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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)

ICSU endorses the International Year of Astronomy (IYA 2009)

The Executive Board of ICSU at its last meeting endorsed the International Year of Astronomy 2009. The International Astronomical Union (IAU), a Member of ICSU, launched 2009 as the International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009) under the theme "The Universe, yours to discover".

Research and knowledge systems

ICSU is represented on the coordinating committee for the UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge, which is organising a global research seminar in Paris on 28-30 November, 2008. This will bring together researchers actively involved in studying research and knowledge systems in key fields such as higher education, science and technology, innovation, social sciences, health and agriculture.

2. Fiftieth Anniversary of the Iranian Member Adhering Organization

The Institute of Geophysics of the University of Tehran (Iran), the Adhering Organization to IUGG, celebrated its 50th anniversary on 20 November 2007. The Institute has been growing steadily during the second half of the XXth century and now has 11 research departments dealing with physics of space, atmosphere and the Earth. The Institute offers courses for graduate students (M.Sc. and Ph.D.) in the scientific fields related to their expertise. It hosts three National Centers, the most important of which is the Iranian Seismological Center, which is in charge of gathering seismic data from a national network of seismic stations across the country. Currently, the Institute has 27 scientists, 150 graduate students and 140 staff members (including the personnel at seismic stations). Further information can be obtained via <http://www.geophysics.ut.ac.ir>.

The IUGG family congratulates the Institute of Geophysics, University of Tehran, and wish the Institute continued success in science and education.

3. Report on the IUGG-ESOF symposium “The Planet Earth”

The International Mini-Symposium “The Planet Earth” was held on 22 July in Barcelona, Spain on the occasion of the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF), which provided both the European and the international science and business communities with an open platform for debate and communication. It was an opportunity to discuss and influence the future of research and innovation in Europe and elsewhere by involving all main stakeholders: scientists, business executives and policy-makers. Since 2001 IUGG, via the Union Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability, has established a link with Euroscience (ES), ESOF’s parent organization, via the ES Working Group “Science and Urgent Problem of Society”. Jointly with ES, IUGG organized 4 workshops and symposiums in Budapest, Stockholm, Munich and now in Barcelona, which resulted in the Budapest Manifesto on Risk Science and Sustainability, in publications of two books of the meeting proceedings, and in closer cooperation with social scientists. The symposium highlighted the importance of geosciences and celebrated the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE).

V. Kossobokov of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vice President of the IUGG GeoRisk Commission and co-organizer of the meeting, opened the symposium. Dr. Eduardo de Mulder, IYPE Executive Director, Dr. Enric Banda, ES President, and Dr. Alik Ismail-Zadeh, IUGG Secretary General, welcomed the meeting participants. Three lectures were presented by distinguished scientists: *What happens at extremely high pressure in the Earth?* by Dr. Russell Hemley, Director of Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington (USA); *Cenozoic continental climatic evolution of Central Europe*, by Dr. Volker Mosbrugger, Director of Senckenberg Research Institute, Frankfurt (Germany); and *Climate and society*, by Dr. Gerald Haug, Professor of the ETH Zurich (Switzerland).

4. Report on the 12th International Symposium on Equatorial Aeronomy

The 12th International Symposium on Equatorial Aeronomy (ISEA-12) was hosted by the Ionospheric Physics Lab, at the Department of Physics, University of Crete, and endorsed and co-sponsored by IUGG. These symposia were initiated by ionospheric scientists in the early 60s of the XX century soon after the Jicamarca radar started its operation near Lima, Peru. The latest symposium was held from 18 to 24 May 2008 in Heraklion, Crete, Greece. 170 participants, including young scientists, from 25 countries, attended the symposium; about 250 papers were presented by invited and contributing authors at 11 scientific sessions. The topics covered a wide range of research areas, reflecting the need to study the Earth's ionosphere - atmosphere system in a coupled sense. ISEA-12 comprised sessions on the dynamics of the middle atmosphere, mesosphere and thermosphere, *E*- and *F*-region plasma physics and ionospheric electrodynamics, including large scale ionospheric modeling and simulation, atmosphere-ionosphere coupling processes and phenomena, magnetic storm and space weather effects, and a session on new experimental techniques and instruments. In addition, and for the first time in its long history, ISEA-12 started with a full day of tutorials on key topics given by leading members of the aeronomic community, and ended with a session of invited expert talks on future research trends and unresolved problems. The ISEA-12 Organizing Committee produced the ISEA-12 *Book of Tutorials*, a high quality publication volume of 150 pages that was offered to all the symposium participants. Its scope was to allow the reader to gain a wider perspective on fundamental scientific aspects of low- and middle-latitude aeronomy, as they have evolved over the past five decades of research since the first ISEA meeting. The symposium was a great success, both scientifically and socially, and the low- and mid-latitude aeronomic community has gained new momentum to carry on its research tasks and challenges into the future. More information can be found at the symposium's web page: <http://isea12.physics.uoc.gr>.

