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UNION GEODESIQUE ET GEOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE

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This informal newsletter is intended to keep IUGG Member National Committees informed about the activities of the IUGG Associations, and actions of the IUGG Secretariat. Past issues are posted on the IUGG website (<http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals/>). Please forward this message to those who will benefit from the information. Your comments are welcome.

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1. Editorial: The XXVth IUGG General Assembly

The XXVth General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics held from 27 June to 8 July 2011 in Melbourne (Australia) was a great success. The IUGG Executive Committee thanks the Australian Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of New Zealand for hosting the event and the Melbourne Local Organizing Committee for excellent management and hospitality provided to more than 3500 participants of the assembly.

Delegates from 49 IUGG Adhering Bodies attended one or more sessions of the Council Meeting. The IUGG Council ratified the membership of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as Regular Members of the Union, Costa Rica and the Republic of Georgia as Associate Members. A number of changes to the Statutes and by-Laws were suggested and approved, among them, an Affiliate membership to provide a mechanism to formalize linkages with various international and regional organizations dealing with Earth and space sciences and an IUGG Fellowship to honor individuals for their exceptional contribution to international cooperation in geodesy or geophysics and attained eminence in the field of Earth and space sciences.

The IUGG Council (i) elected the new IUGG Bureau and Finance Committee Members (see the list of the officers in the special issue of the IUGG E-Journal published on 18 July 2011) and appointed Liaisons Officers to several scientific international and intergovernmental bodies, where it is advantageous to both organizations (a list of the Liaisons are published below). Prague (Czech Republic) was selected by the IUGG Council as the venue for the XXVIth IUGG General Assembly

in 2015. The IUGG budget for 2012-2015 was approved, and 5 Resolutions were passed. Details about these decisions will soon be available on the IUGG website.

2. IUGG Liaison Officers for 2011-2015

Organization	Liaison(s)
The Cartographic Section of the United Nations	Luiz P. S. Fortes (BRAZIL)
UNESCO International Hydrological Program	Pierre Hubert (FRANCE)
UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)	Stefania Sparnocchia (ITALY)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Arthur Askew (SWITZERLAND) Arnau Folch (SPAIN) Hans Volkert (GERMANY)
International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)	Marianne Guffanti (USA) William Rose (USA)
Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)	Hermann Drewes (GERMANY)
Consultative Committee for Time and Frequency (CCTF)	Claude Boucher (FRANCE)
ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)	Alexei Gvishiani (RUSSIA) Mark Parsons (USA)
ICSU Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)	Eric Donovan (CANADA)
ICSU-ISSC-UNISDR Scientific Committee on Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)	Kuniyoshi Takeuchi (JAPAN)
ICSU Regional Office for Africa (ROA)	Isabelle Ansoerge (SOUTH AFRICA) Ali Tealeb (EGYPT)
ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)	Sukanta Roy (INDIA) Sri Widiyantoro (INDONESIA)
ICSU Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean (ROLAC)	Jaime U. Fucugauchi (MEXICO)
ICSU Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)	Ian Allison (AUSTRALIA)
ICSU Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)	Athena Coustenis (FRANCE) Eugene Morozov (RUSSIA)
ICSU Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP)	Vladimir Kuznetsov (RUSSIA)
World Climate Research Program (WCRP)	Tom Beer (AUSTRALIA)
ICSU World Data System (WDS)	Ruth Neilan (USA)

3. News from the International Council for Science (ICSU)

30th ICSU General Assembly

The International Council for Science will hold its 30th General Assembly from 26 to 30 September 2011 in Rome, Italy. This event is being hosted by the ICSU National Scientific Member in Italy, the National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, CNR). The formal opening of the 30th General Assembly will take place in the evening of 27 September and the Assembly will conclude in the evening of 30 September. Associated Meetings will be held prior to and immediately following the General Assembly. The General Assembly and Associated Meetings will be held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. More information: <http://www.icsu.org/general-assembly>

IRDR Programme to have new Scientific Chair

ICSU announced the appointment of Salvano Briceño as the new Chair of the Scientific Committee of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme, effective 1 November 2011. Salvano Briceño will succeed Gordon McBean, whose term of office comes to an end. The appointment was made by the three co-sponsors of the IRDR – ICSU, the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) – and comes at a time when the programme is establishing its first broad research initiatives.

