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WELCOME

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In the last months, the IGU Executive Committee has been very busy to realise what has been decided in Glasgow at the IGC. You find the information of the new initiatives in the newsletter. Our Commission is busy preparing the next meetings and I hope you consider to come to Iowa in November 2005 and to the IGU Regional Conference in Brisbane in July 2006 We expect to have three special sessions there and I hope we can have an excursion for our Commission too.

With best regards

Berne, June 2005

Doris Wastl-Walter

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the IGU Regional Conference "Regional Responses to Global Changes – A view from the Antipodes", July 3-7. three formats are foreseen:

Keynote sessions: These will be given prominence in morning time-slots, with no more than four concurrent sessions.

Specialist sessions: These will comprise the 'mainstream' sessions convened by Commissions, Study Groups and others, built around specific themes. Depending on the numbers of papers received, ten or more concurrent sessions may occupy each time-slot.

General Paper Sessions: These will include papers not accepted into specialist sessions.

For our Commission, we have invited our distinguished member and long serving Secretary of the Commission, Rex Honey, to give the keynote paper on "Human Rights: A Fundamental Component of Geography and Public Policy."

In addition, we plan **three specialist sessions on:**

- **Local governance and citizenship**
- **Public policy and security**
- **Public policy and transnational spaces**

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I kindly ask you to think about this and to send me an email as soon as possible if you are interested to convene or chair one of these sessions or to give a paper. I especially invite and encourage colleagues from the region to present there!

We need to have the sessions ready by December 1st. So please get in contact. Any other papers could be presented at the General Paper sessions.

Dates of the Future Commission Meetings

The planned and confirmed future commission meetings are:

2005

IOWA (USA), joint conference with the AAG West Lakes Division "Geography Of and For Public Policy." November 3-5. Organiser: Rex Honey, University of Iowa. rex-honey@uiowa.edu

2006

BRISBANE (Australia), Session of the Commission at the IGU Regional Conference "Regional Responses to Global Changes – A view from the Antipodes", July 3-7. Organiser: Willie Smith, University of Auckland. E-mail: w.smith@auckland.ac.nz

BRATISLAVA (Slovakia), IGU GAPP Conference "New tasks, approaches and spatial perspectives in public policy", October 18/19-22. Organiser: Jan Bucek, Comenius University, Bratislava. bucek@fns.uniba.sk

2007

KATHMANDU (Nepal), IGU GAPP Conference, Topic to be defined, First week of February. Organiser: Pushkar K Pradhan, Tribhuvan University. puba@mail.com.np

BERN (Switzerland) Joint Conference with the IGU Commission on Gender, Topic to be defined, June 3-6. Organiser: Elisabeth Buehler, University of Zuerich and Doris Wastl-Walter, University of Bern. dwastl@giub.unibe.ch

2008

TUNIS (Tunisia), Sessions at the IGC in August.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Iowa City, USA, November 3-5, 2005
Joint Conference with the AAG West Lakes Division "Geography Of and For Public Policy"

The IGU Commission on Geography and Public Policy joins with the West Lakes Division of the AAG to sponsor a conference on Geography *of* and *for* Public Policy at The University of Iowa, November 3 through 5, 2005. The conference will begin on Thursday evening, November 3 with a reception and keynote address on

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geographical research *for* public policy by Dr. Thomas Wilbanks, former AAG President and Distinguished Research Scientist for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The major event Friday will be an address on the status of public policy research in geography by current AAG President Richard Marston of Kansas State University. The major event during the Saturday sessions will be an address on geographical research *of* public policy by Professor Brij Maharaj of South Africa's Natal University and a member of the IGU Commission on Geography and Public Policy.

The meeting will have two streams of sessions. One, in accordance with tradition, will be entirely open to AAG members living in the West Lakes Region, incorporating all geographic research topics. The other will have papers based on the conference theme: Some will involve geographical analyses of public policy, including studies of the geographical dimensions and consequences of policy; others will examine geographical research to improve public policy.

Registration materials and forms will be sent to all West Lakes members in the fall. Queries should be directed to Professor Rex Honey, West Lakes Secretary, by phone at 319 335 0154 or email at Rex-Honey@uiowa.edu.

Brisbane, AUS, July 3-7, 2006

IGU Regional Conference "Regional Responses to Global Changes – A view from the Antipodes"

The Brisbane IGU 2006 Regional Conference focuses geographical attention on critical physical and human processes driving global change. Complex, global-scale processes exert pressures on environmental, social, cultural and economic resources at regional and local scales both between and within nation states. Such pressures encourage societal division and undermine practical efforts to enhance the sustainability of human society. The Conference will take up this challenge by focussing on regional responses in a changing world, with emphasis on equatorial and tropical zones, particularly in south-east Asia and the south-west Pacific.

