

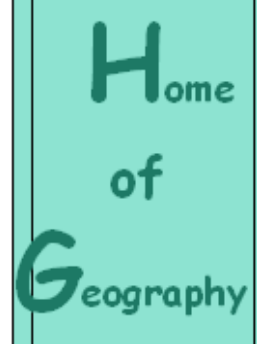


**IGU E-Newsletter**  
*From the Rome Home of  
Geography*

Quarterly

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# 24

April

2011

Editor-in-Chief: *Ronald F. Abler*

Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

*This Newsletter is circulated to more than 1500 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome.*

*Please send them to [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org) or [giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it](mailto:giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it)*



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## 1) PRESIDENT ABLER's REMARKS

### President's Remarks—IGU Priorities

Planning for the 14-18 November IGU Regional Conference in Santiago de Chile has now shifted into high gear. The Local Organizing Committee has completed its review of submitted abstracts, and authors can determine the disposition of their proposals and download formal letters of acceptance from the Santiago Conference web site at [http://www.ugi2011.cl/info\\_03.html](http://www.ugi2011.cl/info_03.html). The roster of field excursions, technical visits, and pre- and post-conference tours (including a tour to Easter Island) offers many possibilities for those who will be able to take some time to explore Chile beyond the immediate environs of Santiago.

IGU Secretary General Michael Meadows, Vice President Dietrich Soyéz, and I will visit Köln in mid-May to meet with the Local Organizing Committee and the International Scientific Committee for the 26-30 August 2012 International Geographical Congress. The International Scientific Committee will complete its review of Key Topic session proposals at that time. The submission of paper proposals will begin on 1 July 2011. Details are available in English, French, and German at <http://www.igc2012.org/>.

In addition to planning your participation in one or both of these two forthcoming meetings, I encourage those of you who are not yet members of an IGU Commission or Task Force to become active in one or more of the IGU's units that addresses your interests. With 37 Commissions and two Task Forces, at least one of the IGU's research or action groups should arouse your interest. The complete roster can be consulted at <http://www.igu-online.org/site/>. Becoming a member of an IGU Commission or Task Force is costless and requires only that you e-mail the chairperson or secretary of the commission or task force in which you are interested, asking that you be added to the group's membership list. All IGU Commissions and Task Forces welcome broader participation from geographers and related specialists from throughout the world.

If you have not recently visited the IGU web site please do so soon. Secretary General Meadows has added a great deal of new information to the site, including recent on-the-ground reports on the earthquake and tsunami in Japan by IGU Vice President Yukio Himiyama. His reports are extremely informative.

Best wishes,  
Ron  
[rabler@aag.org](mailto:rabler@aag.org)



## 2) WEIMAR MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING (With a first pleasant outcome from ICSU)

### **International Year of Global Understanding planning under way**

The first meeting of the Steering Committee of the **International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU)** took place in the UNESCO World Heritage City of Weimar (Germany) on 4-5 March 2011.

The UN-IYGU is to be a comprehensive, transdisciplinary programme aimed at mobilizing the world's sciences and humanities in a unified effort to raise citizen awareness of local human capacities to affect natural and social systems at global scales, and simultaneously to build local and regional pressure on policy makers to adopt global mitigation targets. The ISSC General Assembly 2010 endorsed the ISSC's support of this International Geographical Union led initiative.

At this first Steering Committee meeting, representatives of the ISSC, CIPSH (International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies) and IHDP (the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change) articulated their expectations regarding contributions to and results from the IYGU, also in regard to natural sciences. The Executive Director of the **International Year of Planet Earth**, Dr. Edardo de Mulder, presented a stimulating overview of the planning strategies, the implementation and the results of IYPE and offered many useful insights to the ongoing process of formulating IYGU. Later, gender issues as well as ethical and educational dimensions of the project were also addressed prior to an extensive discussion of the outline and core topics of the scientific program with its outreach activities.



Altogether, this initial meeting successfully established the transdisciplinary nature of IYGU: it explored ways of addressing the shortcomings of the social sciences and the humanities in

dealing with global change issues as well as the need for natural scientists to understand that global climate change requires global social change. This very encouraging first step towards meeting one of the major challenges to humanity during the coming decades will be followed with a meeting of the Science Panel of IYGU in Jena, Germany at the beginning of May 2011. Further information, including video recordings from the Weimar meeting, will soon be available on the IYGU homepage.

March 2011

*Mail received by the IGU EC Member on 29th April, from President Ron Abler:*

Dear Colleagues,

Good news from ICSU. The proposal Benno submitted for financial support for aspects of IYGU was funded at the maximum amount ICSU awards. A copy of the proposal is attached for your information.

Best wishes,

Ron

*(The mentioned copy of the proposal can be found at [www.homefgeography.org/news2011](http://www.homefgeography.org/news2011))*

### **3) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

#### **4.1) 2011 REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEOMORPHOLOGISTS (IAG-2011)**

The 2011 Regional Conference of the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG-2011) organized by the Ethiopian Association of Geomorphologists, was held on 18-22 February 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the Ghion Hotel. The Conference held under the theme “Geomorphology for human adaptation to changing tropical environments” has been a forum of fruitful deliberations which led to better understanding of the factors and mechanisms responsible for our changing environments, particularly tropical environments, and their implications to the development of human societies. The Conference was officially opened by his Excellency Ato Tolosa Shagi, State Minister of the Ministry of Mines of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and attended by official delegates including Prof. Mitiku Haile, President of the Mekele University, Prof. Masresha Fetene, Vice President for Research and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies of the Addis Ababa University, Prof. Michael Crozier, President of the International Association of Geomorphologists and most members of the Executive Committee of the IAG.

