



IGU E-NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

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New Series 10

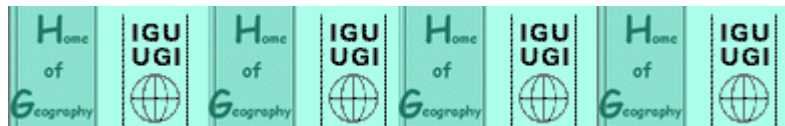
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Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

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

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1) 2013 REMARKS OF IGU PRESIDENT VLADIMIR KOLOSSOV

The period since the publication of the previous Newsletter was rich in events and important news regarding IGU activity. It is impossible to comment on all of them in a short introduction to this issue, but I would like to stress few of them.

First, there is a real chance that after the official November 2013 approval of the IGU initiative to proclaim 2016 the International Year of Global Understanding will be placed on the agenda of the next UN General Assembly session starting in September 2014. The IYGU Executive Director and Chair of the IGU Commission on Cultural Geography, Professor Benno Werlen, is very actively lobbying the initiative in political circles, broadening its support and organizing its regional centres.

Second, the Declaration on Geographical Education adopted at the meeting of the representatives of IGU, the Italian Association of Geography Education (AIIG), the Association of Geographical Societies in Europe (EUGEO) and the European Association of Geographers (EUROGEO) at the IV EUGEO Congress in Rome in September 2013 is being transformed into real research projects and dissemination programs. This declaration (published in the October 2013 IGU E-Newsletter) stresses the educational values and the role of geographical education in a changing world and expresses the growing concern of the international geographical community over the shrinking role of geography in secondary school curricula. The Roadmap of the Rome Declaration's practical implementation has been adopted at the recent meeting of the Presidents of all three international geographical organizations (Professors Henk van Ottens, Karl Donert, and I), the Chair of IGU Commission on Geographical Education Professor Joop van der Schee, and few other colleagues (Utrecht, February 2014).

The first general objective is to work out basic requirements for geographical knowledge of each citizen in the 21st century. This document could serve as reference point for national geographical communities, ministries of education, and other educational bodies. The first step is the collection and analysis of national geographical curricula for identifying and disseminating the best practices.

The second general objective is to prove the need for geographical knowledge in the everyday life of different communities via interviews and other methods, and to find the evidence that geographical knowledge obtained in secondary schools can help solve or contribute to a solution of a great number of local problems. This objective can be useful in improving the image of geography in society and among decision makers. We also believe that this project will be quite useful for promoting cooperation between the IGU and European geographical associations.

Third, IGU Executive Committee established an award for particular achievements on the part of its 40 Commissions. Decisions about these awards will be taken by a special subcommittee headed by Vice-President Professor Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn and will be based on a set of formal criteria. The award will include a cash premium and the opportunity to present a keynote lecture at a plenary session at the next IGU Regional Conference or Congress. The first recipient will be announced at the Regional conference in Craków.

Fourth, we are happy to report that IGU is expanding: Kazakhstan and Serbia officially applied to become members of our Union, and there are good chances that several other countries from Asia and Africa will soon follow them.

Finally, the Executive Committee (EC) agreed that all its members should regularly submit written reports about their activities, which will make more transparent the contribution of each. In April 2014 we compiled and discussed personal reports for the first time. Each EC member serves as liaison with a number of national committees and IGU Commissions and Task Forces, and has other files in his/her personal portfolio. For instance, such portfolios embrace the creation of IGU Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force and updating of the IGU Handbook containing answers to frequently asked questions; IGU expansion, particularly in Africa and Asia; contacts with other scientific unions and organizations and with ICSU and ISSC; the maintenance of the IGU web site; and the development of projects like IYGU, OurSus (*Our Sustainable Cities*), or the update of the IGU database on geographical journals. We also try to promote the participation of IGU in important global programmes like *Future Earth*. Quite naturally, each EC member works in close contact with his/her national geographical association(s). This list of personal engagements, of course, is not comprehensive. Not all our plans are fully implemented, sometimes for the reasons which do not depended only on us.

After the conference in Craków three or four members of the current Executive will step down, depending on whether one is re-elected. That means that the committee's composition will be considerably renewed. Those of us whose mandates do not expire this year are very sorry to lose the opportunity to work together and to regularly meet our highly professional and competent colleagues who became our friends. But they will always remain members of "IGU family". I'm confident that the renewed Executive Committee will maintain the same friendly and cooperative environment that has characterized the current Committee.

Vladimir Kolossov, President
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2) DRAFT MINUTES OF IGU EC MEETING IN MOSCOW, 27-29 APRIL 2014

Welcome, Meeting Logistics and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by President Vladimir Kolosov, who welcomed Secretary-General Mike Meadows and Vice-Presidents Ron Abler, Dietrich Soyez, RB Singh, Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Giuliano Bellezza, Aharon Kellerman and Qin Dahe. Jarkko Saarinen was able to participate via Skype. Yukio Himiyama was unable to attend.

Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda, prepared and distributed in advance of the meeting, was adopted with the addition of items relating to IGU publications and the International Geographical Bibliography.

Minutes

The minutes of the Kyoto August 2013 meeting, previously approved via email, were tabled for reference.

Organization and Operations

Executive Committee Member Reports. All members except one had submitted personal reports on their activities in relation to the IGU. It was agreed that highlights in these reports be summarised in the President's introductory comments for the next IGU *e-Newsletter* (Kolosov, Bellezza).

Executive Committee Calendar 2013-14. The upcoming EC calendar was tabled as follows: Craków, Poland; arrival 14th August 2014, meeting 15th and 17th August, Excursion 16th August, thereafter attend the Regional Conference. Cape Town, South Africa: December 2014: arrivals 11th December, meeting 12th and 13th, field excursion 14th, departures 15th. It was agreed to inform all nominated Vice-Presidential candidates of the proposed dates to allow them to reserve the dates in the event of their election (Meadows).

