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WELCOME

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The last months have been very busy for the Commission with two international Conferences and a book being prepared. In both cases we had the chance to include more young and female scholars than ever, which is one of the goals of the IGU as a whole, but also of the Commission. We hope that this involvement is sustainable and enduring, which will also be a question of sponsoring.

For the IGC in Tunis, the Commission is invited to organise sessions and I hereby kindly ask you to send me all your suggestions and offers. The Commission has been very active at the last meetings in Glasgow and Brisbane and I hope we can participate in a similar way in Tunis next year.

Looking forward to seeing you there,
Kindly yours

Berne, July 2007

Doris Wastl-Walter

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mediterranean Renaissance Program (MRP)

The Mediterranean Renaissance Program (MRP) is a special project of the IGU, initiated by its late President, Prof. Adalberto Vallega. The aim of the project is the establishment of a Mediterranean regional network, focusing on the study of the region from all geographical perspectives.

MRP has begun to plan sessions and joint initiatives for the IGU 2008 Tunis Congress. We are most interested in the receipt of initial, non-binding ideas for sessions and initiatives focusing on the geographical study of the Mediterranean. Members of our commission, who are involved in geographical studies of the Mediterranean, and/or colleagues who would be interested in participating in the program by providing information on publications, data or who would be willing to contribute to the project when an opportunity arises are cordially invited to get in contact with Mahmoud Ashour, MRP Coordinator (Ain Shams University Cairo, Egypt) (mmashour_99@yahoo.com), and

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Maria Paradiso, MRP Executive Secretary (paradiso@unisannio.it). Please include an affiliation and an e-mail address, as well as any other relevant details.

In addition, we would like to solicit themes for sessions on Mediterranean topics for the Tunis Congress. The IGU is especially, but not exclusively, interested in sessions which would fall under the general theme of the Congress: 'Building our territory together'.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

IGU GAPP International Conference, Kathmandu, Nepal

Retrospect on the

IGU GAPP Conference

“Public Policy and Local Development: Opportunities and Challenges”

Kathmandu, Nepal, February 23rd – March 1st

From February 23rd to March 1st the Commission sponsored the IGU GAPP Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal. With the main focus lying on the opportunities and challenges of public policy and local development, the topic was approached from very different angles ranging from groundwater use conflicts and community forestry over conflict transformation and social mobilisation to the wiping out of indigenous knowledge and domestic violence. The organiser and Chair of the conference, Prof. Pushkar K. Pradhan succeeded not only in attracting international participants, but also a group of very interesting young Nepali scholars, several of them female, who presented their most exciting empirical work. Along with the high quality of papers, the very active participation and comments from our Colleagues from the region made the conference a very enriching experience.

With this regard, we need to extend our heartiest gratefulness to the University Grant Commission for providing partial financial support to the Conference and the Ganesh Man Academy for its sincere sponsoring of dinner cum folk cultural programme to the conference participants. Acknowledgements also go to the Park Village Hotel for its kind heart support to the conference. Our sincere gratefulness goes to Mrs. Soni Joshi, Mr. Gyanu R Maharjan, Mr. Dhurba Bogati, Ms. Geeta Shrestha, Mr. Bigya Pradhan and Ms Priya Joshi for their sincere and untiring efforts to the conference. Last but not the least, the sincere cooperation provided by all participants is highly appreciated who actively participated in all conference sessions.

To conclude, I'd hereby like to express my deepest gratitude to our host Prof. Pushkar K. Pradhan and his whole team who altogether did a great job by putting a great idea into practice. Without the warm hospitality and perfect organisation this conference certainly wouldn't have been as inspiring as it as turned out to be.

We're all already looking forward to hold in hands the publication of the conference papers, which should be out by the end of the year.

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IGU GAPP International Conference, Bern, Switzerland

Retrospect on the

IGU International Conference
“Local Governance & Citizenships”
Bern, Switzerland, June 3rd to 6th

In spite of the relatively small circle of participants, the IGU International Conference on “local governance & citizenships” shaped up as very fruitful get-together. High standard papers and subsequent contributions to the discussions were conducive to this success. Many thanks to all the participants and the local organising team!

Dates of the Future Commission Meetings

In the moment, the following IGU Confrences are confirmed, where the Commission will hold special sessions

2008

August 25th - 29th.
TUNIS (Tunisia)
IGC International Geographical Congress
“Collaboratively Building our Territories”
Local Organisers :
Habib Dlala (Habib.Dlala@fshst.rnu.tn) and
Ali Toumi (alitoumi2003@yahoo.fr), Université de Tunis.

2010

Summer.
TEL AVIV (Israel)
IGU Regional Conference.

Special meetings of the Commission in 2009 and 2011 are not yet planned. If you have any suggestions or if you are willing to organise a meeting, you are most welcome.

IGU Commission on Geography and Public Policy

Tunis, Tunisia, August 12-15, 2008
2008 International Geographical Congress
“Building together our territories!”

The Tunisian Association of Geographers has the great honour to announce that it is organizing, in collaboration with the International Geographic Union, the 31st International Congress of Geography. Being of the highest importance for the international community of geographers, this event will enable geographers all over the world to present the results of their research and to compare their ideas. It will also be an opportunity to debate current issues, which show the place of geography in knowledge production, and its contribution to the improvement of humans' life conditions and their environment. Thus we have the immense pleasure of inviting you to take part in the activities of this event, which, we hope, will mark a milestone in IGU history.

Aware of the importance of the event, Tunisian geographers have spared no effort to ensure that it will be a success. We are keen to remind you that this congress is in fact yours. Its success will also depend on your participation. Thus, we hope a great number of you will attend from all continents and all specializations. Your friends and companions will also be welcome.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon among us.

On behalf of the IGU 31st Congress Organizing Committee

The President
Adnane Hayder

All the relevant material, constantly updated, can be found on the website of the Home of Geography: <http://www.homeofgeography.org>.

IGU Commission on Geography and Public Policy

Tel-Aviv, Israel, Summer 2010
2010 IGU Regional Conference

The Israeli National Commission for Geography is delighted to invite you to attend the IGU Regional Conference in the summer of 2010 in Tel-Aviv, Israel.

The region provides visitors with an opportunity to explore the dynamism of a growing Mediterranean economy, trying to accommodate both lifestyle-driven development and ecological challenges in an arid region. An engagement with the region combines a first-hand encounter of the factors driving wider economic, political and social change coupled with the role played by local actors or institutions. Israel presents you with a most diversified geographical experience.

Numerous exciting field trips before, during and after the conference will permit exposure to these unique places.

Tel-Aviv is a bustling metropolitan area of close to 3 million inhabitants. It stretches along the Mediterranean coastline, enjoying a beautiful promenade along which most hotels are located. With no rain in the summer, average temperatures range between 25-33 degrees Celsius. Tel-Aviv and its surrounding area offer an abundance of accommodation facilities ranging from youth hostels to five-star hotels.

Conference steering committee

- Prof. Daniel Felsenstein, Co-program organizer, Department of Geography, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. E-mail: msdfels@mscc.huji.ac.il.
- Prof. Tovi Fenster, Co-program organizer, Department of Geography, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv. E-mail: tobiws@post.tau.ac.il.
- Prof. Aharon Kellerman, Chair, Department of Geography, University of Haifa, Haifa. E-mail: akeller@univ.haifa.ac.il.
- Prof. Itzhak Schnell, Co-local organizer, Department of Geography, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv. E-mail: schnell@post.tau.ac.il.
- Dr. Michael Sofer, Co-local organizer, Department of Geography, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan. E-mail: soferm1@mail.biu.ac.il.

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