The conference has been attended by 151 participants from 30 countries representing 6 continents (see Table 1 for details). Eighty three oral and 51 poster papers were presented under sub-themes ranging from Environmental Change and Human Impact to Planetary Geomorphology. Six keynote lectures on issues including the geomorphic evolution of the Nile; the research challenges for soil erosion and conservation in tropical environments; the

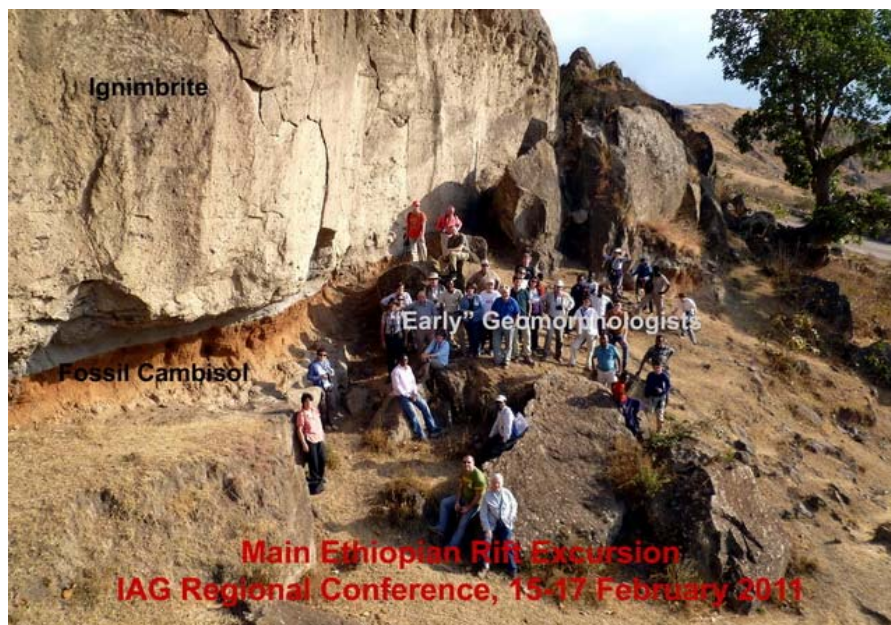
drivers of landscape change during the present century; past, present and future environmental changes in Africa; the evidences of major changes in Earth's surface processes; variety in rift valleys and passive margins; and on the locational controls of landslides, by prominent scholars in their respective fields.

A lecture on the challenges and opportunities of international cooperation with African countries with the aim of enhancing scientific excellence through mobility and training was also delivered by an IAG representative. The Conference was preceded by two Pre-Conference Excursions and one intensive course program for young geomorphologists.

The Conference was attended by 151 participants, with a prevalence from Italy (19), Ethiopia (18) and Poland (17), followed by France (11), Brazil, Russia and Spain (8 each), USA (7), Belgium (6), Australia and China (5 each) and some other 18 Countries.

The Conference was preceded by two Pre-Conference Excursions and one intensive course program for young geomorphologists. The Pre-Conference excursion to the Main Ethiopian Rift (MER) (Fig. 1) was conducted between 15 and 17 February 2011 and was attended by 40 participants. The main theme of the excursion was understanding the geological, tectonic and climatic evolution of the MER as well as understanding the current geomorphologic processes as well as their implications to human adaptation.

Participants were also able to visit the open air archaeological museum of Melka Kunture, the World Heritage site of Tiya as well as most of the rift lakes.



*Fig. 1. A view of the Main Ethiopian Rift.*

The Pre-conference excursion to the Southern Afar Rift (Fig. 2) was conducted between 13 and 18 February 2011 and was attended by 36 participants. It was conducted with the theme of understanding the volcano-tectonic evolution of the Afar Rift and associated geomorphological processes.



*Fig. 2. A Quaternary scoria cone in the Afar Rift.*

The “Landmap Intensive Course on Landslide Mapping” was conducted in Dessie town, Northern Ethiopia between 14 and 18 February 2011 and was attended by thirteen young geomorphologists, six of whom were sponsored by the IAG (Fig. 3).



*Fig. 3. The participants in the Dessie intensive course with the instructors and the IAG President (Prof. Mike Crozier).*

The Post-conference excursion to Northern Ethiopia (NEH) was conducted between February 23 and March 2, 2011 under the general theme “Geomorphological hazards, land degradation and resilience in the northern Ethiopian highlands” and was attended by 50 participants (Fig. 4). A wide range of themes including structural geomorphology of the plateau–rift margins

and the marginal grabens, landslide and seismic hazards, repeat photography studies, hydrogeomorphology, land degradation and resilience, gully processes, catchment hydrology, land degradation and resilience, palaeoclimate archives (tufa dams, speleothems), geology and structural geomorphology of the highlands of Tigray, and some aspects of geoarchaeology and military geomorphology, have been discussed during the excursion.

Nine participants extended their excursion to the Danakil Depression between 1-4 March 2011 and nineteen other participants extended their excursion to the Simien Mountains, Lake Tana and Lalibela between 3-9 March 2011. One-day Mid-conference excursions to the Blue Nile Gorge, attended by 85 participants, and to Melka Kunture/Tiya attended by 15 participants were greatly appreciated by participants. All the excursions were successfully completed as per schedule.