Earth System Sustainability Initiative: Transition Team membership

ICSU and the International Social Science Council (ISSC), in consultation with the Belmont Forum of funding agencies, appointed the committee that will lead the design phase and the early implementation of the new 10-year Earth System Sustainability Initiative arising from the Earth System Visioning process. The initiative is being established by the Alliance between ICSU, ISSC and the Belmont Forum. More information is available at the ICSU website: <http://www.icsu.org/what-we-do/projects-activities/earth-system-sustainability-initiative/transition-team>

4. Initiative for the International Year for Global Understanding

The initiator of the International Year for Global Understanding (IYGU) is the International Geographical Union (IGU), one of eight Scientific Unions of ICSU grouped in GeoUnions. On 12-14 May 2011, the Steering Committee, the Scientific Committee and the Outreach Committee held a meeting in Jena, Germany. In his welcome address the State Minister of Education, Science and Culture Mr. C. Matschie welcomed the members of the committees, those who represent several international bodies and countries from five continents. Mr. C. Matschie particularly emphasized the importance of the initiative for intercultural understanding in a world, in which we are all dependent on mutual cooperation and learning, and highlighted a number of challenges, such as climate change, hunger, sustainability and illiteracy that can only be tackled globally. The participants at the meeting identified another key IYGU point and satisfied another requirement: A binding scientific program was completed that is based on the guidelines for the 2014 UN theme year drafted in Weimar at the beginning of March 2011. Both the Outreach Program draft and the brochure draft have been completed, which will facilitate the application process towards the final UNESCO decision.



Decisive stimuli were received for the drafting of the scientific and outreach programs – based on critical reflection of the guidelines drafted at the Weimar meeting – particularly from the conference reports received from diverse fields such as national economy, geodesy and geophysics, sociology, solid state chemistry, nutritional sciences, social and cultural geography, physical geography, educational science, geology, linguistics, philosophy, archaeology and environmental sciences. These contributions and the subsequent substantial discussions offered the points of departure for the drafting of the program brochure. The members responsible for the respective main subjects were identified, as was the constitution of the task forces. Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Secretary General the IUGG, attended the meeting as a member of the IYGU Scientific Committee.

Received from Benno Werlen, Executive Director of the IYGU Initiative

5. Report on the Colloquium of African Geology

The Colloquium of African Geology is a major international biennial conference first launched in 1964 and organized every second year, under the auspices of the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf). About 500 geoscientists representing 58 countries worldwide were gathered at the University of Johannesburg in January 2011 under the theme: “*Together in Africa for a Leading Role in Geoscience*”. The event was organized in collaboration with the University of Witwatersrand, the Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa (NECSA), the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) and the Mineralogical Society of South Africa (MINSAs). CAG23 was a unique opportunity to present and discuss on-going research work on all aspects of African geosciences. It offered a rich scientific program comprising 14 scientific symposia, of which some were dedicated to outstanding geoscientists for their remarkable work and contribution to African geology as well as the Young Earth Scientists (YES) and Women in Geosciences. World-class scientists presented six plenary lectures on the most salient topics, which have implications on African geosciences and society. The program included 25 keynote and invited talks, 6 workshops, 6 excursions, 4 business meetings and 2 short courses. 17 national and international exhibitors were present. The opening ceremony of the event took place at the Soweto Campus of the University of Johannesburg, where the Minister of Science and Technology, Mrs Naledi Pandor, delivered the opening address in which she highlighted the importance of geosciences. This was the first time an international conference was opened in Soweto. Delegates were also offered a very special social program through tours around the city and 5 evening functions. During three of these functions delegates were entertained by a group of students from the UJ Choir. The event was indeed a great opportunity for African geoscientists in general and South African ones in particular to build links

and strengthen the networking and research collaboration in the field of geosciences. IUGG co-sponsored the event.

Received from Hassina Mouri, Chair of the Organizing Committee,
Secretary General of the Geological Society of Africa

6. The National Academies Press Makes All PDF Books Free to Download

All PDF versions of books published by the National Academies Press are downloadable to anyone free of charge. This includes a current catalog of more than 4,000 books plus future reports produced by the Press. The mission of the National Academies Press (NAP) - publisher for the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council - is to disseminate the institutions' content as widely as possible while maintaining financial sustainability. To that end, NAP began offering free content online in 1994. Based on the performance of NAP's current free PDFs, projections suggest that this change will enhance dissemination of PDF reports from about 700,000 downloads per year to more than 3 million by 2013. Printed books will continue to be available for purchase through the NAP website and traditional channels. The free PDFs are available exclusively from the NAP's website, <http://www.nap.edu/>, and remain subject to copyright laws.

