



IGU E-NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

URL: <http://www.homeofgeography.org/>

e-mail: g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org



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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 or giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it



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7.4) Conference on Career Orientation Education and Gendered School, Basel 23-24 November

7.5) Understanding Land, People and Environment, Casa Universitarilor, Bucharest, 10-11 November

7.5) Image and Signal Processing, Biochemical Engineering and Informatica, Chongching, 16-18 November

7.6) Wprld Congress on Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Sex work, California 18-23 November, and Senegal 26 November.-1ST December.

7.7) World Congress on Human Trafficking, Prostitution and Sex Work: California University of Pennsylvania Steele Hall, November 18-23th and BCEAO Salle de Conf & Multimedia in Senegal, 26th Nov to 1st Dec 2012

7.8) cirsi, 3rd international seminar “holocaust, genocides and persecutions”, trieste, 11-12 december 2012



1) REMARKS FROM IGU PRESIDENT VLADIMIR KOLOSSOV

IGU priorities for 2012-2016



IGU EC hold on 22-24 October in Amsterdam its first session after the Congress in Cologne. It was hosted by Vice-President Professor Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn. Due to the provisions of the recently adopted new version of the IGU Status, the EC now includes the members, who have

already worked for some years as Vice-Presidents, and the new ones elected in Cologne. It ensures the continuity of its activity and allows putting long-term objectives. The discussion revealed some fresh ideas for next four years and beyond the period between the congresses. Not surprisingly, the meeting in Amsterdam confirmed the consensus in the EC on IGU priorities. They may be summarized in the following points.

1) We should not forget that IGU is a truly global organization, and its objective is to connect geographers belonging to different national schools and traditions, from the North and the South in contributing to the development of our discipline and to the increase of its role in society. We need to involve geographers from the countries with low incomes in IGU activity, re-establish the contacts with national geographical communities which did not really participated in it last years, and to invite new members. At the same time, we have to make IGU more attractive for geographers from the “North”, in particular from the US and the UK and especially for young geographers, in demonstrating the value of participation in its activities and in promoting special sessions, establishing grants and awards for beginning scholars and publication of their results in international journals. It can be reached through a better dissemination of information on IGU and its Commission, sharing of mailing lists, cross-references on different web-sites and the creation of a global data base on geographical departments and institutions similar to the global data base and search system on geographical journals already available on the IGU site (it will be regularly up-dated and completed).

2) Commissions and Task Forces are the core of IGU: each of them represents an autonomous international network community. Their number has recently significantly increased which makes particularly important communication between them, coordination and integration of their work. Our priority is to develop interdisciplinary research by promoting problem- and region-oriented programmes and the cooperation natural and social wings of geography in studying future environmental conditions and their consequences for people, and institutional, economic, and behavioural changes enabling effective steps toward global sustainability. Commissions have to provide connections between established and young geographers. The participation in their activity should be a step in their professional career through publications, special awards, etc.

3) IGU Congresses and Regional Conferences remain an important link between the Commissions and between geography and other disciplines. In the period between the Congresses in Cologne and Beijing, IGU scheduled three annual Regional Conferences (Kyoto, 2013; Krakow, 2014; Moscow, 2015). One of its priorities is close cooperation with the local organizing committees in order to keep high standards established by the Congress in Cologne, to ensure the interdisciplinary character of their scientific programmes, to make these meetings more accessible for scholars with limited travel budget and in to look for new flexible formats. IGU Congress or Regional Conference should become a platform for dialogue and the development of collaborative research programs on contemporary thematic areas and critical regions by bridging gaps between geographers, policy makers and community leaders.

4) The cohesion of geography and its better international visibility may be also achieved through cooperation with the leading international coordinating organizations - the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and with other international scientific unions (International Cartographic Association, International Union of Geological Sciences, etc.). Using new opportunities for geography and IGU open by a rising

concern about global environmental change manifested in a number of recent important international documents, better embedding IGU in global research programmes and networks.

5) IGU will continue to support its initiative to promote the declaration of the International Year on Global Understanding (IYGU) by the UN General Assembly. This ambitious and promising project is in the focus of IGU attention. We will also strongly support the project of making the site on cities' sustainable development created on the initiative of Dutch and Chinese geographers the world centre of information and certification working under the sponsorship of IGU.

6) Geographical education is one of the major *raison d'être* of the geographical community. IGU has to continuously show the value of geographical education in various international and national academic and policy contexts. We will pay more attention to the role of geography at school and to geographical education, trying to cooperate with UNESCO and other international organizations in keeping and modernizing geographical curricula. The final objective may be an IGU Manual on Curriculum Development which will include recommendations on a regular curriculum revision incorporating fundamental and modern techniques and contemporary paradigms such as climate change and millennium development goals.

7) IGU should transform its web site in an important resource for geographic information and contacts for the global geographic community, filling it with information about the activities of national geographical communities, IGU Commissions and Task Forces, geographical journals and sites, etc. We should also explore the opportunities to use new means of communication like Facebook or an on-line journal.

I am well aware how ambitious are these objectives and how difficult is to reach them. I believe that succession, continuity and adaptation to new challenges are the key principles in our work.

*Vladimir Kolossov, President
vladimirkolossov@gmail.com*



2) MINUTES OF THE IGU EC MEETING PROCÈS-VERBAL DE LA RÉUNION UGI

2.a) English version,

**UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE – GERMANY
23rd-26th August**

Welcome and Apologies

Present: Ronald Abler, Irasema Alcantara-Ayala, Giuliano Bellezza, Ruth Fincher, Yukio Himiyama, Aharon Kellerman, Vladimir Kolossov, Markku Löytönen, Dietrich Soyez, Dahe Qin and Mike Meadows

Adoption of the Agenda

The committee adopted the agenda prepared by Meadows and Abler.

Minutes

Beijing PRC March 2012 Meeting. The minutes of the Beijing March IGU Executive Committee meeting were confirmed, having been circulated and approved via email prior to the meeting.

Organization and Operations

IGU Country Membership Report. Meadows presented a table indicating the situation regarding subscription payments for 2012 and reported that it was likely that the income by year-end would approximate previous years. Accounts were initially distributed in January, with a follow-up in April. At least one further effort following the Congress should bring in the expected amounts. There have been two applications for membership to be approved by the General Assembly *viz.* Kuwait and the Palestinian Authority. With regard to the relatively small number of member countries from Africa, the African delegates to the Congress have all been contacted and invited to an open discussion on issues related to the IGU situation in Africa. Professor Chris Mutambirwa has agreed to chair this meeting, which will be attended by as many Executive Committee members as possible. The outcome of the discussion will be reported to the Cologne General Assembly.

IGU Financial Report and Projection. Meadows tabled the financial report for 2012 to date. 2012, being a Congress year, would be more likely to draw down on IGU funds, especially as two editions of the Bulletin have been produced and there were costs associated with the development of the web-based version of the Journals Project data. Nevertheless, a modest end of year surplus is anticipated. The IGU finances appear to be in good order. Cologne General Assembly will appoint a financial sub-committee to scrutinise the accounts for the four year inter-congress period and Meadows and Abler have these matters in hand.

UN-International Year for Global Understanding (IYGU) Initiative. Benno Werlen attended for this item, having previously circulated a brief written report and request to the Executive Committee. He reported on the ICSU/TIERS project initially. The final report is under construction. The most recent meeting in Jena had resulted in 28 papers and the proceedings are to be in a book published by Springer. A website has been designed and is already online. Werlen outlined the financial situation for the IYGU initiative which, while secure for 2013, remains subject to further political support beyond this date. The brochure has now been translated into Chinese, Spanish, French, Russian and Portuguese. Additional support and sponsors have come on board and there are good indications that IYGU profile is growing. The political process remains challenging but the list of countries that have indicated interest in being lead candidates continues to grow. Preparations are underway to present the proposal at the UNESCO Executive Board Meeting in February 2013 and presentations at the plenary later in 2013. The plan is to establish the year for 2016. The Cologne Congress programme has a

special session devoted to this initiative and there will also be an opportunity at the General Assembly for a brief presentation by Werlen.

IGU Commission and Task Force Update. Additional 2008-2012 reports have been received from those Commissions and Task Forces who had not sent them in time for the Beijing EC meeting. This enabled the Executive Committee to review the full list of Commissions and Task Forces and to make recommendations to the Cologne General Assembly. Commission and Task Force activities were such that, with few exceptions, continuation would be recommended. The exception was the Geomorphic Challenges Commission which had engaged a new chair in the inter-congress period but then that individual had communicated his inability to continue. Accordingly, it was recommended to retire this commission, although Alcantara-Ayala agreed to develop a new Geomorphology commission through contacts that she would make, both at the Cologne Congress and subsequently, and present a proposal to re-launch this commission in due course. Meadows reported that he recently received a proposal to establish a new Commission on Latin American Studies from Juan Manuel Delgado in Peru and this was tabled. There was general agreement that this should be afforded commission status subject to the regularization of steering committee membership in line with IGU statutes. Frauke Kraas tabled a proposal that the Megacities Task Force should be retired and reconstituted as the Commission on Transformation Processes in Megacities. After brief discussion it was agreed to recommend this as a new commission. Two other proposals were noted: the Joint Commission/Working Group on Toponymy (with the International Cartographic Association) and the Commission on the Mediterranean Basin, have already been approved in principle by the Executive Committee and would be recommended for establishment at the Cologne General Assembly.

