



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

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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 President attends Union Association Scientific Assemblies

IUGG President Tom Beer participated in the MOCA09 Scientific Assembly, a joint scientific assembly of IACS, IAMAS, and IAPSO held in Montreal, Canada, 19- 29 July. Tom Beer attended the IACS Executive Committee meeting, two IAPSO Executive Committee meetings, and two IAMAS Executive Committee meetings. He also took the opportunity to present a scientific talk on 24 July on the Natural Hazards Program of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). The IUGG Presidential speech at the opening ceremony stressed the 90th birthday of IUGG and reminded the attendees that the next opportunity for the three associations to get together is in Melbourne in 2011. Tom Beer hosted an IUGG President's dinner at which two of the members of the professional conference organisers for the Melbourne 2011 General Assembly briefed the Presidents and Secretaries-General of IACS, IAMAS and IAPSO on the status of our preparations.



IUGG President Tom Beer (right) and IAMAS President Guoxiong Wu in leisure mode at a poster discussion during MOCA-09

IUGG President Tom Beer also participated in the IAGA Scientific Assembly held in Sopron, Hungary, 22- 30 August and attended three meetings of the IAGA Executive, and two meetings of the Council of Delegates – giving a speech at the first Executive meeting and at the first Delegates meeting. The Hungarian organisers of the assembly had tied the IAGA event to the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) and there was a large screen in the square outside the conference venue showing IYPE material. The organizers had also arranged a press conference with the IUGG President, the President of the Hungarian Academy of Science, the Presidents of the Hungarian National Committees for IUGG and IYPE, the President and the Secretary-General of IAGA, and a few others. The opening ceremony was held in the main town square and, in his Presidential speech, Tom Beer emphasised the importance of IAGA to IUGG, and his wish that all attendees would be able to come to Melbourne in 2011 to attend the IUGG General Assembly.



Before the press conference: Tom Beer (left) with Jozsef Palinkas, President of the Hungarian Academy of Science, and Jozsef Adam, President of the Hungarian National Committee for IUGG.

Furthermore, IUGG President Tom Beer participated in the IAG Scientific Assembly held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 31 August to 4 September. Tom Beer addressed the Scientific Assembly highlighting the importance of IAG for IUGG (the association was the first of the scientific associations to come into existence) and advertised the IUGG2011 Melbourne Assembly. On Tuesday, 1 September, Tom Beer paid a courtesy visit to Alberto Riccardi, President of the International Union of Geological Sciences. They discussed the new ICSU leadership and the process underway to identify a new Global Geoscience Initiative (*see next article*) for UNESCO.

Tom Beer met the members of the Argentine National Committee of IUGG. They held a presentation on the structure and activities of the National Committee, and Tom Beer gave a speech to them indicating how Argentina could help IUGG, and how IUGG could help Argentina.



Tom Beer (centre) with the members of the Argentine National Committee for IUGG

2. Report on the Business Meeting of the Russian National Committee for IUGG

A business meeting of the Russian National Committee for IUGG was held on 4 June 2009 in Pereslavl-Zalesky (Russia) in conjunction with the International Conference “Electronic Geophysical Year: State of the Art and Results” (the report on the conference has been published in E-Journal, Vol. 9, No. 8 on 1 August 2009). The meeting was chaired by Alexei Gvishiani, President of the National Committee. The IUGG Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh addressed the members of the Committee and spoke about the promotion of IUGG science in Russia. The IUGG Secretary General discussed the possibilities for fruitful cooperation and presented the report on the IUGG activities of the last year. The Committee members reported about their activities in IUGG Associations, Committees and Working Groups. The meeting was attended by observers coming from various Russian research institutions related to geodesy and geophysics. The IUGG Secretary General gave an interview for a local newspaper on the topic of how IUGG promotes activities of young scientists.



After the business meeting of the Russian National Committee for IUGG

3. Global Geoscience Initiative Proposal

To discuss a new global geoscience initiative, several representatives of geoscience organizations, including the American Geological Institute, the British Geological Survey, the Geological Society of America, the Geological Society of London, the European Geosciences Union, the International Lithosphere Program, IUGG, and UNESCO, met in London on 16 July 2009. President Tom Beer represented IUGG. As the triennium of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) reaches its end in 2010, there is a wish to explore the scope to launch a global geoscience initiative, to use the momentum generated by IYPE and three other international years (the International Polar Year, the International Heliophysical Year, the Electronic Geophysical Year), and to take forward the aims expressed in the Tsukuba Declaration, issued jointly by participants in these programmes. The aims of the meeting were (i) to establish whether the concept of a global geoscience initiative is viable; (ii) to discuss institutional arrangements, and the roles and relationships of key organisations (including IYPE, whose activities will draw to a close in June 2010); (iii) to discuss how working science communities might be engaged; and (iv) to agree next steps in the process. The group agreed to put forward the proposal for a global geoscience initiative. The first steps are to prepare a one-page flier and to circulate it to key institutions and individuals inviting them to participate in GSA (October 2009) and AGU (December 2009) ‘town hall’ meetings. Short presentations by internationally renowned speakers will be followed by open discussion. You are warmly invited to take part and to contribute to the development of this exciting initiative. The proposal will also be discussed at the closing of the IYPE event in Lisbon (November 2009), and at events in other parts of the world over the coming months. If the initiative attracts support and engages the community, it is hoped to formally launch it at the EGU General Assembly in Vienna (May 2010).

