



**UNION GEODESIQUE ET GEOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE
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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 Executive Committee met in Karlsruhe

The IUGG Executive Committee (EC) met in Karlsruhe on 5-6 August. The IUGG EC is comprised of the IUGG Bureau (which met on 3 August), immediate Past President and Presidents of 8 Union Associations. Association Secretaries General and the Chair of the IUGG Finance Committee were invited to attend the meeting. The IUGG President and Presidents / Secretary Generals of the Union Associations reported on the activities after the XXIV IUGG General Assembly (Perugia, Italy, 2007). IUGG Vice President reported on the activities of three Union Commissions: CMG, SEDI and GeoRisk. The IUGG Secretary General reported on the activity of the IUGG Secretariat and interaction with ICSU and its committees. Other topics of the meeting agenda included (i) an evaluation of the activity of the International Lithosphere Program (ILP) and Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services (FAGS), (ii) report on the GeoUnions activity; (iii) reports on the IYs sponsored by IUGG: IYPE, eGY, and IHY; (iv) analysis of the XXIV IUGG General Assembly in Perugia (2007); (v) preparations to the XXV IUGG General Assembly in Melbourne (2011); (vi) reports of IUGG liaisons to ICSU committees and to

other international bodies; (vii) financial report and IUGG Grant Programme; and (viii) relationship with national and regional geophysical unions and societies.

The IUGG EC established a new commission: Union Commission on Data and Information (see section 2), issued a statement on geophysical data analysis services (section 3), and decided to award several grant applications (section 4).

The next IUGG EC meeting will be held on 8 to 12 October 2009 in Melbourne, Australia.

2. New IUGG Union Commission on Data and Information

The IUGG Executive Committee at its meeting in Karlsruhe decided to establish a Union Commission for Data and Information. The Commission will provide a focused and sustainable organizational structure that supports and strengthens IUGG science through integrated scientific information activities. It will build on the foundation established during the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY). Activity areas of the Commission are:

- Data science: Earth and space (geo)- informatics.
- Distributed data systems: virtual observatories, libraries, research communities and organizations.
- Open access to data and information.
- All issues related with data acquisition, processing, storing, manipulation, interpretation and use.

Within the above activity areas, the Commission will:

- Provide a focus and single voice within IUGG, spanning all IUGG Associations and inter-Association bodies.
- Connect IUGG and its scientists to other bodies/agencies/initiatives that have interest and responsibility on matters of geo-data.
- Advocate and facilitate research and development in the growing field of informatics to improve data and information systems and practices.
- Promote open access to data and adoption of inter- operable data sets.

The IUGG EC appointed the following officers to serve on the Commission for 2008-2011: Peter Fox (USA) as Chair and Charles Barton (Australia) as Vice-Chair.

<http://www.iugg.org/about/commissions/ucdi.html>

3. IUGG Statement on geophysical data analysis services

IUGG approves the admittance into FAGS of those Services approved by Associations, endorses and encourages the continued existence and activities of FAGS on the understanding that the new SCID framework now under consideration by ICSU will ensure the standing and continued operation of the geophysical and astronomical services under guidance of the competent Unions and their Associations.

4. Projects selected for IUGG support

IUGG established a Grants Programme for 2008-2011 to complement its existing programme of funding symposia and workshops organised or co-sponsored by Union Associations and Union Commissions (<http://www.iugg.org/grants/>). For 2008-2009, IUGG awarded the following projects:

- Enhancement of geohazard research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa (Lead Applicant: IUGG GeoRisk Commission; Supporting Applicant: ICSU ROA); US\$ 10,000.
 - Dust events and impacts in Africa (Lead Applicant: IAMAS; Supporting Applicants: IUGG GeoRisk Commission, IAHS, and ICSU ROA); US\$ 10,000.
 - Monitoring Taal volcano unrest in Philippines based on a joint Electromagnetic and multi-disciplinary educational EMSEV-PHIVOLCS program (Lead Applicant: IAVCEI; supporting Applicants: IAGA, IASPEI, and EMSEV); US\$ 9,300.
 - Electronic Geophysical Year in Africa (Lead Applicant: IAGA; Supporting Applicants: IAHS, U.S. National Academy of Sciences); US\$ 10,000.
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5. News from the International Council for Science (ICSU)

ICSU Statement on publication practices and peer review

The ICSU Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science (CFRS) has released a statement on publication practices and indices and the role of peer review in research assessment:

http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2095_DD_FILE_CFRS_State ment_Publication_Practices.pdf

New ICSU National Members

ICSU is pleased to welcome three new National Members from Africa - Burkina Faso, Namibia, and Uganda.