Journals Project Update. The web-based version of the inventory is now available on the IGU website and Meadows demonstrated some of the functionality of this resource; this would be repeated at the General Assembly during his General Secretary Report and a special session at the Congress would be presented by Ton Dietz. Kellerman pointed out that the facility should indicate when it was last updated. Meadows agreed to take care of this and to continue to manage the database and uploading of new journals as they become available and to arrange for the data to be updated from time to time. The work of Ton Dietz and his team on this project is acknowledged and Meadows agreed to indicate this at an appropriate place on the website.

Sustainable Cities Network. Ton Dietz had submitted a brief update on this. The Cologne Congress has a special session devoted to the initiative and the Chinese team would be presenting the idea. There would, in addition, be a brief presentation by Dietz at the General Assembly.

Executive Committee Calendar. This being the final meeting of the 2008-11 Executive Committee, plans for future meetings would only be made following the outcome of the elections being made known. A meeting of the new Executive Committee would be held, together with the outgoing members, before the close of the Cologne General Assembly.

IGU Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force. Abler was still compiling the membership of this Task Force and would report at the next Executive Committee meeting.

IGU Website Update. The website continues to be updated. There is a need to review its structure, but not in a major way.

IGU Newsletter Update. It was agreed that the domain name 'homeofgeography.org' should be retained but that the label 'Home of Geography' would not otherwise be used on IGU publications. It was further confirmed that the IGU e-Newsletter should be available only via the IGU website.

IGU Bulletin Update. The latest bulletins, issues for 2007-08 and 2009-10, are ready for dissemination at the Cologne Congress. The remaining copies are to be dispatched from Cape Town in due course.

IGU 2012 Elections. These were on schedule for the Cologne General Assembly on Tuesday afternoon. The elections would be allowed 30 minutes.

Agenda for IGU General Assembly, Köln, August 2012 The final agenda has been circulated to the National Committees and, with minor amendments and additions, was approved.

IGU Archives Professor Sebastian Lentz attended for this item. He presented a proposal that the archives be housed and curated by the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (GZB), in Leipzig. The library of the institute, one of the largest academic libraries in Germany, is open to the public. The Archive for Geography has a strong emphasis on research associated with this infrastructure. The existing archive was founded by Alphonse Stübel and contains many hundreds of thousands of items and represents the largest specialist archive for Geography in Central Europe. A proposal has also been received from the University of Milwaukee, which would also represent a very prestigious and effective location. Following discussion, it was agreed to accept the invitation of the GZB and that this should be followed up by the new Executive Committee. Meadows is to approach the Royal Geographical Society with a view to facilitating consolidation of the IGU archives at Leibniz.

Cooperation and Outreach

Festival International de Géographie (FIG). Abler is attending on behalf of the IGU.

Festa de Mirandela, Portugal. There is no information regarding this item. The event was cancelled in 2011.

Festival de Geografía, Taxco, Guerrero Mexico. The Festival will take place in September in Taxco.

International Social Science Council (ISSC). Fincher tabled a brief report in which she highlighted recent initiatives of the Council. The members of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) for the World Social Science Report of 2013 have been selected and have had their first meeting. A list of members (including one geographer) can be found at: http://www.worldsocialscience.org/?page_id=2881 A call for contributions to the WSSR 2013 has already been circulated to all ISSC members and SAC nominees. All SAC nominees were also invited to contribute to the work of the ISSC's Climate and Global Environmental Change Design Project. The World Social Science Fellows Program for early career researchers has been begun, and an advisory committee has been appointed (with no geographers on it). Six young scholars from the program were selected to participate in events at Rio+ 20. The ISSC Global Environmental Change Project is the project on which the ISSC Executive Director is working, to form an application for major funding to the Swedish agency SIDA that will be submitted by the end of 2012. The World Social Science Forum will take place in Montreal, Quebec, from 13th to 15th October 2013. The topic of this forum is 'Social Transformation in the Digital Age'. (IGU has nominated Prof Aharon Kellerman to sit on the Scientific Program Committee for this forum). Each member organisation of ISSC is expected to organise about 10 panels of speakers for this forum, under the 8 overall sub-themes proposed. It is expected that 1500 people will register and attend.

International Council for Science (ICSU). Abler and Meadows attended the ICSU GeoUnions meeting in Istanbul in Istanbul at the end of April 2012. They used the opportunity to touch base with Turkish colleagues in relation to their invitation to IGU to host the 2020 International Geographical Congress. Subsequently, Abler drafted a letter to the ICSU Executive Director

concerning the view of the GeoUnions in respect of the ICSU mission and its administrative structures.

International Consortium on Landslides. This activity is making progress. IGU, IUGS, IUGG and the South American Regional ICSU Office will be submitting a proposal to ICSU for funds. The draft would be made available by Ayala for comment.

Géographie de la Paix/New ACFAS Event. Bellezza attended the Montreal conference and represented IGU there.

International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences

Köln, Germany International Geographical Congress 2012. Kyoto, Japan Regional Conference 2013. Soyez presented a brief report indicating the challenges that had emerged due to the number of delegate registrations substantially exceeding recommendations. Health and Safety regulations would have to be strictly enforced and this may result in some sessions being closed once the venue is deemed full. Other problems relating to the renovation of several of the congress buildings were noted. The Local Organising Committee was, however, pleased in general in the response and there was every indication that the team had performed well enough to cope with the additional burden that the extra registrations would entail. The committee members warmly congratulated Soyez and his team (in particular Frauke Kraas) for their great efforts.

Kyoto, Japan Regional Conference 2013. Himiyama reported that the second circular was now available and has been distributed via the Cologne Congress registration materials. The Local Organising Committee would provide a brief invitation to national delegates at the Cologne General Assembly and again at the Closing Ceremony.

Krakow, Poland Regional Conference 2014. The Polish IGU National Committee has sent a report and the first circular is available at the Cologne Congress.

Moscow, Russia Regional Conference 2015. Funding has already been secured from several authorities and the steering committee would be formally established towards the end of 2012.

People's Republic of China International Geographical Congress, Beijing, 2016. Qin reported that the Local Organising Committee had already been established for this Congress and that funding from a number of sources was in hand. There would be an presentation at the Cologne General Assembly and the Closing Ceremony to invite delegates to the Beijing Congress.

IGU Regional Conference 2018 Invitations. Proposals have been received to host the 2018 Regional Conference from China-Taipei and Peru. The usual procedure is that the Executive Committee reviews the invitations and recommends a site to the General Assembly. Following discussion, it was agreed to seek further information from both parties before making a firm recommendation. Approval would therefore have to be by postal ballot.

Honors and Awards

IGU Planet and Humanity Medal. Himiyama proposed a suitable recipient for the Planet and Humanity Award. It was agreed that will Abler ascertain the individual's willingness to accept the medal and his availability to attend the Köln Congress.

Mattei Dogan Foundation Prize in Human Geography. The prize was not endowed and the foundation itself seems no longer to exist.

IGU Lauréat d'honneur The awardees have been informed, the certificates will be presented to those awardees present at the closing ceremony of the Cologne Congress.

Adjourn

The next meeting date and time is to be decided in consultation with the incoming members of the Executive Committee.

2.b) Version Française

UNIVERSITÉ DE COLOGNE 23-26 Août

Accueil et excuses

Présents: Ronald Abler, Irasema Alcantara-Ayala, Giuliano Bellezza, Ruth Fincher, Yukio Himiyama, Aharon Kellerman, Vladimir Kolossov, Markku Löytönen, Dietrich Soyez, Dahe Qin et Mike Meadows

Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Le Comité a adopté l'ordre du jour préparé par Meadows et Abler.

Procès-verbal

Pékin (RPC) – réunion de Mars 2012.

Le procès-verbal de la réunion de Mars du Comité Exécutif à Pékin a été approuvé, ayant été distribué et approuvé par courriel avant la réunion.

Organisation et fonctionnement

Rapport sur l'adhésion de pays à l'UGI.

Meadows a présenté un tableau indiquant la situation en ce qui concerne les paiements de cotisations pour l'année 2012 et a indiqué qu'il était probable que le revenu en fin d'année serait comparable aux années précédentes. Les comptes ont été initialement distribués en Janvier, avec un suivi en Avril. Un effort supplémentaire après le Congrès devrait permettre de récupérer les sommes attendues.