Contributed by C. Haldoupis, Chair, ISEA-12

5. World Scientific Publishing offers a book discount to IUGG Members

The World Scientific Publishing / Imperial College Press offers 20% discount on forthcoming and notable titles in Atmospheric Sciences and Geosciences to IUGG Members.

PHYSICAL PRINCIPLES OF METEOROLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PHYSICS

Global, Synoptic and Micro Scales, by David Blake (The University of Queensland, Australia) & Robert Robson (The Australian National University, Australia)

<http://www.worldscibooks.com/physics/6823.html>

Monsoon Asia Integrated Regional Study on Global Change - Vol. 1

CHANGES IN THE HUMAN-MONSOON SYSTEM OF EAST ASIA IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL CHANGE, edited by Congbin Fu (Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), J R Freney (CSIRO, Plant Industry, Australia) & J W B Stewart (Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, Canada)

<http://www.worldscibooks.com/environsci/6924.html>

EMPIRICAL-STATISTICAL DOWNSCALING, by Rasmus E Benestad, Inger Hanssen-Bauer (The Norwegian Meteorological Institute, Norway) & Deliang Chen (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) <http://www.worldscibooks.com/environsci/6908.html>

ADVANCES IN GEOSCIENCES (Vols. 1-9), editor -in-chief Wing Huen Ip (National Central University, Taiwan). <http://www.worldscibooks.com/environsci/5913.html> (Vol. 1-5)
<http://www.worldscibooks.com/environsci/6494.html> (Vol. 6-9).

To enjoy the 20% discount, please quote **OFTX070815** when ordering online at www.worldscibooks.com (the discount is valid till 30 September 2008).

6. IUGG-related meetings occurring during August – October 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.

- 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 and Karlsruhe University, Karlsruhe, Germany, Conference "Earth Science for Society".
- August 5-6, IUGG Executive Meeting, 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.
- October 1-3, IAHS, Kyoto, Japan, HydroChange 2008.
- October 5-7, ILP, Euroforum Infantes, El Escorial (Madrid), Spain, 4th International TOPO-EUROPE.
- October 5-8, ICSU, Kiev, Ukraine, 21st International CODATA Conference “Scientific Information for Society – from Today to the Future”.
- October 5-8, Balkan Geophysical Society, Belgrade, Serbia, 5th Congress of Balkan Geophysical Society.
- October 5-9, IAPSO, Cape Town, S. Africa Workshop on Deep Ocean Exchange with the Shelf.
- October 5-10, IAGA, ECHA Cairo, Egypt, IAGA International Symposium: Space Weather and its Effects on Spacecraft.
- October 8-10, IUPAP, Seoul, Korea, International Conference on Women in Physics.
- October 12-17, IASPEI, Beijing, China, 14th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (14WCEE).
- October 13-16, IAHS/UNESCO, Isle of Capri, Napoli, Italy, The Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management.
- October 14-17, IASPEI, Berlin, Germany International WSM Conference “Frontiers in Stress Research: Observation, Integration and Application”.
- October 16-17, IAG, Monaco, 2008 ABLOS Conference: Difficulties in Implementing the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- October 18-23, IASPEI, Obergurgl, Austria, New Challenges in Earthquake Dynamics: Observing and Modeling a Multi-Scale System - ESF-FWF Conference in Partnership with LFUI.
- October 19-25, IAVCEI, Querétaro, Mexico, Second Workshop on Collapse Calderas.
- October 20-24, ICSU, Maputo, Mozambique, 29th General Assembly.

End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 8 Number 8 (August 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.