Burkina Faso, which has been a National Associate since 1981, joins ICSU through the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CNRST). CNRST was established in 1949 and is involved in: defining and implementing national scientific policy; scientific and technological research; disseminating scientific and technical information; linking research and development; and helping train scientific researchers.

Namibia joins ICSU through the Directorate of Research, Science and Technology (DRST), which is part of the Ministry of Education. The Directorate is responsible for: advocating the mechanisms necessary to encourage research, technical and scientific education, innovations and their output; and facilitating value adding linkages between and among industry, commerce, science and technology institutions and the wider community.

Uganda joins ICSU through the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST), which has been a National Associate since 1995. UNCST was established in 1990 to advise and coordinate the formulation of national policy on all fields of science and technology, and for assisting in the promotion and development of indigenous science and technology.

6. News from the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY)

New eGY Demonstration: STARS (Solar-Terrestrial data Analysis and Reference System)

Ken T. Murata of the Center for Information Technology of Ehime University in Japan has developed software that provides search and retrieval of data from NASA's ISTP spacecraft. The STARS system also provides analysis tools and access to published papers based on the data. A description of STARS and other eGY Demonstration projects are available on the eGY web page at: <http://egy.org/demoproj.php>.

Call for eGY Demonstration Projects

To demonstrate the usefulness of virtual observatory technology, eGY is collecting short write ups and narrated power point presentations of systems that use them. They are available on the eGY web site at: <http://egy.org/demoproj.php>.

Earth and Space Science Informatics Summit

This Summit was held in Rome, 13-14 March 2008 in order to establish better understanding and cooperation among the various geoinformatics and space science informatics initiatives and programs that are growing up rapidly worldwide. Participants at the Summit represented the interests of some 45 organizations and many different countries. The Summit recognized the emergence of informatics as one of the pillars of 21st Century science, and also the pressing need for international leadership and governance-with ICSU playing a central role. Strong endorsement was given to the recently released recommendations of ICSU's Strategic Committee for Information and Data. A full report about the Summit is at http://egy.org/files/ESI_Summit_Report_final.pdf

Received from Bill Peterson, eGY

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

The IYPE Board of Directors met on 7 August in Oslo on the occasion of the International Geological Congress. The Board discussed its composition, evaluated the work of the IYPE Secretariat for first two quarters of 2008, estimated the financial condition of the Corporation, discussed and accepted reports by the chairs of the Development, Outreach and Science programs. The importance for the IYPE legacy of having strong program for Science was again emphasized. Also the Board discussed several IYPE launch events around the world and relation between National Committees and IYPE Corporation.

8. News from the International Polar Year (IPY)

One of the goals of ICSU, IPY, and eGY is to foster a culture change in science where data management is viewed as a vital, recognized and, professional component of scientific endeavour. To help meet this goal the IPY Data Committee and the IPY Data and Information Service (IPYDIS) are working with the very organized and active Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS--<http://www.arcticportal.org/apecs>) to provide basic training and resources on data management for young scientists. Also APECS is conducting a series of thematic workshops. They would like to include a data management presentation and discussion as part of these workshops and perhaps eventually have a complete workshop devoted to data management. The next workshop is focused on polar ocean observations, monitoring, and data. It will be held at the Otto-Schmidt Laboratory at the Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute in St. Petersburg from November 20-22, 2008.