Il y a eu deux demandes d'adhésion, qui doivent être approuvées par l'Assemblée générale: le Koweït et l'Autorité palestinienne. En ce qui concerne le nombre relativement restreint de pays membres d'Afrique, les délégués africains au Congrès ont tous été contactés et invités à un débat ouvert sur les questions liées à la situation de l'UGI en Afrique. Le Professeur Chris Mutambirwa a accepté de présider cette réunion, à laquelle assisteront le plus grand nombre possible de membres du Comité exécutif. Les résultats de la discussion seront présentés à l'Assemblée générale de Cologne.

Rapport financier de l'UGI et projections.

Meadows a présenté le rapport financier pour l'année 2012 à ce jour. 2012, étant une année de congrès, serait plus susceptible de puiser dans les fonds de l'UGI, d'autant plus que deux éditions du Bulletin ont été produites et qu'il y a eu des coûts associés à la mise au point de la version Web des données du projet sur les revues. Néanmoins, un modeste excédent final de l'exercice est prévu. Les finances de l'UGI semblent être en bon état. L'Assemblée générale de Cologne nommera un sous-comité financier pour examiner les comptes pour la période de quatre ans entre congrès. Meadows et Abler ont les choses en main.

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Initiative d'une Année internationale ONU pour la compréhension globale (IYGU).

Benno Werlen a assisté à cette discussion, après avoir distribué un bref rapport écrit et une demande au Comité exécutif. Il a d'abord fait état du projet CIUS / TIERS. Le rapport final est en cours de construction. La réunion la plus récente à Iéna avait donné lieu à 28 articles et les procédures doivent être dans un livre publié par Springer. Un site Web a été conçu et est déjà en ligne. Werlen a présenté la situation financière de l'initiative IYGU, assurée pour 2013, mais qui reste soumise à un soutien politique au-delà de cette date. La brochure a été traduite en portugais, chinois, espagnol, français et russe. Un soutien supplémentaire et des mécènes sont venus à bord et il y a de bonnes indications que le profil IYGU est en pleine croissance. Le processus politique reste difficile mais la liste des pays qui ont manifesté un intérêt à être candidats pour mener le projet continue de croître. Les préparatifs sont en cours pour présenter la proposition à l'assemblée du Conseil exécutif de l'UNESCO en Février 2013 et des présentations en plénière plus tard en 2013. Le plan est d'établir l'année pour 2016. Le programme du Congrès de Cologne a une session spéciale consacrée à cette initiative et il y aura aussi à l'occasion de l'Assemblée générale une brève présentation par Werlen.

Mise à jour des Commissions et Groupes de Travail de l'UGI.

D'autres rapports 2008-2012 ont été reçus des commissions et groupes de travail qui ne les avaient pas envoyés à temps pour la réunion du CE de Beijing. Cela a permis au Comité exécutif d'examiner la liste des commissions et groupes de travail et de faire des recommandations pour l'Assemblée générale de Cologne. Les activités des groupes de travail et Commissions ont été telles que, à quelques exceptions près, leur continuation est recommandée. La seule exception était la Commission de géomorphologie qui avait désigné un nouveau président pour la période inter-congrès, mais depuis, cette personne a communiqué son incapacité à continuer. En conséquence, il a été recommandé de mettre un terme à cette commission, mais I. Alcantara-Ayala a accepté de construire une nouvelle commission de géomorphologie grâce aux contacts qu'elle pourrait avoir, à la fois lors du Congrès de Cologne et par la suite, et de présenter une proposition visant à relancer cette commission en temps utile.

Meadows a déclaré qu'il a reçu récemment une proposition de Juan Manuel Delgado (au Pérou) visant à établir une nouvelle Commission sur les études latino-américaines et ceci a été noté. Il a été généralement convenu que cela devrait être accordé sous réserve d'une régularisation du comité de pilotage en conformité avec les statuts de l'UGI.

Frauke Kraas a déposé une proposition pour que le Groupe de travail sur les mégapoles soit arrêté et reconstitué comme une Commission sur les processus de transformation dans les mégapoles. Après une brève discussion, il a été décidé de recommander cette nouvelle commission. Deux autres propositions ont été faites: la Commission mixte / Groupe de travail sur la toponymie (avec l'Association Cartographique Internationale) et la Commission sur le bassin méditerranéen, ont déjà été approuvées en principe par le Comité exécutif et serait recommandée pour l'établissement lors de l'Assemblée générale de Cologne.

Point sur le projet des revues

La version en ligne de l'inventaire est maintenant disponible sur le site Web de l'UGI et Meadows a démontré certaines des fonctionnalités de cette ressource, ce qui sera répété à l'Assemblée générale lors de son Rapport du Secrétaire général et lors d'une session extraordinaire du Congrès où il sera présenté par Ton Dietz. Kellerman a souligné que le site doit indiquer le moment où il a été mis à jour. Meadows a accepté de prendre soin de cela et de continuer à gérer la base de données et le téléchargement de nouvelles revues à mesure qu'elles deviennent disponibles et de prendre des dispositions pour que les données soient mises à jour de temps en temps. Le travail de Ton Dietz et son équipe sur ce projet est reconnu et Meadows a convenu de l'indiquer à un endroit approprié sur le site Web.

Réseau des villes durables.

Ton Dietz a présenté une brève mise à jour sur ce point. Le Congrès de Cologne a une session spéciale consacrée à l'initiative et l'équipe chinoise va présenter l'idée. Il y aura, en outre, une brève présentation par Dietz à l'Assemblée générale.

Calendrier du Comité exécutif.

Ceci étant la dernière réunion du Comité exécutif 2008-12, la planification des prochaines réunions ne se fera qu'à l'issue des élections. Une réunion du nouveau Comité Exécutif se tiendra, en collaboration avec les membres sortants, avant la clôture de l'Assemblée générale de Cologne.

150 ans de l'UGI et la Groupe de Travail du Centenaire.

Abler est toujours en train de compiler une liste de membres de ce groupe de travail et il présentera un rapport à la prochaine réunion du Comité exécutif.

Mise à jour du site web de l'UGI.

Le site continue d'être mis à jour. Il est nécessaire de revoir sa structure, mais pas d'une manière importante.

Informations sur la lettre de l'UGI

Il a été convenu que «homeofgeography.org", le nom de domaine, doit être maintenu, mais que l'indication «Maison de la Géographie» ne serait autrement plus utilisée sur les publications UGI. Il a en outre été confirmé que la lettre de l'UGI devrait être disponible uniquement via le site web de l'UGI.

Bulletin UGI, mise à jour.

Les derniers bulletins, pour 2007-08 et 2009-10, sont prêts à être diffusées lors du Congrès de Cologne. Les autres exemplaires doivent être expédiés à partir de Cape Town en temps voulu.

UGI élections de 2012.

Elle sont à l'ordre du jour de l'Assemblée générale Cologne mardi après-midi. On leur accordera environ 30 minutes.

Ordre du jour de l'Assemblée générale UGI, Köln, Août 2012

Le programme définitif a été diffusé aux Comités nationaux et, avec les modifications et ajouts mineurs, a été approuvé.

Archives de l'UGI

Le professeur Sebastian Lentz a assisté à cette partie de la réunion. Il a présenté une proposition pour que les archives soient hébergées et gérées par l'Institut Leibniz de Géographie Régionale (GZB), à Leipzig. La bibliothèque de l'institut, une des plus grandes bibliothèques universitaires en Allemagne, est ouverte au public. Les archives de géographie met fortement l'accent sur la recherche associée à ces infrastructures. Les archives existantes ont été créées par Alphons Stubel et contiennent plusieurs centaines de milliers d'articles et ce sont les plus importantes pour la géographie en Europe centrale.

Une proposition a également été reçue de l'Université de Milwaukee, qui représenterait également un endroit très prestigieux et efficace. Après discussion, il a été décidé d'accepter l'invitation du GZB et que cela devrait être suivi par le nouveau Comité exécutif. Meadows contactera la Royal Geographical Society pour faciliter le regroupement des archives UGI à l'institut Leibniz.

Coopération et sensibilisation

Festival International de Géographie (FIG) de St Dié-des-Vosges.

Abler y participe au nom de l'UGI.

Festa de Mirandela, Portugal.

Il n'y a aucune information concernant cet événement, qui a été annulé en 2011.

Festival de Geografía, Taxco, Guerrero au Mexique.

Le Festival aura lieu en Septembre à Taxco.

Conseil international des sciences sociales (CISS).

