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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. IUGG business meetings in Montreal

The IUGG Bureau, Executive Committee (EC), Finance Committee (FC), Scientific Program Committee (SPC) for the XXVII IUGG General Assembly (IUGG2019), and Task Force on IUGG Centennial (TF100) meetings were held at Palais des congrès, Montreal, Canada, from 18 to 22 September 2017. The TF100 members met on 18 September; the Bureau (President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer, and three members at large) met on 19 September; and the IUGG EC held its meeting on 20-21 September. The IUGG EC is comprised of the IUGG Bureau, the immediate Past President of IUGG, and the Presidents of Union Associations. The Association Secretaries General, the Chairs of the IUGG FC, and of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for IUGG2019 were invited to attend the EC meeting.

The IUGG President, the Secretary General, and the Presidents of the Union Associations reported on activities since the last EC meeting (Paris, France, June 2016). The IUGG Vice President reported on the activities of Union Commissions. The IUGG Executive Secretary reported on the activity of the IUGG Secretariat. The IUGG Treasurer and the Chair of the FC reported on the financial situation of the Union and about the IUGG membership. Other topics on the agenda included (i) the preparations for IUGG2019 in Montreal (LOC Chair Fiona Darbyshire reported on the activity of the Committee); (ii) the presentation by C-IN company, the Associate Professional Conference Organizer (hired by IUGG to run the abstract, scientific program and travel grant management for IUGG2019); (iii) the report on the preparation for the IUGG 100th anniversary in 2019 by the Chair of the TF100 Chris Rizos (a report will be sent soon to the IUGG National Committees); (iv) relationship with the International Council for Science (ICSU) and on the merger of ICSU with the International Social Science Council; (v) Union activity in the GeoUnions consortium; (vi) reports

of the IUGG liaisons to the ICSU Scientific Committees and to international and intergovernmental organizations; (vii) Union activities on capacity building and education; and (viii) a report on the implementation of the IUGG Strategic Plan.

During the EC meeting, 20 September 2017, Palais des congrès, Montreal, Canada (photo: F. Kuglitsch)

On 18-19 September, the FC met to discuss the IUGG financial report, to review the IUGG accounts, and to take an overview of administrative matters and membership, IUGG grants, allocations, and inter-association activities. The IUGG Treasurer and the IUGG Secretary General were invited to attend the FC meeting. On 20 September, the IUGG EC and Association Secretaries-General met the members of the LOC for the IUGG2019 and had a tour of the Palais des congrès, the venue of the future General Assembly.

The SPC for the IUGG2019 met on 22 September. The SPC is comprised of the Chair (Spiros Pagiatakis), the IUGG Secretary General, Association Secretaries General, and the IUGG President (ex-officio). The Chair of the LOC and the representatives of the local and associate professional conference organizers were invited to the SPC meeting. The tentative draft of the science program was discussed including topics of Union and inter-Association symposia. The science program should be finalized by early 2018.

2. IUGG Grants Program – special call

The year 2019 is the centennial year of the founding of the IUGG. The IUGG Bureau has decided to call for proposals to be dedicated to the IUGG Centennial. All proposals should address international cooperation in Earth and space sciences and highlight the importance of science for sustainable development of society. Key scientific priority areas for this call are (i) creation of new knowledge in Earth and space sciences; (ii) dissemination of knowledge, data and information on geoscience topics; (iii) geoscience for sustainable development; (iv) geoscience and policy interface; and (v) geoscience education and outreach in developing countries.

Typical proposals related to at least one of the priority areas and dedicated to the 100th anniversary of IUGG may be for an interdisciplinary conference / workshop / symposium addressing the importance

of international cooperation in the geosciences, an enhancement of geoscientific research and Earth science education in Member countries as well as less developed countries. Although the range of activities supported is broad, the project proposals should be of scientific and societal importance, and their results are expected to provide clear recommendations to politicians and other decision makers at national and regional levels, and to the general public in terms of the urgent actions to be undertaken. The deliverables of the projects should bring increased visibility to IUGG and the Union Associations.

