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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 web-page redesigned

The IUGG web-page was redesigned using modern tools. Please visit the web-page at <http://www.iugg.org> to learn more about IUGG and activities of the Union Associations and Commissions. Note that you need to reload the web-page, if you have opened it recently. Please report any problems to Dr. Dmitry Krupsky, IUGG web-master, by e-mail d.krupsky@rambler.ru.

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

World Data System

The International Programme Office (IPO) of ICSU’s World Data System (WDS) was opened officially in Tokyo on Wednesday 9 May. The official ceremony took place in the presence of the Hon. Tatsuo Kawabata, Japanese Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, and Yuan Tseh Lee, President of the International Council for Science (ICSU). Other dignitaries taking part in the event were the Hon. Mieko Kamimoto, Vice-Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Hideo Miyahara, President of the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), which is hosting the IPO, Takashi Onishi, President, Science Council of Japan, and Steven Wilson, Executive Director of ICSU. The WDS International

Programme Office will manage and coordinate the establishment and operations of the WDS, and take responsibility for outreach and promotional activities. The IPO will act under the guidance of the ICSU World Data System Scientific Committee composed of leading scientists who are actively involved with scientific data issues. “Society was increasingly calling on science to help solve highly complex and inter-connected problems like climate change and sustainable development. However, this required that science itself, including data, become more integrated and global” observed ICSU President Lee, “The World Data System was conceived as an answer to this need... Its vision is to transform today’s collection of data bodies into an integrated and inter-operable system.” For more information on the ICSU World Data System, see: <http://www.icsu-wds.org>

The Scientific Committee (SC) is the WDS governing body. It is made up of leading scientists who are actively involved with data and/or computer sciences and also deal with large data-set issues including long-term data stewardship. The committee includes WDS data centres and data service directors and covers a broad range of disciplines and geographical areas. The WDS-SC has been recently renewed. The Committee is chaired by Bernard Minster (Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, University of California, San Diego, USA) and consists of 12 members including Ruth Neilan (Central Bureau of the International GNSS Service, USA), Vice-Chair of the Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), a scientific program of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), who was nominated by IUGG.

Received from Mustapha Mokrane, Executive Director, ICSU WDS IPO

ICSU Executive Director meets Chinese representatives of International Scientific Unions

Upon his attendance at the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee meeting in Beijing in July 2012, Steven Wilson, ICSU Executive Director, met Jiansheng Zhang, Director General of the Department of International Affairs of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), and Chinese scientists affiliated to ICSU Scientific Unions. At a meeting chaired by Guoxiong Wu, an ICSU Executive Board Member and immediate Past President of IAMAS, Steven Wilson introduced ICSU activities, in particular, its new initiative “*Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability*”. Jun Chen, ISPRS Secretary General, stressed the importance of Unions’ presence in ICSU activities and suggested direct contact be established between GeoUnions of ICSU and the Future Earth initiative. Jianping Li, Vice-Chair of the IUGG Union Commission on Climatic and Environmental Changes (CCEC), introduced CCEC to Steven Wilson and also emphasized the importance of the involvement of the GeoUnions, including IUGG, in the Future Earth programme. Jianping Li suggested ICSU learnt the successes and difficulties of the Earth System Science Partnership before fully implementing Future Earth. Guoxiong Wu explained that some documents related to the Future Earth program have been translated into Chinese, and the translation and publication of Future Earth in Chinese could help Chinese social and natural scientists and policy makers to better understand the importance of the new ICSU initiative.

Received from Jenny Lin, Assistant Secretary General of IAMAS

3. News from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Fourth Session of the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM-4)

JCOMM-4 was held in Yeosu, Republic of Korea, from 23 to 31 May 2012. JCOMM is an intergovernmental body of technical experts acting under the coordination of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and is supported by a Joint Secretariat. It was established in 1999 to provide a mechanism for the international coordination of oceanographic and marine meteorological observation, data management and services. The Commission combines the expertise, technologies and capacity building abilities of the meteorological and oceanographic communities, is co-chaired by a meteorologist and an oceanographer, and acts under the overall direction of a Management Committee headed by the two Presidents. The Commission is organized into three Programme Areas: Observations, Data Management, and Services and Forecasting Systems. Each Programme Area is, in turn, managed by a Coordinator, supported by a small coordination group, with specific activities being undertaken by designated teams or panels of experts. JCOMM sessions are intergovernmental meetings where Member States are actively represented by official delegates from the respective national oceanographic or meteorological communities. Representatives of other international bodies are invited to attend the sessions as Observers.

