



## IGU E-NEWSLETTER

Quarterly

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

e-mail: [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org)



---

New Series 13

January

2015

---

Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

---

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

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

---



### CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

**1) Remarks of IGU President Vladimir Kolossov**

**1b) IGU Regional Conference in Krakow**

**2) Toward the IGU Strategy for 2015-2022**

**3) Minutes of the IGU EC Meeting in Cape Town, 12-13 December 2014**

**4) Procès-verbal de la Réunion du CE de l'UGI, Cracovie, 16.18 Aout 2014**

**5) Reports from Conferences and Meetings**

**4a) IGU Regional Conference: "Changes, Challenges, Responsibility",  
Kraków, Poland, 18-22.08.2014**

**4b) Annual Meeting of the Geographical Society of China, Chengdu, October 24-26**

**4c) 36th Indian Geography Congress, , 17-19 November 2014**

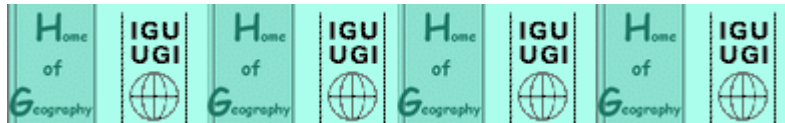
**4d) 10 years of Eastern Enlargement, Symposium, Wien 3-4 December 2014**

## 6) Forthcoming events

6.1) **Conflits de lieux, Lieux de conflits. Appel à communications. Aix en Provence, 29-30 Janvier 2015**

6.2) **Examining the progress of UN Development Goals, Middlebury (Vermont), 12-14 Mars 2015**

6.3) **"A quoi servent les frontières?" "What are borders made for?", Grenoble, 12-15 Mars 2015**



## 1) 2013 REMARKS OF IGU PRESIDENT VLADIMIR KOLOSSOV

Dear friends and colleagues,

At the meeting of IGU Executive with Commissions' Chairs during our Regional Conference in Krakow we discussed the question of our future general meetings, *viz.* whether we should have Regional Conferences or Congresses on an annual basis, like in 2010-2016, or return to the previous practice and hold only one conference between two Congresses. It was decided to organize a "referendum" and to ask the opinion of all Commission Chairs, since the paper sessions convened by the Commissions remain the key element of Regional Conferences. It was therefore considered that the Commissions should consider the balance between the shortcomings and the advantages of this practice.

I note the following shortcomings: 1) annual Regional Conferences pre-determine the venue for one Commission meeting each year; 2) they are more expensive for participants compared with smaller conferences or workshops; 3) they are also more expensive for IGU as a whole and require more attention and work from the EC.

But it is also possible to see some advantages. Firstly, annual Regional Conferences allow our academic community to react promptly to changes in society. Secondly, IGU could and perhaps should follow the example of the Association of American Geographers which organizes a major conference every year. Thirdly, Regional Conferences provide a meeting point for all Commissions and therefore contribute to the development of interdisciplinary studies. Finally, an annual basis contributes to the development of geography in different countries and regions of the world because national committees wishing to host conferences should not wait for their turn for decades.

In total, we received 25 "votes", with only five of them were in favor of annual conferences. Most Chairs expressed the main reason for their decision as financial constraints: for many colleagues it is difficult to attend two or more meetings per year - a Regional Conference and another important forum held by the Commission itself, for example, or by a close disciplinary association. It is agreed, therefore, that for the period 2016-2020, there will be only one Regional Conference (in Quebec, Canada 2018).

In my opinion, a satisfactory “intermediate” solution can be proposed: smaller-scale interdisciplinary “thematic” conferences sponsored by IGU and a number of its Commissions - possibly involving other associations - with participation by experts in different fields. There are already the suggestions about the conferences or workshops devoted, for example, to energy and sustainable development and to the geography of peace.

This option is a part of the IGU Strategy adopted in principle after a long discussion by the Executive Committee at its recent session in Cape Town (see the minutes). We believe that the activity of our Union should be based not only on traditions, written and implicit norms and rules worked out over decades and partly fixed in our Statutes and other documents concerning, for instance, membership, frequency of conferences or functioning of Commissions. We need some mid-term realistic strategic objectives, developing our organization and adapting it to new realities, building relations with partners and making it more “competitive”, attractive and visible. The Strategy includes three parts: 1) “internal affairs” comprising IGU expansion, finances, interdisciplinary projects, relations of the Executive with Commissions, meetings, etc.; 2) “external relations”: participation in large international programs, partnership with governmental and other international organizations, and business; 3) outreach: website(s), social networks, festivals, awards and public relations, celebrations of the IGU centennial. The EC members divided responsibilities and agreed to prepare a short-term working plan for the Strategy’s implementation. Former member Giuliano Bellezza will continue editing and diffusing the IGU Newsletters.

The IGU draft strategy is posted on the IGU site and will be disseminated to National Committees and Commissions. They are encouraged to comment this document and to make suggestions as to how the objectives may be achieved. Of course, your suggestions are welcome, too!

We are now working on the preparation of the upcoming Regional Conference in Moscow scheduled on August 17-21 2015 and the programme promises to be rich and interesting. Besides the sessions arranged by most Commissions and thematic sessions suggested by the groups of scholars, the programme includes keynote lectures by Professors Gordon Macbean, President of the International Council of Science (ICSU), Georg Gartner, President of the International Cartographic Association, John O’Loughlin, Alexander Murphy, Céline Rozenblat and others. There will be also special lectures by the leading international experts in different fields which should be of interest to a wide range of geographers, business meetings, sessions devoted to IGU projects, and exhibitions. Young and early career geographers are invited to special “electronic” sessions, training workshops and master classes, a separate ice-breaker party around a fire and different competitions. A day of geographical education will be an important part of the programme. The last but not the least, full- and half day excursions in Moscow and its outskirts and post-conference tours to Saint Petersburg and other parts of the country are planned (tourist guides can be downloaded from the conference site [www.igu2015.ru](http://www.igu2015.ru)). There has been a strong effort to keep the fee for early bird registration as low as possible - at least definitely lower than the usual rate at similar conferences.

The deadline for registrations has been postponed until 28<sup>th</sup> February. You are kindly invited to join us!

***Vladimir Kolossov, President***  
[vladimirkolossov@gmail.com](mailto:vladimirkolossov@gmail.com)

### **1b) IGU Regional Conference in Krakow**

On August 18-22, 2014, the IGU Regional Conference was held in Krakow. It was the major event for the world geographical community this year and gathered 1335 participants from 64 countries. The host country, Poland, was naturally represented by the largest number of participants (357). Seven other national groups included more than 40 persons each: Germany (about 100), Japan (79), Czechia (60), UK (59), China (Beijing, 50), Russia (40). 40 participants came from each of three more countries - the USA, France and Hungary. The total attendance considerably exceeded the expectations of Polish Organizing Committee and of IGU Executive. The meeting in Krakow turned to be of particular interest for geographers from neighbouring European countries. It matches the very idea of IGU Regional Conferences.

The conference's motto was "Changes, Challenges, and Responsibility". Its programme was rich and diverse: it comprised key lectures, sessions organized by IGU Commissions, thematic sessions initiated by groups of scholars, poster sessions, and business meetings. 36 IGU Commissions of 41 used the conference in Krakow as the venue of their meetings. It is particularly important for the development of cooperation between them and the progress of interdisciplinary studies. The Commissions on Urban Challenges in a Complex World (urban geography), on Political Geography, on the Dynamic of Economic Space, on Cold Regions Environment, on Gender and Geography, and on Geographical Education hold the largest number of sessions. Altogether, there were 1171 oral and 227 poster presentations.

Key lectures were offered by Professors Zbigniew Kundzewicz from Poland and Julie Winkler from the US who spoke about climate change and uncertainties that they provoke, and by Professor Andreas Faludi from the Netherlands whose presentation shed a new light on the concept of geographical place. Professor Gideon Biger from Israel discussed the boundaries of the Holy Land as a problem of historical and contemporary political geography.

Special sessions were devoted to IGU projects. A key note lecture by Professor Benno Werlen (Germany) concerned the IGU most ambitious initiative – the proclamation of the UN International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU). This initiative has been unanimously approved by at the UNESCO General Conference in December 2013 and is now submitted to the UN General Assembly. The IYGU aims to bridge the gap in awareness between local actions and global effects, to encourage everyone to make daily decisions in light of global challenges and to contribute to bottom-up initiatives that connect individual, local action to global sustainability. The IYGU intends to strengthen collaboration between natural, social, and cultural sciences, to identify how local actions yield results on a global scale, and to empower individuals to manifest local-scale change with global effects. Another IGU project is called "Our Sustainable Cities" and is being implemented by Chinese and Dutch experts who try to connect academic geography with municipal authorities and business communities, and to disseminate good practice of sustainability in the cities of different size all over the world.

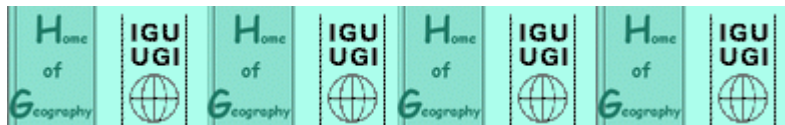
IGU pays special attention to geographical education. The conference in Krakow marked a new step in the implementation of the joint project of IGU, Eurogeo (the European Association of Geographical Societies) and Eurogeo concerning the improvement of geography's place in school curricula. The objective of this project was to compile and to promote the minimum of geographical knowledge for each citizen in our century, to find new evidence and arguments for a large audience and decision makers showing the importance of geography, and to disseminate the

best practice of teaching geography at secondary schools, universities and other institutions, including schools of management and technical universities.

The conference symbolically took place on the year of the 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jagellonian University in Krakow, one of the oldest in Europe and in the world. This date is widely celebrated in Poland. On the day of the conference's opening ceremony they solemnly opened in the historical building of the university the exhibition showing that geographical research in Poland has been always tuned with societal needs and had a strong impact on the development of the statehood and identity. It presents history of Polish geography and closely related disciplines - cartography, topography, meteorology and others in persons and artifacts, and the unique collection of maps, atlases and globes.

The conference was perfectly organized: everything was going exactly according to the program and the schedule, and Polish geographers accommodated all countless requests and different interests of their guests. They will keep the best souvenirs about a memorable excursions' program and of the friendly gala dinner in the exclusive environment in the depth of the former salt mine of Wieliczka which is on the list of UNESCO world cultural heritage. The obvious success of the conference is of course a result of long a hard work of the Polish organizing committee headed by Professors Marek Degorski, Anita Bokwa and Boleslaw Domanski.

Vladimir Kolosov  
President of IGU



## 2) TOWARD THE IGU STRATEGY FOR 2015-2022

### Preamble

According to the Statutes, the IGU is an international, non-governmental, non-profit scientific organization. Its activity is based on the principles of voluntary participation, equal rights of all its members, self-governance, legitimacy and transparency.

The main general purposes of the International Geographical Union's activity in 2015-2022 will be:

- to participate in the coordination of research, the discussion of their results and the elaboration of major international documents on global and regional problems of sustainable development; to promote studies contributing to the improvement of the quality of life, modernization of economy, social justice and environmental security by the means of regional, urban and landscape planning;

- to develop and coordinate international initiatives concerning the protection of bio- and cultural diversity, natural and cultural heritage, geographical and environmental education and the dissemination of geographical knowledge;
- to stimulate a creative interaction between geography and other Earth and Social Sciences, as well as cooperation and integration between natural science and social science elements of the discipline of geography;
- to support modernization of geographical studies through the application of the newest ICT methods, the use of data bases and integration with technical sciences;
- to promote geography in international governmental organizations and at the national level, contribute to its better visibility for decision-makers and business community, in society at large.