Proposals should be submitted by IUGG Associations and/or Union Commissions and should involve National Committees for IUGG. National Committees, which wish to organize an event related to the IUGG Centennial, should approach officers of the relevant Associations or Union Commissions and send them their proposal. Any grant application must involve at least two IUGG bodies (Associations and/or Union Commissions) and at least one National Member of the IUGG. Preference will be given to proposals that are interdisciplinary, especially those involving more than two of the IUGG Associations and Union Commissions as well as regions of Africa, Asia/Oceania, Latin America, and the Middle East. Proposals should be international in scope and involve women scientists, younger researchers, and scientists from developing countries.

The number of proposals to be funded per year is not fixed, but depends upon relevance, quality, proposal budget requests, and the total amount of funds available for the Grants Program. The total funding for this call for applications is US\$60,000. A ceiling of US\$15,000 is imposed on all applications. Co-sponsorship from other sources is encouraged. The deadline for the project proposal submission is **1 March 2018**. Following the call, all proposals are peer-reviewed in open competition by the IUGG Bureau. If necessary, experts may be invited to participate in the review process. Successful applicants will be notified by 1 May 2018. For funded projects, a report is to be sent to the IUGG Secretariat by 1 February 2020.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals electronically. The application form can be obtained from the IUGG Secretariat by request from Secretaries General of IUGG Associations, Union Commissions or National Committees.

3. Report on the annual meeting of the Austrian National Committee for IUGG

On the invitation of Dr. W. Lenhardt (Austrian National Delegate to the IASPEI) and B. Leichter (Austrian National Delegate to the IAGA), Members of the Austrian National Committee (ANC) for IUGG gathered at the Conrad Observatory (COBS) of the Zentralanstalt für Meteorologie und Geodynamik (ZAMG) on 25 and 26 September 2017. The head of the COBS, Dr. R. Leonhardt, welcomed the members of the ANC and gave an overview of the history of the ZAMG and its aims and presented the geophysical and geodetic instruments that so far have been set up at the COBS. During the ANC meeting the following topics were addressed: (i) the recent IUGG statement on the Earth's climate and sustainable development; (ii) National Delegate for IAPSO; and (iii) information exchange. With reference to the IUGG E-Journals Nos. 7/2017 and 9/2017, the ANC discussed the issue of climate change. On the one hand, a good communication of all involved scientists is necessary; on the other hand, an overreaction is not helpful. The position of the ANC is in a good agreement with the "Editorial comment" presented in E-journal No. 9/2017.

Members of the ANC-meeting: (from the left to the right) I. Fritz, M. Schindelegger, W. Lenhardt, K. Richter, M. Rotach, B. Leichter, G. Kaser, J. Böhm, R. Leonhardt, and N. Höggerl (photo: N. Höggerl)

Three papers were presented by young scientists addressing sea level rise and different aspects of palaeomagnetism. The ANC meeting was the perfect platform for the exchange of valuable information between the members of the different associations of the IUGG in a very relaxed atmosphere. Recent natural disasters have shown very clearly that the regular exchange of information and of results achieved in various fields of geosciences are indispensable for research on climate change and natural disaster prevention. A guided tour was organized to the heart of the COBS: a 150 meters tunnel for seismology, and a 400 meters tunnel for Earth's magnetic field investigations. In the COBS and nearby a variety of different instruments are installed: borehole seismometer; superconducting gravity meter GWR C025; absolute gravity meter FG5; GNSS permanent station of the European Permanent Network (EPN) of EUREF (operated by the Austrian Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying/BEV); meteorological sensors; and testbed for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). More information can be obtained on the following web-sites: <http://www.zamg.ac.at/cms/en/news>; <http://www.bev.gv.at>; <http://www.oegk-geodesy.at/index.html>.