*Fig. 4. Participants in the Post-Conference Excursion.*

The continued support we have received from many quarters helped the Organizers in planning, conducting and completing the conference and the excursions successfully. The financial, logistic and moral support of the following organizations has been crucial: the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG) for giving Ethiopia the chance to organize its 2011 regional Conference and for its continued support including financial support, the Addis Ababa University, particularly the Research and Graduate Studies Office, the Department of Earth Sciences, and the Palaeoanthropology and Palaeoenvironment Program, the Mekele University, the University of Roma Tre, Italy, the Gent University, Belgium, the National Museum of Ethiopia, and the Ghion Hotel.

*Asfawossen Asrat (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia), Mohammed Umer (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia), Francesco Dramis (Roma Tre University, Italy), Jan Nyssen (Gent University, Belgium)*

#### **4.2) MA IN GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION, SYMPOSIUM ON CURRICULUM MAKING IN GEOGRAPHY, LONDON 18-20 APRIL 2011**

Report of the Symposium organized by the International Geographical Union Commission on Geographical Education, British Sub-Committee with the University of London Institute of Education MA in Geography Education.

A regional Symposium of the Commission on Geographical Education was held at the Institute of Education, University of London, in conjunction with the MA in Geography Education from April 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The Symposium was attended by 45 participants from 15 countries spread across four continents.

A very full programme of papers welcomed participants on April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, with a fieldtrip to the Olympic site and to the Docklands regeneration area of east London on April 20<sup>th</sup>. A Symposium Reception was held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. During the Symposium a Commission Steering Group meeting took place through a virtual link up with New Zealand to the Commission's Chair, Lex Chalmers, involving eight members of the Steering Committee.

The Symposium opened with a Keynote Address by Professor Sirpa Tani of Helsinki University, who spoke on *Cultural Geographies and School Geography: Building links between the two*. In a stimulating paper she outlined the potential of cultural geographies and the geographies of children and young people, providing examples from the geographies of everyday environments, parkour and young people negotiating their right to use space. This was linked with approaches to the school geography curriculum, as she made the case for stronger connections between geographical education and the geographies of children's, young people's and adults everyday lives and places.

The paper sessions during the rest of April 18<sup>th</sup> explored, initially, issues in curriculum making in Singapore, New Zealand, Sweden and the UK and then matters of spatial literacies, geospatial technologies, GIS and concept-content approaches in geography in the Netherlands, South Korea, Singapore and the USA. Two further sessions considered first standards and assessment, blended learning, on-line learning and intercultural studies in the context of geographical education in several European nations, and then outdoor learning, education for sustainable development, e-learning approaches and textbook stereotyping in three European countries and South Korea.

The second day opened with a Keynote Address by Professor David Lambert, of the University of London Institute of Education and Director of the Geographical Association. His keynote concerned *Reviewing the Case for Geography, and the 'Knowledge Turn' in the English National Curriculum*. This pertinent and well-argued paper explored the focus of curriculum reform in England, which is emphasising the return to a strong subject basis for the curriculum. He linked this to the role of geographical subject knowledge and understanding as one of the three key strands in curriculum making (teachers' pedagogic choices and student learning being the other two). Exploring the idea of subjects as holding 'powerful knowledge' which contributes to pupils' 'capabilities', he promoted the education value and goals of geographical learning.



*Participants in the IGU CGE London 2011 Symposium*

The subsequent paper sessions initially focused on subject and curriculum issues in English and Portuguese schools, followed by papers on moral issues, globalisation, climate change and democratic competences in geographical education in Germany, Hungary, the UK and Portugal, and consideration of the role of the Croatian Geographical Society in its teachers' development. The final paper returned to the issue of the 'knowledge' turn in geographical education. The second day concluded with a panel discussion on the topic of *Responding to the Challenges facing Curriculum Making in Geography Education*, drawing together key points from the papers and responding to questions and comments from the audience. Both Keynote Addresses and the papers given were published in the *Proceedings* book, *Curriculum Making in Geography*, edited by C. Whewell, C. Brooks, G. Butt & A. Thurston.

In very fine weather on April 20th, about half the participants went on the fieldtrip, which provided two opportunities to view the Olympic site to see the stadium, the velodrome, the aquatic centre, and the Olympic Village alongside other regeneration in the Stratford area of east London. Prior to redevelopment, this area was an extensive long-standing estate of small-scale industries, now redeveloped to provide new local and national sports facilities, homes, a shopping centre and parkland. Following the 2012 Olympics, the stadium will be redeveloped as a major football stadium for one of east London's best-loved teams. A smaller group of symposium attendees headed south on the Docklands Light Railway to visit the Isle of Dogs area, rejuvenated from run-down docks to the major commercial, financial and media centre it now is, with expensive riverside apartments alongside housing for low income groups.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable and stimulating Symposium, held in fine weather in central London, UK. Our thanks go to Dr Clare Brooks, MA in Geography Education programme leader at the Institute of Education, for the wonderful work that she and her team did in making this such a well-organised and pleasant Symposium. Not least, our thanks also go to the participants who made the Symposium such a high quality event.

Professor Simon Catling  
Chair of the London IGU CGE 2011 Symposium,  
Honorary Secretary of the IGU CGE,  
Oxford Brookes University, UK.

#### **4.3) ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS ANNUAL MEETING, SEATTLE (WASHINGTON), 12-16 APRIL 2011**

The Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting for 2011 was held April 12-16 in Seattle, Washington. As in recent years, attendance was very strong, with over 7300 professional geographers, geoscientists, GIS specialists, government representatives, businesspeople, professors, students, and others with an interest in the discipline convening at the Washington State Convention Center. AAG members and AAG Specialty and Affinity Groups organized a total of 1316 sessions encompassing 5248 papers, posters, and panels, 15 local and regional field trips, and nearly 20 workshops.