## **Strategic objectives**

### **The IGU should be a truly global organization**

- expanding membership through contacts with countries not currently associated with IGU and strengthening contact with existing members;
- improvement of cooperation with geographers from, especially, countries of tropical Africa, Latin America and other developing world regions; this should include the development of regional networks;
- development of closer contacts with IGU Commissions and Task Forces, in particular, through projects and events sponsored jointly by several commissions and, through the IGU commission excellence award, stimulating best practice;
- improvement in the profile and status of International Geographical Congresses and Regional Conferences as well as improving accessibility to early-career scholars and participants from low income countries;
- diversification and modernization of the format of IGU events with the support of IGU Commissions;
- IGU publicity materials should be made available in additional languages, especially Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic.
- organization of IGU interdisciplinary and policy or theme-oriented international conferences (devoted to, by way of example, hazards and risks, energy and environment, geography and the mass media, the use of international databases, Future Earth etc.). The question arises as to how to initiate such conferences or workshops; what is required is an individual or individuals to champion such conferences, the earliest of which would be in 2017. A list of suggested themes should be drawn up in consultation with Commissions and National Committees;
- More equitable functional division of labour between the members of IGU EC.

### **The IGU should play a leading role in territorial and environmental research**

The IGU should play a more visible role among international scientific unions and associations. It should become the main global inter- and intra-disciplinary coordination platform for the leading geographical and environmental research institutes and laboratories, universities and other organizations. In order to achieve this objective, the following should be taken forward:

- development of a ‘cluster of sciences on territory’ with geography as its core;

- active participation in ICSU and ISSC and related bodies through IGU representation in their assemblies and on their committees;
- greater involvement of IGU representatives in the work of international governmental organizations and committees of the UN system;
- development of joint activities with the ICSU/ISSC Future Earth programme. This represents an opportunity for another IGU Task Force to be established. coordination of joint initiatives and projects with the major European geographical associations, in particular EUGEO and EUROGEO;
- development and launching of new IGU projects;
- exchange of information and business contacts with other scientific unions and associations working in neighboring fields including invitations to their representatives to attend IGU events and participation of IGU in their meetings;
- improved contacts with national geographical societies, research organizations, universities, ministries and governmental agencies, business associations;
- contribution to cultural diversity of geographical research;
- support for the concepts of open data and the open access publications;
- publication of a series of “IGU monographs”, the current Springer series being one case in point.

### **The IGU should promote geography and improved integration in the international media space**

The IGU should establish successful public relations with its own community, decision makers at different levels and society at large.

This objective can be reached through:

- regular updating and modernization of the IGU website, putting on it news of interest for public received from correspondents in different countries, archival materials, references to other relevant international and national sites, bibliography and information on current IGU projects;
- improvement of the IGU brand and symbols which should be better known and easily recognizable. participation in social networks;
- realization of a special business plan for using the opportunities opened by the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the International Year on Global Understanding initiated by IGU;
- development of the project “Our Sustainable Cities” (OurSus);
- establishing together with Commissions relations with international organizations of tourism and business community (for instance, in organizing the IGU award for the best tourist guide and/or other product);
- establishing together with Commissions relations with the leading institutions in the field of GIS and organization of joint events;
- improving the visibility and prestige of the main IGU awards;
- using the IGU centennial and the extraordinary International Geographical Congress in Paris for improving the image of geography and IGU; transforming it into a memorable international event.
- taking new measures for example the establishment of an award to the geographer whose work had the most visible and real impact on society, appointment of IGU spokespersons on the most important global issues; use of various memorable dates.

## **Geographical education should be a focus of IGU activity**

Geographical education is vitally important for citizens of the 21st century and for all national geographical communities. Together with other international and national institutions, the IGU is responsible for keeping geography in curricula and for modernization of geographical courses in secondary school.

This objective includes:

- elaboration of the internationally approved minimum of geographical knowledge for each citizen in the 21st century;
- adoption of the new Charter of Geographical Education;
- lobbying of geography at international and national governmental organizations (UNESCO, EU, etc.);
- identification and dissemination of the best practices of teaching at secondary school and at universities; elaboration of recommendations for teaching geography at schools of management, technical universities, etc.;
- development of contacts and cooperation with international organizations of young scholars – EGEA (European Geography Association for students and young geographers) and YES (Young Earth Scientists);
- establishment of IGU summer school for young scientists; It was agreed that Soyez would approach Frauke Kraas for advice in regard to organizing and funding such events.
- organization of a special day for young geographers at each International Geographical Congress and Regional Conference;
- participation of a special day for young geographers at each International Geographical Congress and Regional Conference;

## **3) (DRAFT) MINUTES OF THE IGU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 12-14 DECEMBER 2014**

### **Welcome, Meeting Logistics and Introductions**

The meeting was chaired by President Vladimir Kolosov, who welcomed Secretary-General Mike Meadows, Past President Ron Abler, First Vice President Dietrich Soyez and Vice Presidents Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Jarkko Saarinen, Yukio Himiyama, Elena dell’Agnese and Iain Hay. Zhou Chenghu and RB Singh were unavailable.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda, prepared and distributed in advance of the meeting, was adopted.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the Moscow April 2014 meeting, previously approved via email, were tabled for reference.



## Organization and Operations

**Executive Committee Member Reports.** Members submitted written reports of their activities and there was brief discussion; the matter would again be raised under the item on portfolios and responsibilities.

### **Executive Committee Meeting Calendar 2015 onwards.**

Regarding the possibility of holding the next EC meeting around the time of the 2015 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Chicago, Abler has been in touch with Doug Richardson and the NSF. There appears to be a good chance of getting subsidy to support lodging etc. This would come with an obligation and the privilege to meet the members of the AAG Executive Committee; there is also an opportunity to participate in a public session in the form of a round table (100 minutes) on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015. The agreed schedule is as follows: Arrivals 19<sup>th</sup> April, meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> followed by attendance at the AAG conference from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> April. It was agreed that Abler should explore the possibility of a registration fee waiver or discounted rate. The second EC meeting of 2015 is to be in Moscow. The final schedule is as follows: Arrivals August 13<sup>th</sup>, meeting 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, excursion 16<sup>th</sup>, thereafter attend the IGU Regional Conference. Departures from August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015. There was considerable discussion regarding the need to visit Beijing ahead of the 2016 Conference and it was agreed that the President and Secretary-General should visit, possibly accompanied by Himiyama in the latter part of 2015. The possibility of organizing a meeting in Berlin or Jena in early 2016 was raised and Soyez agreed to inquire regarding the possibility of raising funds for the meeting in Germany. For the first meeting of 2016, the putative IYGU launch in UNESCO in Paris represents another possibility but the final UN decision on this is still awaited. The EC would naturally meet ahead of the 2016 Beijing IGC. Hay suggested that the meeting of the Institute of Australian Geographers in July 2017 could provide a suitable place for one of the meetings in that year and would explore this further with colleagues.

### **IGU National Membership update**

Meadows tabled the updated membership dues situation. There are still some outstanding dues and these are being followed up vigorously. Another coordinated effort is needed in order to reinvigorate memberships in the countries that are now on 'Observer' status. This applies in particular to African countries. Soyez agreed to do this for the Francophone countries, Meadows to do the same for the Anglophone ones. Soyez suggested Luxembourg and Oman as possible new members. Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Philippines all appear to have strong geographical communities and need to be followed up. In order to facilitate membership fees for one or two countries, Meadows is asked to submit a supplementary fee account to the US which has agreed to support those unable to find the funds.

### **IGU National Committee involvement in Beijing Congress**

Soyez commented that more consistent engagement by IGU National Committees is needed and that the Beijing Congress can provide a focus for renewed efforts in this regard. For example, many countries have traditionally compiled substantial reports/monographs for IGU Congresses and all should be encouraged to do so for 2016. Abler noted that the IGU Statutes require each National Committee to submit a report on the status of geography in their respective countries at each Congress. All National Committees are invited to submit reports on their activities in time for distribution at each Congress but should also be requested to consider additional materials (for example a theme issue of the national journal, atlas etc.). These should all be contributed to the IGU archives.

## **IGU Financial Report and Projection**

A small surplus is anticipated for 2014. This is healthy given the substantial commitments of 2014 including three EC meetings and the ICSU General Assembly that was held in New Zealand. Following the contribution received from the local organizing committee of the 2014 Krakow IGU Regional Conference, the Endowment Fund now has a balance of around US\$ 60,000. Abler agreed to prepare a proposal regarding the investment returns on this fund.

## **IYGU**

Benno Werlen had submitted a report and this was tabled suggesting that a UN decision on IYGU was expected between 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014. The announcement is eagerly awaited. If ratified, the IGU will need to establish an IYGU Task Force in order to ensure that the initiative is taken forward appropriately. Werlen will be in Chicago and is to be invited to the EC meeting there to advise regarding options. Himiyama noted that there are two important upcoming 'years': the International Map Year and the International Year of Soils and that these are both relevant to the IYGU project. Werlen requested IGU to commit to purchasing a number of copies (up to Euro 1000) of the TIERS publication but the approximate retail price of this volume needs to be known in order to finalise this decision. It was agreed that, once IYGU be approved by the UN General Assembly, Kolosov and Soyez would discuss details regarding the way forward with Werlen.

## **IGU Handbook**

The latest draft of the handbook was tabled. Several further changes and additions were recommended and Meadows was requested to update these for approval by the EC prior to publication on the website.

## **Gabon workshop.**

Soyez reported that, following the cancellation of the original workshop planned for 2014, he held discussions at the Festival International de Géographie in St Dié with a representative from Omar Bongo University in Libreville regarding the possibilities of hosting the workshop in 2015. Given that widespread international perceptions as to the Ebola crisis may represent a complication in terms of participation, it was agreed, nevertheless, that the local organisers should be encouraged to continue to attempt to hold the workshop in 2015. Earlier agreements as to IGU's commitment remain valid.

## **IGU draft strategy**

The draft IGU Strategy prepared by Kolosov (Appendix I), was tabled and accepted in principle. With corrections and amendments the Strategy was formally adopted and should be disseminated to National Committees and Commissions, who would be encouraged to comment to make suggestions as to how the objectives may be achieved. It was agreed to post the strategy on the website. The next task is to develop a business plan and time line to facilitate achievement of the strategic objectives. Over and above the allocated duties identified below, the following decisions in particular were taken in relation to the draft strategy:

- A list of suggested themes should be drawn up in consultation with Commissions and National Committees and it was agreed that Kolosov, Soyez, dell'Agnesse, Singh and Saarinen would form a sub-committee to take this forward.
- It was agreed to establish an IGU Future Earth Task Force following consultation with the Commissions and National Committees regarding the involvement of geographers in the programme. Abler agreed to draft an appropriately worded letter to be distributed to the broader IGU community.

- In relation to the possible establishment of a new award to the geographer whose work had the most visible and real impact on society, it was agreed to ask the National Committees and Commissions (via the Honors Special Committee) to nominate suitable individuals. Able to follow this up with the chair of the committee, Ruth Fincher.
- In relation to the future reduction in the frequency of IGU Regional Conferences, it was agreed that smaller thematic workshops and conferences in countries or regions where there is an identified need and capacity could be held and that a list of suggested themes should be drawn up in consultation with Commissions and National Committees.
- Regarding the publication of a series of “IGU monographs”, the current Springer series being one case in point, Meadows agreed to promote this on the IGU website.
- In the case of IGU ‘partners’, i.e. other national or international geographical societies and organisations, it was agreed that we should ask these to place reciprocal links to the IGU website.