IGU Elections 2014. It was agreed that the ballot should be held as soon as possible. There is only one nomination for Secretary-General and Treasurer, and seven candidates for the four Vice-Presidential vacancies. An independent teller will be appointed to receive and count the votes as was done for the 2010 elections (Abler to contact the individual concerned). Newly elected VPs will be introduced at a plenary session of the Regional Conference in Craków and the 2016 elections announced at the Moscow Regional Conference.

IGU Country Membership Report. Two formal membership applications have been received during the last few months, viz. Kazakhstan and Serbia. Formal authorisation of new member countries requires the approval of the General Assembly but that can be done via email; it was therefore agreed to add this vote to the VP email election ballot (Meadows). An inquiry regarding membership has been received from Myanmar and SG Meadows has already followed this up. Colombia has recently renewed its membership and Tunisia has brought its status into good financial standing. There has been correspondence with representatives of several other countries regarding membership and EC members are encouraged to use their own contacts in regard to membership (all EC members). Gabon's application as to formal membership, not least with regard to the planned Université Omar Bongo/IGU workshop in November (cf. below) is expected shortly. Soyez recently attended a meeting in Morocco and had an opportunity to promote the IGU and agreed to follow the matter up with local contacts (Soyez).

Commission and Task Force Reports and Excellence Awards. Annual reports have been received from all but one of the Commissions (Arid Lands). The sub-committee (chaired by Drooglever-Fortuijn) appointed to select the Commission to receive the 2013 excellence award agreed to convene and consider the award on the basis of the annual reports and report its recommendation to the Secretary-General by the end of May 2014. The reports suggest that all commissions are indeed active, although clearly some are more so and still others are especially vigorous and even innovative. It is hoped that the award (US\$ 2,500) can be presented at a plenary session in Craków subject to the agreement of the local organisers, although this is rather late notice (Kolosov to contact the Craków LOC).

IGU Financial Report and Projection. Meadows reported that the financial situation of the IGU remains reasonably sound, despite weakness of the South African Rand. It seems an approximately break-even year-end is the most likely scenario, provided that the currency exchange rate remains within the anticipated range. Means of increasing IGU funding were discussed and Abler agreed to approach his personal contact again with a view to a further contribution. National mapping agencies were suggested as a potential source of income but personal contacts are without doubt the only meaningful way forward. It was agreed that all EC members consider possible new sponsors and report these to Kolosov to develop an approach.

IYGU Benno Werlen recently submitted several new documents highlighting progress in regard to the proposed UN-IYGU. It is anticipated that the formal proposal will be tabled as an agenda item at the next UN General Assembly on 16th September 2014, whereafter the various elements of the initiative can be implemented.

Werlen remains active in lobbying for approval among various communities, both political and scientific, and has requested IGU to ask our National Committees (and others) to write to the relevant national authorities in support of IYGU. Following adoption of the IYGU, it will be possible to encourage the Commissions and National Committees to become more practically involved. Kolosov agreed to approach the GeoUnions again with regard to possible financial commitment (Meadows to draft the letter).

There was discussion about the profile of IGU profile on the IYGU website. The EC commended Benno Werlen on the excellent progress made with this initiative, which is now the flagship project for the IGU.

IGU Handbook. Abler tabled a draft version of the revised handbook. EC members agreed to review the draft and pass comments back to Abler for editorial changes before publication on the website. Comments are due to Abler no later than 31 May.

Gabon workshop. Following-up discussions with colleagues from Université Omar Bongo/UOB, Libreville during the 2013 *Festival de géographie* in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges (France), Soyez attended a meeting in Libreville regarding plans to organise a joint UOB/IGU international workshop in Gabon in early November 2014, aimed at encouraging participation in the IGU among Francophone African geographers in particular. The proposed general theme of this event is "L'insertion mondiale de l'Afrique. Une mise en perspective par les géographes africains" Given the very short time period for preparations the project is ambitious, but organisational details are expected shortly. As soon as they are available, the meeting will be widely publicised

through IGU's normal ways of circulation and the website (Meadows). The financial commitment requested of IGU is modest but it is also expected that IGU should be represented at the meeting (including some EC members if possible) and this could involve further costs which will need to be monitored and minimised. There was discussion as to who might be approached as IGU 'representatives' in this context and Soyez agreed to pursue this further. An updated French version of the IGU Brochure will be required for distribution at that meeting. Yves Boquet has performed translation tasks for the EC over many years and is to be approached again in this regard (Meadows). The EC noted with appreciation Boquet's consistent and selfless commitment to translating various IGU documents.

Sustainable Cities 'Oursus'. Ton Dietz submitted a detailed report and Kellerman highlighted the main points. *Oursus* is planned to reach full maturity in time for the 2016 Beijing Congress. There will be a presentation at Craków illustrating progress. Between 2014 and 2016 it is anticipated that up to 70 Chinese cities will be on the website but the challenge now is to get cities from outside China represented. It was agreed that assessment of advertisements posted to the site should be the joint responsibility of the Chinese team and Dietz. It is agreed that it is time to establish an international steering committee under the chairpersonship of Ton Dietz; Singh agreed to forward a list of suggested names to Dietz via Kellerman. The organisers are to be asked to invite Chinese geographers onto their team in consultation with Qin. Information and requests regarding *Oursus* should be sent to National Committee chairs and Commissions as part of the next general communication from Kolosov.

IGU Expansion. Kolosov agreed to write to the Director of the Royal Geographical Society to foster greater co-operation with this organisation (Meadows to draft the letter) and it was agreed that Abler would approach the American Association of Geographers if its officers would be prepared to help further distribute the IGU *eNewsletter*. There is a definite need to market IGU globally, especially given its evolving character. The suggestion that national geographical association contacts be approached (via the National Committees) was reaffirmed with a view to their providing a link from their websites to the IGU website.

Abler reported briefly on the IGU booth at the recent AAG in Tampa and was pleased to note the substantial number of younger delegates who expressed an interest in IGU activities. EC members need to be more active in communicating with their respective National Committee and Commission and Task Force portfolio contacts and to ensure that communications about IGU are distributed more widely. Commission chairs should be encouraged to expand their memberships and this matter would be raised in the President's next general communication. Drooglever-Fortuijn agreed to scrutinise annual reports to explore temporal trends in IGU Commission membership.