The recent trend toward increased international attendance at the Annual Meeting continued, with approximately 27% of attendees coming from countries other than the U.S. As in past years, Canada, the U.K., and Germany were especially well-represented, and this year we welcomed over 100 special guests from China. In total, geographers from 59 countries participated, including places as diverse as Nepal, Qatar, Brazil, Japan, Singapore, Israel, New Zealand,

Georgia, South Africa, Russia, Jamaica, Serbia, Iran, Ghana, El Salvador, India, Argentina, Brunei, and Norway, just to name a few. As is customary, overseas attendees were formally greeted at an International Reception held in the Exhibit Hall on Thursday evening. During this festive event, geographers from around the world enjoyed refreshments while discussing common interests in teaching, research, and service and browsing the booths of over 60 exhibitors, including long-time participants including Esri, USGS, Routledge Publishing, and Klett International and new exhibitors including Google and Amazon Web Services.



*(L to R) Yasser Ayad (Clarion University, Pennsylvania), Virginie Mamadouh (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Ghazi-Walid Falah (University of Akron, Ohio), Audrey Kobayashi (Queen's University, Canada), and Paul Bartell (U.S. Department of State)*

Highlights of this year's conference included two featured session tracks: "Space-Time Integration in Geography and GIScience" and "Geography and the Humanities." The space-time symposium consisted of nearly 60 sessions exploring the recent advances in and research needs of space-time integration, modeling, and analysis. The opening plenary included presentations on current research trends by prominent theorists and pioneers in space-time GIScience and technology research, including Michael Goodchild, Mei-Po Kwan, and Tomoki Nakaya. Presentations within the "Geography and the Humanities" track engaged interdisciplinary topics including literature, history, philosophy, popular culture, performance art, architecture, and photography and their relation to place, space, landscape, cartography, and other aspects of geography. David Lowenthal, Professor Emeritus of Geography at University College London, delivered a plenary entitled "From Scientism to Humanism: Geography and the Two Cultures." Renowned author Barry Lopez, a keen observer of and commentator on the relationship between the physical landscape and human culture, was honored as the AAG's Honorary Geographer for 2011 and also presented a plenary for this track.

Several other keynote sessions and plenary presentations were spotlighted during the meeting. The 2011 AAG Presidential Plenary, "Geography in the Changing Worlds of Higher Education: Opportunities and Challenges," explored geography's future in the context of the changing role of the university in society. Organized by AAG President Ken Foote, the panel included Duane Nellis, Maresi Nerad, and Orlando Taylor. Past President Carol Harden's address "Framing and Re-Framing Questions of Human-Environment Interactions" built upon on Mel Marcus' 1979 AAG presidential address by reviewing the history of physical geography over the past century, examining how geographers have changed the ways in which they frame studies of the complex

interrelationships linking people and places. Her presentation was followed by a tribal welcome of AAG attendees led by Cecile A. Hansen, Chairwoman of the Duwamish Tribe.

After a tense week of Congressional debates over the budget we were very relieved to see our colleagues from the federal government in Seattle! Timothy Trainor, chief of the U.S. Census Bureau, discussed efforts to collect, review, and update geospatial data for Census 2010 and the many ways in which geographers are engaged throughout the agency's activities. Myron Gutmann, Assistant Director of the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE), introduced NSF SBE 2020, an initiative to set new research directions at NSF for 2020 and beyond.

As part of the AAG's continuing efforts to develop new and exciting offerings for our members, several activities debuted at the 2011 Annual Meeting. On Wednesday, faculty "career mentors" generously volunteered their time to join AAG staff in the Jobs in Geography Center, providing free advice, guidance, and information to current and prospective job seekers in an event sponsored by the EDGE (Enhancing Departments and Graduate Education) Project. The AAG's ALIGNED Project launched a "Geography in Focus" photo competition to celebrate geography and geographers. Nearly 200 photographs were submitted in three categories (Careers in Geography, Diversity and Inclusion within Geography, and Unique Landscapes and Places), with the winners receiving cash prizes. (View the winning submissions on our website at <http://www.aag.org/cs/photocompetition>.) Finally, the AAG organized two panel sessions to address current events in Japan, North Africa, and the Middle East. These late-breaking news panels introduced an initiative aimed at giving members the flexibility to organize sessions on emerging events after the abstract submission deadline. We are pleased to report that all of these new initiatives were very successful, and we hope to integrate similar events into future annual meetings.

The paragraphs above provide just a taste of the many exciting events, sessions, and activities from the 2011 AAG Annual Meeting. Photos of conference highlights follow, illustrating a few of the special moments that took place.

We thank all of you for making this year's conference a great success, especially the members of the Local Arrangements Committee and the conference volunteers. We hope you will join us for the next AAG Annual Meeting, to be held in New York City from February 24-28, 2012. We look forward to seeing you there.

Joy Adams and everyone at the AAG

#### **4.4) IGU COMMISSION CO8.03 SEMINAR HELD IN KOZHIKODE, KERALA, INDIA, 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2011**

The Third International Geography Congress was held at the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM), Kozhikode, Kerala State, India, during 6-8 May 2011, under the aegis of National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI). This Congress was

organized very efficiently by CWRDM under the leadership of Prof K.V. Jayakumar, Executive Director, CWRDM and Dr M.D. Nandeshwar, Scientist F (Head, Sub Centres of CWRDM) and General Convener of the Congress. The programme of this Congress indicated a distinct enthusiasm for interdisciplinary topics and attempted to bridge the gap between natural and social sciences by combining approaches from both sides into a conceptual research frame. In the three Plenary Sessions held afterwards during the three days, invited lectures were delivered by eminent personalities in the geography and related fields. The Congress has provided a platform for a multidisciplinary team of geographers, hydrologists, anthropologists, academicians, researchers, technologists, environmentalists, engineers, social workers planners and policy makers from geography and allied fields to share their research experiences. 155 research papers were presented in nine Technical Sessions. Including the guests and delegates from India and abroad, 350 persons participated in the Congress.



*Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, Governor of Maharashtra (centre) during the Opening Ceremony*  
His Excellency inaugurated the Congress. Dr C T S Nair, Executive Vice President, Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment, and Principal Secretary, Science and Technology Department, Government of Kerala, presided. In his inaugural address H.E. said that, though the Indian civilization has always treated Nature with immense respect and reverence, and never saw Nature as a force to be exploited for our consumption, this beautiful relationship between man and Nature is weakening as societies develop and population grow. Our population has increased three-folds in the last six decades, but our natural resources have not increased. Far from it, our area under cultivation has been shrinking, and so is the forest cover. Water tables are falling due to indiscriminate extraction of water for industrial purpose, farming and domestic consumption. He stressed that our generation has the responsibility to ensure the equitable, efficient and environmental friendly use of natural resources. According to the Hon'ble Governor, there is no alternative to reorient our development processes and priorities to make them sustainable.



*Left to right: Himiyama, Bellezza, Schickoff and Maharaj*

We were very fortunate to have the topmost world authorities in the field of Geography and allied disciplines as Key speakers of the Congress, which includes Prof Giuliano Bellezza, Italy and Prof Yukio Himiyama, Japan, Vice Presidents, International Geographical Union, Prof. Udo Schickhoff, Chairman, IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity, University of Hamburg, Germany, Prof. Brij Maharaj, Howard College Campus Durban, South Africa, Dr R B Singh, Vice Chair, IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity, Dr Nivedita P. Haran IAS, Add Chief Secretary, Revenue, Government of Kerala, Prof Y G Joshi, President of NAGI and Dr. K Karunakaran, Vice Chancellor, Anna University of Technology from India.

The wide spread goodwill generated during this Congress from top authorities and all the participants is memorable. Their appreciation for the systematic conduct of the entire programme, ambiance and the commitment of the entire staff of CWRDM is reflected during the Valedictory function.



*Valedictorian Ceremony, Prof. K.V. Jayakumar chairing, Dr M.D. Nandeshwar speaking*

Following are the Recommendations of the Congress, evolved in the discussions and deliberations of the Congress.

- 1) With the increasing population and rapid urbanization and industrialization there is a tremendous stress on the finite natural resources. Unless all concerned do not act in an integrated manner, these natural resources will not be sustainable.
- 2) Adequate care to preserve freshwater bodies, lakes and wetlands is needed. Comprehensive Management Action Plans may be prepared and implemented sustaining these natural resources.
- 3) Agriculture productivity should be improved by scientific and ecologically safe and sustainable means to ensure food security and better health for human beings and environment.
- 4) Conservation of water, especially through rainwater harvesting, must be popularized with more vigour for ensuring water and food security.
- 5) For natural resources management projects, priority has to be given to incorporate the views of all stakeholders and different user sectors in the planning stage itself rather than analyzing it later. Participatory resource management may be popularized.
- 6) All efforts shall be taken for recycling and reuse of treated wastewater so that the available freshwater resource can be conserved. Local Bodies and the Government shall give importance to this.
- 7) Detailed integrated studies are needed to map the sea water ingress in the water table aquifer of the coastal areas.

- 8) Judicious and equitable use of natural resources should be encouraged so that all the sections of the society, irrespective of region, religion caste, creed or ethnicity enjoy their right on the natural resources.
- 9) Tiny islands like Lakshadweep and coastal zones must be given adequate importance with regard to freshwater resources.
- 10) Eco-tourism which preserves natural ecosystem should be promoted in preference to commercial tourism. Tourism around wetland areas should be such that natural and serene characters and the quality of wetlands are not disturbed.
- 11) Every city, or urban conglomerate shall develop an Environmental Footprint for ensuring sustainable development and well being of the society at large.
- 12) CWRDM should take a lead role on research related to the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in the Country in general, and region in particular. CWRDM with its vast potential of multidisciplinary scientific human resources should play a key role in coordinating the Central and State government agencies related to water for achieving this.
- 13) Establish a network of research stations on the region with CWRDM as the Apex Body to study the long term impact of climate change on water resources , food security, human health, biodiversity etc, This will help in better documentation which can form the basis for better management of available natural resources under the changing climatic scenario.
- 14) An Advisory Body of the bureaucrats, academicians, researchers, NGOs and the public is to be formed to prepare a Hazard Management Plan at the local/district level so that suitable mitigation measures are evolved to manage the emerging problems.
- 15) Geographic Information Systems and Digital Information Systems are effective tools for evaluating the planning and management of environmental systems. These tools need to be widely used in effective management of environmental system in future. Application of geo-spatial techniques in examining tectonic activities is a very useful technique that can be adopted.
- 16) There are many space platforms that provide latest reliable information which can be made of use by the geospatial community and policy and decision makers. These data derived from space may be made accessible to the end user for better utilization.
- 17) Many government policies restrict the use of data. More transparent policy is require for the use of data for academic research and decision making.
- 18) Significance of reliable primary data is top be realized and efforts are to be made to collect such data and create a repository and share among the stakeholders.
- 19) Data available with organizations such as IMD,NRSC, CWRCM, national and regional climatic centers etc, must be compiled to create a most comprehensive data base which can be used to carry out studies for arriving at meaningful conclusions on climate change impacts on natural resources management.
- 20) It is realized that Geography is the backbone of any planning and development activities. Therefore, efforts must be made to make geography teaching more interesting to attract better students for high studies in the National Association of Geographers of India and International Geographical Union must prepare strategic plan.



