



**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. New Assistant Secretary General

In September, Ms. Simone Oswald started her job as new Assistant Secretary General for the IUGG Secretariat. Simone graduated from the Martin-Luther-University of Halle-Wittenberg, Department of Applied Linguistics (English and French), and took a 1-year advanced study of the English language at the University of Sheffield, UK. She is employed by the University of Karlsruhe, and her position is financed by the DFG - German Science Foundation.

Katina Rogers, Assistant Secretary General, will continue her work for IUGG till the end of this year to provide a smooth transition of the Secretariat’s activity.

2. Report on the IUGG SEDI Symposium

The 11th SEDI Symposium met in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, from 26 to 31 July 2008. The Symposium was organized by the IUGG Union Commission on Structure of the Earth and Deep Interior (SEDI) and by the Chinese Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Prof. Rongshan Fu (University of Science and Technology of China). 92 scientists from many parts of the world attended the meeting. The Symposium comprised 8 sessions, each session

having two lead review talks followed by ample time for discussion of posters and key scientific issues. The session titles were as follows: Structure of the Core, Structure of the Mantle, Mantle Dynamics, Inner-Core Outer-Core Mantle Coupling, Laboratory Modeling of Deep Earth Processes, Core Dynamics, Observations and the Geodynamo, and Deep Interiors and Magnetic Fields of Other Planets.

Highlights of the meeting included (i) the Zatman Lecture on “Geodetic constraints on core dynamics and core-mantle interactions” by Mathieu Dumberry; (ii) the awarding of the Doornbos Prizes for outstanding work by a beginning scientist to Nicolas Gillet, John Hernlund, and Ligang Li; and (iii) a report on the devastating May 12 Wenchuan (Sichuan) earthquake by Jianguo Zhang, Director of the Institute of Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation of the Yunnan Province.

The funding for the meeting came from IUGG; the U.S. National Science Foundation; INSU/CNRS (France); The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC); the University of Science and Technology of China (USTC); the Earthquake Administration of Yunnan Province, Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Science; and the Institute of Geodesy and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Science.

Received from G. Hulot (SEDI President) and M. Bergman (SEDI Secretary General)

3. Report on the IUGG GeoRisk Commission Business Meeting

The GeoRisk Commission (GRC) business meeting was held in Oslo on 10 August 2008 on the occasion of the International Geological Congress. The Commission’s recommendations on the improvement of the report issued by the ICSU Panel on Natural and Human-induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters were taken into consideration by the ICSU Panel. Based on the report, a new ICSU program “Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)” should be considered by the 29th ICSU General Assembly (Maputo, Mozambique, October 2008). If the program is approved by the ICSU General Assembly, it is expected that GRC will take an active role in the implementation of IRDR-program.

GRC submitted two grant applications (as a lead and supporting applicant) together with the experts on natural hazards from sub-Saharan Africa: (i) “Enhancement of geohazards research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa” and (ii) “Dust events and impacts in Africa”. Both applications were granted by IUGG. The funds are to be used to develop a fundable research proposal of regional relevance and high scientific quality. The co-leaders of the grant applications, G. Mulugeta and A. Konare (ICSU Regional Office for Africa) were invited to present basic ideas of the proposal.

Several commissioners reported on recent scientific activities. This included the special session “The Planet Earth” at the EuroScience Open Forum in Barcelona on the 22nd July 2008 (by A. Ismail-Zadeh), new ideas on earthquake aftershock forecasting to be presented to the 7th General Assembly of Asian Seismological Commission of Japan, Tsukuba on 24-27 November 2008 (H. Gupta). Further reports covered the activities and the progress made in the ICSU Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (by H. Gupta), the formation of a comprehensive tsunami data bank (V. Gusiakov), and a project aimed at the quantification of earthquake forecasts (D. Jackson).

Several GRC members gave talks at the International Geological Congress Mega-Symposium “Hazards: Minimizing risk maximising awareness” designed as a contribution to the International Year of the Planet Earth (IYPE) and organized by T. Beer (see item 6, below).

Received from G. Tetzlaff, GRC Secretary General

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

New member service of the ICSU Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services (FAGS)

Based on the IUGG recommendation and the decision of FAGS Council, the International Council of Science approved the application of the World Stress Map Service (WSMS) to join the FAGS. The WSMS becomes 13th service of the FAGS comprising of other 12 services:

1. International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS)
2. Bureau Gravimetrique International (BGI)
3. International GNSS Service (IGS)
4. International Center for Earth Tides (ICET)
5. Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL)
6. International Service of Geomagnetic Indices (ISGI)
7. Quarterly Bulletin of Solar Activity (QBSA)
8. International Space Environment Service (ISES)
9. World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS)
10. Centre des Donnees astronomiques de Strasbourg (CDS)
11. Solar Influences Data Analysis Center (SIDC)
12. International VLBI Service for Geodesy and Astrometry (IVS)

Reports

- *The ICSU 2007 Annual Report* is now available:

http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2119_DD_FILE_Annual-Report-2007.pdf

-A Science Plan for *Integrated Research on Disaster Risk*: addressing the challenge of natural and human-induced environmental hazards, the report from the ICSU Planning Group on Natural and Human-induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters, is now available

http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2121_DD_FILE_Hazard_report.pdf

The ICSU Executive Board agreed to recommend to the General Assembly that ICSU establish a major new interdisciplinary programme of ten years' duration entitled Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR), in collaboration with other international organizations. A final meeting of the Planning Group was held during the International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos, Switzerland on 26 August 2008. The conference provided further opportunities to discuss collaboration with other organizations in the area of disaster risk reduction.