Received from Ester Szein, Board on International Scientific Organizations
The National Academies.

7. Honors and Awards

Yun-tai Chen (China Earthquake Administration, Beijing), IUGG Bureau Member (2003-2011), will deliver a prestigious Axford Lecture at the 8th Annual Convention of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) at Taipei, Taiwan.

H. Gerald (Gerry) Jones (University du Québec, Canada) was awarded an "Honorary Member of the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)" in recognition of outstanding service, particularly his unselfish and untiring commitment to establishing the IACS.

Ruth Neilan (JPL, California Institute of Technology, USA) received the Levallois Medal of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) in recognition of her international service related to the geodetic and geophysical applications of the Global Positioning System (GPS). Ruth Neilan is an IAG Executive Committee member, Director of the International GNSS Service (IGS) Central Bureau, and Vice-President of the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS).

The IAG Guy Bomford Prize was presented to **Johannes Böhm** (Technische Universität Wien, Austria) for his outstanding contributions to geodetic studies of atmospheric effects on microwave measurements (VLBI, GNSS, DORIS). Dr. Böhm is a member of various Study and Working Groups of IAG Commissions and the International VLBI Service (IVS).

Elizabeth J. Petrie (Newcastle University, United Kingdom) received the IAG Young Authors Award for her paper published in the Journal of Geodesy, Vol. 84, No. 8, 491-499 (together with

Matt A. King, Philip Moore and David A. Lavallée) “A first look at the effects of ionospheric signal bending on a globally processed GPS network”.

Carlos Tucci (Feevale University in Novo Hamburgo, Brazil) received the 2011 International Hydrology Prize of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and UNESCO for his outstanding regional and global contributions to hydrology. Dr. Tucci was IAHS Vice President (1999-2003).

Emmanuel Pagneux (University of Iceland, Iceland) received the Tison Award for young scientists (age below 41 years) for best paper published in an IAHS publication.

Trevor McDougall (CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research, Australia) received the Albert I Medal of the International Association of Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO) for his outstanding contribution to the ocean physics and chemistry. Dr. McDougall was leading the SCOR/IAPSO Work Group on the New Equation of Seawater State.

The IAPSO LAFond medal for young scientists from the developing countries was presented to **Towhida Rashid** (Dhaka University, Bangladesh) at the IUGG General assembly in Melbourne.

The 2011 Wager Medal of the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth Interior (IAVCEI) awarded to **Amanda Clarke** (Arizona State University, USA). The medal is given to a single mid-career scientist, who has made outstanding contributions to volcanology, particularly in the eight-year period prior to the awards.

The 2011 George Walker Award of IAVCEI was presented at the IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne to **Joe Dufek** (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA). The award recognizes the achievements of a recent outstanding graduate under the age of 35 in the fields of research encompassed by IAVCEI.

Murugesu Sivapalan (University of Illinois, USA) received the 2011 Robert E. Horton Medal of the American Geophysical Union. Dr. Sivapalan is a founding member of the IAHS Decade on “Prediction in Ungaged Basins”.

8. IUGG-related meetings occurring during August – October 2011

A calendar of meetings of interest to IUGG disciplines (especially those organized by IUGG Associations) is posted on the IUGG web site (<http://www.IUGG.org/calendar>). Specific information about these meetings can be found there. Individual Associations also list more meetings on their web sites according to their disciplines.

August

- 7-9, IAG, Shanghai, China, International workshop on GNSS Remote Sensing for Future Missions and Sciences
- 7-12, IAMAS, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, XIV International Conference on Atmospheric Electricity (ICAE 2011)
- 20-25, IASPEI, Döllnsee-Schorfheide, Germany, 12th International Workshop on Modeling of Mantle Convection and Lithosphere Dynamics
- 22–26, IAGA, IAMAS, Siuntio Spa, Finland, 38th Annual European Meeting on Atmospheric Studies by Optical Methods (38AM)

- 22–26, IACS, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Second International Symposium on Mountain and Arid Land Permafrost
- 23-26, IASPEI, Santa Barbara, USA, 4th IASPEI International Symposium: Effects of Surface Geology on Seismic Motion
- 29 August–1 September, IACS, Salzburg, Austria, Climate Change in High Mountain Regions – From Understanding of the Past to Modelling of the Future

