



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

New Executive Director for ICSU

ICSU has appointed Professor Deliang Chen as the new Executive Director. He will take up the appointment on 1st February 2009 following the retirement of Professor Thomas Rosswall. Prof. Deliang Chen is an internationally renowned climate researcher, and he has made an important contribution to the understanding of regional climate changes in Sweden and China. In addition, he has been successfully working in various international research environments, coordinating international and national research efforts, training students and postdoctoral researchers from around the world, and integrating various scientific disciplines. He holds the August Röhss Chair in Physical Geography directed towards Geoinformatics and is Professor of Physical Meteorology at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Formerly he was Director of the Gothenburg Atmospheric Sciences Centre in Sweden, and Science Director of Beijing Climate Center.

New Director for IGBP

Professor Sybil Seitzinger, Rutgers University, USA, has been appointed Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP). She will take up the appointment on 1st September 2008 following a successful career researching the biogeochemical interactions between land, atmosphere and oceans, in the context of environmental change.

Joint science academies urge action on climate change and global health

The national science academies of the G8 nations and Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa have signed statements on: global health; and climate change adaptation and the transition to a low carbon society. The two statements urge all nations, particularly those meeting at the G8 Summit in Toyako, Hokkaido, in July, to take action on these critical issues. More information can be found at the ICSU web-site:

http://www.icsu.org/2_resourcecentre/RESOURCE_list_base.php4?rub=19

2. News from the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY)

eGY General Meeting Report

The 2008 eGY General Meeting was held at the Mesa Laboratories of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado, March 5-6, 2008. The meeting report is now available at: http://egy.org/files/2008-report/2008_meeting_report.html.

eGY at the COSPAR Assembly

The ICSU Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) will hold their 37th Scientific Assembly in Montreal, Canada, 13-20 July 2008. COSPAR's objectives are to promote on an international level scientific research in space, with emphasis on the exchange of results, information and opinions, and to provide a forum, open to all scientists, for the discussion of problems that may affect scientific space research. These objectives are achieved through the organization of Scientific Assemblies, publications and other means. eGY will host a special half day session entitled: "eGY - Towards a Global Earth and Space Science Informatics Commons".

The Earth and Space Science Informatics Summit

The Earth and Space Science Informatics Summit in Rome, March 13-14 2008, was held in response to concerns about the need to establish communication and cooperation among the many geoinformatics and space science informatics entities and initiatives that are growing up rapidly worldwide. Participants at the Summit represented the interests of more than 40 different bodies, agencies, initiatives, and programs. This was an Electronic Geophysical Year activity organized by IUGG, IUGS (CGI and OneGeology), and the Earth and Space Science Informatics groups in AGU and EGU. The Summit was hosted by the International Geographical Union at the magnificent Villa Celimontana (Home of Geography) in the gardens adjacent to the Coliseum in the heart of Rome.

There is a revival of schools of informatics; new and innovative funding programs are appearing; people are writing use-cases; standards are advancing and are being adopted; community vocabularies and conventions, and ontologies are spreading; working in informatics is gaining respect and becoming popular; and many agencies are responding. Data-based science requires processing power, storage, network bandwidth, and analysis tools; generally advances in FLOPS and storage have outpaced increases in bandwidth and access to analysis tools. Because the need to share data, information, and services is so ubiquitous in the sciences and elsewhere, we have an obligation to seek unified approaches to

common issues in order to reduce replication of effort and a proliferation of different practices and standards. The meeting identified many user-driven needs for geoinformatics that are not being met, as well as several activities that are candidates for cooperation and a common approach.

Received from Bill Peterson, Secretary, eGY

3. New IAMAS publication

Hans-Jürgen Bolle, former President of the International Radiation Commission of IAMAS (1979-1983) and President of IAMAS (1983-1987), compiled a detailed report entitled "International Radiation Commissions 1896 to 2008: Research into atmospheric radiation from IMO to IAMAS".

