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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 Web site (<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. IUGG Union Commission on Climatic and Environmental Changes

An adequate scientific understanding of climate change itself as well as its impacts on the environment and society requires a very broad interdisciplinary approach. As such, the advancement of the scientific understanding of climate and climate change, from the basic physics and chemistry to aspects affecting vulnerability, impacts, mitigation and adaptation measures, provides an ideal topic for a new Union Commission, with the remit of promoting the IUGG objectives through the coordination of research on climatic and environmental change, and especially the development of targeted efforts to serve society with the scientific knowledge being gained through research. Such a remit transcends the internal resources available to any single Union Association and thus needs to involve multiple Union Associations, coordinated by a new Commission that brings together in a synergy of ideas the problems and approaches from various Associations related to the topics of the commission. By coordinating and integrating the climate-related activities within the Union, IUGG will gain visibility and bring the Union's research expertise to bear on some of the most challenging and important environmental and societal challenges of the 21st century. This is timely because ICSU and the International Group of Funding Agencies for Global Change Research (IGFA) proposed a new international program entitled "*Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability*". A new IUGG Union Commission on Climatic and Environmental Change would provide the mechanism to link with the new emerging effort of ICSU as it seeks greater collaboration on an increasing range of subject areas.

Considering the proposal from the initiative group led by IUGG Past President Tom Beer, and taking importance of the scientific topics into account, the IUGG Executive Committee decided to establish the Union Commission on Climatic and Environmental Change (CCEC) in order (i) to

promote the advancement of the scientific understanding of climatic and environmental change, (ii) to boost research in reducing uncertainties in climate and environmental models, (iii) to define criteria for collaborative trans-disciplinary research on climate and environmental change, (iv) to fulfill the objectives of IUGG and its associations, (v) to provide an all-Union perspective on climatic and environmental change, and (vi) to make available the knowledge and insights developed through scientific research to the benefit of society and planet Earth, including considerations of the science of global change, related vulnerability and impacts, and potential responses.

The IUGG Executive Committee appointed 14 experts to compose the Executive Committee of CCEC: *Tom Beer* (Australia) as Chair of the Commission, *Jianping Li* (China) as Vice Chair, *Keith Alverson* (USA) as Secretary-Treasurer, and 10 members of the committee representing Union Associations: *Ian Allison* (Australia, IACS), *Michael Sideris* (Canada, IAG), *Tonie van Dam* (Luxembourg, IAG), *Eigil Friis-Christensen* (Denmark, IAGA), *Dan Rosbjerg* (Denmark, IAHS), *Makoto Taniguchi* (Japan, IAHS), *Michael MacCracken* (USA, IAMAS), *Guoxiong Wu* (China, IAMAS), *Lawrence Mysak* (Canada, IAPSO), *Setsuya Nakada* (Japan, IAVCEI), *Stephen Self* (USA/UK, IAVCEI), and a co-opted member *Serhat Sensoy* (WMO Commission for Climatology).

2. IUGG grant awards for international multidisciplinary cooperation

The IUGG Grants Programme aims to support projects of importance to the international geophysical and geodetic community, which will explore new scientific ideas and develop future international initiatives. For 2012-2013, IUGG awarded the following projects:

- Capacity and collaboration building in southeast Africa towards the implementation of sustained ocean and climate observations (Lead Applicant: IAPSO; Supporting Applicants: IAMAS, SCOR/IAPSO/WCRP WG 136, and American Geophysical Union);
- Monitoring crustal deformation and the ionosphere by GPS in the Caribbean (Lead Applicant: IASPEI; Supporting Applicants: IAG and IAGA);
- Extension of Intermagnet Russian Segment, Prospects and Challenges: Phase II (Lead Applicant: IAGA; Supporting Applicants: IAG, UCDI, and the Russian National Committee for IUGG);
- Forensic Investigations of Disasters – FORIN (Lead Applicant: IUGG Union Commission GeoRisk Commission; Supporting Applicants: IAHS and the Scientific Committee for Integrated Research on Disaster Risk - IRDR); and
- Detailed Geoid Model in Africa (Lead Applicant: IAG; Supporting Applicants: IASPEI).