**Executive Committee member duties and responsibilities.** The National Committee and Commission liaison assignments were reallocated as per the attached list (Appendices II and III). In respect of responsibilities, it was agreed that the following EC members would take responsibility as indicated:

**“Ministry of the Interior”**

- 1) Contacts with re-allocated Commissions and National Committees (All EC members);
- 2) Expansion and finances: involvement of new country-members and fee payment (All EC members);
- 3) Finances: search for associate members and corporative members; fund raising. Contacts with business-communities (tourism, GIS etc. (All EC members; Able to draft letter);
- 4) General work with IGU Commissions: best practice, joint (thematic, policy-oriented) interdisciplinary conferences complementing the major events like congresses and RCs, awards to the “best” (the most active) Commissions (All EC members, to be discussed further in Chicago);
- 5) Organization of “thematic” conferences (relevant interdisciplinary problems) with the involvement of several IGU commissions and other institutions (a sub-committee was established to take this idea forward: Kolosov, Soyez, dell’Agnese, Singh and Saarinen);
- 6) Work closely with the LOCs of Congresses and Regional Conferences regarding *inter alia* venue, format, organization, academic outputs, participation of delegates from low-income countries and of young and early career scholars, etc. (The President and Secretary General typically have closest liaison). IGU travel grant responsibility is to be taken over by Droogleever-Fortuijn;
- 7) IGU publications, including the current Springer series (Singh); issues of open data and open access (Singh and Hay);
- 8) IGU projects:
  - IYGU: (Kolosov; Himiyama Able);
  - OurSus* (Our Sustainable Cities): (Droogleever-Fortuijn, Zhou);
  - Journals’ database: (Meadows, database requires updating and Meadows will find a suitable assistant early in 2015 to undertake this);

Geographical education: (Droogleever-Fortuijn, Kolosov);

Other new initiatives: (to be confirmed);

9) Develop contacts with organisations representing young and early career scientists (EGEA, YES, etc.):

EGEA and YES (Saarinen);

IGU Summer School (Saarinen, Kolosov);

Special days for young and early career geographers (Droogleever-Fortuijn);

IGU travel grants (Droogleever-Fortuijn);

10) Projects in the field of education:

Special days for teachers (Hay);

Geographical textbooks etc. (Hay);

#### **“Ministry of Foreign Affairs”**

11. Contacts with the governmental organizations, including the calls and the programmes:

UNESCO, UNEP etc. (no current point of access; dell’Agnese agreed to attempt to make contact with UNESCO);

UNU (Himiyama);

EU (no current point of access);

12. Cooperation and participation with Future Earth (Task Force to be established: Himiyama, Zhou);

13. Cooperation with EUGEO, EUROGEO and GA (dell’Agnese, Soyez, Kolosov);

14. Contacts and cooperation with major international science bodies:

ICSU and GeoUnions; (Meadows, Abler, Kolosov);

ISSC (dell’Agnese, Kolosov);

15. Contacts and cooperation with other academic unions and associations:

ICA (Kolosov, Meadows);

World and European Associations of Regional Science (Droogleever-Fortuijn);

IRDR (Singh);

#### **“Ministry of Propaganda”**

16. IGU website (Meadows); IGU e-newsletter and ‘Home of Geography’ (Bellezza);

17. IGU social networks (Meadows);

18. IGU Centennial (Abler);

19. Festivals, including FIG (Soyez, Kolosov);

20. IGU awards (existing and new), and IGU competitions (Honours Committee chaired by Fincher);

21. IGU “public relations” (media, etc.) (All EC members, and future plans to be confirmed)

22. “International Day of Geography” (to be developed)

**IGU Commission responses to IGU frequency of IGU conferences.** Kolosov tabled data documenting the response of IGU Commission and Task Force chairs to the practice, in effect since 2011, of holding major meetings annually. Some colleagues had submitted very comprehensive comments, whereas others did not respond at all. Kolosov concluded that the general view is that IGU Commissions are currently **not** in favour of holding annual major IGU meetings; the main reasons underlying this view are mainly associated with the financial and administrative challenges involved. As an alternative to major annual conferences, an enlarged number of smaller conferences and workshops arranged by commissions or national committees in countries/regions with traditionally low IGU visibility could become a valuable compensation.

**Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force.** The committee has been established but has not yet met. The local organizing committee of the Paris 2022 Extraordinary Congress is enthusiastic about contact with the committee and there is a clear need to establish lines of communication as well as developing an understanding regarding the division of labour. There should be representation of both parties on each

other's committee. Soyez agreed to continue discussion with Antoine le Blanc as representative of Paris 2022. It was noted that the committee needs now to begin to develop some ideas regarding projects; Abler agreed to approach the Task Force with a suggestion that it convene formally for the first time in Chicago in April in association with the AAG.

**IGU Website Update.** The website is fully operational and updates across to the Facebook page. The Twitter account needs to be activated fully and linked to both the website and Facebook page (Meadows).

**IGU Bulletin and eNewsletter Update.** The next issue of the Bulletin will be two volumes and should be ready in mid-2015 (Meadows).

**IGU Archives.** Meadows reported on his visit to the Royal Geographical Society where there is some older IGU-related material; the bulk of pre-1956 archives appear still to be missing from the collection at Leipzig. It was agreed that Meadows would again write to Commission chairs to encourage them to send all publication outputs to the archive, and to former Secretary-General Ehlers to remind him to submit materials remaining in his possession. Retired officials of the IGU may have personal archives that should be sent to the archivists and should be invited to do so (Meadows); Abler agreed to consolidate his electronic files for the period when he was Secretary-General and to make these available to the archivist.

**Dialogue Project.** Meadows reported on the streaming of the 1980s Dialogue Project which continues to attract interested users. The digitization of the *Geographers Biobibliographic Studies* series has been the subject of much negotiation with the publishers. Their suggested business model allows free access to the online versions of the publication only to a restricted number of IGU representatives and this is somewhat less accessible than originally envisaged. However, the commitment to provide a nominal subsidy to support the digitization of back issues still stands.

**Young and early career geographers.** Droogleever-Fortuijn inquired as to the status of the 'early career geographers day' planned in association with the Moscow Regional Conference and Kolosov agreed to pursue this more vigorously on his return. Some commissions have a special sub-committee of young geographers and there is a possibility that there could be an equivalent for the IGU as a whole (through voluntary membership). Droogleever-Fortuijn agreed to explore the idea further.

**IGU Olympiad Proposal.** A proposal from co-chair of the Olympiad Task Force (Chalmers) was tabled. The idea is to increase the number of Olympiad participating countries to fifty in Beijing. The draft budget appears to be unrealistic although the project in general is worthy of IGU support. It was agreed that Droogleever-Fortuijn and Meadows would draft an appropriate response.

**IGU publicity material.** Soyez had commissioned two draft designs for an IGU 'roll-up'. Following discussion, a design, in both English and French versions, was suggested for manufacture following some additional refinements (Soyez to follow-up with the designer). Electronic versions of both English and French versions of the current 2014-16 brochure have been circulated in printable format.

**Springer Series on *Advances in Geographical and Environmental Science*.** Meadows reported that, in addition to the volumes already in production, he and JC Lin, the chair of the Commission on Geomorphology and Society, are co-editing a volume in the series dedicated to the theme of the inaugural conference of the Commission.

**International Declaration on Research in Geography Education (draft).** The draft document was submitted by Simon Catling; the call for formal input from the IGU executive will be later in 2015.

**International Map Year.** It was agreed to invite the ICA to propose a booth at the Moscow Regional Conference to promote the year (Kolosov).

## **Cooperation and Outreach**

### **Festivals (including *Festival International de Géographie*)**

Soyez tabled a report on the most recent FIG which he had attended with Abler, both also delivered the traditional IGU lecture. Globally this event may be regarded as the most important geographical 'outreach' activity to the general public. There are ongoing efforts to further develop and consolidate the cooperation between IGU and FIG; this is important to the IGU's ongoing efforts to improve relationships with francophone countries especially. Former IGU President Anne Buttimer was awarded the *Vautrin Lud Prize* at the festival. In 2015, Australia will be the designated 'country' and the FIG committee is keen to have geographers from that country represented at the festival, although funds are very limited to facilitate attendance. Hay undertook to contact the Australian geographical community to inform them of the development and encourage the opening of a dialogue with the local organisers. It is again planned to present the IGU lecture in French and a suitable individual needs to be identified as soon as possible (Kolosov, Soyez). Regarding the nature of the broader relationship between FIG and IGU, Kolosov has drafted a letter to the key actors with a view to developing a higher profile for IGU at the festival. Kolosov reported that the inaugural geographical festival in Moscow had taken place in the first week of November 2014 and had been widely publicized and well attended. It was opened by the Minister of Defence, who is President of the Russian Geographical Society, and there was representation from several international geographical societies within and beyond Russia. The festival has been proposed to take place every two years.

### **RGS and AAG relations**

All members of the EC will be present at the next AAG meeting. The RGS/IBG annual meeting will be held in August 2015 in Exeter, UK, with IGU representation there still to be decided.

### **IGU Representatives on International Bodies**

**ICSU (incl. GeoUnions).** Kolosov, Abler and Meadows reported that they had attended the most recent ICSU Geounions meeting and the subsequent ICSU General Assembly in Auckland, New Zealand. Meadows agreed to be nominated for a position on the Committee on Scientific Policy and Review. Hay agreed to approach Professor Rob Kitchen with a view to being nominated for a vacant position on the World Data System committee.

**ISSC.** Etienne Nel has been approached with a view to participating in the World Social Science Forum in Durban and it appears there may be other inputs from, for example, Maria Paradiso representing the IGU Commission on the Mediterranean Basin.

**EUROGEO, EUGEO.** The joint project on education continues and chairs of both the EUROGEO and EUGEO will be in attendance at the Moscow Regional Conference.

## **International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences**

### **Krakow, Poland, Regional Conference 2014**

The final report was submitted and has been posted on the IGU website. A contribution to the Promotion and Solidarity Fund has been made, the amount to be transferred to the Endowment Fund held in the United States. Kolosov will write to the local organizing committee and formally congratulate them on the conclusion of an excellent regional conference, timely submission of the final report and receipt of the donation.

### **Moscow, Russia, Regional Conference 2015**

The abstract submission deadline has been extended to January and the call for session proposals remains open. Registration is open and teething problems regarding payment of registration fees have been resolved. Twenty-seven Commissions have proposed sessions, with an additional 14 special sessions by others. The scientific programme is diverse, with eight keynotes (five by foreigners, three by Russians). The Gender Commission will present a special lecture as part of its 2013 Commission Excellence Award. There are other activities for early career geographers and teachers and a number of sessions involving the teaching of geography at university. The Russian Geographical Society is sponsoring a special reception on the occasion of the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the society. Meadows agreed to send a brief reminder via email with a link to the conference homepage to Commissions and National Committees indicating that registration is open and that offers of paper sessions are still possible.

**Beijing, China, International Geographical Congress 2016**

Nothing to report at this stage.

**Quebec, Canada, Regional Conference 2018**

It was agreed that the organisers could share the IGU booth at the AAG Chicago conference (Abler to convey this to the local organisers). The Canadian Association of Geographers meeting in Vancouver represents another possible platform for developing ideas about the 2018 Regional Conference.

**Istanbul, Turkey, International Geographical Congress 2020**

Nothing to report at this stage.

**Extraordinary International Geographical Congress 2022**

Discussion was held under the item related to IGU strategy; the establishment of the IGU Task Force on the Centennial and Sesquicentennial was again noted.

**Other Business**

**IGU Lauréats d'Honneur**

Abler will remind Fincher that it is time to solicit nominations for this award. The Executive Committee has one nominee in mind and will draft the appropriate documentation. Himiyama suggested that the Honors Committee be prompted to think about new awards and Abler agreed to note this in his communication with Fincher.

**IGU Planet and Humanity Award 2016**

Abler is to follow up with Fincher on the agreed nominee.

**Milestones and Reference Points**

Kolosov suggested that, in relation to the strategy and responsibilities documents, we establish some milestones and deliverables. Kolosov agreed to continue to work on an outline plan.

**Adjourn**

The Meeting adjourned at 13h30 on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

**APPENDIX I**

See above point 2 “Toward the IGU Strategy for 2015-2022”, before the Minutes.