Key symposia will include:

- local and regional impacts of resource exploitation and community responses
- mobilisation of regional capabilities to sustain and enhance social, cultural and environmental values
- constructive responses to natural disasters, climatic change, and other global-scale processes

Analysis of contemporary development issues will be a key theme, including the role of indigenous/nonindigenous co-management of resources. The Regional conference enables a timely audit and review of these issues and an opportunity for agenda setting research discussion. These necessarily involve debate over the cross-national engagements geographers seek to nurture and over the policy and political outcomes of geographers' work.

Planned Excursions:

Australia

- Sustainable Management of Australia's Tropical Savannas
- Desert Homelands and Livelihoods: Central Australia Great Barrier Reef
- Red Centre of Australia
- Tropical North Queensland Limestone and Lava
- World Heritage Rainforests of the Border Ranges
- Great Sand Islands of Southern Queensland
- Heritage Towns of Southeast Queensland
- Sunbelt Migration and Cultural Change on the Subtropical Coast

New Zealand

- Cultural landscapes of the North Island
- Glacial landscapes in the South Island
- Volcanic landscapes in the Central North Island
- A tourism and wine trail in Central Otago

Organizers

Joint meeting of the Institute of Australian Geographers and the New Zealand Geographical Society.

Steering Committee: Professor John Holmes, University of Queensland (*Chair*); Professor Richard Bedford, University of Waikato; Professor Ruth Fincher, University of Melbourne; Professor David Gillieson, James Cook University; Professor Peter Holland, University of Otago; Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, University of Tasmania; Professor Richard Le Heron, University of Auckland; Professor Warren Moran, University of Auckland; Professor Phillip O'Neill, Newcastle University; Professor Nigel Tapper, Monash University

For enquiries and information contact:

Brisbane IGU 2006 Secretariat, Eventcorp Pty Ltd, PO Box 5718, West End, Brisbane QLD 4101, AUSTRALIA

www.igu2006.org, igu2006@eventcorp.com.au

Bratislava, Slovakia, October 18/19-22, 2006

IGU GAPP Conference

“New tasks, approaches and spatial perspectives in public policy”

Introductory Announcement

Wide range of papers is expected, but contributions addressing narrow group of topics will be highly appreciated. They should discuss the latest administrative territorial reforms including decentralisation, their limits and consequences. Governments at all level also are changing approaches to delivery of various public goods and services with various outcomes. Communities, cities and regions also face large variety of problems – innovative public policies are adopted, responding on them in different ways and different effects. Rising differences in social and economic situation across localities ask for addressing local economic development issues once again, including role of institutions, financial tools, planning and implementation strategies, as well as central state intervention. The relations among levels of government also remain very complicated and ideal for fruitful exchange of ideas.

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The role, scope and forms of citizens' involvement in managing public affairs also need more attention. We should understand much more how governments perceive and deal with spatiality inherent in many of their policies.

The organizers of the conference propose dates from 19th to 22nd October 2006 (19th arrival and 22nd departure). They also propose a one-day trip around Western Slovakia for 19th (arrival for interested participants would be then 18th) or a walking-tour (about 3 hours) through old and future Bratislava also for 19th October (for those arriving during the day). Two days remain for main conference meeting.

Further information on the conference is to be followed in the next IGU GAPP newsletter.

Organizers

Jan Bucek (bucek@fns.uniba.sk), Pavol Korec and Vladimir Slavik, Department of Human Geography and Demogeography, Comenius University, 842 15 Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

Tunis, Tunisia, August 25-29, 2008
IGC International Geographical Congress
"Collaboratively Building our Territories"

This Congress will be held in Tunis, tentatively from 25-29 August 2008. Its theme will be Collaboratively Building our Territories (*Construire ensemble nos territoires*). Pre-congress excursions will take place from 18 to 23 August, and post-congress excursions from 30 August through 10 September. Some adjustment in dates may be needed to avoid having congress events overlap Ramadan. The proposed congress structure follows the traditional IGU pattern, with plenary sessions, paper sessions, technical and poster sessions, an exposition, and social programs for registrants and for accompanying persons. The organising body is the *Comité National d'Organisation du Congrès de Tunis 2008* (CNOC 2008). The web site of the Congress is under construction. At the present time, information and materials may be found on the web site of the *Association des Géographes Tunisiens* (<http://www.agt.org.tn/>).