IGU Regional Networks. The CIS regional network continues to be active and will meet in Baku in September 2014. There are regular activities in relation to regional networking in China, Korea and Japan, in Europe (indirectly) through EUROGEO, and in Latin America (indirectly), through EGAL. Kolosov agreed to write to Irasema Alcantara-Ayala to request that she provide additional points of contact with EGAL if possible. Mediterranean and Latin America networks are now represented as formally established IGU Commissions. Nordic Geographers meet every second year and have a long and successful history of collaboration although connection to the IGU is not obvious. Saarinen will attend the next meeting of Nordic geographers in Tallinn, discuss pertinent issues and distribute the IGU brochure.

Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force. The letter of invitation to the proposed members of this committee drafted by Abler now needs to be sent to them by Kolosov. It was agreed that the Craków Regional Conference should be used to get this task force underway and invitations to attend the conference should be sent to the ten initial members (Kolosov).

IGU Website and IGU Social Networking. The website re-design is complete and operating efficiently with the exception of the Journals Project search engine which requires some further refinement (Meadows). The Facebook page for IGU continues to attract some interest but needs to be updated more frequently and it was suggested that this could be a possible portfolio for one of the incoming Vice Presidents following the election. French and Arabic versions of the main elements of the site still need to be developed. Meadows also agreed to set up a Twitter account for IGU and monitor its use and to find a moderator as an element of a new member's portfolio.

IGU Bulletin. Meadows is collating the documents for Volume 63 for 2013 which should be available for distribution in time for the Craków Regional Conference. The matter of whether or not to produce a printed copy (and how many) was discussed and it was agreed to reduce the print run to 200 and make a digital copy available on the website in future.

IGU E-Newsletter Update. The newsletter plays an essential role in communicating to the broader community. Given that Bellezza is retiring from the EC in Craków, the matter of how to continue this was discussed. Bellezza has offered to continue to do the editing and distribution and the EC accepted this offer with gratitude. Distribution can be further enhanced through the cooperation of conference and congress local organising committees where possible/legal.

IGU Archives. Meadows reported that he had visited the archives in January 2014 and met with the Director of the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL) at Leipzig and the individuals responsible for curating the relocated IGU archives. He noted that the archives are now being curated in a completely professional manner and there is a need to help the archivists to maintain these into the future.

There remain some important gaps, in particular material prior to 1956 (which is held by the RGS in London) and material for the last few years during the terms of office of Secretaries-General Yu, Abler and Meadows. Meadows agreed to provide the archivist with electronic versions of all IGU files from 2010 onwards and Abler would do the same for the period prior to this.

The archivists have expressed a desire to hold actual versions of the various awards where possible and are especially keen to receive photographs etc. of IGU events etc. Commissions are to be encouraged to send copies of all publications to the archives, indeed some already do so as a matter of course. There is a notable shortage of conference materials (programmes, abstracts etc.) from recent years in particular. Meadows agreed to write to IGU Commission and National Committee chairs, as well as chairs of local organising committees of recent conferences and congresses to inform them of the need for archival material. The matter of the pre-1956 material was discussed at length and it was agreed that, ideally, this should be integrated with the existing archives. Kolosov agreed to approach the RGS with a view to resolving this issue (Meadows to draft the letter).

Dialogue Project. The Google Channel for the Dialogue Project is now operational and the pilot site is working well with more than 30 of the interviews already available for streaming. The channel needs to be linked to the IGU home page and requires some explanatory text and an acknowledgement to Lund University for agreeing to make the material available in this way. The idea was raised that interviews with contemporary geographers could be conducted to continue the project.

IGU and Academic Teaching in Geography. Droogleever-Fortuijn reported that the special session in relation to this matter at the Kyoto Regional Conference had resulted in a lively discussion and further activities are planned for Craków. This is also one of the themes for the Moscow Regional Conference in 2015.

Image of Geography. Soyez reported on a recent major survey in Germany regarding the 'image' of Geography. The survey explored the image of the discipline through three constituencies, viz. the broader public, the media, and resource managers. The survey was conducted by a professional organisation, yielding approximately 2,000 responses. Evaluation of the survey is now ongoing in working groups at several institutions and results are to be published in due course. The results of the survey are of considerable interest to the international community and the initiators are planning (summary) publications in English that would also be distributed to the IGU community and made available via the IGU website (Soyez).

International Geographical Bibliography. The bibliography is published annually and includes bibliographic details and abstracts of geographical publications. Historically, there has been an annual subvention of US\$ 1,000 but this has not been requested since 2010. It was agreed to support this again provided that the IGU logo appears in a prominent place on the cover. Kolosov agreed to ascertain if there is an electronic version that could be made available via the IGU website and to provide the Secretary-General and Treasurer with the contact details so that he can send them a *pro forma* invoice for the subvention.

IGU Publications. Ton Dietz has compiled a first draft of the jointly authored paper developed from the presentation made at the Kyoto conference; it is hoped that this will be published. Singh reported on responses to the newly established Springer series on Geography and Environmental Sciences which is targeted especially at IGU commissions and task forces. Five volumes are already in preparation, three emanating from the Rohtak meeting in 2013, one on Megacities and one by the Commission on Geographical Education.

Priorities and Long Term Strategy. Kolosov agreed to develop some ideas about the longer term for IGU and present them to the next EC meeting in Craków.

Cooperation and Outreach

Festival International de Géographie. Kolosov reported that are new contacts at FIG. The Mayor of St. Die is now Mr David Valence and J-R Pitte has been replaced by Louis Marrou as chair of the AdFIG. Unfortunately, it appears that financial support from the local organisers for IGU participation at the festival in 2014 will not be possible. IGU remains committed to maintaining links with this event. Soyez reported on his attendance at the 2013 festival where he had presented the customary IGU lecture. He agreed to attend again on behalf of IGU for 2014,

where the national theme will be the British Isles, and while there also try to promote, in close cooperation with UOB colleagues, the planned Gabon meeting of Francophone African geographers.