**APPENDIX II**

**[IGU Executive Committee – Country Liaison Assignments 2014-2016](#)**

**APPENDIX III**

**[IGU Executive Committee – IGU Commissions and Task Force Liaison Assignments 2014-16](#)**



*Informal dinner for the EC members in the home of Mike Meadows family*



### **3) PROCÈS-VERBAL DE LA RÉUNION DU COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF DE L'UGI CRACOVIE, POLOGNE, 16 AU 18 AOÛT 2014**

(version française (Y. Boquet))

#### **Mots de bienvenue, logistique de la réunion et présentations**

La réunion était présidée par le président Vladimir Kolosov, qui a accueilli le secrétaire général Mike Meadows et les vice-présidents Ron Abler, Dietrich Soyez, R.B. Singh, Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Giuliano Bellezza, Jarkko Saarinen, Yukio Himiyama, Aharon Kellerman et Qin Dahe.

#### **Adoption de l'ordre du jour**

L'ordre du jour, préparé et distribué avant la réunion, a été adopté avec l'ajout d'un article sur le forum Eco.

#### ***Procès-verbal***

Le procès-verbal de la réunion de Moscou en avril 2014, déjà approuvé par courriel, a été enregistré pour référence.

#### **Organisation et opérations**

#### **Rapports des membres du comité exécutif.**



La plupart des membres avaient soumis avant la réunion de brefs rapports sur leurs activités récentes en lien avec l'UGI.

### ***Calendrier 2014-2015 du Comité exécutif***

Le calendrier à venir du CE a été établi comme suit:

- Le Cap, Afrique du Sud en Décembre 2014: arrivées le 11 Décembre, réunion les 12 et 13, excursion le 14, départs le 15. Il a été convenu de rencontrer les nouveaux vice-présidents qui sont présents à Cracovie à un moment à préciser pendant la conférence.
- La possibilité de tenir la première réunion de 2015 juste avant le congrès AAG à Chicago a été discutée, avec une réponse favorable, mais il a été convenu de suspendre la décision finale jusqu'à ce que les nouveaux vice-présidents aient été installés. Les dates de l'AAG sont du 21 au 25 Avril, donc un calendrier provisoire pourrait être : arrivée le 17 Avril , réunion les 18 et 19, possible excursion le 20, avant de participer à l'AAG à partir du 21. Les dates pourraient être retardées d'un jour si l'excursion était une demi-journée seulement.

### ***Election au Comité exécutif de l'UGI 2014.***

L'élection de trois nouveaux vice-présidents - Elena Dell'Agnesse, Zhou Chenghu et Iain Hay - a été annoncée ainsi que la réélection de Yukio Himiyama et du secrétaire général et trésorier Mike Meadows. Il a été suggéré de demander au scrutateur indépendant des informations par rapport aux pays membres qui ont effectivement participé à l'élection.

### ***Rapport sur les pays membres de l'UGI.***

Les deux candidatures formelles d'adhésion en tant que membres à part entière, celles du Kazakhstan et de la Serbie, ont été acceptées dans un vote par courriel diffusé auprès des pays votants en Assemblée générale en même temps que l'élection des membres du comité exécutif. Il y a eu une correspondance suivie avec la Birmanie (Myanmar), la Bosnie, le Botswana, le Maroc et l'Ouganda ainsi qu'avec le Gabon. L'Iran a également manifesté son intérêt.

### ***Rapports des commissions et groupes de travail, et prix d'excellence.***

Le Prix d'excellence 2014 sera décerné lors de la cérémonie de clôture de la Conférence régionale de Cracovie à la Commission Genre et Géographie, et son président, ou son représentant, aura le privilège de donner une présentation plénière lors de la Conférence régionale de Moscou en 2015. Le prix (2500 dollars américains) sera transmis à la Commission en temps voulu.

Joos-Droogleever-Fortuijn a analysé les rapports des membres de la Commission en termes de leurs origines géographiques, etc., et a présenté les données. En 2013 il y avait environ 9000 membres, bien que 10 des 40 commissions n'aient pas soumis de listes détaillées. On estime qu'environ 10 000 personnes sont membres des commissions de l'UGI, ce qui représente une augmentation de 46% par rapport à 2012, venant de 141 pays. Il y a une forte domination de l'adhésion européenne et des Etats-Unis mais certaines commissions ont des adhésions importantes en provenance d'Asie. Des stratégies pour améliorer la situation ont été évoquées, notamment en encourageant plus de commissions à signaler officiellement leurs membres, à cibler des activités spéciales pour les régions sous-représentées, y compris en Afrique, au Moyen-Orient, et dans les anciens pays de l'Union soviétique. L'UGI devrait également encourager l'organisation de réunions de la commission qui se tiendraient dans les régions sous-représentées.

### ***Rapport financier de l'UGI et prévisions.***

Meadows a indiqué que la situation financière de l'UGI demeure saine. Il devrait y avoir un excédent d'environ 25-30,000 \$ pour démarrer 2015.

### ***Projet de stratégie de 2014-22.***

Kolosov a présenté un document exposant ses idées sur les objectifs stratégiques de l'UGI qui devraient être atteints d'ici à 2022, l'année du centenaire. Le document est joint en annexe A de ce procès-verbal. Une discussion a suivi au cours de laquelle il a été noté que cette stratégie suggère que l'UGI devrait maintenant regarder plus systématiquement vers l'extérieur au cours des prochaines années, après avoir tenté au cours des dernières années d'améliorer son fonctionnement interne. En ce qui concerne les questions financières, Kellerman a suggéré la promotion et le développement des relations avec les fondations internationales qui ont un certain intérêt pour la géographie, en particulier pour des projets de recherche. D'autres entreprises mécènes peuvent être approchés pour un soutien, mais il est reconnu que cela demande toujours des contacts personnels.

En ce qui concerne les réunions, il a été suggéré que les commissions soient encouragées à développer des conférences thématiques sur les grands enjeux mondiaux. L'augmentation des effectifs et l'amélioration du profil de l'UGI ont également été abordés, avec la possibilité de considérer la création de prix UGI supplémentaires. Ce qu'il faut maintenant, c'est élaborer des plans de développement détaillés pour faire avancer les initiatives stratégiques.

La division du travail entre les membres du CE est également un sujet de préoccupation et il a été convenu de dresser une liste des responsabilités et des tâches pour discussion ultérieure. Kolosov est convenu d'élaborer le plan de développement pour 2015-16, qui sera particulièrement utile pour les membres entrants du CE. À cet égard, Kolosov a déposé une liste de tâches fonctionnelles qui doivent être réalisées par le Comité Exécutif de l'UGI. Plusieurs suggestions pour des éléments supplémentaires ont été faites et il a été convenu de discuter de cette question lors d'une autre réunion du CE, mercredi à 18h00 dans le bureau de l'UGI, à laquelle les membres sortants et entrants du CE seraient présents.

### ***IYGU.***

La question a été suspendue pour discussion lors de la visite de Benno Werlen le dimanche matin. Il a assisté à la réunion du CE sur ce point, après avoir déposé un rapport préalable. Il y a des tentatives en cours pour s'assurer que la proposition de l'IYGU soit bien à l'ordre du jour de la 96<sup>e</sup> Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en Septembre prochain. Plusieurs membres du groupe de vote n°1 de l'ONU expriment en effet des réserves sur l'ensemble du concept d'années internationales et cela représente une certaine menace à l'heure actuelle. Il y a, cependant, une alliance forte au sein de l'UNESCO de pays d'Afrique, d'Amérique du Sud et d'Asie, ainsi que de plusieurs membres du groupe de vote n°2.

Werlen a continué à discuter des progrès avec les éléments structurels de IYGU, ainsi que de la collecte de fonds. Une planification des centres d'action régionaux est en cours en Afrique, Amérique du Nord et du Sud, Asie, Europe et Océanie, bien que le Moyen-Orient reste un défi. Une discussion a suivi, dans laquelle la CE a renouvelé ses félicitations à Werlen pour l'énorme effort et les progrès accomplis. La question a été posée sur ce que l'UGI peut faire précisément pour soutenir cette initiative. Werlen a indiqué que le temps est venu le moment où la résolution sera adoptée, et d'encourager leurs collègues à être prêts à agir en 2016.

Il est suggéré que l'UGI écrive une lettre informant les comités nationaux des progrès et de l'imminence de l'application étant déposé à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en Nouvelle-Zélande. Ils doivent également être informés sur le rôle de la géographie et des géographes pour assurer le succès de IYGU, une fois qu'elle sera en place. Kolosov a demandé dans quelle mesure le projet d'éducation EUROGEO/EUGEO/IGU pourrait être intégré avec IYGU et la réponse a

été très positive étant donné les synergies évidentes avec les composantes de base et de l'éducation. Il y a également des liens étroits avec le Groupe de travail Olympiade et la Commission sur l'éducation géographique. Kolosov a également noté qu'il y aura des opportunités pour les délégués de l'UGI de réseauter et de promouvoir IYGU lors de la prochaine Assemblée Générale de l'ICSU. Il est important de souligner que IYGU s'intègre bien avec "Avenir de la Terre" à l'aide d'une approche ascendante ("bottom-up") et l'accent mis sur la vie quotidienne des gens ordinaires.

### ***Manuel UGI.***

Meadows a poursuivi la révision du projet de manuel et la version révisée a été déposée en vue de révision finale et adaux les objectifs de l'organisation. En ce qui concerne l'adhésion, les critères de qualifications pour les adhésions nationales devraient être précisés ainsi que pour les propositions de mise en place d'une nouvelle commission. Le souhait d'avoir des membres représentant un éventail régional aussi large que possible doit être mieux affirmé, et la nature des relations entre les commissions et le comité exécutif doit être clarifiée. Meadows a été invité à participer aux dernières modifications et la version finale doit être mise à disposition via le site web.

### ***Atelier Gabon.***

L'atelier commun Université Omar Bongo / UGI prévu en Novembre a été reporté et les modalités de participation de géographes gabonais à une session conjointe au FIG en Octobre à St Dié restent incertaines. L'idée de la session conjointe est de faire une analyse critique de l'adhésion à l'UGI et de développer des idées sur la façon dont l'UGI peut étendre son empreinte, notamment dans les pays francophones. Il reste à voir si il y aura une représentation du Gabon, mais les efforts pour encourager leur participation continuent.

### ***Oursus "villes durables".***

Malheureusement, il n'y a pas de session formelle "Oursus" lors de la Conférence Régionale de l'UGI à Cracovie mais il y a une communication présentée par Li Qiu et co-auteurs, qui se rapporte clairement à cette initiative. Le rapport présenté par l'équipe Oursus se concentre principalement sur les progrès dans les aspects techniques et certaines des préoccupations soulevées lors de la réunion de Moscou CE restent en suspens, notamment la nécessité d'une intégration plus cohérente des géographes de l'équipe sur place. Il a été convenu que Kellerman écrirait à Ton Dietz pour s'engager davantage avec l'équipe et favoriser les progrès. Les comités nationaux de l'UGI doivent être approchés pour établir des «centres» nationaux ou au moins un réseau de correspondants.

### ***Réseaux régionaux de l'UGI.***

En raison de difficultés logistiques, il a été impossible pour Meadows d'assister, comme cela avait été convenu, aux congrès des jeunes chercheurs en Sciences de la Terre (YES, Young Earth Scientists) à Dar es Salaam. Rester en contact avec l'exécutif de YES est important, et Meadows a accepté d'écrire au Président de YES pour réaffirmer l'engagement de l'UGI à la promotion de leurs activités, y compris en fournissant un lien sur le site Web de l'UGI.

Kolosov a présenté un rapport sur EGEA (European Geography Association for Students and Young Geographers) et il faut s'efforcer d'avoir une présence de leurs représentants à la conférence régionale de Moscou.

Himiyama a présenté un rapport sur une réunion récente de la Société des Géosciences Asie Océanie (AOGS) à Sapporo impliquant plus de 3000 géoscientifiques. Un des principaux défis est de savoir comment travailler avec les autres GeoUnions pour s'assurer que nous restons en contact avec des groupes de ce genre et exploiter le potentiel de se connecter avec la discipline. Les géographes indiens restent attachés à la participation des géographes de pays voisins dans la région.