Fincher a déposé un bref rapport dans lequel elle a souligné les initiatives récentes du Conseil. Les membres du Comité scientifique consultatif (CSC) pour le Rapport mondial sur les sciences sociales de 2013 ont été sélectionnés et ont eu leur première réunion. Une liste des membres (dont un géographe) peut être trouvée à l'adresse: http://www.worldsocialscience.org/?page_id=2881. Un appel à contributions à la SCRP 2013 a déjà été distribué à tous les membres du CISS et aux candidats SAC. Tous les candidats SAC étaient également invités à contribuer aux travaux du projet du CISS sur le climat et le changement environnemental global. Le programme mondial "fellows des sciences sociales" pour les chercheurs en début de carrière a été commencé, et un comité consultatif a été nommé (sans géographes en son sein). Six jeunes chercheurs du programme ont été sélectionnés pour participer à des événements à Rio + 20. Le projet du CISS "Global Environmental Change" est celui sur lequel travaille le Directeur exécutif du CISS, afin de formuler une demande de financement majeure auprès de l'agence suédoise SIDA, qui sera présentée d'ici la fin de l'année 2012. Le Forum mondial des sciences sociales aura lieu à Montréal, Québec, du 13 au 15 Octobre 2013. Le thème de ce forum est « Transformations sociales à l'ère du numérique ». L'UGI a nommé le professeur Aharon Kellerman pour siéger au Comité du programme scientifique de ce forum. Chaque organisation membre du CISS a prévu d'organiser environ 10 groupes d'intervenants pour ce forum, pour les 8 thèmes proposés. Il est prévu que 1500 personnes vont s'inscrire et participer.

Conseil international pour la science (CIUS).

Abler et Meadows ont assisté à la réunion du CIUS GeoUnions à Istanbul fin Avril 2012. Ils ont eu la possibilité de discuter avec des collègues turcs par rapport à leur invitation de l'UGI pour accueillir le Congrès international de géographie en 2020. Par la suite, Abler a rédigé une lettre au Directeur exécutif du CIUS concernant le point de vue des GeoUnions à l'égard de la mission de l'ICSU et de ses structures administratives.

Consortium international sur les glissements de terrain.

Cette activité a fait des progrès. L'UGI, l'UISG, l'UGGI et le bureau régional de l'ICSU pour l'Amérique du Sud vont soumettre soumettre une demande de financement à l'ICSU. Le projet préliminaire sera examiné par Ayala.

Géographie de la Paix / Nouvel événement ACFAS.

Bellezza a assisté à la conférence de Montréal, où il a représenté l'UGI.

Congrès géographiques internationaux et l'UGI Conférences régionales

Köln, Allemagne Congrès International de Géographie 2012.

Soyez a présenté un bref rapport indiquant les défis qui ont émergé en raison du nombre d'inscriptions de délégués, qui dépasse de beaucoup les recommandations. Des règlements sur la santé et la sécurité doivent être strictement appliqués et cela peut entraîner la fermeture des portes pour certaines sessions une fois que le lieu est plein. D'autres problèmes liés à la rénovation de plusieurs sites du congrès ont été notés. Le Comité d'organisation local a toutefois été satisfait en général dans la réponse et tout porte à croire que l'équipe a été suffisamment performante pour faire face à la charge supplémentaire entraînée par les inscriptions supplémentaires. Les membres du comité ont chaleureusement félicité Soyez et son équipe (en particulier Frauke Kraas) pour leurs grands efforts.

Kyoto, Japon Conférence régionale 2013.

Himiyama a indiqué que la deuxième circulaire est maintenant disponible et a été distribuée avec les matériaux d'inscription au congrès de Cologne. Le comité local d'organisation a lancé une invitation aux délégués nationaux à l'Assemblée générale à Cologne et à nouveau lors de la cérémonie de clôture.

Cracovie, Pologne Conférence régionale 2014.

Le Comité national polonais UGI a envoyé un rapport et la première circulaire est disponible lors du Congrès de Cologne.

Moscou, Russie Conférence régionale 2015.

Le financement a déjà été obtenu de plusieurs institutions et le comité de pilotage sera officiellement mis en place vers la fin de 2012.

République populaire de Chine Congrès International de Géographie, Beijing, 2016.

Qin a indiqué que le Comité d'organisation local avait déjà été mis en place pour ce Congrès et que le financement d'un certain nombre de sources était assuré. Il y aura une présentation à l'Assemblée générale Cologne et lors de la cérémonie de clôture pour inviter les délégués au Congrès de Beijing.

Conférence Régionale de l'UGI 2018 invitations.

Des propositions ont été reçues pour accueillir la Conférence régionale 2018 de la Chine-Taipei et le Pérou. La procédure habituelle est que le Comité exécutif examine les invitations et recommande un site à l'Assemblée générale. Après discussion, il a été convenu de demander des informations complémentaires par les deux parties avant de faire une recommandation ferme. L'approbation devra donc se faire par bulletin de vote postal.

Distinctions et prix

Médaille de l'UGI "Planète et humanité".

Himiyama proposé un récipiendaire approprié pour le prix "planète et humanité". Il a été convenu qu'Abler déterminera la volonté de l'individu à accepter la médaille et sa disponibilité à assister au Congrès de Cologne.

Fondation Mattei Dogan : prix en géographie humaine.

Le prix n'était pas doté et la fondation elle-même semble ne plus exister.

Lauréat d'honneur de l'UGI

Les lauréats ont été informés, les certificats seront remis aux lauréats présents lors de la cérémonie de clôture du Congrès de Cologne.

Ajournement

La date et l'heure de la prochaine réunion doivent être décidées en concertation avec les nouveaux membres du Comité exécutif.



3) REPORT OF THE LOC OF THE IGC COLOGNE 2012

IGC 2012 “Marathon”: Over the Finish Line with Vim and Vigor

Dear fellow geographers,

The mega-event IGC 2012 lies behind us meanwhile, and we would like to venture a first retrospective. At the end of August we welcomed more than 2,800 guests from all over the world here in Cologne. Many of them were able to participate in the opening ceremony in the Köln Philharmonie, a very impressive affair with inspiring musical highlights by the school orchestras and choirs (including a number of teachers) of St. Ursula-Gymnasium in Brühl. Also among our vivid memories are many of the official welcoming speeches and greetings. Some of them were highly cogent, not least that of the patron of our congress, the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, delivered by Professor Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission. All in all we feel quite content when we look back at the congress. Everything ran smoothly and the feedback from the participants was very positive. In particular our decision to change the format met with the favor of the Executive Committee of the IGU and the participants.



Left, The attendance in the Opening Ceremony was delighted by the performance of the young students of the Philharmonia. Right, Frauke Kraas and Dieter Soyez officially open IGU 2012

This is all the more gratifying considering that the IGC 2012 was the product of a preparation period of more than eight years, during which many geographers contributed their ideas. This “marathon” was being run at a time when third-party funded projects run for three years at the most. It began with the work on a concept for our bid to host the IGC 2012 at the IGC Glasgow 2004, where we were competing, as you may remember, with Santiago de Chile and Beijing. Especially during the last two years the organization of the congress increasingly occupied the members of the department in Cologne. On the “home stretch,” beginning in early August 2012 at the latest, the entire department was involved in the final preparations and in hosting the IGC 2012. We are sure none of the people who are not mentioned by name in the following will object if at this point we particularly recognize the work of four “masterminds”: with their creativity and competence Carsten Butsch and Holger Kretschmer had a major influence on the overall structure of the IGC and many of its individual elements, as did Dorothee Wiktorin on the Geographical Olympiad (iGeo) and the school program, and finally Wolfgang Schmiedecken did a peerless job of managing the entire finances.



Left to right: Her Royal Highness the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand; Prof. Anne Glover, reading the message of Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament; Ron Abler, IGU President;

It was not only the staff and students of the Department of Geography who organized the congress, however. Many geographers from the German-speaking countries were involved both during the preparation of the bid and in the conception of the IGC program, including students, the speakers of the working groups of the DGfG, the executive committees of the member organizations of the DGfG and other interested colleagues. Whereas previously the congresses consisted in the meetings of the Commissions und Task Forces of the IGU, this time new program elements were incorporated. During the course of two workshops in 2009 and 2010 more than 100 representatives of the field developed the four congress themes (“Global Change & Globalization,” “Risks & Conflicts,” “Society & Environment,” “Urbanization & Demographic Change”), the most visible and the major new element of the congress. Other ideas that emerged during this participatory process ultimately gave the IGC a new, young face.

Scientists from various countries were specifically invited to join the advisory committee so that it would be representative of the global geographical community. This international Scientific Committee was responsible for evaluating the suggestions submitted for the sessions on the four themes. The selection process was concluded at a joint meeting in Cologne in May 2011. At that meeting a list of potential keynote speakers for the IGC 2012 was also drawn up. There the idea arose to invite not only an internationally acclaimed geographer to speak on each of the themes but also a prominent public figure.



*The young winner participants in iGeo (left) and (right)
a moment of the rather impromptu organised intercultural show*

In retrospect the modifications to the structure of the IGC, compared with earlier congresses, were a success. The four themes opened the congress for persons who had not previously participated in one of the IGU commissions, and the large number of suggestions for sessions and papers showed how much interest these themes generated. The four keynote sessions were very well attended and the eight speakers held inspiring talks. For an international conference the proportion of young participants was quite high. This we attribute to a further new program element, the Young Researchers' Forum, together with the relatively low congress fees. In eight earlier workshops young scientists were additionally given the opportunity to develop their skills, and the geography students' association held a poster competition and social events for young scientists. Active use of Facebook and Twitter also helped to strengthen existing networks and establish new ones. In our opinion the upgrading of the posters as a presentation form was a particular success. All poster sessions were scheduled without parallel sessions and, probably not least because of the prizes that were offered, posters developed into a genuine alternative to presenting a paper. A total of 180 posters were presented in two sessions and each time about 400 persons participated very actively.