#### 4) INITIATIVES OF IGU MEMBERS

##### 5.1) YUKIO HIMIYAMA AFTER JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

Dear All,

Over a month has passed since East Japan Earthquake/Tsunami of 11 March. In fact East Japan is still in the middle of persistent seismic activity, with daily visits of magnitude 3-5 class quakes and occasional visits of magnitude 5-6 class quakes. The aftershock of 7 April was magnitude 7.4, which was powerful enough to put Aomori, Iwate, Akita and part of Miyagi Prefecture into darkness and put a few atomic plants on alert. The situation of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant continues to be very bad, and it is expected to be so for a long time, if not becoming worse.

Saying all these, the 4<sup>th</sup> week after 11 March may be characterized by the start of the work of new fiscal and academic year and argument on whether or not to drink under the cherry blossoms in full bloom. The 5<sup>th</sup> week may be characterized by “normalization” of lives, economic activities and schools. It means I have less freedom now because of heavy duty at the university.

Japan Geoscience Union officially lifted the ban of surveys of disaster-stricken areas on 11 April. So, I flew to Iwate Prefecture on 16<sup>th</sup>, rented a car, and carried out a quick survey of the coastal areas of Miyagi and part of Fukushima and Iwate Prefecture. I did it with Mr. Hiroyuki Ito, a high school teacher at Sendai who was once my student. As he knew the area very well, we managed to drive some 650 km in two days, and took some 1,500 photos with GPS data. I attach some sample photos here.



1. *Near Sendai Airport: Cars brought by tsunami are sitting on paddy field. It takes some time to remove salt from the paddy field.*



2. *Sendai Oil Refinery: The left part was set on fire with huge smoke. The damage to this facility was partly responsible for the shortage of gas and fuel during the first two weeks*



3. *Shobuta Beach 1, Shichigahama Town: You can imagine the beauty of this beach and the sadness of the standing man.*



4 - Shobuta Beach 2, Shichigahama Town: The houses on the plateau are undamaged.



5. Nakahama Elementary School, Yamamoto Town: Many schools were damaged like this.



6. Sakamoto Station and Joban Railway, Yamamoto Town: This is one of many stations destroyed by tsunami.

Sincerely Yours,  
Yukio

## 5.2) MARIA PARADISO FROM LAMPEDUSA, ITALY

**Report on visit to Lampedusa, 15 - 19 March 2011, for a study entitled: 'Mobility following Mediterranean democratic movements: The role of ICTs.**

**Academia Europaea Social Sciences Section Initiative on Mobility and Integration, and IGU (International Geographical Union) MRP (Mediterranean Renaissance Program).**

**FROM: Maria Paradiso, MRP Coordinator; Member, AE Social Sciences Section**

As a geographer specializing in the information society, with a special interest in the Mediterranean basin, I went to the Italian Lampedusa island in order to study the exposure of migrants to the Internet and to communications technologies while still in their North-African countries of origin, and the influence of ICTs on recent democratic movements. It is of interest for me to investigate the implications of ICTs on Maghreb – Mashrek societies.

Lampedusa, a remote Italian island of some 4,500 inhabitants, being a fascinating touristic destination, and located further South than Tunis, is of particular significance these days for learning on the happenings in Tunisia after the revolution which began 14 January 2011. Every night, small boats with migrants land in Lampedusa, mainly from Tunisia, attempting to reach their families located in France, Germany, and Italy. For these migrants Lampedusa serves as the entrance point to Europe.

My field research was supported by the Italian National TV RAI Channel 3 sharing information on upcoming events and contacts, and providing admittance to their own tours and work routines. I joined, thus, often RAI 3 reporters, also during night time, when they got information on new arrivals. I took photos by myself, but was also donated many photos by the TV team. The expenses for this field study were not covered by institutional sources, claiming for no availability of funds for social science research.

The most striking impression of the first meetings with migrants was that one should abandon the idea that they are very poor people, with low-skill education, and that they are mature heads of families. After the recent democratic movements in North Africa, especially in Tunisia, there emerged a mobility of young people, often well dressed, with mobile telephones, and with recognized qualifications. They often are craftsmen like cobblers, carpenters, mechanics, masons, “bricoleur”, a plethora of jobs disappearing in European cities. Very often, migrants are university graduates. I was told that the presence of graduates and a resulting brain drain has been particularly significant in the aftermath of protests last February.

During my field work I carried out 30 full interviews with migrants. The total population of migrants rose from ca. 2,700 to some 5,000 in 4 nights, whereas the main absorption centre can host only 850 people! I also interviewed law enforcement officers, cultural mediators, workers of aid agencies, human rights observers, journalists, and Lampedusa people. Interviews were made in many places such as: the harbor immediately after landing; at the main entrance to the reception center ‘Centro di accoglienza’; on the streets, as well as in cafés.

The interviews were aimed at investigating the migrants’ geo-cultural origin, their socio-economic, professional and education profiles, the dynamics of revolutions, their image of Europe, and their reasons for mobility. Often they showed me videos on their mobile phones presenting their journey and they translated for me their conversations in Arabic during their trip in overcrowded small boats: they encouraged each other, joking among themselves during their often dangerous crossing the sea. They were mostly men, and I saw only one woman. I was told that 12 ladies were on the island.



