will be given in 2018, is presented annually to scientists for outstanding contributions to meteorology, hydrology and geophysical sciences. The World Meteorological Organization is the UN’s authoritative voice on Weather, Climate, and Water and the IMO Prize is the most important award in meteorology.

Registration has now opened for the 2017 General Assembly. National and Union Members, Scientific Associates, Interdisciplinary Bodies, Joint Initiatives and Policy Committees, as well as partner organizations have until September 15 to register online for the event which will be held in Taipei on 23-26 October 2017. The meeting will include a two day joint meeting with the ISSC on 25 and 26 October. During the joint meeting Members will take a final decision on the proposed merger of the two organizations.

As the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) gathers in New York from 10 – 19 July, the Council will be hosting a side event to present our new report “A Guide to SDG Interactions: From Science to Implementation,” which looks at which clusters of goals and targets work together- and which do not. Information can be found on the events page.

Executives of the ISSC and ICSU met in Paris to discuss the final draft strategy and outputs of the Transition Task Force (TTF) for the proposed merger between the two organizations. The meeting followed a gathering of members of the Strategy Working Group (SWG) and TTF earlier in the month that focused on developing statutes and rules of procedure for the new organization, a consolidated budget, and a legal framework for the merger. An updated version of the strategy and TTF outputs will be available to members in July 2017 ahead of the joint meeting during the ICSU General Assembly in Taipei on 25-26 October.

Organizers of the CODATA 2017, ‘Global Challenges and Data-Driven Science’, 8-13 October 2017, Saint-Petersburg, Russia, have extended the deadline for submissions to 28 July. In line with this, the deadline for ‘early bird’ registration has also been extended. To

submit a proposal visit the conference website.

Recent activities in our Regional Offices

Latin America & the Caribbean

From 12-16 June ICSU ROLAC attended the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) meeting in Bogota, Colombia. The event was the 25th session of the IAI's Conference of the Parties and featured representatives from 12 IAI member countries, associated institutions, and observer organizations. Meetings focused on enhancing the science-policy interface, the possible role of indigenous peoples and local communities, and greater integration of national global policy frameworks within a regional context. The 21st meeting of the ROLAC Regional Committee was held in Havana, Cuba from April 17-18. Representatives of ICSU and ICSU ROLAC as well as Cuban and Salvadorian authorities met to discuss science and technology developments in the region and to offer updates on priority areas and outreach activities.

Asia & Pacific

The first Advanced Institute on Knowledge-based Actions for Disaster Risk Reduction (AI-KBA) was held on 17 – 21 April in Taipei. The event was sponsored by the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk, International Centre of Excellence, Taipei (IRDR ICoE-Taipei), ICSU ROAP, National Science and Technology Centre for Disaster Reduction (NCDR) and the Academy of Sciences located in Taipei, China. The AI-KBA aims to provide young to mid-career practitioners, researchers and policy makers in the region with the best practices, enhanced understanding, skills and practical knowledge to apply systems approaches in DRR knowledge-based actions. Of the 52 applications from various countries in Asia and the Pacific, 16 were selected. Participants were required to work in groups conceptualizing an individual or collaborative project, which may later be submitted for funding to support follow-up research activities. A "call-for-proposal" will be announced no later than October.

Africa

In preparation for the 2017 General Assembly, ICSU ROA hosted a consultative forum from 8-9 June with 15 of their National Members and 15 of their Scientific Unions. Held in Pretoria, South Africa, the forum's main objective was to deliberate on issues related to the proposed ICSU-ISSC merger, prepare an African input for the draft strategy documents, and formulate a consolidated African statement on the merger that will serve as a vocal representation of the region at the upcoming GA.

The 7th African Unity for Renaissance Conference and African Expo were held in South Africa from 24-25 May. The conference brought together researchers and scholars from the fields of sustainable development, economics, green economy and renewable energy, environment, and system sciences to interrogate Africa's response to the new development

agenda as specified in the SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063.

Events

Resilience Conference. Stockholm, Sweden. 20 August 2017.

7th International Conference on Sustainability Science. Stockholm, Sweden. 24 August 2017.

LIRA 2030 training workshop. Kampala, Uganda. 28 August- 1 September 2017.

Fourth International Conference on Earth System Modelling (4ICESM). Hamburg, Germany. 2

3rd COSPAR Symposium. Jeju-si, Jeju-do, South Korea. 19 September 2017.

WDS Asia- Oceania Conference. Sakyo Ward, Kyoto, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan. 26 September

International CODATA Conference 'Global Challenges and Data-driven Science.' Saint Petersburg

IUNS Congress 'From Sciences to Nutrition Security'. Buenos Aires, Argentina. 15-20 October

32nd ICSU General Assembly and associated meetings. Taipei, 19-27 October 2017.

World Science Forum. Dead Sea, Jordan. 7-11 November 2017.

7th International Conference on Building Resilience. Bangkok, Thailand, 27-29 November 201



7) FROM FUTURE EARTH NEWS ON RECENT BLOGS



11 July: New dataset provides the most complete look yet at the climate of the last 2000 years

<http://www.futureearth.org/blog/2017-jul-11/new-dataset-provides-most-complete-look-yet-climate-last-2000-years>

21 July 2017: What does the Anthropocene mean for environmental justice?

In this Q&A, Dimitris Stevis and Stacia Ryder talk about the evolution of the concept of environmental justice and how it can help to foster just transitions from fossil fuel power to renewable energy.

26 July 2017

Why we need to value Biodiversity in the Anthropocene

<http://www.futureearth.org/blog/2017-jul-26/why-we-need-value-biodiversity-anthropocene>



8) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2017)

8.1) Balsillie, Ontario, 23-27 May

8.2) HEA'd17 3rd Conference on Higher Edu, Valencia (Spain), 21-23 June.

8.3) ACLA Conference, Urban Cultural Landscape and Urban Regeneration, Vladivostok, 22-24 July.

8.4) IGU Commission History of Geography, International Symposia, Rio de Janeiro, 23-29 July 2017

8.5) International Conference on Natural Computation, Fuzzy Systems and Knowledge Discovery, Guylin (China), 28-31 July