Left, check in at the main building; right: one of the exhibition tents

The atmosphere during the IGC 2012 made a particularly positive impression on the congress participants. This pleasant atmosphere was mainly thanks to the efforts of the student volunteers – soon referred to as “blue cloud” because of their blue T-shirts. 195 geography students assumed countless small and large responsibilities. They played an important role in bringing the IGC 2012 “marathon” to a spirited finish. Further aspects that made for pleasant discussions during the five days included the short waiting periods at registration (made possible because more than 1,500 registrations were completed by Sunday evening), the food and drink provided and additional services such as the daycare facility for children.

Expressed in absolute figures the IGC 2012 achieved a historic all-time high. With 2,865 registered visitors from 90 countries it was the largest IGU Congress so far. The attendance can be broken down as follows: 2,106 “full tickets” (1,350 persons paying the full conference fee, 438 doctoral candidates, 247 students, 71 accompanying persons), 403 day passes, 159 two-day passes, 197 participants in the symposium Geography and School. These figures far surpassed our original expectations. The plans, including the envisioned amount of space required, were based on an estimate of around 2000 participants.



Her Royal Highness the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand visits the IGU EC

Because so many people were interested in IGC 2012, registration had to be closed already on 15 July and it was no longer possible to register at the congress itself. This limitation, due to security regulations, unfortunately meant that last-minute participation in the congress was not possible. Nevertheless, on the whole the registration procedure proved effective. One important concern was to reduce the number of “no shows,” a big problem especially at the last IGC. Because the

procedure enabled unregistered participants to be replaced systematically at an early stage by persons from the waiting list, two thirds of all sessions took place without a paper being canceled. At 440 sessions the number of talks and the number of persons attending was recorded. According to the results, at 291 sessions no speaker was missing, in 113 sessions one speaker did not appear; in 27 sessions two speakers were missing; in 9 sessions three were missing. A total of 11.7% of the talks announced in the program were not held. The average number of persons attending an individual session was 31. At the session with the most persons attending, apart from the keynote sessions, there were 170 participants.

A negative aspect from the point of view of the congress was the construction work being done at the University of Cologne. We had no influence on this, but thanks to the participants and the way they took this in their stride, in the end the construction did not prove to be any great disturbance. Despite these reservations we view the experiment of bringing scientific congresses back into the university environment as a success. The large number of personal comments during the IGC 2012 and the emails that reached us afterwards confirm this assessment.

For us in Cologne a fascinating time is ending and we look back with gratitude at a successful congress. At this point we would like to mention the efforts of the members of the Department of Geography and of our volunteers. With their commitment and enthusiasm they made the congress an unforgettable event. Our gratitude also goes to the geographers in the member organizations of the DGfG, the co-organizer of the congress, which provided support, including financial support, and whose members were involved in the preparation and organization in many ways.



Left, Answering questions in the Press Conference.

Right, the less unusual and most enjoyable Gala Dinner ever

Likewise, ever since 2004 we received a great deal of encouragement and valuable support from the Executive Committee of the IGU. The EC agreed to our experiment of adding the format of ‘Key topics’ to the IGC 2012 and looks back at the congress with just as much satisfaction as we do. We would like to thank the University of Cologne and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) for their generous financial support; we are also grateful to the sponsors mentioned on our website.

In conclusion we would like to point out that the eight keynote lectures can still be accessed on our website (livestream.igc2012.org). We also plan to publish a documentation of the IGC 2012 as a special edition of the *Kölner Geographische Arbeiten*; we will keep you informed of its appearance here in this newsletter.

Happy and grateful to have completed our “marathon,” we hope that it will not take 113 years again before the next IGC is held at a German university and look forward to the next IGC 2016 in Beijing.



4) DRAFT MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

International Geographical Union Cologne, Germany, 27, 28 and 29 August 2012

Welcome by the President

The IGU 20128 General Assembly met in three sessions chaired by IGU President Ronald Abler, who welcomed delegates, observers, and guests to the assembly.

Roll Call

Secretary-General Meadows called the roll and recorded the list of countries represented. Delegates from the respective participating countries were asked to indicate their attendance. Representatives of 48 countries attended one or more sessions of the assembly.

Countries Represented at the 2012 Cologne, Germany IGU General Assembly			
Australia	France	Mexico	Slovakia
Armenia	Germany	Netherlands	Slovenia
Belgium	Greece	New Zealand	South Africa
Canada	Hungary	Nigeria	Spain
Chile	Iceland	Norway	Sweden
China-Beijing	India	Poland	Switzerland
China-Hong Kong	Japan	Portugal	Tunisia
China-Taipei	Ireland	Republic of Korea	Turkey
Czech Republic	Israel	Romania	Ukraine
Denmark	Italy	Russia	United Kingdom
Estonia	Japan	Saudi Arabia	United States
Finland	Latvia	Singapore	Zimbabwe

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda, previously circulated to National Committees, was approved *unanimously*.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2008 General Assembly

The assembly *approved unanimously* the minutes of the IGU General Assembly held in Tunis, Tunisia in August 2008.

Discussion of IGU Priorities and National Committee suggestions

President Ron Abler reminded the assembly of the 'Priorities' document previously circulated. The IGU Executive Committee had concluded a long discussion of how the IGU should position itself, geographers, and geography for the coming years. In addition to continuing its core functions of convening meetings, promoting research, placing geographers in key international positions, and recognizing outstanding achievement with its awards, the committee focused on four priorities:

- Working with local hosts to upgrade the IGU's congresses and regional conferences.
- Upgrading the quality and utility of the IGU web site to make it a premier resource for geographic information and contacts for the global geographic community;
- Taking more vigorous steps to recruit young scholars. Too many geographers encounter the IGU only in mid- or late career.
- Finding additional sources of sustainable funding for IGU operations. The IGU now operates on an average annual budget of about €75,000, which barely covers its basic operating expenses. To be more effective in promoting geography, the members of the IGU Executive Committee must continue to attempt to find additional sources of funding while also reducing the expenses of executive committee operations. To that end, the committee has experimented with holding one of its meetings virtually and will endeavor to continue this practice.

In a question from the assembly, the President was challenged to offer a view as to how successfully the outgoing committee had been in addressing these priorities. President Abler responded that he felt that, with the exception of the fund-raising issue, there had been progress on the other fronts. With regard to the website, the representative for France suggested that it could host a 'glossary' of geographical terms that would be useful in particular for those who did not use English as a first language. There were several comments, including those representing Finland and the Netherlands, relating to the difficulties faced by national committees in persuading their members as to the value of IGU membership. President Abler responded by informing the assembly as to the important role that IGU plays within the international scientific (through ICSU) and social science (through ISSC) communities but that there were undoubtedly improvements that could be made in getting this message across more frequently and efficiently to IGU national committees. President Abler also agreed to suggest that the incoming executive committee should again explore the possibility of affiliate membership for Geography Departments and Societies.

Appointment of Tellers

President Ron Abler asked the assembly to nominate and approve the appointment of Professors Crispin Alvarez-Sanchez (Mexico), Lex Chalmers (New Zealand) and Nigel Tapper (Australia) as tellers for ballots cast during the general assembly: *Approved unanimously.*

Approval of Commissions, Task Forces, and Their Chairpersons

Secretary-General Meadows presented the recommendations formulated by the IGU Executive Committee regarding commissions and task forces for the forthcoming 2012-16 period. The Secretary-General agreed to circulate a full and updated list once this was compiled at the conclusion of the Congress and this would take account of necessary changes in the identity of chairpersons. Some adjustments to the steering committees would also be required to ensure that

individuals do not continue terms of office beyond the 12 year limit as noted in the Statutes. The list below indicates 2008-12 chairpersons in most cases; several would be required to stand down either due to the 12 year limit or, depending on the outcome of the elections, because members of the executive committee are not permitted to be members of Commission or Task Force steering committees. The assembly endorsed the executive committee's recommendations, as follows:

2012 General Assembly Actions on IGU Commissions and Task Forces

Code	Commission	Chairperson	Action	New chair /comments
C12-01	Applied Geography	Robert Stimson, Australia	Renewed	Graham Clarke, United Kingdom
C12-02	Arid Lands, Humankind, and Environment	Mahmoud M. Ashour, Egypt	Renewed	
C12-03	Biogeography and Biodiversity	Udo Schickhoff, Germany	Renewed	
C12-04	Climatology	Zbigniew Ustrnul, Poland	Renewed	
C12-05	Coastal Systems	Edward Anthony, France	Renewed	
C12-06	Cold Region Environments	Nancy Doubleday, Canada; Dario Trombotto, Argentina	Renewed	
C12-07	Cultural Approach in Geography	Benno Werlen, Germany	Renewed	
C12-08	Dynamics of Economic Spaces	Neil Reid, United States	Renewed	
C12-09	Environmental Evolution	A. A. Velichko, Russia	Renewed	Tatjana Boettger, Germany
C12-10	Gender and Geography	Robyn Longhurst, New Zealand	Renewed	Shirlena Huang, Singapore
C12-11	Geographical Education	Lex Chalmers, New Zealand	Renewed	Joop van der Schee, The Netherlands; John Lidstone, Australia
C12-12	Geographical Information Sciences	Brian Lees, Australia	Renewed	Francis Harvey, United States
C12-13	Geography of Governance	Jan Bucek, Slovakia	Renewed	
C12-14	Geography of the Global Information Society	Mark Wilson, USA	Renewed	
C12-15	Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change	Jarkko Saarinen, Finland	Renewed	Dieter Muller, Sweden
C08-16	Geomorphic Challenges	Gary Brierley, New Zealand	Retired	Irasema Alcantara-Ayala to re-launch
C12-16	GeoParks	Dongying Wei, China-Beijing	Renewed	
C12-17	Global Change and Human Mobility	Armando Montanari, Italy	Renewed	Josefina Domínguez Mujica, Spain

C12-18	Hazards and Risks	Shigeko Haruyama	Renewed	
C12-19	Health and Environment	Wuyi Wang, China-Beijing	Renewed	Co-chair: Thomas Krafft, The Netherlands
C12-20	History of Geography	Jacobo Garcia Alvarez, Spain	Renewed	
C12-21	Indigenous Peoples, Knowledges and Rights	Brad Coombes, New Zealand	Renewed	
C12-22	Islands	Chang-yi David Chang, China-Taipei	Renewed	
C12-23	Karst	Elena Trofimova, Russia	Renewed	
C12-24	Land Degradation and Desertification	Gudrun Gisladottir, Iceland	Renewed	Paul Hudson, USA
C12-25	Landscape Analysis and Landscape Planning	Nodar Elizbarashvili, Georgia	Renewed	
C12-26	Land Use and Land Cover Change	Ivan Bičik, Czech Republic	Renewed	
C12-27	Latin American Studies	Juan Manuel Delgado, Peru	Established	
C12-28	Local Development	Michael Sofer, Israel	Renewed	
C12-29	Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses	Etienne Nel, New Zealand	Renewed	Stanko Pelc, Slovenia
C12-30	Mediterranean Basin	Maria Paradiso, Italy	Established	
C12-31	Modelling Geographical Systems	Yee Leung, China-Hong Kong	Renewed	
C12-32	Mountain Responses to Global Change	Joerg Loeffler, Germany	Renewed	
C12-33	Political Geography	Anton Gosar, Slovenia	Renewed	Elena dell'Agnes, Italy
C12-34	Population and Vulnerability	Allan M. Findley, United Kingdom	Renewed	Etienne Piguet, Switzerland
C12-35	Sustainability of Rural Systems	Ana Maria Bicalho, Brazil	Renewed	Ana Firmino, Portugal; Kim Doo-Chul, Japan
C12-36	Toponymy	Cosimo Palagiano, Italy	Established	
C12-37	Transformation Processes in Megacities	Frauke Kraas, Germany	Established	
C12-38	Transport and Geography	Richard Knowles, United Kingdom	Renewed	
C12-39	Urban Geography: Urban Challenges in a Complex World	Christian Matthiessen, Denmark	Renewed	Celine Rozenblat, Switzerland
C12-40	Water Sustainability	JAA Jones, United Kingdom	Renewed	Claudio Cassardo, Italy

Code	Task Force	Chairperson	Action	New chair /comments
T08-02	Megacities	Frauke Kraas, Germany	Retired	Re-launched as Commission C12-37
T12-01	Olympiad	Henk Ankone, The Netherlands Joop van der Schee , The Netherlands	Renewed	Kathryn Berg, Australia; Lex Chalmers, New Zealand

Approval of new National Members

Secretary-General Meadows reported that he has received two applications for membership from Kuwait and the Palestinian Authority. The matter was put to the vote and both new members were *unanimously accepted* by the assembly.

Report of the President for the Period 2008-2012

President Ron Abler summarized the major activities of the IGU over the inter-congress period. IGU Commissions and Task Forces maintained good productivity with respect to meetings and publications during the period, with very few exceptions that are evident in the executive committee's recommendations regarding the continuation and retirement of commissions and task forces. President Abler noted the excellent leadership that had characterised the IGU in the past and that this had assisted greatly over the last four years which had proved an exciting and exhilarating period.

Highlights of this term of office had been the development of the International Year of Global Understanding proposal through the efforts in particular of the Commission on Cultural Geography, the launch of the newly designed IGU website and related facilities, and the initiation of the Sustainable Cities project. There is a strong sense that the IGU is in good shape and is particularly well placed within ICSU and ISSC to facilitate participation in the major global research agendas relating to the environment.

President Abler commented on the issue of the frequency of regional conferences, which – commencing in 2010 - are now annual through to 2016. He remarked that judgement on the wisdom of this or otherwise would only be possible with hindsight; suffice for now to say that the conferences in 2010 and 2011 had been good, although not without controversy due to their locations (Tel Aviv, Israel and Santiago, Chile, respectively).

Concern over the location of conferences had led the executive committee to present a special session at the Cologne congress entitled 'Contested Lieux de Mémoire' and it was hoped that open debate and discussion of the problems around some meeting venues would have a positive effect. The President then expressed his sincere thanks to members of the executive committee with whom he has had the pleasure of working and appreciated their unfailing diligence; he remarked that he was looking forward to continuing to work with the new committee in his capacity as Past President.

Report of the Secretaries General and Treasurers for the Period 2008-2012

Woo-ik Yu was Secretary General from the conclusion of the Tunis Congress in August 2008 until, following his enforced resignation due to career commitments, Mike Meadows was elected

to the position in August 2010. Meadows reported on their respective responsibilities in consultation with Abler.

The IGU Secretariat was relocated to Cape Town towards the end of 2010 and continued to operate at minimal cost to the IGU. Outgoing Secretary-General Yu had made a generous personal donation to the IGU to help smooth the transition. The finances of the IGU are now fully based in Cape Town and, despite South African exchange control regulations that necessitate the funds being held in South African Rand, the revenue and expenditure arrangements are proving satisfactory.

Secretary-General Meadows introduced the assembly and made a brief demonstration of the newly established Journals Database which is now fully accessible from the IGU website at www.igu-online.org and which, through the kind intervention of Professor Ton Dietz and colleagues at the University of Amsterdam, now provided information on more than 1,000 Geography journals from across the globe. Meadows is committed to further improving the quantity and quality of journal information in the database which, he hoped, would prove to be a very valuable resource for geographers seeking ways to make their publications more accessible.

The situation regarding publication of the *IGU Bulletin* was now largely back on track. During the inter-congress period, volumes dating back to 2004 had been published and, indeed, the volumes covering 2007-8 and 2009-10 were available to the assembly and would be mailed to the usual circulation list following the congress. The 2011-12 issue would be published at the beginning of 2013, whereafter, it was expected to resume annual volumes. Vice-President Bellezza produces the *IGU e-Newsletter* several times a year and this is made available electronically to, among others, all national committees, commissions and task forces via their appropriate contact persons. In addition, the IGU website is constantly updated with news items and from 2011 onwards, the executive committee has decided to produce a brief annual report.

The IGU's financial status is adequate. As of 31st December 2011, the IGU had cash on hand of US\$ 183,164. The IGU operates on a cash accounting basis and has no liabilities, so the cash on hand represents the organization's entire net worth. The table immediately below provides a comparison of the IGU's 31 December 2011 financial position with the four prior years.

Appointment of the General Assembly Finance Committee

President Abler asked the assent of the general assembly for the appointment of Shigeko Haruyama (Japan) and N. Nagabhushanam (India) as members of the 2012 General Assembly Finance Committee: *Approved unanimously.*

Election of the 2012-2016 IGU President and Executive Committee Members

Nominations for vacancies on the IGU Executive Committee were solicited from the chairs of national committees in July 2011 to be received at the IGU Secretariat no later than 31 December 2011. One nomination was received for president (Vladimir, Kolossov, Russia) and ten individuals were nominated for four vice presidential seats on the IGU Executive Committee.

