



**UNION GEODESIQUE ET GEOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS**

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This short, 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, French version, updated

Assistant Secretary-General Katina Rogers translated the updates of the IUGG web page into French. The updates were incorporated in the French version of the IUGG web-page (<http://www.iugg.org/index-fr.html>) by web-master Dmitry Krupsky.

This completes principal updates of the IUGG web page.

2. IUGG brochure updated

The newly designed and updated IUGG brochure is now available electronically at the IUGG web page (www.iugg.org/about/brochure.pdf). The two-language brochure contains information on the objectives, activities, research topics, and structure of IUGG and introduces eight Union Associations and their activities. Hard copies of the brochure will be presented at the Global Launch Event (GLE) of the International Year of Planet Earth, IYPE (UNESCO, Paris, 12-13 February 2008) and at the 29th General Assembly of ICSU (Maputo, Mozambique, 21-24 October 2008).

3. IUGG Grants Programme: Deadline for application extended to 31 March

The deadline for electronic submission of project proposals for the IUGG Grants Programme has been extended to 31 March, because the old deadline for the submission of project proposals coincided with the deadline for the ICSU Grants application. Guidelines for proposal submission are on the web site (<http://www.iugg.org/grants/>). The Application Form is available on request from the IUGG Secretariat.

4. IUGG considers forming a Union Commission for Data and Information

IUGG has formed a committee to consider the need for a Union Commission to deal with geophysical data and information issues and to liaise with similar bodies in other agencies and ICSU Unions. The initiator of this project was Charles Barton (IAGA). The committee is comprised of representatives from the IUGG Associations. The committee will deliver a report to be considered by the IUGG Executive Committee at its meeting in Karlsruhe (Germany), August 5-6, 2008. Peter Fox was appointed as the Committee's Chair.

5. News from the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE)

Special Supplement of the Nature Journal

To celebrate the International Year of Planet Earth, a *Nature* special supplement was published in January 2008. It explores recent developments and future directions in the Earth sciences. With climate change to the fore, Earth scientists have much to offer society, and these articles explore both our understanding of the planet and how this knowledge can be used to benefit the people who live on it.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/supplements/collections/yearofplanetearth/>

The IYPE Global Launch Event (GLE), UNESCO, Paris

On 12-13 February 2008, the International Year of Planet Earth will be officially launched at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris. IUGG will be presented at this event by the Past President, Secretary General, IAG President, and IAHS Secretary General. The Programme (<http://yearofplanetearth.org/content/globallaunch.html>) and additional material on the GLE can be downloaded from the IYPE web site: <http://yearofplanetearth.org/PressKit.pdf>.

6. News from the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY)

eGY-Africa

eGY-Africa is an eGY activity to use advocacy to secure better cyber-infrastructure (Internet access) for universities and other research, education, and training institutions in Africa. The first formal eGY-Africa planning meeting took place during the IUGG General Assembly in Perugia, Italy, in July 2007. Charles Barton represented eGY at the IHY Space Weather

Science and Education Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November. At that meeting, plans for an eGY-Africa initiative were enthusiastically received and further developed. The current status of the eGY-Africa working group is outlined on the eGY web site at: <http://www.egy.org/egyafrika.php>.

Received from Bill Peterson (eGY Secretary)

7. Report on the workshop “Glaciers in Watershed and Global Hydrology”

The IUGG-supported workshop on glaciers in watershed and global hydrology was held in Obergurgl, Austria from 27 to 31 August 2007. Information about the workshop was disseminated via the workshop homepage: <http://www.usask.ca/hydrology/icsih/obergurgl.htm>. The workshop topics included (1) modeling of glaciers in runoff-models; (2) effects of climate change on glacier runoff and the hydrology of glacierized catchments; (3) information content of glaciers for hydrological modeling. The workshop addressed all spatial scales from small-scale catchment modeling to regional and global hydrological modeling. More than 60 researchers from 20 countries attended the workshop and more than 45 scientific presentations were delivered. The workshop was held over 3 days including an intermediate half day excursion. More than 25 participants attended the one-day post-excursion to the research station at the glacier Vernagtferner in the nearby Vent valley. About 20 joined the second excursion day to the glacier. 16 participants have submitted their presentation to a special issue of *Hydrological Processes*, edited by the conveners of the meeting, and which will be published in summer 2008.

Received from Regine Hock (Workshop convener)

8. Honors and Awards

Harsh Gupta, IUGG Vice President, was elected the President of the Geological Society of India.

Uri Shamir, IUGG Past President, was appointed the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee of the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP-TAC). WWAP (<http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/>) is a joint effort of all 24 UN bodies, led by UNESCO, which prepares the World Water Development Report. WWDR-3 is being prepared for presentation to the 5th World Water Forum, in Istanbul, 16-29 March 2009.

Congratulations, Harsh and Uri!

9. Obituary: Bert Bolin (1925-2007), Swedish meteorologist who persuaded the world to take climate change seriously.

In his research career, Bolin made fundamental contributions to both numerical weather forecasting and in starting the science of biogeochemical cycles. After obtaining his PhD in 1956, on the advice of his supervisor C.-G. Rossby, Bolin began working on atmospheric chemistry and the cycling of pollutants in the atmosphere. Bolin’s work in this area led to

fundamental advances in our understanding of the carbon cycle – not only in the atmosphere, but also in the oceans and terrestrial biosphere. In 1961 he was made Professor of Meteorology at Stockholm University, a position he held until 1990.

In addition to his considerable scientific contributions, Bolin also played a leading role in establishing and running many of the international research organizations. His effort led to the formation of the ICSU Committee on Atmospheric Sciences (CAS) in 1964, to which Bert Bolin served as its first Chairman. He chaired the Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP), which in 1980 transformed into the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). In 1985-86 Bolin chaired an ICSU working group that produced background material that was used in ICSU's 1986 decision to launch the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme. Bert Bolin also played a central role in the formation and management of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore, who said that without Bert "we would not have come to where we are today." Bolin chaired the IPCC from 1988 to 1997, through its first two assessment reports. Without his leadership it is doubtful that either the 1992 climate change convention or the 1997 Kyoto protocol would have been developed and brought into force so quickly.

Bert Bolin leaves a great legacy not only of world-class atmospheric sciences, but also of how international, interdisciplinary science can be organized and carried out.

(Based on obituaries by Kevin Noone, IGBP; Henning Rodhe, Stockholm University; and Paul Brown, The Guardian)

10. IUGG-related meetings occurring during February – April 2008

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

- February 18-22, IASPEI, Wellington, New Zealand, Evison Symposium on Seismogenesis and Earthquake Forecasting
- March 3-6, German Geophysical Society, Freiberg, Germany, 68th Annual Meeting
- March 26-28, IACS, Skeikampen, Norway, International Workshop "Mass balance measurements and modeling"
- April 13-18, Vienna, Austria, General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union

End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 8 Number 2 (February 1, 2008)

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