September

- 1-3, IAHS, Besançon, France, H2Karst, the 9th Conference on Limestone Hydrogeology
- 3-5, WDS, ICSU, Kyoto, Japan, 1st ICSU World Data System Conference - Global Data for Global Science
- 5-8, IAHS, Gdansk, Poland, WMHE 2011, 12th International Symposium on Water Management and Hydraulic Engineering
- 5–9, IACS, Kirovsk, Murmansk region, Russia, Avalanches and Related Subjects IV International Conference: The contribution of theory and practice to avalanche safety
- 6-8, IAHS, Moscow, Russia, EngeoPro-2011, Environmental Geosciences and Engineering Survey for Territory Protection and Population Safety
- 6-9, IAHS, Lima, Peru, Hydrology and present geodynamic of South American basins. 4th HYBAM Scientific Meeting
- 11-14, IAHS, Vienna, Austria, Water Policy 2011 - Harmonizing water management strategies at multiple scales to sustain ecological, agricultural, and urban/industrial needs
- 11-16, IAGA, Borovets, Bulgaria, International Symposium on Recent Observations and Simulations of the Sun-Earth System II (ISROSES II)
- 12-16, IACS, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, Fifth International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration
- 13-16, IAHS, Manaus, Brazil, International Workshop on Hydrometry
- 18-22, IAHS, Leipzig, Germany, ModelCare 2011 “Models – Repositories of Knowledge”
- 18-22, IUSS, Wageningen, The Netherlands, Soil Science in a Changing World
- 19-21, IACS, Dushanbe, Tadjikistan, MOUNTAINHAZARDS 2011: Climate Changes and Natural Hazards in Mountain Areas
- 19-23, IAHS, Johannesburg, South Africa, Hydropower Africa
- 20-25, IAHS, Bari, Italy, GEOMED 2011, 4th International Conference on Medical Geology
- 21-23, IAHS, São Paulo, Brazil, International Conference on the Management of the Guarani Aquifer System: An Example of Cooperation
- 23-24, IACS, Siena, Italy, Research Urgencies in the Polar Regions and their links to the ICSU Grand Challenges in Global Sustainability
- 26-29, IAHS, Brisbane, Australia, 14th International River symposium: The Value of Rivers
- 26-30, ICSU, Rome, Italy, General Assembly
- 26 September – 8 October, IASPEI, IUGG, Trieste, Italy, ICTP Advanced School on Understanding and Prediction of Earthquakes and other Extreme Events in Complex Systems
- 27-29, IAHS, UNESCO, WMO, Tsukuba, Japan, 5th International Conference on Flood Management (ICFM5)
- 27-30, IAHS, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India, Forth International Groundwater Conference (IGWC-2011)

October

- 3-5, IAHS, Bled, Slovenia, V International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management
- 5-8, IAHS, Kalavrita, Greece, 9th International Hydrogeological Congress
- 15-23, IAHS, Tehran, Iran, 21st International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage & 8th International Micro Irrigation Congress

- 17-19, IAHS, Prague, Czech Republic, HYDRO 2011 - Practical Solutions for a Sustainable Future
 - 18-21, IAHS, Jeju Island, Korea, the Second Asia-Pacific Coastal Aquifer Management Meeting
 - 21-23, IAHS, Xi'an, China, International Symposium on Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources in Arid and Semi-arid Regions
 - 24-28, WCRP, Denver, CO, USA, WCRP Open Science Conference: Climate Research in Service to Society
 - 29 October – 2 November, ICSU, ISSC, UNISDR, Beijing, China, IRDR Conference “Disaster Risk: Integrating Science and Practice”
 - 31 October - 2 November, IRDR, ICSU, ISSC, UNISDR, Beijing, China, IRDR Conference 2011 on Disaster Risk: Integrating Science and Practice
 - 31 October - 4 November, IAHS, Austin, TX, USA, 14th World Lake Conference. Lakes, Rivers, Groundwater and Coastal Areas: Understanding Linkages
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End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 11 Number 8 (1 August 2011)

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Note: Contributions to IUGG E-Journal are welcome from members of the IUGG family. Please send your contributions to Alik Ismail-Zadeh by e-mail (insert in Subject line: *contribution to E-Journal*). The contributions will be reviewed and may be shortened by the Editor.