Kolosov a fait rapport d'une réunion des géographes des anciens pays de la CEI. Saarinen a parlé de la réunion prévue à Tallinn en 2015 des géographes nordiques et de la nécessité de mettre en évidence les activités de l'UGI. Le développement de liens mutuels entre sites Web semble être une solution réaliste (Meadows).

Qin Dahe a présenté un rapport sur la réunion conjointe Chine-Corée-Japon qui a lieu chaque année.

### ***Sesquicentennial et la Task Force Centennial.***

La lettre d'invitation aux membres pressentis de ce comité, rédigée par Abler, a été envoyée par Kolosov. Abler a présenté un document énumérant les membres afin que le comité soit donc maintenant formellement constitué. Il y a eu discussion sur les moyens par lesquels nous pouvons nous assurer qu'il y aura une histoire documentée de l'UGI (sous la forme d'une contribution savante) de l'UGI, publiée ou présentée à temps pour le centenaire. Ces idées doivent être transmises au Groupe de Travail (Abler).

### ***Site Web UGI et Réseau Social UGI.***

La re-conception du site est terminée, son fonctionnement est efficace et le moteur de recherche du projet des revues est à nouveau pleinement opérationnel. La page Facebook pour l'UGI est maintenant reliée au site Web principal de sorte que les mises à jour apparaissent aussi sur Facebook. La page continue d'attirer un certain intérêt et obtient de nombreux «like». Des versions française et arabe des principaux éléments du site doivent encore être développées. Il a été suggéré que les rapports annuels des Commissions devraient être disponibles sur le site, et de mettre un lien évident avec la Maison de la Géographie. Le compte Twitter doit encore être activé.

### ***Bulletin de l'UGI.***

Meadows doit collecter les documents pour le volume 63 de 2013 et, pour diverses raisons, il a été décidé de retarder la publication jusqu'en 2014 quand il y aura un volume à la fois pour 2013 et 2014.

### ***Mise à jour du Bulletin électronique d'information de l'UGI.***

Le bulletin d'information continue à être produit et diffusé sur une base régulière par Bellezza, qui a accepté de continuer à le faire, avec la gestion du site parallèle UGI "Maison de la Géographie".

### ***Archives de l'UGI.***

Meadows est en communication avec les archivistes à Leipzig et il remettra des matériaux à un représentant lors de la réunion de Cracovie, y compris un disque dur externe avec tous les fichiers de l'UGI développés depuis 2010. Abler a accepté de tenter de regrouper des équivalents pour la période 2008-2010. Il y avait discussion sur le fait que la Royal Geographical Society conserve les matériaux UGI d'avant 1956. Il a été convenu d'étudier la possibilité de réunir les archives et

que Meadows visitera la RGS en Octobre pour soulever la question avec le directeur. Soyez a indiqué que l'accord avec le fournisseur de service d'hébergement du site IGC 2012 arrive à son terme et a demandé un avis sur ce que devrait maintenant se produire. Il est conseillé au Comité d'organisation local IGC2012 de transférer le site Web aux archives de l'UGI à Leipzig (les moyens du maintien de l'accès à ce matériau sont encore à décider). Le rapport final du Congrès international de géographie 2012 devrait également être hébergé là-bas quand il sera complet. L'ancien secrétaire général et trésorier Eckardt Ehlers a indiqué qu'il est en possession de matériaux pour les archives; Bellezza est convenu de communiquer avec lui et de l'informer de la nécessité de les envoyer à Leipzig.

### ***Projet de dialogue.***

Le canal "Google pour le projet de dialogue" est maintenant opérationnel et le site pilote fonctionne bien avec tous les entretiens disponibles en "streaming", certains étant déjà téléchargés plus de 1000 fois. La chaîne est accessible depuis la page d'accueil de l'UGI, mais a besoin un texte explicatif et d'un texte de remerciement à l'Université de Lund pour avoir accepté de rendre le matériel disponible de cette façon (Meadows). L'idée a été avancée que des entretiens avec les géographes contemporains pourraient être menées pour poursuivre le projet et pourraient faire partie des activités des anniversaires 100 et 150.

### ***L'UGI et l'enseignement universitaire de la géographie.***

Droogleever-Fortuijn indiqué que la session spéciale sur cette question est prévue pour le mardi matin de la Conférence régionale de Cracovie, ainsi que deux ateliers pour les jeunes géographes. Elle prévoit de consulter les participants pour se faire une idée de ce que les jeunes géographes attendent de l'UGI. Pour la Conférence régionale de Moscou en 2015, il est prévu une journée spéciale pour les jeunes géographes et un événement spécial pour les professeurs de géographie.

### ***Bibliographie géographique internationale.***

Meadows a indiqué que la subvention de 1000 dollars américains a été versée aux éditeurs et qu'il existe un lien vers cette publication sur le site web de l'UGI.

### ***Série Springer.***

Singh a indiqué que la série offre une occasion pour les commissions (ou même Comités nationaux) de développer des numéros spéciaux. Trois volumes sont déjà publiés, à savoir : "Sécurité des moyens de subsistance dans le Nord-Ouest de l'Himalaya" (travail collaboratif des géographes indiens et finlandais), "Changement climatique et biodiversité: Actes de la conférence UGI de Rohtak Vol.1"; "Écologie du paysage et de gestion de l'eau: Actes de la conférence UGI de Rohtak Vol.2". Deux autres volumes sont sous presse, un sur les défis de développement urbain en Asie et l'autre de la Commission de l'éducation géographique sur les technologies géospatiales. La série est l'objet d'une promotion lors de la conférence de Cracovie et les commissions devraient être encouragées à développer d'autres titres possibles. Le nouveau comité exécutif est chargé de dresser une liste initiale de possibles sujets supplémentaires. Meadows est convenu de suggérer cela aux organisateurs de la prochaine réunion inaugurale de la commission "géomorphologie et société" à Taipei.

## **Coopération et ouverture**

### ***Festival International de Géographie (FIG).***

Le nouveau directeur scientifique du FIG soutient fermement la participation de l'UGI. Abler et Soyez assisteront au festival en Octobre 2014 et présenteront la traditionnelle conférence traditionnelle UGI-UGI. Les collègues invités du Gabon, nous l'espérons, seront en mesure d'y contribuer. Un financement limité pour les dépenses locales sera fourni par les organisateurs locaux. L'UGI a la possibilité pour un stand promotionnel à au festival du livre, et des idées sur la façon de remplir ce avec des matériaux, y compris une version en langue française de la nouvelle brochure (Meadows va fournir des fichiers) ont été discutées.

### ***Représentants de l'UGI auprès des organismes internationaux.***

Des nominations récentes du professeur Shigeko Haruyama et du Dr Pippin Anderson ont été soumises, mais il n'y a eu aucune indication des organismes concernés quant à savoir si ces personnes ont été nommées ou non.

Qin a parlé des développements au sein de l'initiative Future Earth et a déposé un rapport. La troisième réunion de la réunion du Comité scientifique aura lieu en Argentine au cours de Décembre 2014. Le Comité national chinois pour l'avenir de la Terre (CNC-FE) a été fondé le 21 Mars 2014 et Qin, nommé président, a présidé sa première réunion. Un appel a été émis pour des idées en matière de recherche et il revient aux membres de l'UGI de développer de telles propositions. Il a été suggéré qu'il devrait y avoir une réunion autour du thème de Future Earth, défendu éventuellement par un ou plusieurs des commissions.

### ***ICSU et GeoUnions.***

L'Assemblée générale de l'ICSU est prévue pour Auckland en Septembre et Kolosov, Abler et Meadows y assisteront en tant que représentants de l'UGI. Les comités nationaux doivent être encouragés à soutenir la nomination d'Abler pour la vice-présidence (Meadows).

En ce qui concerne "Santé urbaine et bien-être", c'est bien parti et un bureau du programme a été établi à Xiamen, en Chine. Singh assistera à la réunion inaugurale en Décembre 2014. En ce qui concerne le dernier appel de l'ICSU pour des propositions de projets, il a été suggéré que le thème "Santé urbaine et bien-être" serait approprié pour bâtir une proposition et cette idée sera avancée à la réunion des présidents de commissions prévue mercredi lors de la Conférence régionale de Cracovie, et dans une lettre de suivi aux présidents de commissions (Meadows). L'ICSU a récemment lancé un appel pour leur programme de petites subventions, et il a été convenu de s'assurer que les commissions de l'UGI étaient au courant des exigences, et encouragées à élaborer des propositions de projet en association avec des partenaires appropriés.

### ***CISS.***

Des informations sont reçues régulièrement sur les activités du CISS et l'ancienne vice-présidente Ruth Fincher a déposé un rapport. Pour le Rapport mondial des sciences sociales, nous devons demander aux commissions de l'UGI d'y contribuer ainsi que proposer des sessions au Forum mondial des sciences sociales à Durban en 2015; cette question sera également évoquée lors de la réunion des présidents à Cracovie.

## **Affiliation avec d'autres organisations**

### ***EUROGEO / EUGEO.***

Kolosov a participé à la Conférence annuelle EUROGEO qui s'est tenue à Malte du 15 au 19 mai 2014 et il a présenté un discours liminaire. Lors de la réunion avec Karl Donert, Président de Eurogeo, Henk van Ottens, Président de EUGEO, et Joop van der Schee, il y a eu une discussion sur les progrès du projet commun UGI - EUGEO - EUROGEO sur l'éducation géographique.

Kolosov a fait le point sur les progrès du projet et sur le développement d'une Charte géographique.

### ***Eco-Forum***

Abler a rendu compte de sa participation à l'Eco-Forum qui a eu lieu en Chine avec la participation de l'ensemble du gouvernement, le secteur privé et les institutions académiques et il semble y avoir un véritable engagement pour résoudre les problèmes environnementaux mondiaux. Le discours d'ouverture a été présenté par le vice-président du pays.

### ***Conférence du CNFG.***

Kolosov et Soyez ont assisté au forum "Langue, production et diffusion scientifiques dans la mondialisation : une question pour les géographies et les géographes", convoqué par le Comité National français de l'UGI. On y a examiné la domination de l'anglais comme langue de communication dans la discipline. Il y a eu aussi une discussion sur les problèmes d'indices de citation et la nécessité réelle de soutenir la diversité d'expression et langues en géographie en général, et dans le contexte de l'UGI en particulier.

### ***Réunion UGI à Srinagar, en Inde.***

Singh a fait un rapport sur la Conférence UGI sur les géorisques, la biodiversité, la durabilité des ressources et la réponse des montagnes face au changement climatique mondial, qui a eu lieu à Srinagar, les 4 et 5 Juin 2014, à l'Université du Cachemire. Des représentants de plusieurs commissions de l'UGI ont participé dont le vice-président Himiyama, et les présidents de commissions UGI Udo Schickhoff et Marek Degórski, Directeur de l'Institut de géographie et l'organisation spatiale de l'Académie polonaise des sciences.

## **Congrès géographiques internationaux et conférences régionales UGI**

### ***Cracovie, Pologne Conférence régionale 2014.***

Une vingtaine de bourses de voyage de 500 ou 1000 dollars (selon le pays de domicile du délégué) ont été attribués à des participants à la conférence, notamment venus de pays en développement; plus de la moitié sont des femmes. Un certificat sera remis aux lauréats lors de la cérémonie de clôture de la conférence de Cracovie.

### ***Moscou, Conférence régionale Russie 2015.***

La deuxième circulaire a été distribuée avec les documents d'inscription à la Conférence régionale de Cracovie. Le comité local d'organisation a décidé d'inviter quelqu'un de "Future Earth" pour présenter un discours. Les différents sous-comités d'organisation, y compris le Comité du Programme scientifique, sont maintenant pleinement opérationnels.

Le protocole d'accord sera signé par Kolosov et Meadows lors de la réunion de Cracovie.

### ***Beijing, Chine Congrès International de Géographie 2016.***

Il y a eu discussion autour des thèmes proposés et il a été fortement suggéré qu'il y ait des possibilités les plus évidentes pour les géographes physiques à participer (Qin).