In the secret ballot, Kolossov was elected President 2012-2016 through the Beijing International Geographical Congress (47 votes, one abstention). The election for four Vice President vacancies, with the votes cast in their favour, produced the following result:

<i>Canada--Mark Rosenberg, Queens University</i>	17
<i>China-Taipei--David Chang-yi Chang, National Taiwan University</i>	16

<i>Finland</i> --Jarkko Saarinen, University of Oulu	21
<i>France</i> --Yves Boquet, University of Burgundy	10
<i>Germany</i> --Dietrich Soyeز, University of Cologne	30
<i>India</i> --RB Singh, University of Delhi	31
<i>The Netherlands</i> -- Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, University of Amsterdam	28
<i>Nigeria</i> --Olukayode Oyesiku, Olabisi Onabayo University	16
<i>Saudi Arabia</i> --Mohammad S Makki, King Saud University	3
<i>Slovenia</i> --Anton Gosar, University of Primorska	12

The new Executive Committee (*President Kolossov photo: see Newsletter opening*)



Past President, Ron Abler, Secretary General and Treasurer, Mike Meadows and First Vice President Dieter Soyeز



“Survivors”: Aharon Kellerman, Qin Dahe, Yukio Himiyama, Giuliano Bellezza



“Newcomers”: Joos Drooglever Fortuijn, Jarkko Sarinen, R.B. Singh

Report and Feedback on the Cologne IGU Congress

The joint chairpersons of the Local Organising Committee of the Congress addressed the assembly and were greeted with a rousing round of applause. Frauke Kraas explained that the theme ‘Down to Earth’ had been put into effect and that the decision not to employ a commercial congress organising operation had, notwithstanding considerable strain on the resources of the academic department, resulted in considerably lower costs and a substantial increase in the number of registrations. The focus on getting younger geographers involved was also an important innovation. Only in retrospect would we know the extent to which any of the new and traditional aspects of the Congress were really successful. President Abler warmly congratulated the local organisers on what was clearly a vibrant and inspiring event.

Approval of the Locations of the 2018 Regional Conference and 2020 International Geographical Congress

The executive committee was in receipt of two invitations for the 2018 regional conference, Taipei, China-Taipei and Lima, Peru. Having carefully scrutinised both invitations, however, it was decided that further information would be sought from both national committees and that the assembly, therefore, would be notified via email of the decision, probably early in 2013. The national committee for China-Taipei requested permission to present the case for Taipei, but President Abler declined this request as a) the nominators for Peru were not available to present their case for Lima and b) since the executive committee had itself not been in possession of sufficient information regarding either of the two candidate cities, there was no decision to be made by the assembly and any presentation would therefore be redundant. One invitation was received for the 2020 IGC, *viz.* Istanbul, Turkey, as proposed by the Turkish National Committee for the IGU. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the assembly with no abstentions.

Approval of an Extraordinary Centennial/Sesquicentennial International Geographical Congress

President Abler noted that 2021 is the 150th anniversary of the first International Geographical Congress in Antwerp, while 2022 is the centennial anniversary of the formal establishment of the International Geographical Union. He proposed to the assembly that there be an extraordinary International Geographical Congress in 2022 in order to commemorate these two major anniversaries. The proposal was accepted by majority, with two votes against.

Announcement of IGU Honors and Awards

President Abler announced the IGU awards to be conferred in 2012 as follows: *IGU Planet and Humanity Medal*: Mr Lester Brown, President and Senior Researcher at the Earth Policy Institute

in Washington, DC USA. IGU *Lauréat d'Honneur*: Larry S. Bourne (Canada), Mohammad S. I. Makki (Saudi Arabia), Janice J. Monk (USA), and Hiroshi Tanabe (Japan).

Schedule of Future IGU Meetings

The schedule of IGU meetings through 2016 is:

- 2013 Kyoto, Japan Regional Conference
- 2014 Krakow, Poland Regional Conference
- 2015 Moscow, Russia Regional Conference
- 2016 Beijing, China International Geographical Congress

Brief presentations to the assembly were made by representatives of each of these meetings.

Comments by the President-Elect

Kolossov briefly thanked the assembly for having the confidence in him as President of the IGU for the next four years. He paid tribute to the work of outgoing President Abler and was looking forward to working with the new executive committee to further the aims of the IGU.

Report of the General Assembly Finance Committee

The general assembly finance committee consisting of Shigeko Haruyama (Japan) and N. Nagabhushanam (India) reported that it had found the IGU financial accounts in good order, and it recommended that Treasurers Woo-ik Yu and Mike Meadows be discharged from liability for their respective periods of responsibility. It was noted that, in future, the finance sub-committee would be appointed prior to the general assembly and that this would enable it to scrutinise the IGU finances in greater detail. The assembly *unanimously approved* the General Assembly Finance Committee's report.

Other Business

The representative for Saudi Arabia requested further clarification on the situation regarding the Home of Geography. President Abler reported that the executive committee had taken the decision in 2008 that the finances of the IGU were not sufficiently robust to warrant support for this facility and had reluctantly decided to discontinue its financial support. The representative for Saudi Arabia went on to report that a team was working on an Arabic translation of the main elements of the new IGU website. The representative for India suggested that the matter of outstanding dues again be considered and that debts prior to 2010 be written off. This was agreed in principle and that the waiving of outstanding dues would remain at the Treasurer's prerogative.

Votes of Thanks

President Abler asked and was granted the consent of the assembly to offer appropriate expressions of appreciation both to the organizers of the Cologne Congress and to the retiring members of the IGU Executive Committee, Professors Fincher, Loytonen and Alcantara-Ayala. The assembly expressed its appreciation in the appropriate manner.

Adjourn

President Abler closed the meeting with thanks to the conference organizers, the chairs of commissions and task forces, and the national committees and their delegates for their support of the IGU and their participation in the congress and general assembly.

*-Respectfully Submitted, Michael E Meadows,
Secretary-General and Treasurer*



5) NEW COMMISSIONS ESTABLISHED DURING IGU 2012

5.1) C12-27, COMMISSION OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (CEL)

The demand for geography training in Latin America is increasing, this is reflected when is viewed as the place where the great civilizing native societies of our continent as the Aztec, Maya and Inca ordered his territory and also, archaic societies from Rio Grande to Patagonia that territorialized in space - time their wild and extreme physical geography.

The Commission for Latin American Studies, aims to study Latin America in space and time, socio-spatial transformations that have been taking place in our continent, from a critical perspective with endogenous relationships (intra - continental) and exogenous to the other continents or sub-continents (North America, Asia, Africa, Oceania and Europe).

Crisis management of socio – territorial problems generated by socio-historical-environmental that exist in our space and time called Latin America are the events that have given our interest in power relations between the political organization of society and geographical space at different scales in Latin America.

The Latin American Geography is no stranger to all world events because in the past, our new states - nation to independence began to inventory their natural resources, to organize their territories according to their changing needs, for that Geography of the time with profile a cartographic was the main weapon of domination as it was in the centuries of the colony on indigenous peoples and minorities as well as racial and religious transformations through which culture is produced and everyday cultural practices of individuals and communities, as expressed in institutions, subjectivities and social movements.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMISSION

GENERAL:

Establish a Latin American organization of geography for work and discussions on the subject of study "Latin America", which achieves articulate students, professionals and geography teachers for their coexistence and integration through praxis of topics of interest to the Latin American people, encourage commitment to society by promoting geographical research from epistemic vision criticized but adapting it to the Latin American reality achieving fertilization stimulating critical thinking and reflective with a commitment to break with hegemonic myths and preconceptions of Latin American social knowledge of the subject.

SPECIFIC:

- a) To promote interdisciplinary relationships between American geographers with the formation of virtual knowledge networks, such as building a website.
- b) To publish a journal of Latin American geography with a special dossier on the problem or situation in Latin America, and a monthly online newsletter.
- c) Promote the EGAL XIV april 2013 (Meeting of Latin American Geographers) in Lima, from now on and organize IGU Regional Conference in Lima 2018.
- d) Create lines or lines of research with responsibility and autonomy to work with other networks such as IPGH, GEORAYZAL, Humboldt, Geo Brazil and EGAL.
- e) Seek for agreements with the American Institute of Geography and History (IPGH), FLACSO (Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences), CLACSO (Latin American Council of Science), Post-Associação de Pesquisa em Graduação and Geography (ANPEGE) of Brazil, and other Pan and regional organizations.
- f) To undertake a Graduate Diploma in Geographic Latin American Studies with strategic partners such as universities and institutions of education.
- g) Encourage the creation of the career of geography in undergraduate and graduate levels, especially countries that have not yet our specialty.
- h) To integrate geography with other disciplines in the epistemological debate that seeks to realize their true role and find a Latin American Integration Geographical Thought making the Latin American subject as object of study in human and physical geography of our region.

Professor Geog. Juan Manuel Delgado, Chair of the International Geographical Union - Peruvian National Committee.

URL: www.ugiperu.org

And of the

Commission of Latin American Studies

Peruvian University of Applied Sciences, Humanities Area,
Environmental Analysis Course. Avenue Prolongación Primavera 2390,
Monterrico, Surco. Lima - Perú.

Vox: +51 313-3333 annex 1226 and 1221.