IGU Representatives on International Bodies. Etienne Nel submitted a report documenting the activities of CROP. Ruth Fincher submitted a report on ISSC (see below). There is no news concerning the nomination of Haruyama to the IRDR. Qin has been nominated by IGU to the Joint Scientific Committee of the World Climate Research Programme.

ICSU Meadows noted that ahead of the ICSU General Assembly in New Zealand in September 2014, the ICSU Executive Director had requested a response from the Unions to a number of key ICSU initiatives. A response was prepared by Kolosov, Meadows and Himiyama that indicated IGU activities in relation to ICSU. Abler provided a response to the ICSU survey of Unions indicating IGU positive attitudes to co-operation with associated Unions within the ICSU family.

GeoUnions. Abler also attended the most recent meeting of the GeoUnions in Antalya, Turkey, in October. ICSU elections were discussed and agreement to caucus around GeoUnions nominees which include Orhan Altan (IUGG) and Abler (IGU). Singh commented that, apart from Future Earth, IRDR, Urban Health and Wellbeing and CODATA are especially important. IGU has existing or planned nominees on all three committees.

Future Earth. Qin provided a brief perspective on Future Earth, since he and Karen O'Brian are geographers on its Scientific Committee. The first meeting of the Scientific Committee took place in November in South Africa and a second meeting is planned for June in Beijing. IGU participants have been invited to the meeting of the China National Committee for Future Earth to take place in China in July. Singh reported on the establishment in India of a joint committee of several scientific bodies, including IGU, in relation to Future Earth.

ICSU has requested each Union to write a letter to the Future Earth Scientific Committee as to how they may contribute to the goals of Future Earth. This matter should be raised in the next communication with Commission chairs (Kolosov and Meadows). As requested, IGU as well as other global scientific unions should prepare a letter to the Future Earth Scientific Committee explaining how the Union can contribute to the goals of the programme.

ISSC. Information is received regularly about ISSC activities and former VP Ruth Fincher was re-elected at the General Assembly in Montreal and submitted a report, where Kellerman had also presented a paper. President Kolosov had been unable to attend the meeting. Fincher brought attention to the opportunity for funding through the Transformations to Sustainability Programme funding call. Meadows agreed to circulate this again to the IGU community as the closing date is 31st May 2014. Regional networks appear especially to be encouraged in this initiative.

Affiliation with other organizations. EUROGEO/EUGEO. President Kolosov and Bellezza attended the conference in Rome in 2013 and engaged in discussions with Karl Donert and others regarding collaboration. Following this, Henk Ottens and Joop van der Schee organised a small workshop in Utrecht in February to develop a joint IGU/EUROGEO/EUGEO project in geographical education and this was attended by Kolosov who will now attend the May EUROGEO meeting in Malta to help further the initiative part of which includes a new World Charter on Geographical Education. Kolosov gave a presentation on the status of Geography as a

school subject in particular and how the joint project could help to address the apparent problems. Compared to the situation of just one year ago it was noted that there appears to be good progress in regard to collaboration between IGU, Eugeo and EUROGEO.

YES. It was agreed that Meadows would represent IGU at the Third International Congress of Young Earth Scientists (YES) in Dar es Salaam (11th to 14th August 2014) and will write to the local organisers to explore the possibility of an address at the opening ceremony.

ICA. Meadows reported that he had made a brief presentation at the opening ceremony of the International Cartographic Association Congress in Dresden in September 2013 on behalf of the IGU.

JBGIS. Soyez attended the JBGIS meeting in Potsdam in 2014 on behalf of IGU. The VALID (Value of Geoinformation for Disaster Risk and Management) publication, which contains contributions from IGU, now needs to be appropriately distributed. It was agreed that the remaining copies should be brought to the Craków Regional Conference (Soyez). It was suggested that IGU attempt to stay connected with JBGIS in a manner that does not involve significant cost and that this be a portfolio responsibility for one of the incoming Vice-Presidents.

International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences

The point was made that local organising committees of future congresses and regional conferences should consider arranging at least one plenary session in which there are presentations from key representatives of ICSU and ISSC and their major programmes including Future Earth.

Kyoto, Japan Regional Conference 2013. The final report has been prepared and distributed as well as a book containing the keynote addresses.

Craków, Poland Regional Conference 2014. Some 25 travel grants of either US\$1,000 or US\$500 (depending on domicile of the delegate) have been awarded to candidates, mainly from the developing world. Meadows reported that there has been a very encouraging response in that virtually all awardees have paid registration and confirmed attendance.

Moscow, Russia Regional Conference 2015. Members of the Moscow LOC attended for this item and gave an illustrated presentation about the location and organisation of activities. Dates are confirmed for 16th (registration opens) to 21st August (closing ceremony) 2015 and the conference website is fully operational. The Chair of the organising committee is Mr Shoygu, President of the Russian Geographical Society, as it is being jointly organised by this body as well as the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Faculty of Geography Lomonosov Moscow State University. Joint Deputy-Chairs are Professors Kotlyakov and Kasimov. The Programme Committee has suggested the scientific themes which are: Urban Environment, Polar Studies, Climate Change, Global Conflicts and Regional Sustainability. The session proposal deadline is 15th October 2014, early registration opens on 1st November 2014. Early registration fee is US\$399 to 10th April 2015. The venue is the main campus of the Lomonosov Moscow State University.

Beijing, China International Geographical Congress 2016. Qin reported that dates are now confirmed by the LOC as 21st to 25th August 2016 (note the change), at the National Conference Centre, and the Chinese government has agreed to subsidise the costs of hiring this venue. The Chinese Geography Society has been in contact with its various working groups to develop themes for the conference. The first circular will be available for distribution at the Craków Regional Conference. The cost is likely to be US\$400 for early-bird registration and financial support for younger and developing world delegates is planned. It was suggested that presentations be encouraged from the main players in Future Earth, ISSC and ICA and possibly from representatives of cognate disciplines.