- 'ICSU-IGFA Review of the *Earth System Science Partnership* (ESSP)' report is available:

http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2120_DD_FILE_ESSP_Review.pdf

In May an ESSP retreat was hosted by John Schellnhuber (CSPR) at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) in Germany. The primary objective of the retreat was to take stock of ESSP review recommendations and begin developing an ESSP strategy. The conclusions from the retreat were further discussed at the ESSP Scientific Committee meeting in Oxford, UK in June. One outcome of the SC meeting has been ESSP's request to ICSU to become an Interdisciplinary Body. ESSP is also approaching the International Social Science Council (ISSC) for co-sponsorship.

- 'Ad hoc Strategic Committee on Information and Data: Final Report to the ICSU Committee on Scientific Planning and Review' is available:

http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2123_DD_FILE_SCID_Report.pdf

The report was revised following consultation with Members, which resulted in some very valuable input. The key recommendations, including the establishment of a new ICSU World Data System, were endorsed by the Executive Board in May and will be considered by the General Assembly in October.

- 'A Review of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)' prepared by Professor Geoffrey Oldham for the International Council for Science (ICSU) is available:

http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2122_DD_FILE_SCOPE_Review.pdf

2009 ICSU Grants Programme

Applications are invited for the 2009 ICSU Grants Programme. The deadline for receipt of applications is **1 December 2008**. The ICSU Grants Programme is strictly reserved for ICSU Scientific Unions and Interdisciplinary Bodies. The IUGG Associations and Union Commissions have been invited to submit a letter of intention to the IUGG Secretariat before **15 October 2008**.

ISPRS Congress approves Beijing Declaration

The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) has released a statement calling on international communities to work together to promote the peaceful use of geospatial technology for the benefit of society and the environment. The statement, the 'Beijing Declaration', approved by delegates at the ISPRS Congress in Beijing in July, can be found at:

http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2124_DD_FILE_ISPRS_Beijing_Declaration.pdf

Source: ICSU web-page

5. Report on the JSC Meeting of World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

At the annual JSC meeting of WCRP in Arcachon, France, 31 March - 4 April, the progress in implementing the WCRP Strategic Framework 2005-2015 and its future directions were discussed. The main activities of WCRP JSC meeting were as follows:

1. WCRP has been calling for cross-cutting issues such as anthropogenic climate change, atmospheric chemistry and climate, monsoon, extreme events, seasonal prediction, sea-level rise, etc. There were reports from cross-cutting programs, the implementation of the WCRP strategic framework 2005-2015 and its future direction (after the sunset).
2. Change of the leadership. Dr. John Church has completed his eight-year service and stepped down from the chairmanship. Dr. Tony Busalacchi was elected the new chair of WCRP. Dr. Ghrassem Asrar has replaced Dr. Anne Henderson Sellers to act as the new Director of the WCRP Office.

On behalf of IUGG, Dr. G. Wu, the IUGG liaison to WCRP and IAMAS President, welcomed the WCRP scientists to fully use IUGG as a science forum and provide their support to IUGG.

Received from Guoxiong Wu, the IUGG liaison to WCRP

6. Report on the MegaSymposium “Minimising Risk: Maximising Awareness”

The MegaSymposium “The Hazards Theme of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE): Minimising Risk: Maximising Awareness” was held on 7-8 August 2008 in Oslo at the 33rd International Geological Congress and organized by T. Beer (Australia) together with K. Takeuchi (Japan) and R. Chadha (India). The meeting was designed to link the four main research questions of the IYPE Hazards Theme with the five action items of the UN-ISDR Hyogo Framework for Action. This was done at both a disciplinary and a geographic level. As there was general agreement that the time span of the IYPE (either one or three years) was insufficient time, the proposed ICSU programme on Hazards (now known as Integrated Research on Disaster Risk) is seen as the natural continuation of the IYPE research work. In addition to the main invited papers, shorter presentations were also made by scientists working on IYPE Hazards projects related to landslides, seismic faults, and major catastrophes over geological time scales. Springer has agreed to publish the proceedings as part of the IYPE Book Series.

Received from T. Beer, an organizer of the MegaSymposium

7. Honors and Awards

Ralph Cicerone, President of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, Adhering Organization to IUGG, has been elected a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Dr. R. Cicerone is an atmospheric scientist whose research in atmospheric chemistry and climate change has involved him in shaping science and environmental policy at the highest levels nationally and internationally.

8. 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 according to their disciplines.

- 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.
 - December 15-19, AGU, San Francisco, California, Fall Meeting.
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End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 8 Number 10 (October 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.