Contact persons are:

- Professeur Habib DLALA, President of CNOC, Doyen de la Faculté de Sciences Humaines et Sociales, Université de Tunis, 94, bd du 9 Avril 1938, Tunis 1007 Tunisia. Tel: ++216 71- 564 713 ; Fax: ++216 71 569 416, 00216 71 567 551; E-mail: Habib.Dlala@fshst.rnu.tn
- Professeur Ali TOUMI, General Secretary of CNOC, Faculté de Sciences Humaines et Sociales, Université de Tunis, 94, bd du 9 Avril 1938, Tunis 1007 Tunisia. Tel. ++216-79-328 083 ; E-mail: alitoumi2003@yahoo.fr

News from the IGU General Assembly

From the President's Circular letter:

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Following the discussions that have characterized IGU activities since the 2004 Glasgow General Assembly, the IGU Executive Committee (EC) at its 23-27 April meeting in Venice made several key decisions:

Responsibilities of IGU Vice-presidents — The EC confirmed the appointment of individual vice-presidents with complete responsibility for their respective operational fields. This structure is expected to improve EC efficiency and, as a result, the IGU's effectiveness.

Communication — Communication was regarded as the realm in which efforts should be concentrated. To respond to this need, the EC decided:

1. to circulate via the internet a quarterly *IGU E--Newsletter* to disseminate information and call for collaboration;
2. to launch an *international geographical journal*, with the essential aim of discussing the role of IGU and geography in scientific and social arenas, thereby focusing on the IGU's research and education projects;
3. to use the *IGU Bulletin* as the record of the official acts of IGU to document, e.g., statutes, minutes of General Assembly and Executive Committee meeting, and memoranda of understanding with other organisations.

The first issue of the IGU E—Newsletter is out. The next issues will be announced by e-mail and will be available at IGU (www.igu-net.org) and Home of Geography (<http://www.homeofgeography.org/>).

Education — Geographical education is acquiring increasing importance. Professor Hiroshi Tanabe, in his position as the EC member for education, together with other colleagues from the EC, particularly Professors Anne Buttmer and Nikita Glazovsky, is promoting efforts to optimise the IGU's role in education. The *Teacher's Guide for Sustainable Development* initiative and the Olympiads are pivotal components of this effort.

Cultures and Civilisations — The IGU Executive Committee approved an international initiative to encourage dialogue among cultures and civilisations. The relevant starting document may be found at <http://www.igu-net.org/>, <http://www.homeofgeography.org/>, and <http://www.vallega.it/>

Mediterranean Renaissance Programme (MRP) — This programme seeks to advance scientific knowledge of the general role of Mediterranean. Its key function is to provide a forum where books, events, and exhibitions may be fostered and highlighted, with a focus on the 2008 Tunis Congress. The MRP was convened in the late 2004. It embraces a range of initiatives. Geographers anywhere in the world

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interested in the Mediterranean region are cordially invited to participate. Details are available at <http://www.igu-net.org/> and <http://www.homeofgeography.org/>.

Discussions of the Role of IGU and Geography — Based on discussions at the 2004 IGU General Assembly and other subsequent occasions, I drafted *Ten Theses on IGU Strategy and Actions*. The document is meant to provide a basis for discussing ways the IGU could more effectively address changing scientific and social frameworks. The document may be downloaded at <http://www.igu-net.org/> or <http://www.homeofgeography.org/>. You are cordially invited to convey to me your comments and suggestions. I will assemble a dossier incorporating your responses to be circulated to the IGU in such a way as to spark a permanent electronic roundtable on the IGU's cardinal needs.

Corresponding membership — The EC is increasingly aware of the importance of this membership category for maintaining communication among geographers and for linking the IGU to geographers at local and regional levels. This service is being re-structured. I will let you know the progress.

Addresses and websites to the following projects and networks:

The IGU E-Newsletter

To be included on the *E-Newsletter* mailing list, please contact Ms Laura Ayo, Managing Director of the *E-Newsletter* (l.ayo@homeofgeography.org).

IGU-Websites

Geographers around the world are cordially invited to visit the IGU websites and to download their materials. At the present time, two cardinal web sites are in operation: <http://www.igu-net.org> Contact: Markku Löytönen, IGU Vice-president for information and technology (markku.loytonen@helsinki.fi). Or: <http://www.homeofgeography.org/> Contact: Giuliano Bellezza, Director of the Home of Geography (g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org; giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it).