The Commission's sessions were organized into three parts: an Opening ceremony and JCOMM Activity Reports on 23 May, a Scientific and Technical Workshop entitled "Improving marine and ocean data products from science and society: the role of the JCOMM" on 24-25 May, and Business Sessions from 28 to 31 May. 150 participants from 47 Member Delegations and four International Organizations including IUGG attended the meeting.

The Opening Ceremony was presided by JCOMM's Co-President Peter Dexter and included welcoming and keynote speeches by public and scientific Authorities. During the Ceremony, certificates were awarded to Vasily Smolyanitsky of the Russian Federation, David Meldrum of the United Kingdom, and Henri Savina of France for outstanding services to WMO and IOC. Certificates were also awarded to the two new WMO-IOC Regional Marine Instrumentation Centres (RMICs) based in Tianjin and Mississippi, which were established by WMO's 16th Congress and the 26th IOC Assembly in 2011. The RMICs are a concept, which grew out of a Pilot Project for the integration of marine meteorological and other appropriate oceanographic observations into the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS). The Coordinators and/or experts of the Coordination Groups reported the main activities within the JCOMM Program Areas.

A Scientific and Technical Workshop entitled "Improving Marine and Ocean Data and Products for Science and Society: the role of JCOMM" was held on 24 and 25 May 2012. The Workshop comprised 2 keynote addresses, 24 oral science/technology presentations and 26 posters. Oral and poster presentations covered a wide spectrum of JCOMM's interests. Particular focus was directed towards new synergies between observing systems (both *in situ* and satellite), the development of enhanced modeling capabilities coupled to extended observational networks, and the increasing availability of better tools for climate forecasting and disaster management. The Workshop also recognized the dangers of over-dependence on sophisticated but unverified models, and emphasized the need to continue to devote time and effort to the understanding of the underlying physics.

The Business sessions were dedicated to the definition and organization of the strategy and work programme for the period 2013-2016, the establishment of groups and expert teams, and the nomination and election of the JCOMM Co-Presidents. The Commission accepted that, to accomplish its objectives and those of WMO and IOC, it needed to cooperate with a number of programmes and bodies of the latter two organizations, as well as other external organizations (see JCOMM-4/Doc.11 at <http://www.jcomm.info/jcomm4doc>). It was noted that working relationships were already in place with some of such organizations, and future collaboration could be

established with other international organizations including IUGG. On the last day of the Meeting the Commission elected Mr. Johan Stander (South Africa) as its Co-President for meteorology and Mrs. Nadia Pinardi (Italy) as its Co-President for oceanography. Subsequently, it established the groups and expert teams that were to work within the three Programme Areas (Observations, Data Management, and Services and Forecasting Systems), adopting a project oriented approach, wherever possible, to address specific, clear and time-defined activities.

Received from Stefania Sparnocchia, IUGG Liaison to IOC

4. Report on the ICDM2012 Workshop “Dynamics and Predictability of High-Impact Weather and Climate Events”

The International Commission on Dynamical Meteorology (ICDM), one of the 10 Commissions of International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS), held its workshop “Dynamics and Predictability of High-Impact Weather and Climate Events” on 6-9 August 2012 in Kunming, China. The workshop featured a series of 23 invited lectures from international scientists working on synoptic and climate dynamics. The lectures covered many aspects of the variability of the atmospheric circulation, including Monsoon systems, the El Niño-Southern Oscillation, Arctic & Antarctic Oscillations, tropical & extra-tropical cyclones, and extreme events associated with those circulation systems, among others. It also addressed predictability on a wide range of timescales, from weather prediction, through to seasonal and decadal climate prediction. The workshop received 185 abstracts, and more than 140 participants from 27 countries and regions attended the workshop.