### ***Conférence régionale 2018.***

Vit Vilimek et un collègue ont présenté Prague comme un lieu possible au nom du comité d'organisation local. L'Université Charles est l'institution académique-clé mais d'autres dans la

région envisagent de contribuer. Un programme scientifique a été présenté sous le thème : «Interfaces entre les environnements culturel et naturel» avec un accent mis sur l'Europe centrale. Une université d'été pour les jeunes géographes avant la conférence pour les jeunes géographes a été proposé, ainsi que le soutien à l'Olympiade. Les dates proposées sont du 9 au 13 Juillet ou du 20 au 24 Août 2018; à ce stade il y a encore une grande flexibilité. Prague est très centrale, offre des prix très raisonnables pour le logement, etc., et est un bon point de départ pour diverses excursions de terrain. La tarif de préinscription est estimé à 520 dollars sur la base de 1500 participants.

Matthew Hatvany et ses collègues ont présenté le dossier de Québec. Les dates proposées sont du 6 au 10 Août au Centre des congrès de Québec. Le thème proposé est “Tenir compte de la différence”. Le comité local d'organisation est composé d'universitaires de plusieurs universités. Des excursions sur le terrain pendant et après la post-conférence sont prévues, dont une vers l'Arctique canadien, qui est une région particulièrement vulnérable physiquement, économiquement et culturellement. Les frais d'inscription précoce sont proposés à 500 dollars américains sur une base de 2000 participants. Des subventions pour les participants les plus jeunes et du monde en développement sont considérées comme faisant partie de l'offre d'ensemble, ainsi que le soutien de l'Olympiade. La question des visas pour les délégués étrangers a été discutée comme une préoccupation potentielle.

La proposition de Lima, au Pérou, a déjà été examinée et aucune autre information n'a été fournie sur les possibles frais d'inscription.

Les organisateurs potentiels d'Auckland ont envoyé un diaporama Powerpoint pour soutenir le document d'offre soumis précédemment. L'inscription précoce est fixé à 410 dollars américains sur la base de 700 participants. Le thème proposé est: “Le ré-alignement de la géographie : nouveaux centres, nouvelles périphéries, nouvelles questions”.

Après avoir considéré tous les aspects, la décision a été prise, à l'unanimité, d'inviter Québec à accueillir la Conférence régionale de l'UGI 2018. Meadows doit transmettre la décision et d'annoncer la nouvelles sur le site.

La possibilité de poursuivre le modèle de tenir des conférences de l'UGI / congrès annuels (comme cela a été le modèle depuis 2011) a été longuement discutée. Il a été convenu de consulter d'abord les présidents de la Commission à propos de la poursuite de la fréquence annuelle des réunions de l'UGI et que cela devrait être fait par courrier électronique (Meadows), et de solliciter par la suite l'avis des comités nationaux.

### ***Congrès International de Géographie 2020 (Istamboul).***

Les organisateurs locaux ont présenté un projet de protocole d'accord et Meadows se réunira avec leurs représentants pour discuter du contenu de la conférence de Cracovie.

### ***Congrès international extraordinaire de géographie 2022.***

Antoine Le Blanc, représentant le Comité National Français pour l'UGI, a rejoint la réunion du CE pour ce point article. Un comité local d'organisation préliminaire a été mis en place, comprenant des membres de plusieurs universités à Paris et en province, et représentant des champs différents de la discipline. Il a le soutien initial du Comité National Français de Géographie. Ce Congrès doit célébrer l'anniversaire, mais l'accent devrait être mis sur l'avenir autant que le passé. Le thème proposé est: “Temps de la Géographie, Géographies du Temps”, qui permet un lien plus étroit avec des historiens, bien que dans la discussion, l'alternative “Temps pour la Géographie' ait été suggérée. L'objectif est d'attirer plus de 2000 participants du 22 au 26 Août 2018 dans un emplacement central à Paris (la Sorbonne, par exemple). Le Blanc a



exposé les principaux défis, dont les finances sont la clé, mais il y a un plan initial de budget pour le Congrès, avec un tarif entre 400 et 500 Euros. On espère faire une présentation plus formelle à la Conférence régionale de Moscou en 2015, après quoi plus de détails seront ajoutés en termes de programme scientifique, d'excursions sur le terrain, etc.

#### ***Congrès international de géographie 2024.***

L'appel pour ds villes candidates devrait être lancé au cours de 2015 afin que le lieu d'accueil puisse être décidé à l'Assemblée Générale 2016 de Beijing.

### **Distinctions et prix**

#### **Lauréat d'Honneur de l'UGI.**

Des suggestions ont été faites concernant les nominations de lauréats potentiels (les proposant doivent soumettre une documentation au Comité des distinctions et prix).

#### **Médaille UGI Planète et Humanité.**

Qin, assisté par Abler et Meadows, a soumis une proposition à cet égard au comité des distinctions et prix. En supposant qu'ils approuvent la nomination et la motivation, le prix sera remis au candidat en personne au Congrès UGI de Beijing en 2016.

#### **Prix Mattei Dogan pour la géographie humaine.**

Le statut du prix de l'UGI Mattei Dogan doit encore être établi. Kolosov doit toujours écrire aux autorités compétentes (en français) pour établir s'il est disponible pour l'attribution.

### **Ajournement**

La séance est levée à 16h00 le 17 Août 2014.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

### **Reprise**

La réunion a été re-convoquée le mercredi 20 Août à 18h00 afin d'accueillir les nouveaux vice-présidents du Comité exécutif de l'UGI Dell'Agnese et Zhou. Le président a chaleureusement remercié les membres sortants (Bellezza, Kellerman, Qin), qui ont été membres de l'exécutif pendant six ans, pour leurs efforts remarquables au cours des six dernières années.

La première tâche du nouveau CE sera d'allouer des responsabilités de Comités nationaux et de Commissions et Groupes de travail, ce qui sera finalisé lors de la réunion du CE au Cap en Décembre.

Kolosov rappelle également aux membres le projet de document de stratégie et le projet de liste des tâches et responsabilités de membres de la CE. Il a été convenu que Kolosov et Meadows rédigerait une version de cette liste en identifiant les noms de membres du CE face aux fonctions possibles après la réception de nouvelles suggestions par les membres de l'exécutif. Il a également été suggéré que la CE devrait établir une liste des titres thématiques possibles pour les réunions futures ou des publications (Tous). Droogleever-Fortuijn a présenté brièvement des informations sur l'atelier des jeunes géographes universitaires, auquel ont participé dix délégués, et les résultats ont été très positifs. Il a été noté qu'un système de mentorat serait très bien reçu et que les commissions devraient être abordées en vue de proposer des mentors possibles. Il y avait

un accord général que la conférence de Cracovie a été marquée par le nombre de jeunes géographes. L'ensemble de l'exécutif a félicité les organisateurs locaux pour une excellente conférence régionale.

### Ajournement

La séance est levée à 18h40 le 20 Août 2014



## 4) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

### 4.a) IGU Regional Conference: "Changes, Challenges, Responsibility", Kraków, Poland, 18-22.08.2014

The 2014 IGU Regional Conference took place in Krakow, Poland, in the Jagiellonian University. This combination of time and location has a few dimensions which contributed to the conference organization. In 2014, Poland celebrated 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the political independence resumption, the Jagiellonian University celebrated the 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation, and Polish geographers celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 14<sup>th</sup> IGU congress organized in 1934 in Warsaw. Therefore, the 2014 IGU RC in Krakow was organized under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Bronislaw Komorowski, and the members of the conference Honorary Committee were Professor Vladimir Kolosov, President of the International Geographical Union, Professor Michal Kleiber, President of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Professor Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of the City of Krakow and Professor Wojciech Nowak, Rector of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.



*Opening Ceremony, Authorities at the main desk (Photo Jagiellonian University)*

The idea of hosting the IGU conference in Poland for the second time in history was initiated in 2002 by the Polish Geographical Society which acted as an umbrella for the consortium of eight Polish geographical institutions which cooperated to promote Polish geographical research worldwide and which prepared the conference proposal. The consortium consisted of the following institutions:

- Polish Geographical Society
- Jagiellonian University, Institute of Geography and Spatial Management, Krakow
- Pedagogical University of Cracow, Institute of Geography
- Adam Mickiewicz University, Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences, Poznan
- Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Warsaw
- University of Lodz, Faculty of Geographical Sciences
- University of Silesia, Faculty of Earth Sciences, Sosnowiec
- University of Warsaw, Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies

The representatives of the consortium institutions established the Steering Committee of the conference. In 2011, the Local Organizing Committee was established and began the conference arrangements.

The conference began with the Opening Ceremony organized in Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University. Among the invited guests there were senior professors of geography from all over Poland and families of Polish geographers who organized the IGU conference in Warsaw in 1934. Conference participants were welcomed by Professor Jacek Majchrowski, Mayor of the City of Kraków and Professor Piotr Laidler, Vice-Rector of the Jagiellonian University, and then addressed by Professor Pawel Swianiewicz, Advisor of the President of the Republic of Poland, Professor Vladimir Kolosov, President of the International Geographical Union, Professor Marek Chmielewski, Vice-President of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Professor Marek Degórski, Chair of the Steering Committee of the 2014 IGU RC. Professor Jacek Majchrowski contributed to the Gold Medal Ceremony of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Geography

Olympiad, led by Ms. Kathryn Berg and Professor Lex Chalmers. The 11<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad was organized in the Pedagogical University of Cracow, on 12-18 August 2014, and was attended by 36 teams from all over the world. The best score was achieved by the team from Singapore. During the second part of the Opening Ceremony, a short piano recital by Mateusz Mateja allowed the ceremony participants to experience Polish tradition, landscapes and history, expressed with the international language of musical masterpieces of Frédéric Chopin. Opening lecture: "Relevance of Geography" was presented by Professor Leszek Kosiński. Opening ceremony was followed by the ice-breaker party in Auditorium Maximum and then by the opening of the exhibition "The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland" in the museum of the Jagiellonian University in Collegium Maius.

Conference core activities consisted of IGU commissions sessions, thematic sessions (both oral and poster ones) and plenary sessions. The sessions took place in three buildings of the Jagiellonian University Faculty of Biology and Earth Sciences, located in the Campus of the 600<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jagiellonian University Revival. There were 226 oral sessions organized by particular IGU Commissions. The commissions which organized the largest number of sessions were:

- C12.08 Dynamics of Economic Spaces: 22 sessions;
- C12.11 Geographical Education: 19 sessions;
- C12.39 Urban Commission: Urban Challenges in a Complex World: 19 sessions.

Additionally, there were 19 joint sessions organized by two or more IGU commissions, and 47 sessions organized by the conference participants. Totally, in all the oral sessions, there were 1171 oral presentations. Parallel, 227 posters were presented, each of them assigned to a particular session.

On each conference day, one of the key conference theme words: Changes, Challenges, Responsibility was considered during plenary lectures. The directions and dynamics of CHANGES in the environment were discussed during the plenary session on 19 August 2014. The lecture presented by Professor Benno Werlen (*2016 The UN International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) – The UN International Year of Geography*) has driven the attention to both traditional and new areas of changes which are of interest to geographers. The plenary lectures by Professor Zbigniew Kundzewicz (*[Climate change, related challenges and responsibilities](#)*) and Professor Gideon Biger (*[The Challenge of Historical Geography and the geographical question of "Where is the Holy Land?"](#)*), presented during the plenary session on 20 August 2014, gave an opportunity to exchange insights on contemporary CHALLENGES. They emphasized the role of both natural and social aspects of global issues with their strong local repercussions. An attempt to determine the RESPONSIBILITY of human kind for the observed changes (a plenary session on 21 August 2014) were undertaken during the lectures by Professor Julie Winkler (*[Embracing the Complexity and Uncertainty of Climate Change: Responsibilities for Geographers](#)*) and Professor Andreas Faludi (*[Place is a no-man's land, so who is responsible?](#)*).