Fax: + 51 313-3344

E-mail: juanmanueldelgado@gmail.com, pchujdel@upc.edu.pe,
juan.delgado@ugiperu.org

URL: www.igu-estudioslatinoamericanos.org



5.2) C12.30, IGU Commission on Mediterranean Basin

COMB-Commission on Mediterranean Basin emerged from the Mediterranean Renaissance Program (MRP), was initiated in 2005 by IGU Past President Adalberto Vallega, as a Special Project. It aims to promote and foster geographical research on the Mediterranean Region. It aims further to develop of a Mediterranean regional network of geographers.

COMB organises sessions each year for the IGU conferences, and from time to time it has its own meetings.

COMB contributes to international projects devoted to Mediterranean issues, thus fostering the role of geographers on subjects such as cultural dialogue, mobility, climatic change and society, security and safety, pollution, green cities, spatial justice, information society, urban and rural environment and systems (livelihoods, food security, water, transports, energy, environment, risk, desertification, climate change fires and vegetation, conservation), urban and regional planning, governance, coastal management, tourism and leisure areas, tangible and intangible heritage,

geoparks, small and medium enterprises and local development, conflict resolution and more. Currently a main topic is: 'Transition spaces, process, patterns'.

COMB is a member of EMUNI (European Mediterranean University), centred in Portoroz, Slovenia.

COMB is committed to interact with related organisations such as the UfthM (Union for the Mediterranean) and related bodies, research centres and foundations devoted to Mediterranean studies and cultural dialogue and exchange, directorates of the EC (European Commission), and the UN Alliance of Civilizations.

The COMB Chair is Prof. Maria Paradiso (Italy), and its steering committee members, as well as the commission members, come from most of the Mediterranean countries but also from other world regions. Scholars from non-Mediterranean countries interested in the topic are welcome to join (please contact Maria Paradiso: paradiso@unisannio.it).

COMB Steering Committee

Maria Paradiso, **Chair**, University of Sannio, Benevento, Italy (paradiso@unisannio.it). Mobile: +39-3277856516

Ali Toumi, **Executive Secretary**, University of Tunis (alitoumi2003@yahoo.fr)

- *Fathy Abo Ayana*, University of Alexandria (aboyana@yahoo.com)
- *Antoine Bailly*, University of Geneva (antoine.bailly@unige.ch)
- *Anne Buttimer*, University of Dublin, (anne.buttimer@ucd.ie)
- *Annick Douguédroit*, Aix-Marseille University, Aix en Provence (Annick.Douguedroit@univ-provence.fr)
- *Maria Sala*, University of Barcelona (sala@trivium.gh.ub.es)
- *Izhak Schnell*, University of Tel Aviv (schnell@post.tau.ac.il)
- *Theano S. Terkenli*, University of the Aegean, (t.terkenli@aegean.gr)
- *Barney Warf*, University of Kansas, (bwarf@ku.edu)

5.3) C12.36, IGU Commission on Toponymy (jointly with International Cartographic Association)

Chair for IGU: Cosimo Palagiano, Italy

E-mail: Cosimo.Palagiano@uniroma1.it, cosimopalagiano2@gmail.com

For some years, during the sessions of the UNGEGN (United Nations of Groups of Experts on Geographical Names), several topics on toponymy have been discussed. In a prestigious venue like this some scholars, me, Helen Kerfoot, Peter Jordan, Georg Gartner and others we decided to establish a Commission of Toponymy, which would study the Geographical names from the point of view both of geography and cartography.

The geographical names are the object of study of many bodies, the same UNGEGN, the ICOS (International Council of Onomastic Sciences) and many other conferences have been held in many countries on Geographic Names. But there is no geographic and cartographic approach that could define the relationship between geographical names and identity and geographical names and old and new maps . Geographers are interested in the meaning of geographical names and Cartography in their changes over time.

During the Regional Geographical Conference of Santiago de Chile Ron Abler, the President of the IGU, reported that the joint Commission/Working Group on Toponymy that has been under discussion between

ICA and IGU for some time is now formed after several preliminary meetings between interested members of both organizations. After reviewing the proposal submitted by IGU representative Cosimo Palagiano the executive committee approved establishment of the body contingent upon the submission of an appropriate Steering Committee and on approval by the ICA, whose executive committee will consider the proposal in late November 2011. New ICA President Georg Gartner is enthusiastic about the joint body. Palagiano was appointed the IGU Co-Chair of the new group; the ICA appointed the other co-chair Paulo Márcio Leal de Menezes. The joint group is sponsoring a paper session at the Santiago Regional Conference.

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The following full members were selected according their interest and their distribution in countries and continents:

- Peter Raper : lamoller@absamail.co.za (South Africa)
- Ferjan Ormeling: f.ormeling@geo.uu.nl (Netherlands)
- Dungjae Cho: sjchoo@khu.ac.kr (Korea)
- Yaïves Ferland: Yaives.Ferland@hst.ulaval.ca (Canada)
- Eman Orieby : emanorieby@gmail.com (Egypt)
- Peter Jordan : Peter.Jordan@oeaw.ac.at (Austria)
- Cosimo Palagiano: cosimo.palagiano@uniroma1.it (Italy) IGU Co-chair
- Paulo Menezes : pmenezes@acd.ufrj.br (Brazil) ICA Co-Chair
- Mustafa Ozturk: mustafaozt@gmail.com (Turkey)
- Kohei Watanabe: kw10004@cam.ac.uk (Japan)

All these Colleagues accepted. A list of corresponding members will be drawn up.

During the 32nd International Geographical Congress at Cologne, interesting papers on Toponymy were presented by many scholars from Austria, Brazil, Spain, Korea and Japan. Attendance was interested and active.

Place names are not only the most widely used reference framework for indicating location, they are also a reflection of cognition, culture and history. Thus they provide a rich material for geographical research. We would like to invite insightful papers on all aspects of research in the field of place names, including, but not limited to topics regarding; functions of place names on maps, rendering of place names on maps, names placement on maps, elaborating principles for creating new place names, place names as expression of time- or space-related identity, place name/feature relations, motives for place naming, place names and administration, gender toponymy, place names and transportation, place names in the cyber world, social dimensions of place names, uses of toponyms for school education.

Soon after Cologne 2012 we received and accepted the application as member of:

Pamela Dionisio: pameladionisio1@gmail.com (Brazil) and

Paul Woodman: woodman@litstad.u-net.com (United Kingdom).

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Three meetings are scheduled in 2013:

Kioto 2013, August 4-9 Regional Conference: *Geographical Approach to Toponymy*

Leipzig, 2013, August 22-23 Cartographical Pre-conference workshop

Dresden, 2013 August 25-30 International Cartographical Conference.

By the end of May 2014, a Conference on Toponymy will be held in Rome.



6) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

6.1) FESTIVAL INTERNATIONALE DE GEOGRAPHIE, SAINT DIE DES VOSGES,

La 23ème Edition du Festival international de Géographie de Saint-Dié-des-Vosges consacrée cette année aux Facettes du paysage et à la Turquie a connu un large succès. 50 000 personnes, 3 salons (Livre, Géomatique et Gastronomie) ont permis de mieux comprendre les évolutions du monde à travers la géographie. Succès scientifique par la qualité des intervenants mais également populaire par la présence d'un très grand nombre de visiteurs venus assister à 300 temps de rencontre.



One of the best achievements of FIG is the invitation of some middle school teachers and pupils, giving them the opportunity to meet some of the best Geography scholars from all the world

La 24ème Edition se prépare déjà et aura pour thème "La Chine, une puissance mondiale" du 3 au 6 octobre 2013.

Freddy Clairembault



7) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2012)

- 7.1) 34TH INDIAN GEOGRAPHY CONGRESS, PATNA, 2-4 NOVEMBER
- 7.2) 3RD CONGRESSES ON SOFTWARE ENGINEERING AND INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS, WUHAN, 6-8 NOVEMBER
- 7.3) CEDEJ, REVOLTS ET TRANSITION DANS LE MONDE ARABE, CAIRO, 6-8 NOVEMBER
- 7.4) CONFERENCE ON CAREER ORIENTATION EDUCATION AND GENDERED SCHOOL, BASEL 23-24 NOVEMBER
- 7.5) UNDERSTANDING LAND, PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT, CASA UNIVERSITATILOR, BUCHAREST, 10-11 NOVEMBER
- 7.5) IMAGE AND SIGNAL PROCESSING, AND BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND INFORMATICA, CHONGQING, 16-18 NOVEMBER
- 7.6) WORLD CONGRESS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING, PROSTITUTION AND SEX WORK, CALIFORNIA 18-23 NOVEMBER AND SENEGAL 26 NOV.-1ST DEC.
- 7.7) WORLD CONGRESS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING, PROSTITUTION AND SEX WORK: CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA STEELE HALL, NOVEMBER 18-23TH AND BCEAO SALLE DE CONF & MULTIMEDIA IN SENEGAL, 26TH NOV TO 1ST DEC 2012
- 7.8) CIRSI, 3RD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR "HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDES AND PERSECUTIONS", TRIESTE, 11-12 DECEMBER 2012