Regional Conference 2018. Delgado has submitted documentation in French and Spanish regarding the nomination of Lima, Peru, as host city for the Regional Conference in Lima in 2018. There are plans to launch a website in 2015 but there is no LOC yet in place and no final decision on a venue. Details regarding the organisation remain incomplete. It was therefore decided that there should be a further call to National Committees to propose candidates for a 2018 Regional Conference (Meadows). The Peruvian National Committee would have the opportunity to submit relevant further information and Delgado is to be invited to present a revised and extended proposal along with any other candidate cities in Craków in August 2014.

International Geographical Congress 2020. There is nothing further to report at this stage.

Extraordinary International Geographical Congress 2022. The French National Committee is planning to host the extraordinary Congress and communications between an initial organising committee and Kolosov is underway. There needs to be liaison between this group and the Centennial Task Force; Abler agreed to amend the terms of reference for the Task Force accordingly.

International Geographical Congress 2024. There are no further developments. A call should go out for candidate cities during 2015.

Honors and Awards

Honors and Awards Committee. Ruth Fincher is now the chair of this committee and is the point of contact for all nominations.

IGU Lauréat d'Honneur. Names of possible candidates were discussed and it was decided to initiate formal nomination and submit these to the Honors and Awards Committee for possible award at the Regional Craków or Beijing as appropriate. Abler agreed to draft the nomination.

IGU Planet and Humanity Medal. EC members were again encouraged to consider possible worthy recipients with outstanding global reputations in the field. This should definitely be awarded in 2016 at the Congress. Following discussion, it was agreed to nominate an individual and develop a nomination for submission to the Honors and Awards Committee. Qin agreed to draft the nomination assisted by Abler and Meadows.

Mattei Dogan Prize for Human Geography. The status of the IGU Mattei Dogan prize is still to be established. Kolosov agreed to write to the appropriate authorities (in French) to establish if this is available for award.

Adjourn

Executive Committee members thanked President Kolosov for the excellent arrangements and expressed its appreciation to members of the Faculty of Geography, Lomonosov Moscow State University and the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, in particular Professors Kotlyakov and Kasimov, and Dr Alexander Sebentsov. The meeting adjourned at 16h10 on Monday 28th April 2014.



3) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

3a) REGION 2014: HUMAN GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS, KHARKIV (UKRAINE), 3-4 APRIL 2014

(Editor's note: the Author, Pavel Kovlin, has co-operated in the organization of the Conference, held with a good success in Kharkiv in April 2014, and later sent me a short report and some photos, apologising for his scarce command on written English. I know that is always better avoid intervene in current news, and I don't dare to express judgments on the actual Ukraine situation, though being very worried about it. Nonetheless, I want to stress that Pavel's action in these moments can be considered as a bright example of cultural victory over violence.)



Left: Opening Ceremony.



Right, Open discussions



The international scientific and practical conference for students, PhD students and early career researchers “Region-2014: human geographical aspects” was organized by the Department for Social and Economic Geography and Regional Studies, V.N.Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine on 3-4 April, 2014. 110 participants from Ukraine, the republic of Belarus, Tadjhikistan, Mexico, Turkey, Slovakia, the Republic of Serbia took part in the conference.

(photo at left) professor of the department, conducted the master class on the topic: “Methods of Spatial Analysis in Human Geography”, where he presented author’s *Common discussions* methods:

- a) Model of integrated influence function
- b) Modeling of the trajectory social and geographical system in normalized multidimensional space;
- c) Graph-analytical method of multidimensional classification of the socio-geographical objects;
- d) Graph-analytical method of the estimation of the uniformity social and geographical system development by complex of features.

By Pavel Kovlin

3b) AAG ANNUAL CONFERENCE, TAMPA, 8-12 APRIL

Report by Dr. Patricia Solís and Rebecca Pendergast, AAG

The Association of American Geographers 2014 Annual Meeting in Tampa Bay, Florida hosted more than 6,000 geographers, GIS specialists, environmental scientists, and other registrants from around the world sharing the very latest in research, policy, and applications in geography, sustainability, and GIScience. Of those attending, thousands, representing approximately 30% of all attendees came from countries other than the USA, which continues a steady trend toward increased international participation at AAG Meetings.



50-Year Members John C. Hudson; Peter O. Muller (previous 50-year member); Charles Kovacik; Janet H. Gritzner; Ronald F. Abler; Stephen O. Wilson; Kingsley E. Haynes; James N. Snaden with AAG President Julie Winkler

This year, attendees came from 78 different countries. The largest participation of scholars from outside of the U.S. came from Canada, the UK, Germany, China, Taiwan, Australia and Sweden with strong representation of numbers of geographers from Turkey, Nigeria, Brazil, France and the Netherlands, among many others. The international attendance greatly enriched the intellectual and social events throughout the week-long conference.



Audrey Kobayashi (left) and Joe Darden (right) presented Ruth Wilson Gilmore (centre) the AAG Rose Award for Anti-Racism Research and Practice after Darden's "Author Meets Critics: Detroit – Race Riots, Racial Conflicts, and Efforts to Bridge the Racial Divide" session on April 10.

The AAG sponsored an International Reception to celebrate the global character of the conference. Dr. Fausto Sarmiento, Chair of the AAG International Research and Scholarly Exchange Committee, welcomed attendees to the reception and emphasized the importance of international collaboration. A Latin music and salsa band played while attendees danced, reunited with friends and met new colleagues from around the world.



Left; Darrel Hess received the Gilbert Grosvenor Honors for Geographic Education. Right: Michael Dear received the AAG Globe Book Award for Why Walls Won't Work: Repairing the US-Mexico Divide

Related international events included the My Community, Our Earth / SERVIR Capstone Illustrated Paper Session presented by a select group of fourteen (14) university students working on using geographic

research for climate change under the AAG's MyCOE / SERVIR Global Fellowship Program, funded by NASA and USAID. These Capstone Fellows hailed from ten countries (and bring together four staggered regional rounds of 10-month fellowship terms in East Africa, Himalayas, West Africa, and Southeast Asia. Prior to the annual meeting in Tampa, Fellows meet with USAID Administrator Dr. Ravij Shah and NASA Administrator Dr. Charles Bolden, presented their work on live NASA TV, and held briefings with agency staff, scientists and others in Washington, DC through symposia and exhibits convened at NASA and USAID headquarters.