There were 1470 participants who registered for the conference and 1372 attended the event (93%). About 100 young researchers took part in the conference thanks to the opportunity of the

reduced fee offer. The participants came to Krakow from 60 countries, including 416 persons from Poland. Attendance by countries (apart from Poland) is presented in figures 1-3.

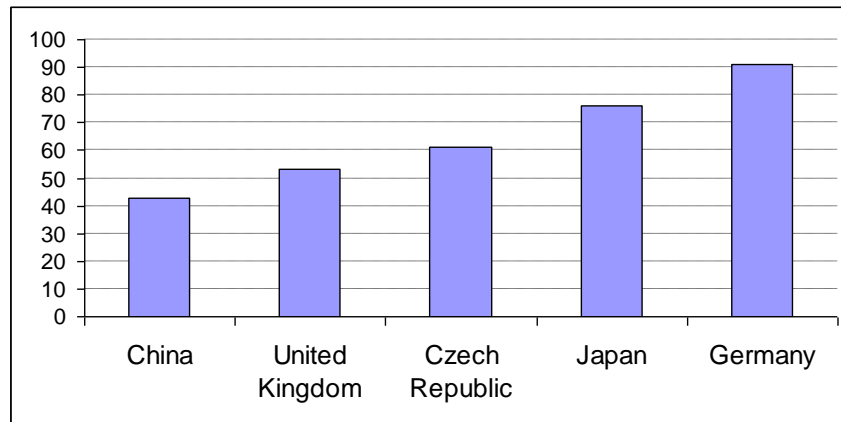


Fig. 1. Countries with 40-100 participants of 2014 IGU RC

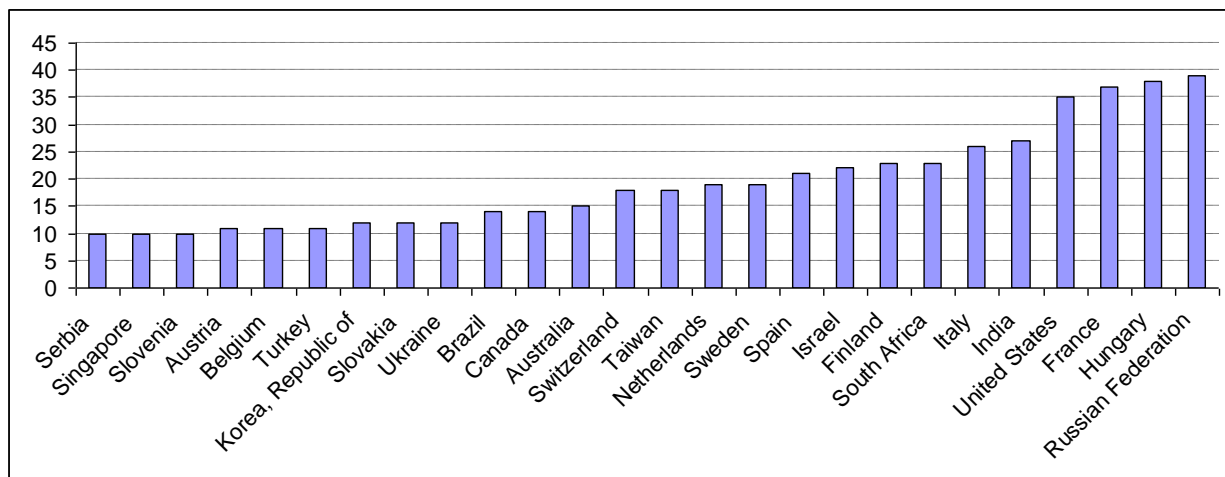


Fig. 2. Countries with 10-39 participants of 2014 IGU RC

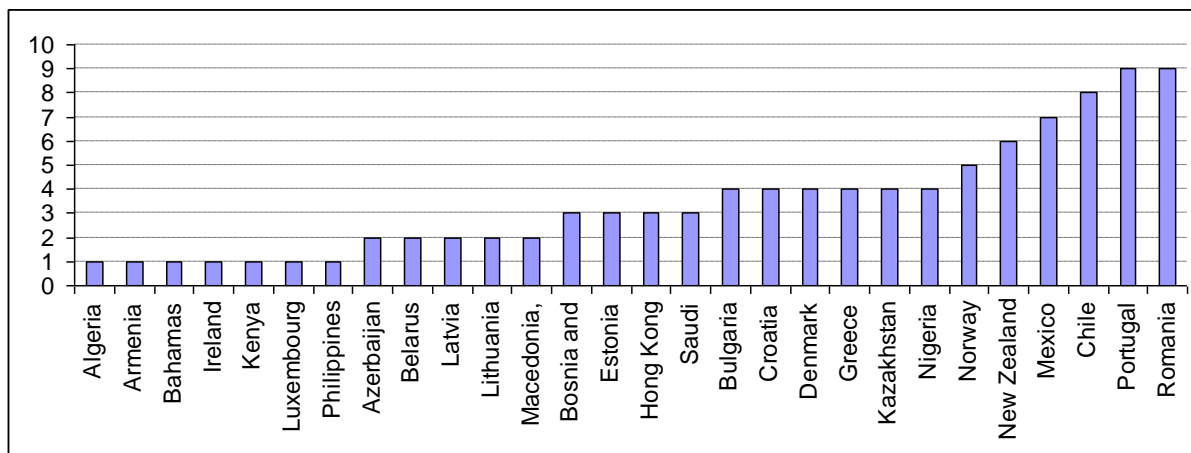


Fig. 3. Countries with 1-9 participants of 2014 IGU RC

Accompanying events included pre-conference meetings and seminars of the IGU commissions, the 11<sup>th</sup> International Geography Olympiad, exhibition and workshops organized during the conference, IGU commissions business meetings during the conference, two academic excursions (before and after the conference), exhibition "The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland" in the museum of the Jagiellonian University, half-day and 1-day touristic tours in Krakow and its vicinities, and three social events.

Six IGU Commissions organized pre-conference meetings in various localities in Poland:

- C12.10 Gender and Geography: Workshop on "The Gendering of New Realities: Unequal Challenges and Responsibilities", 16-17 August 2014, Warsaw
- C12.13 Geography of Governance: 14-16 August 2014, Poznan
- C12.15 Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change: 13-17 August 2014, Kraków / Pieniny Mts
- C12.19 Health and Environment: MEDICAL GEOGRAPHY FORUM 2014, 14-17 August 2014, Warsaw
- C12.33 Political Geography: Geographical-political aspects of the transborder conservation of natural and cultural heritage, 15-17 August 2014, Lopuszna
- C12.39 Urban Commission: Urban Challenges in a Complex World, Annual Conference of the IGU Urban Commission Poznan 2014, 11-14 August 2014, Poznan

During the conference, the exhibition area was arranged in one of the conference buildings. There were 14 exhibitors, including the organizers of future IGU conferences in Moscow (2015) and Beijing (2016). Parallel to conference sessions, there were four workshops available:

- "City without God". Origin and changes of religious space new socialist and post-socialist cities; organisers: Elzbieta Biliska-Wodecka (Poland), Tomáš Havlíček (Czechia), Katarzyna Kulczynska (Poland), Justyna Liro (Poland), Izabela Sołjan (Poland)
- Current trends in landscape fragmentation and connectivity assessment; organisers: Katarzyna Ostapowicz (Poland), Elzbieta Ziolkowska (Poland)
- Ecosystem services concept in spatial planning; organisers: Ewelina Mocior (Poland), Agnieszka Nowak (Poland)
- Improving your presentation skills: a video-training workshop for young geographers; organisers: Joos Droogleever Fortuijn (The Netherlands), Joop van der Schee (The Netherlands)

Nine IGU Commissions organized their business meetings during the conference. Additionally, General Assembly of the European Association of Geographical Societies took place on 20 August. During the whole conference week, the participants were given the opportunity to visit the exhibition "The Development of Geographical Ideas in Poland" in the Museum of the Jagiellonian University, in the building of Collegium Maius. This exhibition is aimed at acquainting all the interested parties with the magnificent tradition of the Polish geography, dating back to medieval times. The main mission of our ancestors has always been to make the society realize how important and wonderful science geography is.

The conference participants attended three types of excursions:

- half-day trips (a guided tour in Krakow's Old Town and a guided tour in Nowa Huta district);

- one-day trips (Wieliczka Salt Mine Tour, Ojcowski National Park and a Castle in Pieskowa Skala; a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Wadowice and Lagiewniki);
- academic excursions: 1. Land degradation and reclamation in the Silesian Upland and the Polish Carpathians (14-17 August 2014); organizers: Pawel Prokop, Polish Academy of Sciences, Branch Krakow, Renata Dulias, University of Silesia; 2. Central Poland (23-25 August 2014); organizer: Robert Wilus, Univeristy of Lodz

There were three social events organized for the conference participants:

- ice-breaker party after the Opening Ceremony, in Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University;
- outdoor social event in the “Stara Zajezdnia” restaurant, located in a former tram depot, close to the Museum of City Engineering;
- Gala Dinner in the underground historical salt mine chamber „Warszawa” (in English: Warsaw), located 125 m underground in the Wieliczka Salt Mine Museum, located about 10 km south-east of Krakow.



*The Gala Dinner has been served in the large room Warszawa in the Wieliczka salt mine, about 125 meters underground. Chandeliers are decorated with salt crystals (first photo). The miners carved in the Centuries, and still are continuing, a lot of small and big fine statues: second photo Mikolaj Kopernik (Copernicus) holding a globe, third photo Virgin Mary.*

During the Closing Ceremony, on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, Professor Vladimir Kolosov, President of IGU, handed in the IGU award to the Commission on Gender and Geography, and Professor Janice Monk represented the commission. Professor Michael Meadows, Secretary General and Treasurer of IGU, presented twenty conference participants awarded with the IGU Travel grants. The programme of the next IGU Regional Conference to be held in Moscow in 2015 was presented by Dr. Sergey Chalov, and Professor Chenghu Zhou presented the programme of IGU

Congress to be held in Beijing in 2016. The musical accent of the Closing Ceremony was a short recital by the Academic Choir “Camerata Jagellonica” of the Jagiellonian University which performed five songs, from 13<sup>th</sup> century popular academic song “Gaudeamus igitur” to traditional Polish folk songs. The two last presentations were delivered by Dr. Anita Bokwa, the chair of LOC, and by Professor Marek Degórski, the chair of the conference Steering Committee, who presented the basic conference statistics and closed the conference.

The Local Organizing Committee could never realize its tasks without the full support from the IGU Executive Committee and without the support from Colleagues working in other Polish cities who organized most of the accompanying events. Special thanks should be directed to the staff of the Jagiellonian University Department of Communications and Marketing – Conferences who supported the LOC in all formal and financial issues and ran the conference office. Last not least, a huge work was completed before and during the conference by about 120 volunteers from eight Polish geographical institutions and special thanks are also directed to them.



*A legend attributes the discovery of the mine to the desire of a Hungarian Princess, wife of the Prince of Kraków, a real historical charitable figure, dead in 1292 and sanctified as Saint Kinga in 1695. Last photo: some miners confused this legend with the tale of Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs: very malicious confusion indeed. (last 4 photos by Giuliano Bellezza).*

#### **4b) Annual Meeting of the Geographical Society of China, Chengdu, October 24-26**

*the first full mobilization for the 33rd International Geographical Congress*

On October 24-26, 2014, the annual meeting of the Geographical Society of China (GSC) was held in Chengdu, China. There were more than 1,700 geographical experts, scholars and graduate students from nearly 400 institutions all over the country participating in the event. The opening ceremony was hosted by Professor Wei DENG, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Head of the Chengdu Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, Chinese Academy of



Sciences, where Professor Yanhua LIU, President of GSC and Counselor of the State Council of China, gave an opening speech and Professor Jieming ZHOU, School Board Director of Sichuan Normal University, made a welcoming address. Honorary Presidents of GSC, Academician Changming LIU, Academician Dadao LU, Vice-Presidents of GSC, Academician Bojie FU, Academician Peng CUI, and other GSC leaders attended the meeting.