Mediterranean Renaissance Programme

Recently the MRP Steering Committee was established. It includes: *Adalberto Vallega*, Chair (a.vallega@iol.it), *Ronald F. Abler*, IGU Secretary General and Treasurer (igu@aaq.org), *Antoine Bailly*, Chair of IGU Commission on Applied Geography (antoine.bailly@geo.unige.ch), *Giuliano Bellezza*, Director of Home of Geography (g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org), *Aharon Kellerman*, Chair of IGU Commission on Information Society (akeller@univ.haifa.ac.il), *Maria Sala*, Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Network (sala@trivium.gh.ub.es), *André-Louis Sanguin*, Chair of IGU Commission on Political Geography (alsanguin@wanadoo.fr), *Ali Toumi*, (alitoumi2003@yahoo.fr): *General Secretary of Association des Géographes Tunisiens*, and *General Secretary of the Comité National d'Organisation de Congrès 2008*.

The role of Secretary of the MRP Steering Committee was assumed by *Maria Paradiso*, Executive Secretary of the IGU Commission on Information Society (paradiso@unisannio.it)

The IGU MegaCities Task Force

Since its inception in 2000 the IGU MegaCities Task Force has focused on applying geographic expertise to megacity issues of continental and global scale, with particular reference to global change in environmental systems and the globalisation of economy, politics, and society. Website platform: www.megacities.uni-koeln.de.

Please contact either Frauke Kraas (f.kraas@uni-koeln.de) or Ursula Dörken (u.doerken@uni-koeln.de), who is responsible for the secretariat in Cologne.

The IGU Geopark Task Force

At the end of 2004, the IGU Executive Committee decided to launch a new task force on Geoparks, an initiative that could bring a geographical perspective to a recently developed UNESCO program for the management and protection of the natural and cultural heritage. According to UNESCO, a Geopark:

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Narciso Barrera-Bassols, Co-ordinator, IGU Geoparks Task Force, Instituto de Geografía, UNAM, Unidad Académica de Morelia, Aquiles Serdán 382; Morelia 58000, Michoacán, México, Tel + 52 (443) 3179424, Fax + 52 (443) 3179425, barrera@igiris.igeograf.unam.mx; barrera@itc.nl

Oceans 21

In November 2004 the programme Oceans 21, jointly convened by IGU and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, re-started with the partnership of:

The Steering Committee includes the following members from IGU:

- David R. Green, *Co-ordinator of the IGU membership*, CoastGIS'05 Host & CoastGIS International Committee, Univ. of Aberdeen UK (d.r.green@abdn.ac.uk)
- Darius Bartlett, *member of the Steering Committee*, CoastGIS International Committee and Department of Geography, University College Cork, Cork IE (d.bartlett@ucc.ie)
- Roger Longhorn, *member of the Steering Committee*, Director, Info-Dynamics Research Associates UK & CoastGIS International Committee; City University, London, UK (ral@alum.mit.edu)
- Dr. Emanuele Roccatagliata, *member of the Steering Committee and responsible for the Oceans 21 Technical Secretariat*, GISIG-Geographical Information System International Group IT (e.roccatagliata@gisig.it)

The Technical Secretariat may be contacted at: oceans21@iccops.it

Oceans 21 now focuses on using and promoting GIS technology and geospatial data, as the practical linkage among ocean, near-shore, coastal, inland environmental, as well as cultural heritage research and management. Details may be found at <http://www.iccops.it/oceans21>

Network on Latin American Studies

The IGU Executive Committee approved a specific proposal from Latin America during the 30th International Geographical Congress in Glasgow in order to promote a Network on Latin American Studies (LAS). The objective of the LAS network is to establish an instrument to catalyze the participation of geographers within a region characterized by a common background, cultural affinities, and mutual academic interests, regardless of language, religion, race, and other potential barriers. The

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main goal is to incorporate regional and local knowledge of geographers in the international geographical work of the IGU. Participants are not exclusively from Latin America, but include Latin Americanist geographers from various regions of the world.

The network is chaired by *Ana María Liberalli*, Buenos Aires, Argentina (humboldt@velocom.com.ar)

IGU Commission on Landscape Analysis

This newly established Commission, chaired by Niko Beruchashvili (Georgia) convened its first international conference in Tbilisi from 4-6 May 2005, to discuss *Critical Areas in a Landscape: From Theory and Mapping to Management*. Eminent specialists and practitioners in land and ecosystem conservation and management from 12 countries of North America, Europe, and Asia attended the meeting. A conference statement was approved, that stated in part:

Contact person: Nicolas Beroutchavhili (nlberou@yahoo.com), 27 Mnatobis str, Tbilisi 0132, Georgia.