View recording of the Featured Event at NASA Headquarters - Broadcast on NASA-TV - Live Streaming

Each year, AAG recognizes students, faculty, and professionals for their accomplishments and contributions in a special ceremony luncheon at the end of the annual meeting. This year renowned geographers who are widely known in IGU, were notable awardees: Dr. Ronald Abler was inducted as a Fifty-Year Member of the Association and thanked for his long term contributions to the discipline. Dr. Anne Buttimer received AAG Lifetime Achievement Honors, which are the highest awards offered by the AAG, established in the AAG constitution and selection through an elected committee.



Left: James W. Harrington received AAG Ronald F. Abler Distinguished Service Honors.

Right: IGU Past President Ron Abler, awarded as 50 years AAG member, with Dr Patricia Solis (AAG Director of Outreach and Strategic Initiatives)

The above summary represents only a few of the many exciting sessions and international activities that took place at the 2014 AAG Annual Meeting. Numerous other paper, poster, and panel sessions and presentations highlighted geographic work organized by AAG members and AAG Specialty and Affinity Groups. Field trips, workshops, and a special emphasis on Careers in Geography also greatly enriched the experience of AAG conference participants. See more photos at www.aag.org/2014_tampa_highlights. For more photos, still by Rebecca Pendergast, see: www.aag.org/cs/2014_tampa_awards_luncheon.

Next year, the meeting will be held from April 21 - 25, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois.

3c) UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES (UNGEGN) – 28th SESSION

The Twenty-eight session of the UNGEGN was held from 28 April to 2 May 2014 in the Conference Room 2 of the United Nations in New York, NY 10017 USA.

145 participants of 45 State Members of the United Nations and of 23 divisions, that make up the UNGEGN according to a rough-and-ready linguistic rule, were registered. In addition 8 observers (from IGU, ICANN, ICA, Names Society of Southern Africa, ESRI, Google, this last with 3 delegates) were registered. This list was completed by 7 people of the United Nations Secretariat. The agenda which started at 10:30 of the 28 April included 21 items.

The session was opened by Ferjan Ormeling, UNGEGN Vice-Chair, in behalf of the Chair, Bill Watt (Australia). But Mr. Bill Watt pleased to welcome the participants in the Australian Consulate-General on 28 April.

In the opening remarks, Ferjan Ormeling summarized the main tasks ahead, including making the best use of current technologies to enhance the work of the Group.

Documents for presentation, documents for information and special presentations were discussed. Many divisions reported their works in progress and programs for future activities. In the last years many countries took great progress for adopting toponymic databases of the geographical names, including also the national immaterial patrimony. Problems of difficult solutions are still the standardization and the Romanization of the geographical names in countries, where many languages and dialects coexist. The Romanization is particularly difficult for the languages with alphabets different from the Latin one. In addition to this, many place names very quickly change because of they are property names. Many minority people, like the Sami, do not be considered in the cultural value of their place names.

In West Africa the standardization of the geographical names must be promoted, beginning from Burkina Faso. The Group of Experts «welcomed the report of the coordinator for the Task Team for Africa ..and urged the Task Team for Africa to maintain its efforts to raise awareness of the importance of geographical names and encourage African nations in these efforts by continuing its program of work, as described I the report».

A creation of an Algerian Science Society of Onomastic was proposed by Brahim Attoui. A plea for Creating a New Geographic Linguistic Division for North Africa was proposed, but it will be discussed during the next 28th UNGEGN meeting, which will be held in Bangkok on 2016, from 25 to 29 April.



Members of the Joint working Group ICA-IGU on Toponyms

Reports of the Liaison Officers and International Organization are presented by the ICOS, ICA, ICANN and IGU about the past and next meetings. The 27th International Conference of the ICA will be held in Rio de Janeiro on 2015, from 23 to 28 August; The IGU Regional Conference of Cracow on 2014, from 18 to 22 August and the IGU Symposium at Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei on 2014, from 17 to 18 November on Place Names Changes.

The Group of Experts recognized that it is important to maintain the relationship between UNGEGN and the liaison officers and international organizations, as IGU and ICA.

A Working Paper (49/9) on the new Geographical Name Sejong for the Multifunctional Administrative City in the Republic of Korea was presented. Sejong, officially Sejong Special Autonomous City. The former name was Yeongi County. It is *de facto* second capital city of Republic of Korea. In 2007, the South Korean government created a special administrative near Daejeon, where nine ministries and four national agencies from Seoul were transferred. The new capital opened on 2 July 2012, with 36 government agencies. Sejong was named in honour of the Joseon Dynasty King Sejong the Great, the inventor of the Korea's national alphabet.

The UNGEGN and UNCSGN (United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographic Names) are available on the UNGEGN website.

Ms. Helen Kerfoot, UNGEGN Honorary Chair, presented the UNGEGN World Geographical Database:

«The UNGEGN World Geographical Names Database was initiated in 2004 and has continued with the support of resolution IX/6 of 2007. It is a multilingual, multi scriptural georeferenced database containing names of UN member states, capitals, and cities/towns with a population over 100,000. All entries provide endonyms, as well as forms used by the United Nations in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish for the countries and capitals. The data, now uploaded quarterly, is accessible on the UNGEGN website at:

<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/geonames/>

through a world map interface and tables».

The UNGEGN pays a special attention to the Training Courses in Toponymy, which are promoted in many centres for Research in Anthropology, Marine Geographical Names etc.



Two moments of general Sessions

An interesting document on the Standardization of geographical names in Brazil was presented by the Portuguese Speaking Division and prepared by Ana Cristina da Rocha Bérenger Resende. «..the numerous and frequent alterations in the spelling rules, the existence of discrepancy between the local use of some geographical names and the legislation which creates the feature, and the impossibility of obtaining the original text of the legislation or a reliable copy of it are some of the most difficulties encountered».