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

Global Observations

ICSU participated in the meetings of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the Science and Technology Committee (STC) and the Architecture and Data Committee (ADC) in Italy in May. The STC meeting focused on finalising the STC roadmap and planning for the two new GEO Tasks on Science and Technology. ICSU will contribute to the Task “Promoting Awareness and Benefits of GEO in the Science and Technology Community”. The ADC welcomed plans for establishing close links between the new ICSU World Data System and GEO. The ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) continues to act as the principal partner of GEO in efforts to reach agreement on the GEO Data Sharing Principles and the respective Implementation Guidelines. The Interagency Coordination and Planning Committee (ICPC) for Earth Observations appointed R. Valentini (Italy) as chair of the Steering Committee for the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS). The ICPC also reviewed the progress in reaching agreement on the single Memorandum of Understanding between the sponsoring organisations of the three global observing systems: climate (GCOS), oceans (GOOS) and terrestrial (GTOS).

Urban Health

The fourth meeting of the Urban Health and Well-being Planning Group took place in Paris in May. This included a meeting with local urban policy makers and researchers in a deprived suburb of the city, which gave insights into the complexity of factors affecting the interplay between housing conditions and individual and community health and well-being. The next meeting is planned for Beijing and Guangzhou in November and will include similar interactions with local urban stakeholders and academics.

Regional Office for Africa

The Panel for mid-term review of the ICSU Regional Office for Africa, chaired by Indira Nath (India), has been appointed and held its first meeting in Paris in June. More information, including Terms of Reference and biographies of the panel members, is available at http://www.icsu.org/5_abouticsu/STRUCT_Comm_Adhoc_ROAR.html.

The 9th Meeting of the ICSU Regional Committee for Africa took place in Cameroon in March. Discussion items included implementation of the four Science Plans, the process for the Mid-term Review of the Regional Office for Africa (ROA), staffing and funding of the ROA secretariat, and the outline of the 2010-11 ROA Business Plan. More news are available at the ROA web-site: <http://www.icsu-africa.org/index.html>

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

The 7th Meeting of the ICSU Regional Committee for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) was held in Malaysia in April, where Bruce McKellar (Australia) was elected chair of the committee. The sustainable energy Science Plan was discussed and the final draft is now being prepared for publication. The committee also decided that the third Regional Consultation will take place in Penang, Malaysia, 13-14 October 2009.

The Spring School on Fluid Mechanics and Geophysics of Environmental Hazards, which received funding from the ICSU Grants Programme, was held in Singapore in May. The School is promoted jointly by two of ICSU's Scientific Unions: the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, and ROAP. More news are available at the ROAP web-site: <http://www.icsu-asia-pacific.org/>

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

The 6th Meeting of the ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean took place in Mexico in March. This was followed by the second Regional Consultation where the final drafts of the four Science Plans were approved for publication (they will be available in English, Spanish and Portuguese) and the UNESCO First Regional Forum "Science, Technology and Innovation Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, Towards a New Social Contract for Science" at which preparations were made for the World Conference on Science +10 (WCS+10). More news are available at the ROLAC web-site: <http://www.icsu-lac.org/>.

Source: ICSU Newsletter, July 2009, volume 7

5. Report on the Joint Science Committee Meeting of the World Climate Research Program (WCRP)

The 30th Joint Science Committee (JSC-30) Meeting of the World Climate Research Program (WCRP) was held at the Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center (ESSIC), University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA, 6-9 April 2009. The newly elected President of the JSC A. J. Busalacchi presided at the whole JSC Meeting. The agenda of the meeting included WCRP accomplishments in 2008; WCRP review; risk assessment/management from the perspective of users of climate information; WCRP intermediate and long-term planning; legacy and new science issues; WCRP post 2013 and some others. In addition to the agenda, three round-table sessions were organized. The first round-table session brought together WCRP sponsors (WMO, ICSU, IOC, and funding agencies). The second session involved WCRP Partners (IGBP, IHDP, DIVERSITAS, ESSP, START, GCOS) and was held after the core projects and working groups had presented their intermediate-term plans, the path to 2013 and beyond, legacy and new science issues. The third session discussed WCRP of the future, including emerging climate science and societal needs; observations and analysis; processes and modelling; predictions, projections and applications interface. Finally, the JSC Executive Session formed the JSC 30 actions and recommendations.

Received from Guoxiong Wu, the IUGG liaison to WCRP

6. IUGG-related meetings occurring during October – December 2009

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 27 - October 4, IAVCEI, Morelia, Michoacán, México, Monogenetic volcanism in the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt and elsewhere.
- September 28 – October 10, IASPEI, IUGG GeoRisk Commission, ICTP, Trieste, Italy, Advanced School on Non-linear Dynamics and Earthquake Prediction.
- October 8-13, IUGG events in Melbourne, Australia (Bureau, EC, and Science Program Committee business meetings and a Scientific Day in CSIRO to celebrate 90th anniversary of IUGG)
- October 14-16, IAG, Padua, Italy, 2nd International Colloquium “Scientific and Fundamental Aspects of the Galileo Programme” (COSPAR Colloquium).
- October 15-19, Euroscience, Athens, Greece, Euroscience Mediterranean Event 2009 (ESME 2009)
- October 19-21, IAG, Warsaw, Poland, IERS Workshop on EOP Combination and Prediction.
- October 21-25, IAHS, Wuhan, China, ModelCARE 2009
- November 10-13. IACS, Vienna, Austria, International Workshop on Glacier Hazards, Permafrost Hazards and GLOFs in Mountain Areas: Processes, Assessment, Prevention, Mitigation
- November 11-12 IUGG, Tanta, Egypt, 6th International Symposium on Geophysics
- November 30 – December 11, IUGG, IAGA, Brazzaville, Congo, Scientific School on GPS and GIS
- December 14-18, AGU, San Francisco, California, USA, Fall Meeting
- December 18-22, IUGG / IAGA, Cairo, Egypt, IAGA Symposium 2: Solar wind - Space Environment Interaction

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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.