In particular, my research focused on the role of new technologies in the recent democratic movements in the Maghreb-Mashrek as well as on migration. I can say first of all that new communications and information technologies (Internet, facebook, mobile phones, and digital

equipment like digital cameras) are a factor of integration for migrants in new societies: even those people with low educational qualifications (5-7 years of study) and living in disadvantaged and rural areas have access to information on the Internet and have a Facebook profile. This striking contrast between the socioeconomic status of some of the immigrants, on the one hand, and their exposure to ICTs, on the other, paves the road in my opinion to a promising avenue of research: what are the geographical impacts of new technologies on individuals living in disadvantaged areas? What is the impact in terms of integration, homologation to 'Western' cultures, and empowerment? How much does the Web accelerate secularization and democratic movements?

In Lampedusa one can observe a flow of young and secular migrants which I interpreted in the following three profiles of mobility: 1. Young people with a 'Project of Life' looking for a transparent society and better living conditions; 2 . Young people involved in a 'grand tour' of Europe as a learning experience for life; 3. A type of 'social deviance' .

The young people with a 'Project of Life' are in search of free life (some of them say in French "franche vie", frank, honest, transparent life without hidden practices or codes). They are looking in Europe for a 'transparent society' where relationships between people are based on equal rights and duties for all; on access to the labor market which is not distorted by corruption and practices of unfair recommendations. Europe is a magnet for them as a place of democracy and egalitarian society without arrogance, and they want to find better life and work. They are normally people who already have relatives in France, Germany, or Italy, and they wish to reach them.

Young people in 'grand tour' are very young, often under 18, migrants. They look on a trip to Europe as a learning experience for life; they are full of young energy and a youthful recklessness regarding this kind of mobility to Europe. Europe looks almost as an exotic destination for them in the sense that it is a 'somewhere else place' where they can find freedom to practice lifestyles which they learn about on TV and the Internet and to live in democratic countries. I realized that they were aware that knowledge of foreign languages is a must, especially English, for their integration; and they were aware of their language gap if they spoke only poor French. This profile of 'grand tour' à la Maghreb made me think of the multitudes of young Europeans who take flights to reach the cultural destinations for the youth in Europe such as Berlin and Barcelona where they form a common understanding for European youth made up of a meeting each other and 'easy life ' culture.

The third group, a true minority, is of 'social deviance'. These are individuals who try to return to Italy after having problems with the Italian justice (or the Tunisian one).

Young people (migrants) go to town to buy some personal necessities or to communicate over the Internet, notably in the afternoons. Often they complain that the Internet connection in Lampedusa is slower than the one they had at home. Some people use ATM. Lampedusa inhabitants initiated in coffee bars the 'pre-paid coffee' initiative where clients pre-pay coffees for others so that migrants can enjoy coffee already paid by customers. The residents have also started protests, demonstrations and blocks, being concerned about the permanence of migration and events if young people will run out of money.

The fragmentation among migration policies of European Member States does not help. Desirable is a European sharing of policies of acceptance, identification, integration in cities where family members live as diasporas as possible destinations, creation of databases of migrants' occupations and qualifications, common measures for job placement. Such are also creative approaches to policies concerning enterprise creation and reconstruction in the countries of origin.

The logic of accumulation of migrants in a single geographical area, such as the small remote island of Lampedusa, where the inhabitants are ca. 4,500 as compared to 5,000 immigrants creates an unprecedented event of general segregation between migrants and citizens under militarization and securitization. Lampedusa people usually practice habits of spontaneous hospitality; their work as law enforcement officers and brokers is really and highly commendable; however there remains the problem of the ratio between local population and migrants, which is very unbalanced for a small remote island and residents who are afraid that their economy based on tourism could be ruined. There are no forms of compensation for local people in terms i.e. of improving local infrastructure, i.e. a hospital, transport links to the main land or other destinations: nobody was born on the island since there is no hospital in Lampedusa. The transformation of the island is likely to emerge as a huge area of segregation, an island of 'confinement' where both migrants and the islanders are likely to live in separate enclaves. This can happen also because of the absence of a unified European intervention to avoid the logic of spatial concentration and marginalization.

The migrants and the local population are people who coexist in a small area increasingly under militarization and securitization processes.

Europe exerts a magnetic attraction for young people from North Africa (many of them from Southern arid, desert regions of Tunisia, many from Tunis and Cap Bon), who are looking for a fair and just society: Europe has a responsibility in this regard to these young people who seek integration and support for accessing the job market, often people with jobs that we lack in our cities, or people with academic education.

Europe, in a certain sense, is not in danger of losing its identity, because European identity is based on values of the democratic state and welfare, which precisely constitute a reference point in the project of life for younger generations migrating from other continents. In this sense, Lampedusa is not a European remote border far away from crucial decision-making Italian or European centers, but it rather constitutes the 'Gateway to Europe' and its values.

I went to Lampedusa for scientific purposes, but was exposed to the human suffering of migrants, side by side with their enthusiasm, and energy, commitment and human touch of people working there for security, hosting, and cultural mediation. I left as an enriched human being.

I intend to continue my research work towards the writing of a paper entitled 'The role of ICT in democratic movements and migrations', and another paper possibly entitled 'Segregation process and cultural dialogue between migrants and local communities: the case of Lampedusa after 14 January 2011'. If grants will become available I intend to return to Lampedusa and to other immigration centers in Italy and possibly also visit Tunisia.