The total amount of funds allocated to the projects is US\$ 80,000. The deadline of the next call for grant applications is 1 April 2013.

3. GeoUnions¹ meeting in Istanbul

The Joint Board of GeoUnions met in Istanbul, Turkey, from 27 to 29 April to coordinate scientific activities of the unions, exchange ideas and promote scientific research of common interest. The

meeting was organized by Orhan Altan (President of the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing – ISPRS, and an Executive Board Member of ICSU, a representative of the GeoUnions cluster) with support from the Istanbul Technical University. On 27 April, the Rector of the University Prof. M. Şahin held a reception in honor of the leaders of the GeoUnions attending the meeting. He presented educational and scientific activities of the university and discussed the ways of strengthening international cooperation in Earth and space sciences.

The representatives of the GeoUnions updated each other on the activities for the time from the last meeting in Rome, September 2011, and discussed joint actions of the GeoUnions, namely the VALID project (<http://www.un-spider.org/VALID-stakeholder-assessment-1>) led by ISPRS and UN-SPIDER, the ENHANS project (<http://www.enhans.org>) led by IUGG, and the International Year for Global Understanding (<http://global-understanding.info/>) led by the International Geographical Union (IGU). On behalf of the initiators of the new program entitled “International Year of Deltas” (<http://www.iyds-2013.org/>) supported by IGBP, IUGG, IAHS, and IAPSO, Alik Ismail-Zadeh (IUGG Secretary General) presented the initiative, and the GeoUnions discussed their potential involvements in this scientific program. The GeoUnions also discussed the role of the Unions in ICSU committees and interdisciplinary bodies and in the ICSU Regional Scientific programs. Special emphasis was given to the role of the GeoUnions in the new ICSU program “Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability” (<http://www.icsu.org/future-earth>). It is recognized that the new program is a key area for the GeoUnions of ICSU, and that the GeoUnions should be actively involved in it. They discussed their involvements in observing systems like GCOS, GOOS, GTOS, GGOS, and GEO/GEOSS, and updated each other on the activities in geoscience education, and on data and information, including their involvement in the ICSU World Data System (WDS) and ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA). Finally the GeoUnions discussed how they could be involved in setting up the agenda of the ICSU Union meeting in Paris in 2013. As an interim measure Ron Abler (IGU President) was elected as Chair and Alik Ismail-Zadeh (IUGG Secretary General) as Vice Chair of the Joint Board of GeoUnions up to and including the next GeoUnions meeting in Paris in 2013.

¹ The Joint Board of GeoUnions was set up in 2004 as an informal forum of the leaders of the Scientific Unions of the International Council for Science (ICSU) to coordinate scientific activities in Earth, planetary, space and environmental sciences and to promote geosciences worldwide. The Joint Board is comprised of the officers of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), the International Geographical Union (IGU), the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), and the International Union of Radio Science (URSI).

4. IUGG SEDI Symposium

The IUGG Union Commission on the Study of the Earth’s Deep Interior (SEDI) organizes biennial symposia. This year the symposium will be held in Leeds (United Kingdom), 1-6 July 2012. The meeting will take place on the campus of the University of Leeds and will offer a wide-ranging program of studies of the Earth’s deep interior. The symposium will feature several large topics regarding the structure, composition and dynamics of the Earth and other planetary bodies. The topics of the scientific program of the SEDI symposium consist of inner and outer core structure, dynamics and composition, laboratory experiments and measurements in deep Earth research, core-mantle boundary (its structure, dynamics and composition), observations of mantle structure and composition, modeling and dynamics of the mantle, and structure of other planets. The public lecture “A Seismological Journey to the Center of the Earth” will be given by E. J. Garnero of the

Arizona State University (USA). More information on the SEDI symposium can be found at the web page: http://sedi2012.leeds.ac.uk/SEDI_2012_program.html

5. GEOSS Science and Technology Stakeholder Workshop

The workshop “GEOSS: Supporting Science for the Millennium Development Goals and Beyond” will be held in Bonn, Germany, 28-31 August 2012. This workshop is organized by the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Science and Technology Stakeholder Network together with relevant international organizations and projects. The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cover a range of societal issues including the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; the reduction of child mortality; the improvement of maternal health; ensuring environmental sustainability; and the development of a global partnership for development. IUGG was invited to take part in the workshop and accepted the invitation. Gordon Young, President of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), will represent IUGG and IAHS at the workshop.