Many Special Presentations were very interesting, like *The Power of Location: Trends in Geographic Information System*, by Carmelle J. Terborgh (Esri); *Renewing the system for collecting and storing place names in Norway*, by Kjetil Ringen; *Geographical Names its Relevance and place in Within the UN-GGIM [Global Geospatial Information Management] Framework*, by Greg Scott; *Integrating Geospatial and Statistic Information*, by Amor Laaribi, and *Terminology at the United Nations*, by Yungoi Jia.

The texts of sessions can be found on the UNGEGN website.

The contents of presentations were very interesting and with use of advanced statistical methodologies and GIS.

The UNGEGN «decides to amend the rules of procedure by replacing Rule 37 with the following text: XII. Public meetings. Rule 37. The meetings of the Group of Experts and meetings of its working group shall be in public, unless it decides otherwise».

Some divisions had separate meetings for particular questions.

On May 1, the IGU Commission/ICA WG on Toponymy had a meeting both for the report of previous conferences and the presentation of the future meetings, like the participation to Sessions on Toponymy at the IGU Cracow Regional Conference, to the IGU– Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei Symposium in Rome (November 17-18, 2014), and the International Cartographic Conference in Rio de Janeiro (August 23-28, 2015). Due to the collaboration between the IGU Commission and ICA Working Group the meetings on Toponymy are doubled. Cosimo Palagiano and Peter Jordan presented some slides about these meetings, and Paulo Menezes explained the contents of the Rio de Janeiro conference. Palagiano highlighted the encouragement by Helen Kerfoot and Ron Abler, the past IGU President, for establishing a Commission on Toponymy. Much work for its development is due to ICA President Georg Gartner, the IGU President Vladimir Kolosov and the IGU Treasurer Mike Meadows.

The actual work can be prosecuted with the punctual activity of Peter Jordan and Paulo Menezes. A large attendance put some questions and made interesting suggestions.

Cosimo Palagiano,
Chair of the IGU Commission on Toponymy,



4) AAG AWARD TO FORMER PRESIDENT ANNE BUTTIMER

2014 Association of American Geographers Lifetime Achievement Honors



Anne Buttimer is recognized for five decades of distinguished and prolific scholarship as well as extraordinary dedication, service, and perseverance in the name of the geographic profession. In addition to being a stellar research scholar, Buttimer has served the field in a number of capacities, recently as President of the International Geographical Union (IGU) and as Vice-President of Academia Europea, the first geographer to be so elected. She also played an active role in the AAG, serving on Council, on the *Annals* Editorial Board, and the

Long-Range Planning Committee.

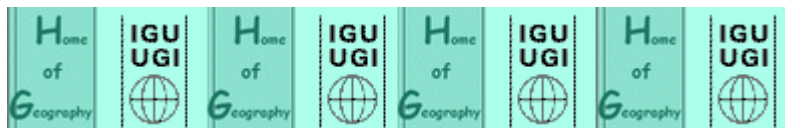
Buttimer's distinguished career reflects major achievements in all three areas generally recognized as constituting the role and duty of academic scholars, namely, research, teaching, and service. In addition, her special linguistic abilities combined with her intellectual talents place her at the forefront in international geographical activities, a fact attested to, when, in 2012, she became the first woman to be awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Grenoble, France.

Buttimer has also played an important role as a faculty member in geography, first at Clark University in the 1970s, then at Lund in the 1980s, and more recently at University College Dublin. She has been a leader at these institutions, most notably heading the University



College Dublin Department of Geography for twelve years. She also influenced countless students at the places where she has held long-term appointments, as well as at a number of institutions where she has held shorter-term visiting positions. Over the years she has traveled all over Europe, North America, and beyond, giving featured and named lectures at a wide range of institutions of higher education.

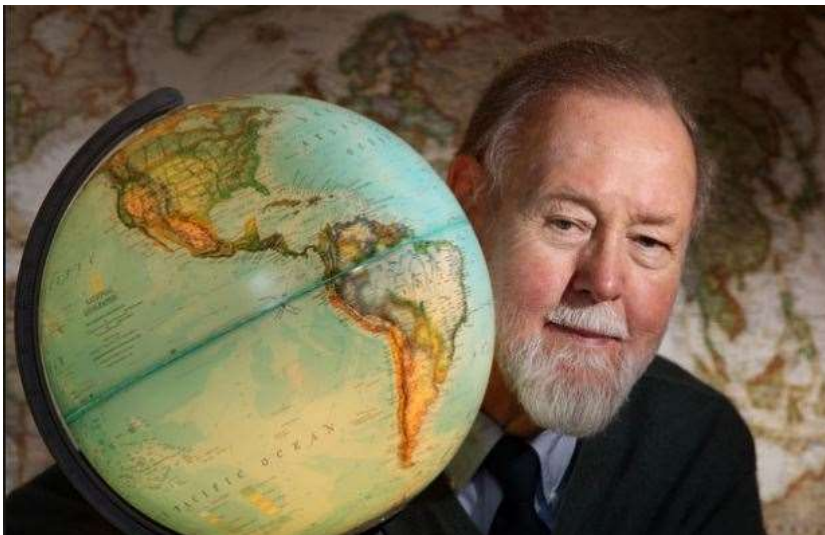
Buttimer is a highly respected geographer whose reputation is truly global in scope. In the early part of her career, she was at the forefront of efforts to expand beyond the quantitative approaches that were highly influential at the time. She went on to produce a body of scholarship that explored important philosophical themes at the intersection of the bio-physical and human sciences, that shaped research directions in social geography, and that served as a model for the ways in which geographers can bridge the theory-practice divide. Buttimer chaired an EU-funded research network on sustainable development that had a significant influence on EU policy debates; her work provided important insights into the ways in which communication between scientists and planners can be improved. The extent of her scholarly impact can also be seen in the many honors she has received from different universities and professional associations.



5) IN MEMORY

5a) ROGER F. TOMLINSON, 1933-2014

Roger F. Tomlinson, widely recognized as the father of Geographical Information Systems (GIS), died on 9 February 2014 at the age of 80. Roger devised a computerized geographic data



system while working for the Canadian government during the 1960s and designated it a *geographic information system*, a name that stubbornly and appropriately survives subsequent attempts by others to rebrand such systems *géomatique*, *geospatial systems*, *etc.* Roger was first and foremost a geographer, justifiably proud and enthusiastic about his invention and the analytic capabilities it offered

geography and related disciplines.