The theme of the annual meeting was “Chinese Geographical Sciences: Facing the Future, Moving towards the World”, which encouraged participants to look back at the development of Chinese geographical sciences over last 100 years, especially at their theoretic and methodological contribution and their contribution to the China's economic boom, social progress, urban construction, and the management of resources and the environment in the latest 30 years since the reform and opening up. Also it called for the collaboration and innovation over the whole geographical academia of the country for the success of the 33rd International geographical Congress to be held in August, 2016, Beijing, so as to start a new era of Chinese geographical sciences advancing towards the world in the future.



Centered around the theme of the annual meeting, Academician Dadao LU, Academician Bojie FU, Academician Peng CUI, Professor Ershun ZHONG, CEO of SuperMap, Professor Dian ZHANG, Head of Department of Geography, the University of Hong Kong were invited to give keynote lectures titled “Future Earth Framework and Chinese Geographical Sciences”, “Chinese Geographical Sciences Moving towards the World”, “Mountain Hazards Chains within High Mountainous Area under Climate Change: Process, Risk and Strategy” , “GIS development and its Impact on Geographical Sciences” and “Chinese Empire Pulsation: Spectral Analysis of Macro Geopolitics and Climate Change” respectively.

In the meeting, there were nearly 1000 submitted abstracts, more than 500 oral presentations on 37 topics, and about 200 papers competing for the Annual Meeting Youth Outstanding Paper Award. The cutting-edge topics with the most enthusiastic response included China's new styles of urbanization and urban development, landscape change and ecosystem services, economic geography and spatial governance, climate change and sustainable development, urban and rural integrated development, tourism, environment and big data etc. These topics not only indicate the international trends of geographical sciences, but also reflect current wide use of geography sciences in the social and economic development and urban construction in China.

Youth salon attracted many young geographers; higher and foundational geography education forums were both featured at the meeting. During the meeting, were also held the 8th national

graduate workshop on geography, academic activities to commemorate the 80th anniversary of "Acta Geographica Sinica", editorial meeting of 《30 years in Geographical Sciences》 by National Natural Science Foundation of China, 2014 autumn business meeting of the steering committee of geographical science teaching of the Ministry of Education, "Scientia Geographica Sinica" editorial committee working meeting, advanced seminar on seismic secondary disaster warning and prevention technologies, and other special events.

Professor Guoyou ZHANG, Secretary-General of GSC presided over the closing ceremony. During the ceremony, 24 winners of "Youth Outstanding Paper Award" were announced by Professor Yungang LIU, Chairman of the GSC Working Committee for Young Geographers, and then commended. Subsequently, Academician Peng CUI, Professor Wei DENG and Professor Huailiang LUO, Head of the School of Geographical Sciences and Resources, Sichuan Normal University summarized respectively, expressing their full recognition and appreciation of the participant's enthusiasm and the academic atmosphere and achievements of the meeting. Finally, Professor ZHANG summed up the characteristics of this successful annual meeting as follows: massive participation, wide idea exchange, orderly organization, thoughtful reception, and the use of sophisticated *video conferencing* equipment as well.

The Geographical Society of China  
December 15, 2014

#### **4c) 36th Indian Geography Congress, Jaipur, 17-19 November 2014**

##### **Focal Theme: Urban Systems, Rural Livelihoods Security and Resource Management**

The inaugural function was started with lighting of lamp followed by *Saraswati Vandana* and *Kulgeet* (University of Rajasthan, Jaipur). The welcome address was delivered by Prof. R.D. Doi, Convener of the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Geography Congress 2014. After the welcome address Prof. S.C. Rai, Secretary General, NAGI presented Secretary General Report of the NAGI.

The inaugural address was delivered by Hon'ble Prof. Yukio Himiyana, Vice President, International Geographical Union Council Member, Science Council of Japan, University of Hokkaido. Prof. J.P. Singhal as the Guest of Honour, Syndicate Member and Educationist addressed the August gathering and emphasized on judicious use of the resources.

Respected Shri Hanuman Singh Bhati, Vice Chancellor and Divisional Commissioner, Patron of the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Geography Congress 2014 delivered patron's address. The presidential address was delivered by Prof. N. Sivagnanam, President Elect, NAGI, who deliberated on the focal theme of the Congress '**Urban Systems, Rural Livelihood Security and Resource Management**', is one of the never ending complex relationship debates of the societal path. and Prof. H.N. Mishra, President, NAGI presented his address as Chairman of the Function and in the last Dr. Naresh Malik, Organizing Secretary of the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Geography Congress 2014 extended vote of thanks to all the dignitaries and participants of the Congress. Geographers from abroad such as Japan, France, Italy, Canada, Nepal, South Africa and BanglaDesh have joined this event making it truly an International event. Geographers representing different Universities and Colleges from different states of India have joined this geographers' meet. We are delighted to have you all with us today.

The valedictory function was started with *Kulgeet* (University of Rajasthan, Jaipur). The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Naresh Malik, Organizing Secretary of the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian

Geography Congress 2014. Prof. Sivagnanam, President Elect, NAGI was the Chairperson of the function. Prof. Ramesh Dadhich, Member Secretary, ICSSR, New Delhi could not attend the function so Hon'ble Professor Giuliano Bellezza special invitee delivered the valedictory address. Hon'ble Vimal Prasad Agrawal, Former Chairman Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education, Ajmer and Educationist was the Guest of Honour. Respected Shri Hanuman Singh Bhati, Vice Chancellor and Divisional Commissioner, Patron of the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Geography Congress 2014 could not attend the function. Prof. R.D. Doi, Convener of the 36<sup>th</sup> Indian Geography Congress 2014 gave the vote of thanks.



*Attendees at the Inaugural Function*

**Registration** - A total of 1091 delegates were registered. More than 500 research papers were published in Souvenir & Abstract volume. More than 1000 certificates have been awarded to the paper presenters and participants.



*Valedictorian Session, Left, the main desk. Centre, Prof. G. Bellezza gave the Valedictorian address; right, Convener Prof. Doi gave the Vote of thanks.*

The **Public Lecture** on 17 November was delivered by Prof. Philippe Cadene, Head of the Geography Department, UFR GHSS, University Paris Diderot held on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 at 06.15 pm to 07.00 pm in the Humanities Hall of Rajasthan University on the topic “Role of Rajasthan State in Megalopolis between Delhi, Mumbai Industrial Corridor”.

The **Panel Discussion** was held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 at 04.00 pm in the Humanities Hall of Rajasthan University. The topic was ‘**Drought and Desertification: Mitigation Strategies**’. The following speakers The discussion was initiated by:

Prof. Milap Punia, CSRD/SSS/JNU, New Delhi Prof. R.B. Singh, Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University, Delhi Prof. Salahudeen, Department of Geography, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh Prof. K.N. Joshi, Retd. Sr. Fellow, 8, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur

Four **memorial lectures** were delivered by four speakers on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

There were five competitors for the **N P Ayyer Young Geographers’ Award**, which was organized on the 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 and the prize amount and appreciation certificate were distributed in the valedictory function.

An Open House Discussion (Professional Issues and Challenges) was held in **Plenary Session** on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 2.30 pm in Humanities Hall of Rajasthan University. The following speakers initiated the discussion:

1. Dr. N. C. Gautam, Director (Retd.), Centre for Land use Management, Hyderabad
2. Mr. P. K. Pandey, (Former Chief Town, Rajasthan) Member Secretary. State Commission on Urbanization, Rajasthan
3. Prof. P. S. Tiwari, Retd. Professor and Head, Department of Geography, University of Madras, Chennai.
4. Prof. Pushkar K Pradhan, Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University, GPO Box 5488 Kattmandu, Nepal
5. Prof. K. N. Joshi (Retd.) Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur



*Left, Prof R.B. Singh during Panel Discussion. Right, wonderful meals in the dining saloon.*

#### 4d) 10 Years of EU Eastern Enlargement, Vienna, 3-4 December 2014

The symposium “10 Years EU Eastern Enlargement – Geographical Balance of a Courageous Step”, focused on transformation processes and results in Central and Southeast European countries under the various aspects of human geography. It was the symposium’s intention to present both views from inside the region as well as from the outside, i.e. from neighboring countries and major political players in Europe and beyond. Thus, the symposium aimed at identifying and outlining successes and problem areas resulting from EU accession in the countries directly affected as well as answering the question, what this means for the political, economic and cultural situation in the wider Europe.

The symposium was organized by the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Urban and Regional Research, in cooperation with the Austrian Geographical Society, the Institute of the Danube Region and Central Europe and the Munich-based Southeast Europe Association. It took place in the premises of the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna’s downtown and saw 126 participants from 20 countries and three continents. Besides the main cause of this symposium, the fact that ten years had passed since EU accession of several former Communist Central European countries, two more contributed certainly to this respectable number: the completion of the Atlas of Eastern and Southeastern Europe – a thematic map series published in 30 installments since 1989 (see Fig. 1); as well as Peter JORDAN’s, its editor’s 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and official end of active professional career.



*Left: Administrative Subdivision of Central and Southeast Europe, map sheet of the Atlas of Eastern and Southeastern Europe. Right, up: Academy’s Theatersaal (photo AlesWinkler. Right, down: Peter Jordan receiving a portrait from a group of charming Torun Ladies (photo Petar Stoyanov)*

Both of the two symposium days were opened by keynotes of prominent geographers. On the first day, Stanley BRUNN (Lexington, United States), cultural geographer and long-term editor of the Annals of the Association of American Geographers, spoke about “Constructing and mapping an EU knowledge base: Worlds of gaps and opportunities”. Giuliano BELLEZZA (Rome), former IGU Vice-President, presented a paper on “EU accessions and further integration: A personal Italian point of view”. The second day was started by the keynote of Anton GOSAR (Koper/Capodistria, Slovenia), former Chair of the IGU Commission on Political Geography, who highlighted under the title “The Simplon-Orient Express” multiple identities in the “ever-changing Central-European landscape”. He was followed by Piotr KORCELLI (Warsaw), the doyen of Polish geography, with the topic “Metropolitan transition in East-Central Europe”.

In three tracks of parallel sessions 63 papers were presented. The largest session was devoted to “Regional development and spatial planning” (Co-chairs: William H. BERENTSEN, Storrs, United States; Horst FÖRSTER, Tübingen, Germany). A larger number of papers were also on the agenda of sessions on “Urban development” (Chair: Piotr KORCELLI) and “Inter-cultural contact, integration and migration” (Chair: Dušan DRBOHLAV, Prague). The programme was rounded up by sessions on “Cross-border cooperation” (Chair: Doris WASTL-WALTER, Berne), “Geopolitical aspects” (Chair: Anton GOSAR), “Data processing for planning and regional development” (Chair: Ioan IANOȘ, Bucharest) and “Cultural-geographical and political-geographical aspects, space-related identity issues” (Chair: Peter JORDAN, Vienna).

A selection of papers will be published as a volume of “ISR-Forschungsberichte”, the book series of the Institute of Urban and Regional Research of the Austrian Academy.

The social part of the symposium culminated in a dinner in a traditional Viennese restaurant to which Peter JORDAN had invited at the occasion of his birthday. About 100 participants enjoyed a stimulating atmosphere.



## 5) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

- 5.1) **CONFLITS DE LIEUX, LIEUX DE CONFLITS. APPEL A COMMUNICATIONS. AIX EN PROVENCE, 29-30 JANVIER 2015**
- 5.2) **EXAMINING THE PROGRESS OF UN DEVELOPMENT GOALS, MIDDLEBURY (VERMONT), 12-14 MARS 2015**
- 5.3) **"A QUOI SERVENT LES FRONTIERES?" "WHAT ARE BORDERS MADE FOR?", GRENOBLE, 12-15 MARS 2015**