The objective of the workshop is to review the science questions and research topics that need to be addressed in order to support progress towards the MDGs and towards meeting the grand challenges, prior and after the current target date for the MDGs, and to identify Earth observations needed to facilitate the research. The focus of the workshop will be on how GEOSS can support science and technology communities involved in the major international science programs, particularly those that address the MDGs and other urgent societal challenges. The workshop will provide an opportunity to improve or to foster new linkages between science and technology communities and GEOSS. For more information on the workshop see http://www.geo-tasks.org/workshops/2012_Bonn.

6. Awards and Honors

Tom Beer (IUGG Immediate Past President), **Vijay Dimri** (President of the Indian National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics) and **Hubert Savenije** (President of the Dutch National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics and IAHS President-Elect) were appointed as members of the ICSU Committee for Strategic Planning and Review (CSPR). The Committee coordinates the development of proposals for major new scientific initiatives by ICSU and advises the Executive Board of ICSU on priorities for such initiatives. CSPR also reviews the activities carried out by ICSU’s Interdisciplinary Bodies, advises the Executive Board on the future course of these activities, and oversees the ICSU Grants Programme.

Luuk Rietveld (Professor of Drinking Water & Urban Water Cycle Technology of the Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands) was nominated by IUGG/IAHS as a member of the ICSU Scientific Committee on the new program “Urban Health and Wellbeing” and was appointed by ICSU to the Committee. This international scientific program, approved by the ICSU 30th General Assembly in Rome, Italy, in 2011, proposes a new conceptual framework for considering the multi-factorial nature of both the determinants and the manifestations of health and wellbeing in urban populations.

7. IUGG-related meetings occurring during June – August

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.

June

- 4-14, IAGA, San Fernando, Cadiz, Spain, XVth IAGA Workshop on Geomagnetic Observatory Instruments, Data Acquisition and Processing
- 10-20, IACS, IUGG, McCarthy, Alaska, USA. International summer school/workshop in glaciology
- 18-22, IUGG, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, XXIXth Conference on Mathematical Geophysics
- 18-22, IAVCEI, IACS, Anchorage, Alaska, USA, Volcano-Ice Interactions on Earth & Other Planets Conference
- 25-28, IAMAS, IUGG, Boulder, Colorado, USA, Comparative Climatology of Terrestrial Planets

July

- 1-6, IUGG SEDI, Leeds, UK, SEDI Conference 2012
- 9-11, IACS, IUGG, Tarfala, Sweden, Workshop on measurement and uncertainty assessment of glacier mass balance
- 13-25, SCAR, Portland, Oregon, USA, XXXII Open Science Conference
- 14, SCAR, IASC, WMO, Portland, Oregon, USA, Ice-Sheet Mass Balance and Sea Level (ISMAS) Kick-off Workshop
- 14-22, COSPAR, IUGG, Mysore, India, 39th COSPAR Scientific Assembly
- 25-31, IAGA, IUGG, Darwin, Australia, 21st Electromagnetic Induction Workshop
- 28 July – 3 August, IAMAS, IUGG, WMO, Leipzig, Germany, International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation

August

- 5-15, IUGS, Brisbane, Australia, 34th International Geological Congress
- 6-9, IAMAS, IUGG, WMO, Kunming, China, ICDM Workshop 2012 “Dynamics and Predictability of High-impact weather and Climate Events”
- 6-10, IAMAS, IUGG, Berlin, Germany, International Radiation Symposium (IRS) 2012
- 13-17, AOGS, AGU, Singapore, Joint Assembly
- 19-24, IASPEI, IUGG, Moscow, Russia. 33rd General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission and Young Seismologists Training Course
- 28-31, GEOSS, IUGG, Bonn, Germany, Workshop “GEOSS: Supporting Science for the Millennium Development Goals and Beyond”

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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.