Maria Paradiso, University of Sannio, Benevento, Italy. Academia Europaea, Social Science Committee, IGU MRP Coordinator  
[paradiso@unisannio.it](mailto:paradiso@unisannio.it)

Monday, March 21, 2011

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me many photos. Special thanks to Coffee shop Mediterraneo and Coffee shop Royal for their hospitality and acceptance attitude towards migrants and their support of my work during ‘sitting interviews’.



## 5) IN MEMORIAM

### 4.1) PAUL LYDOLF (1934-2011)

Paul E. Lydolph, age 87, of N8328 Snake Road, Elkhart Lake WI, passed away early Friday morning, March 25, at Oak Creek Assisted Living in Kiel, Wisconsin, where he had resided for the past three years. He was born on January 4, 1924 in Bonaparte, Iowa, a son of the late Guy and Pauline (Ruschke) Lydolph.

He attended Bonaparte Grade School and graduated from Bonaparte High School in 1941. Paul attended Harvard University in 1944 and was a student of MIT in 1945. He received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Iowa in 1948, a Master of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1951 and a Ph.D. in 1955. In 1956-57 Paul was nominated a Ford Foundation Fellow and completed a Russian area studies program at the University of California-Berkeley.



Paul was a math teacher in Pisgah Iowa Public Schools from 1946 – 1947 and taught in Packwood Iowa Public Schools from 1947 – 1949. He was Assistant and then Associate Professor at Los Angeles State College from 1952-1959 and was a Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from 1959-1992 and its chairman 1963-1969 and 1971-

1972. He specialized in the Geography of the U.S.S.R. and Climatology. Paul was also a lecturer at Oxford University and the Stockholm School of Economics in 1970. He also lectured at the University of Hawaii in the summer of 1965. He was the Smithsonian Institution Tour Director to the U.S.S.R. from 1976-1979. He also was a C.I.C. Exchange Professor for the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1977 and the University of Iowa, Iowa City in 1978.

Paul also wrote, and was the author of *Geography of the U.S.S.R.*, Editions 1 through 5, 1964-1990; of *Climates of the U.S.S.R.*, Volume 7; *World Survey of Climatology* in 1977; *Weather and Climate* and *The Climate of the Earth* in 1985. He also wrote many articles for geographic journals. A Festschrift was written by his colleagues in his honor in 1987: *Soviet Geography Studies in Our Time*.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1943 – 1947 where he underwent meteorology cadet training and served as a Radar-Weather Officer during the Second World War.

On April 25, 1943 Paul married Martha Newcomb of Mt. Sterling, Iowa. She died June 2, 1962. They had five children together. On December 17, 1966, he married Mary J. Klahn in Milwaukee WI. The couple has resided in Elkhart Lake since their marriage.

Paul enjoyed making maple syrup, chopping wood and raising Charolais Cattle.

Paul is survived by his wife of 46 years, Mary, and sons, Edward (Ethel), Donald (Jane), Paul II and Thomas; nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He is also survived by other relatives and many friends, also by his special friend "Nugget".

He was preceded in death by one son, Andrew; one brother, Herman; one sister, Gwendolyn Kaiser; an infant sister; two half-sisters and two half-brothers.

Following Paul's wishes, there will be no visitation or services. His body has been donated to the University of Wisconsin Medical School. Private Memorial Services will be held by the family.

A Memorial Fund is being established in his name for the Glacial Lakes Conservancy and the Sheboygan Humane Society.

The Suchon Funeral Home and Cremation Services is serving his family. For online condolences, please visit [www.suchonfh.com](http://www.suchonfh.com).

His family wishes to thank all the caregivers and staff at Oak Creek Assisted Living for his wonderful care during the last three years of his life.

The Sheboygan Press, March 26, 2011



## 6) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2011)*

### 7.1) 10TH SYMPOSIUM OF SAUDI ARABIA UNIVERSITIES GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENTS, 3-5 MAY

- 7.2) 2011 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DATA ENGINEERING AND INTERNET TECHNOLOGY, BALI, 17-19 MAY
- 7.3) 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, ICICS, AMMAN, JORDAN, 22-24 MAY
- 7.4) CONFERENCE ON FENCES, WALLS, BORDERS: INSECURITY (ENGLISH AND FRENCH), QUEBEC, 17-18 MAY
- 7.5) POST-SOCIALIST TOURISM IN CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, BUCHAREST, 26-28 MAY
- 7.8) IGU COMMISSION ON GEOPARKS. SECOND FORUM, TAINING, FUJIAN, CHINA, 27-29 MAY
- 7.7) ICSU EVENTS FOR RIO+20, NEXT STARTING ON 31 MAY
- 7.8) EUROGEO 2011. GEOGRAPHY YOUR WORLD, A EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE, ATHENS, 2-5 JUNE 2011
- 7.9) 5TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEBRIS FLOW HAZARD MITIGATION, PADOVA, ITALY, 13-17 JUNE
- 7.10) 2ND WORLD CONGRESS ON COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION ENGINEERING, CHANGCHUN, 17-19 JUNE 2011
- 7.11) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE, SANTANDER, 20-23 JUNE
- 7.12) 25TH INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE, PARIS, 3-8 JULY
- 7.13) GI 2011, IMPLEMENTING DIGITAL EARTH IN EDUCATION, SALZBURG, 4-8 JULY
- 7.14) GIS FORUM, SALZBURG, 5-8 JULY
- 7.15) WORK, ORGANISATION AND PROFESSIONS, PORTO, 7-8 JULY
- 7.16) HOUSEHOLDING IN TRANSITION: EMERGING DYNAMICS IN 'DEVELOPING' EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, SINGAPORE 24-26 JULY