Norbert Höggerl, ANC Secretary

4. News from the International Council for Science

World's leading councils of social and natural sciences agree to merge in 2018

On 26 October 2017 at the joint general assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) members of both world's leading scientific councils agreed to merge and create a new organization to be named "International Science Council". The new council will provide a stronger foundation for advancing science across the disciplinary spectrum and in all parts of the world, and promote its vital role in shaping humanity's future on planet Earth. It brings together the current members of ICSU and ISSC, including 40 international scientific unions and associations, and more than 140 national and regional organizations such as academies and research councils. The organization will be launched at a founding General Assembly to be held in Paris, France in 2018. Its mission will be to serve as the global voice of science, providing leadership in catalyzing, incubating and coordinating international action on issues of major public

concern. The final vote count in favor of the merger was 97.6% (ICSU) and 90% (ISSC). It came at the end of four days of intensive discussions on issues ranging from the new strategy, statutes and governance arrangements and the legal framework. Gordon McBean, ICSU President and IUGG Fellow, said: “ICSU has been a pioneer in the 20th century for interdisciplinary science programs and policy impact. I am immensely proud that our members have voted to endorse this historic merger which carves out a new space for our proud historic legacy - to be the global voice of all sciences in a digitally connected world.” Alberto Martinelli, ISSC President, said: “This vote comes at a crucial moment for science. Now more than ever before, a powerful and credible voice is needed to advocate the value and values of all science to society. The challenge of living sustainably and equitably in a rapidly changing world means that the need for scientific understanding has never been greater. The unified science council will champion all the sciences and their role in responding to today’s global challenges.”

IUGG President Michael Sideris and Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh attended the ICSU General Assembly and took part in the joint ICSU-ISSC General Assembly.

Participants of the ICSU-ISSC joint general assembly (photo: ICSU)

Source: Press Release of ICSU and ISSC

5. GeoUnions meeting in Taipei

The GeoUnions of ICSU (<http://www.icsu-geounions.org>) met in Taipei, Republic of China, on 21 October 2017 to discuss the possible merger of ICSU and ISSC and future relationships with the (new) council. The meeting was chaired by Alik Ismail-Zadeh, Chair of the GeoUnions Steering Committee. The representatives of the GeoUnions attending the meeting agreed to make the following joint statement at the ICSU General Assembly:

“The GeoUnions, an interdisciplinary consortium of nine ICSU International Scientific Unions, belonging to the Earth and Space Science Unions cluster, Physics/Chemistry/Mathematics Unions cluster, and the Social Science cluster, make the following statement. Considering the importance of the unified voice of science and challenging problems which society faces, the GeoUnions is in favor

of the merger of two Councils: the International Council for Science and the International Social Science Council, and considers that the new title of the council should be the “International Science Council”. The GeoUnions call on the other Scientific Unions and National Members to vote in favor of the merger.



*GeoUnions representatives together with the ICSU Executive Director Heide Hackmann (in the center)
(photo: O. Altan)*

Meanwhile, the GeoUnions consider that the merger provides possibilities for strengthening the cooperation between the Scientific Unions/Associations, National Members and interdisciplinary bodies.

- There has been a trend over the last few decades for ICSU to progressively distance itself from its member Unions. The merger provides an opportunity to reset this. ICSU and the new Council is largely underpinned by the expertise of its component Unions and Associations and this expertise should be better used. One way to do that is to ensure that the Council provides financial and logistic support to the Unions to enable them to reciprocally support the Council.
- The role of the international Scientific Unions/Associations should not be restricted to paragraph 5.4 “An engaged membership” within the document JM5 “Advancing science as a global public good”, but considered more broadly. For example, representatives of both Scientific Unions clusters and National Members (representing different regions) should be a part of the new Council Governing Board either as elected members of the Board or as coopted Members. The Unions and National Members should feel that they are part of the Council and not passive observers.
- An annual increase in Union and National Member dues of 2% to ICSU has been proposed and approved. This is higher than the annual increase in the dues, which some Unions feel able to request from their National Members. This creates downward pressure on Union activities, activities which underpin ICSU. This inconsistency makes no sense, and the GeoUnions propose that the creation of a new Council is an ideal opportunity to rationalize this issue by informally

linking the ICSU inflation rates to the inflation that the Unions impose on the adhering national bodies.