Participants of the ICDM-2012 Workshop. Names of the participants (in the photo) can be found at web-site: <http://icdm2012.csp.escience.cn>

The workshop was organized by the State Key Laboratory of Numerical Modelling for Atmospheric Sciences and Geophysical Fluid Dynamics (LASG) part of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The co-chairs of the Science Organising Committee were Jianping Li of LASG/IAP and Richard Swinbank of the UK MetOffice (ICDM President). Wansuo Duan and Ruiqiang Ding (both from IAP) co-chaired the Local Organizing Committee. The workshop was co-sponsored by several international and Chinese organizations, including IUGG, IAMAS, the weather (WWRP) and climate (WCRP) research programmes of the

World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Chinese Association of Science and Technology (CAST), the National Nature-Science Foundation of China (NSFC), CAS, LASG, the Nanjing University, and the Chinese National 973 Program. The consensus of the participants was that the workshop was successful and exciting. It provided an unusual platform for exchanges between the climate and weather research communities, and promoted research on high-impact weather and climate dynamics and predictability. The ICDM plans to follow up this successful workshop with further specialist meetings in future years.

Received from Jianping Li and Richard Swinbank

5. IUGG-related meetings occurring during September – November

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.

September

- 16-23, IAHS, Niagara Falls, Canada. 39th IAH Congress
- 17-20, IASPEI, IUGG, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 9th General Assembly of the Asian Seismological Commission
- 17-20, IAG, WEGENER 2012: Earthquake Geodesy and Geodynamics, Strasbourg, France
- 17-21, ICACGP/IAMAS, Beijing, China, 12th IGAC Open Science Conference “Atmospheric Chemistry in the Anthropocene”
- 23-26, IASPEI, Lima, Peru, XVI Peruvian Geological Congress and SEG 2012 Conference
- 23-29, IAVCEI, Vulcini, Italy, 4th International Workshop on Collapse Calderas
- 24-27, IAHS, Vienna, Austria, HydroPredict’2012 - 3rd International Interdisciplinary Conference on Predictions for Hydrology, Ecology, and Water Resources: Water Resources and Changing Global Environment
- 24-29, ESA, 20 Years of Progress in Radar Altimetry
- 25-26, IAG, International DORIS Service (IDS) Workshop, Venice, Italy
- September 29 - October 1, IUGG, Lauterbad, Germany, Bureau Meeting
- September 30 - October 4, IAGA, IASPEI, IAVCEI, IUGG, Shizuoka, Japan, 2012 International EMSEV workshop

October

- 1-2, IAHS, IUGG, Tunis, Tunisia, 3rd STAHY International Workshop
- 3-5, IASPEI, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, 2012 ECGS workshop: Earthquake source physics on various scales
- 8-12, SCOR/IAPSO/WCRP Working Group 136 “On the Climatic Importance of the Greater Agulhas System”, IAPSO, IAMAS, IUGG, Stellenbosch, South Africa, AGU Chapman Conference “The Agulhas System and its Role in Changing Ocean Circulation, Climate, and Marine Ecosystems”
- 11-15, IAHS, Chengdu, China, IAHS-ICCE International Symposium
- 17-18, IAHS, Baghdad, Iraq, First International Conference on Water Resources Engineering technology in Iraq and its Obligation for Technical Potential to Satisfy the Future Demand

- 21-27, IAVCEI, Winslow, Arizona, USA, Hopi Butte Maar-Diatreme Field Workshop
- 23-25, IAHS, IUGG. Delft, The Netherlands Symposium “Completion of the IAHS decade on Prediction in Ungauged Basins”
- 29 October - 3 November, ICTP, IUGG, Trieste, Italy, Workshop on Geophysical Data Analysis & Assimilation

November

- 10-12, IACS, Sanya, China, International Conference on Cryosphere: Changes, Impacts and Adaptation
- 13-14, IACS, Sanya, China, Bureau Meeting
- 14-16, EGU, IAHS, Torino, Italy, EGU Leonardo Conference 2012:Hydrology and Society
- 14-18, IGU, Santiago, Chile, UGI 2011 Regional Geographic
- 18-23, IAVCEI, Colima, Mexico, Cities on Volcanoes 7

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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.