Received from Bill Peterson, eGY

9. News from the International Lithosphere Program (ILP)

The ILP Bureau met on 8 August in Oslo on the occasion of the International Geological Congress. ILP President S. Cloetingh and Secretary General J. Negendank reported on their activity after the last Bureau meeting in July 2007 in Perugia. ILP has been actively involved in the IYPE activity; organized several research meetings including ILP symposia in Oslo; and supports research projects of high scientific importance. Several reports on the ILP projects were presented. The Bureau appointed a new Secretary General, Prof. R. Oberhänsli of the University of Potsdam (Germany), and accepted a new representative of IUGG, Prof. K. Furlong of the Penn State University.

10. Report on the International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation

The 15th International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation was held in Cancun Mexico, between 7 and 11 July 2008. The conference was organized by the International Commission on Clouds and Precipitation (ICCP), an IAMAS commission, and it was co-sponsored by the IUGG, IAMAS and the WMO (World Meteorological Organization). The local organizing committee was headed by Prof. Graciela Raga of the University of Mexico. The scientific and program committee was headed by Prof. Zev Levin, ICCP President. About 400 scientists including 80 students attended the conference, presenting about 550 papers in oral and poster presentations (out of about 600 papers that were submitted). The presentations covered a wide range of topics on the formation of clouds and precipitation, the interactions of aerosols and clouds, the effects of clouds on climate, new instrumentation for measuring various processes in clouds and many more. Special sessions were devoted to reports on results from RICO (Rain in Cumulus Over the Ocean), a field campaign that took place in the Western Caribbean, November 2004 to January 2005 and to reports from the ice nucleation comparison workshop (AIDA) that took place in Karlsruhe Germany, September 2007. During the conference, Prof. Roland List of the University of Toronto, the former IAMAS Secretary General, was elected as an honorary member of the International Commission on

Clouds and Precipitation in recognition of his outstanding scientific contributions and unselfish service to the international cloud physics community.

Contributed by Zev Levin, ICCP President

11. Honors and Awards

Laike Mariam Asfaw of the Addis Ababa Geophysical Observatory at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, received the 2008 AGU New International Award at the 2008 Joint Assembly Honors Ceremony, which was held on 29 May 2008 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The award honors “an individual scientist or a small team for making an outstanding contribution to furthering the Earth and space sciences and using our science for the benefit of society in less favored nations.” Dr. Asfaw’s major committee memberships have included the IASPEI committee for developing countries, IAG working group on the application of geodetic studies for earthquake prediction, and the IUGG/IAG working group on dynamic isostasy (from the citation of K. A. Whaler, University of Edinburgh, UK)

William Richard Peltier of the University of Toronto (Canada) was awarded the 2008 Milutin Milankovic Medal of the European Geosciences Union for his fundamental and pioneer work in modeling of mantle convection, glacial isostatic adjustment process and global sea level changes. One of his best contributions was to design accurate models of the topography and ice distribution over the Earth for the last twenty thousand years. He is listed as one of the most frequently cited Earth scientists. W.R. Peltier served for IUGG as a President of the Commission on Mathematical Geophysics.

Carl-Christian Tscherning of the Niels Bohr Institute, Copenhagen (Denmark) was awarded by the 2008 Vening Meinesz Medal of the European Geosciences Union for his fundamental contributions to physical geodesy. Colleagues praise him for his unselfish involvement within the International Association of Geodesy.

12. IUGG-related meetings occurring during September – November 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.

- September 1–5, IAG, Jena, Germany, 16th International Symposium on Earth Tides including sub-commissions on Crustal Deformation and Geophysical Fluids.
- September 7-12, EMSEV- IUGG Inter-Associations Commission, Sinaia, Romania, Annual meeting and EMSEV-DEMETER Joint Workshop.
- 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/SCOR, 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.
- November 7-9, IAHS, Chengdu, China, International IAHS-PUB symposium and the Second International China-PUB symposium on hydrological modeling and integrated water resources management in ungauged mountainous watershed.
- November 10-13, eGY, Tsukuba, Japan, International Symposium: Fifty Years after IGY- Modern Information Technologies and Earth and Solar Sciences.

- November 24-27, IASPEI, Tsukuba, Japan, 7th General Assembly of Asian Seismological Commission.
 - November 24-28, EGU, Santiago de Chile, The Andes: Challenge for Geosciences, 4th EGU Alexander von Humboldt International Conference.
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End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 8 Number 8 (August 1, 2008)

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