- The GeoUnions were disappointed to see that the ICSU flagship program reports make either no, or only passing, reference to Union activities in the same fields. The GeoUnions request that this be rectified in the reporting associated with the 2018 Council General Assembly. By so doing the flagship programs will be motivated to communication with the Unions.”



A. Ismail-Zadeh presents the GeoUnions statement at the ICSU General Assembly (photo: ICSU)

Allan Ashworth (INQUA) and Lena Halounova (ISPRS) are elected as new Chair and Vice Chair of the GeoUnions Steering Committee.

6. Awards and honors

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) has named the recipients of 2018 Union and Division Medals, who are honored for their important contributions to the Earth, planetary and space sciences. They will receive their Medals at the EGU 2018 General Assembly, which will take place in Vienna on 8–13 April 2018. Among the medalists are *Mioara Manda* (IAGA Secretary General) who was awarded the Petrus Peregrinus Medal, and *Giuseppe De Natale* (Member of the Italian Committee for IUGG) who was awarded the Sergey Soloviev Medal. Congratulations to Mioara and Giuseppe!

7. Meeting calendar

A calendar of meetings of interest to IUGG disciplines (especially those organized by IUGG Associations) is posted on the IUGG website (<http://www.iugg.org/calendar.php>). Individual Associations also list more meetings on their websites according to their disciplines.

November

- 15-17 November, IUGG, IAPSO, Venice, Italy, THEMES 2017. Web: http://www.dais.unive.it/~themes/themes_2017/
- 20-22, IAHS, Gorgan, Iran, The Second IAHS Panta Rhei International Workshop on Water System Knowledge Innovation and its Practices in Developing Countries. Web: http://iahs.info/news/?news_id=215#.WUPGetxpzDB
- 22-24, IAG, Mendoza, Argentina, Workshop on Real-Time GNSS Positioning. Web: <http://ingenieria.uncuyo.edu.ar/sirgas2017/en/>
- 27-29, IAG, Mendoza, Argentina, SIRGAS 2017 Symposium. Web: <http://ingenieria.uncuyo.edu.ar/sirgas2017/en/>
- 30 November - 1 December, IAG, Mendoza, Argentina, Workshop on SLR in Latin America. Web: <http://ingenieria.uncuyo.edu.ar/sirgas2017/en/>

December

- 4-5, IAHS, WMO, Geneva, Switzerland, IAHS Measurements and Observations in the XXI Century (MOXXI) and WMO HydroHub joint meeting 2017. Web: <http://iahs.info/Commissions--W-Groups/Working-Groups/MOXXI/Information/MOXXI-2017.do>
- 4-5, IAHS, Guangzhou, China, IAHS-ICWQ-Panta Rhei Workshop on “Water quality – a component of the water-energy-food nexus”.
- 4-15, CODATA, Sao Paulo, Brazil, CODATA-RDA School of Research Data Science. Web: http://www.ictp-saifr.org/?page_id=15270
- 11-15, AGU, New Orleans, LA, USA, 2017 American Geophysical Union - Fall Meeting. Web: <http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2017/>
- 11-22 December, ICTP, IUGG, Hanoi, Vietnam, Workshop-Conference on Earthquake and Tsunami Hazards: Modeling and Observations. Web: <http://indico.ictp.it/event/8176>

January 2018

- 7-12, AGU, Quinamavida, Chile, Chapman Conference on Merging Geophysical, Petrochronologic, and Modeling Perspectives to Understand Large Silicic Magma Systems. Web: <http://chapman.agu.org/silicic-magma>
- 12-17, IAHS, UNESCO, Bangui, Central African Republic, Water quality and uses in Central and Eastern Africa: impacts on ecosystems and health. Web: <https://forumuniversitedebangui-34.webself.net/accueil>
- 15-17, IAG, ISPRS, Zurich, Switzerland, 14th International Conference on Location Based Services. Web: <http://lbs18.ethz.ch/>
- 15-19, GEO, Hyderabad, India, Geospatial World Forum. Geo-enabling 4th Industrial Revolution. Web: www.geospatialworldforum.org

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