Tomlinson grew up in Cambridge, England and served in the Royal Air Force before earning undergraduate degrees in geography and geology at the University of Nottingham and Acadia University, an MA in geography from McGill University, and his doctorate at University College London for his dissertation “The Application of Electronic Computing Methods and Techniques to the Storage, Compilation, and Assessment of Mapped Data.” He developed the Canada Geographic Information System while serving in the 1960s as the Director of Regional Planning Systems with the Government of Canada’s Department of Forestry and Rural Development. Tomlinson subsequently engaged in research and consulting for a variety of private, government, and non-profit organizations and operated his own company (Tomlinson Associates, Ltd.) in Ottawa. Tomlinson chaired the IGU Commission on Geographical Information Systems for twelve years in addition to chairing the IGU’s Global Database Planning Project in 1988 and for many years representing the IGU to the ICSU (International Council for Science) Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA).

Roger was a serious but affable individual, always ready with a trenchant comment or witty quip about the subject under discussion. He was a regular and popular participant in the annual ESRI User Conferences where his talks and their up-to-date insights were always a major highlight of the program. Tomlinson’s unparalleled contributions to geography and GIS were recognized by numerous distinctions, offices, and awards, including the Gold Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, the Order of Canada by Canada’s Governor General, and the Alexander Graham Bell Medal from the National Geographic Society, a distinction awarded only once before in the Society’s long history.

5b) HARM J. DE BLIJ, 1935-2014

Harm J. de Blij, a prominent geographer, prolific author, popular lecturer, and television personality died on 25 March 2014 at the age of 78.

de Blij was most recently the John A. Hannah Professor of Geography at Michigan State University, having previously been affiliated with the University of Miami, Georgetown University, the National Geographic Society (NGS), the University of Colorado, the University of Hawai’i, the Colorado School of Mines, George Washington University, and Marshall University. He was broadly educated in geography and related specialties, having received his undergraduate education at the University of the Witwatersrand and his PhD from Northwestern University in 1959. He was awarded numerous honorary degrees including those from Michigan State (1999) and North Carolina State (2001). He received many awards from professional and scholarly organizations, including Association of American Geographers Honors (the AAG’s highest award) in 1991, the AAG Presidential Achievement Award in 2004, and the AAG Media Achievement Award in 2008, in addition to high recognition from the National Council for Geographic



Education (NCGE) and the National Geographic Society (NGS).

de Blij was “Mr. Geography” to the American public for much of his career. Expert in political geography, Africa, and world regional geography, de Blij lectured regularly to lay audiences and provided them with memorable insights into the power of geographical analysis. For seven years from 1989 to 1996 he was Geography Editor on the ABC Television *Good Morning America* program, earning a prestigious Emmy Award for his trenchant interpretations of current events.

de Blij’s undergraduate geography textbooks were widely adopted. On the scholarly side, he edited the *Journal of Geography* for the National Council for Geographic Education and was the founding Editor of the National Geographic Society’s scientific journal *National Geographic Research*. He served from many years as a member of the NGS Committee for Research and Exploration. Among the more than 100 articles and 30 books he wrote or co-authored, *The Power of Place: Geography, Destiny, and Globalization's Rough Landscape* and *Why Geography Matters . . . More Than Ever* (both by Oxford University Press) are especially noteworthy for their masterful illustrations of the value of geographical thinking.

A memorial event to honour de Blij will be held during the AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago in early 2015.



6) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2013)

- 5.1) CONTROL DEL ESPACIO, ESPACIO DE CONTROL, BARCELONA, 5-12 MAY 2014
- 5.2) GESTION INTEGREE DES EAUX TRANSFRONTALIERES, UNIVERSITE LAVAL, QUEBEC, 7-9 MAI 2014
- 5.3) INSIDE/OUTSIDE/IN-BETWEEN, LONDON, BIRKBECK MAY 9-11
- 5.4) EUROGEO CONFERENCE 2014, MALTA, 15-17 MAY
- 5.5) AGC CONFERENCE, BEN GURION UNIVERSITY, TEL AVIV AND BEER SHEVA, 13-18 MAY
- 5.6) LANDSCAPES: PERCEPTION, KNOWLEDGE, AWARENESS AND ACTION, BRASOV, 16-18 MAY
- 5.7) EUROPEAN UNION IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, (EUIA): CONFERENCE BRUSSELS, 22-24 MAY 2014
- 5.8) PROTECTED AREAS TOWARD 2020, PINETO (ITALY), JUNE 2-4 2014
- 5.9) UNIVERSITY OF SRINAGAR (JAMMU-KASHMIR), MOUNTAIN RESPONSE TO GLOBAL CHANGE, 4-5 JUNE 2014
- 5.10) CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, MUGLA (TURKEY) SITKY KOÇMAN UNIVERSITY, 4-6 JUNE 2014

- 5.11) **BORDER STUDIES, CALL FOR PAPERS, JOENSUU-ST.PETERSBURG, 9-13 JUNE 2014**
- 5.12) **COMMISSION ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY, MEETING ON POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT, EUGENE (OREGON, 19-21 JUNE 2014**
- 5.13) **SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHERS CONFERENCE, EAST LONDON, FORT HARE UNIVERSITY, 22-27 JUNE 2014**
- 5.14) **DIVERSITY IN THE CITY, LISBON, 26-27 JUNE**
- 5.15) **IAG NZGS CONFERENCE, MELBOURNE, 30 JUNE-1 JULY**
- 5.16) **FORUM SUR LE RAPPORT ENTRE LA LANGUE ET LES CONTEXTES SOCIETAUX DE PRODUCTION DE LA CONNAISSANCE, PARIS, 3-4 JUILLET 2014**
- 5.17) **ISSC YOUNG, GLOBAL SOCIAL GOVERNANCE, LONDON, 28 JULY-3 AUGUST 2014**