Based on the minutes of numerous meetings and personal notes he succeeded to put together solid background material for the astounding development from individual measurements of solar radiation to satellite programmes of global relevance. Many photographs of the acting persons and several appendices provide both, a flavour of the family-type atmosphere often present in IUGG groupings and complete directory of who was acting, where and when. Also, the power of international cooperation on a voluntary basis becomes evident.

The 150-page volume stands as no. 1 of the IAMAS Publication Series, which was started to encourage similar accounts of sufficient general interest about the association or one of its ten commissions. It is listed as ISBN 878-3-00-024661 and can be requested in print by all interested parties from the IAMAS Secretariat (Email: Hans.Volkert@dlr.de)

Electronic access to the 30-MB-pdf-file will soon be possible via www.IAMAS.org

4. Honors and awards

IUGG Vice-President Harsh Gupta was awarded the AGU Waldo E. Smith Medal "for major scientific contributions in seismology, tectonophysics, marine geophysics and geothermal resources and his eminent role in serving geosciences worldwide".

Deputy Executive Director of AGU Judy Holoviak was awarded the Edward A. Flinn III Award for "overseeing AGU's publications activities for many years, through the explosive growth of the latter part of the twentieth century and through the difficult transition to electronic publication". Her dedication to scientific publication in general and to AGU in particular has served geophysicists very well.

Congratulations, Harsh and Judy!

5. IUGG-related meetings occurring during July – September 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.

- June 29 - July 5, IAMAS, International Ozone Commission, Tromsø, Norway, Quadrennial Ozone Symposium.
- July 7-11, IAMAS, Cancun, Mexico, International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation (ICCP).
- July 8-11, SCAR, IASC, WMO, St. Petersburg, Russia, SCAR/IASC IPY Open Science Conference: Polar Research: Arctic and Antarctic Perspectives in the International Polar Year.
- July 13-20, COSPAR, Montreal, Canada, 37th COSPAR Scientific Assembly.
- July 18-22, IUGG GeoRisk Commission, Barcelona, Spain, Symposium “The Planet Earth”, Euroscience Open Forum.
- July 27-31, SEDI, Kunming, China, 2008 SEDI Symposium.
- July 29-August 1, AGU, Cairns, Australia, Western Pacific Geophysics Meeting.
- August 3-8, IAMAS, IRC Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, International Radiation Symposium (IRS2008): Current Problems in Atmospheric Radiation.
- August 3, IUGG Bureau Meeting, Karlsruhe, Germany.
- August 4, IUGG, Karlsruhe, Germany, Conference "Earth Science for Society".
- August 5-6, IUGG Executive Meeting, University of Karlsruhe, Germany.
- August 6-14, IUGS, Oslo, Norway, 33rd International Geological Congress. This Congress will include sessions on the science themes of the International Year of Planet Earth.
- August 10, IUGG GeoRisk Commission Business Meeting, Oslo, Norway.
- August 12-15, IGU, Tunis, Tunisia, 31st International Geographical Congress.
- August 17-22, IAVCEI, Reykjavik, Iceland, IAVCEI 2008 General Assembly.
- September 1–5, IAG, Jena, Germany, 16th International Symposium on Earth Tides including sub-commissions on Crustal Deformation and Geophysical Fluids.
- September 7-12, ESC/IASPEI, Hersonissos, Crete, Greece, European Seismological Commission’s General Assembly.
- September 15-18, IAHS, Prague, Czech Republic, HydroPredict’2008: Intl Conf on Predictions for Hydrology, Ecology and Water Resources Management: Using Data and Models to benefit Society.
- September 18-20, IAHS, ERB Krakow Poland, 12th Biennial Conference of Euromediterranean Network of Experimental and Representative Basins (ERB 2008) Hydrological Extremes in a Small Basin.
- September 22-24, IAHS, Bucharest, Romania, International Conference on Water Resources Management in Extreme Conditions.

- September 22-26, IAG, Poznan, Poland, 16th International Workshop on Laser Ranging.
 - September 22 - October 4, IASPEI, Trieste, Italy, 9th Workshop on 3-D Modeling of Seismic Waves Generation.
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End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 8 Number 7 (July 1, 2008)

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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.