



**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.

Contents

1. Happy New Year!
2. IUGG Yearbook for 2010
3. Second Call for Invitations to Host the 2015 IUGG General Assembly
4. Nominations for the IUGG Bureau and Finance Committee for 2011-2015 are open
5. IUGG Grants Programme 2008-2011 – Second Call
6. Report on the IAGA Scientific Assembly in Sopron
7. Report on the IAHS Scientific Assembly in Hyderabad
8. News from the International Council for Science (ICSU)
9. News from the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE)
10. Honours and Awards
11. IUGG-related meetings occurring during January - March 2010

1. Happy New Year!

The Year 2009 went down in history as the year of the 90th anniversary of our Union. Major activities and events in the life of the Union in 2009 include the following:

- Scientific Assemblies held around the world: IASPEI Assembly in Cape Town (South Africa), MOCA-09 Joint Assembly of IACS, IAMAS, and IAPSO in Montreal (Canada), IAGA Assembly in Sopron (Hungary), IAG Assembly in Buenos Aires (Argentina), and IAHS Assembly in Hyderabad (India);
- the IUGG Bureau and Executive Committee met 8-11 October in Melbourne;
- the Science Program Committee met twice (in May in Munich and in October in Melbourne) to discuss the scientific program of the XXV General Assembly of IUGG to be held in Melbourne, 27 June to 8 July 2011;
- new Union Committees (Capacity Building and Education, Honours and Recognition, Membership Issues, and Visioning) were set up to increase IUGG visibility worldwide;
- IUGG strengthened further its relationship with ICSU GeoUnions via cooperation in programmes on natural hazards and health & well-being;
- Georgia joined IUGG as an associate member; Bulgaria moved to a regular member of the Union; and India enhanced its membership category from 5 to 6.

The IUGG Secretariat thanks the Union Associations and Commissions as well as individuals who helped making the year 2009 exciting and productive in strengthening international geophysical science for the benefit of society.

Best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy, and prosperous year 2010!

2. IUGG Yearbook for 2010

The 2010 Yearbook is now available at the IUGG web site electronically in PDF format (<http://www.iugg.org/publications/yearbooks/yearbook2010.pdf>). The IUGG web site maintains the directory of Union and Association officials and the archive of IUGG memberships and General Assemblies. Thanks to all of the National Committees and the Associations for helping to update the information in the IUGG Yearbook! During 2010, updates on addresses and other information in the Yearbook should be sent to the Secretariat (secretariat@iugg.org) as soon as they are known. Our goal is to update the Yearbook as needed throughout the year. The Yearbook will be published together with the 2009 Annual Report and sent to the National Members in May 2010.

3. Second Call for Invitations to Host the 2015 IUGG General Assembly

Invitations to host the 2015 General Assembly are now being accepted and must be received by 27 December 2010 (six month before the next General Assembly, consistent with IUGG By-Law 6). The Guidelines for proposals are posted on the IUGG web site (<http://www.iugg.org/assemblies/>) or can be received directly from the IUGG Secretariat [secretariat@iugg.org]. All invitations will be evaluated by an IUGG committee appointed for that purpose, and a report will be given to the IUGG Council before their final vote. The IUGG Council, at their 2011 meeting in Melbourne, will make the final selection from the invitations that are received.

4. Nominations for the IUGG Bureau and Finance Committee for 2011-2015 are open

The IUGG Council, at its final meeting in Melbourne in 2011, will elect the IUGG Bureau Members for the coming quadrennium (2011-2015). These include the President, Vice- President, Treasurer, and 3 Members of the Bureau. (The Secretary-General was elected for two terms in 2007.) Also the Council elects at the General Assembly four members of the Finance Committee. On 30 November 2009 IUGG President T. Beer has announced the appointment of the members of the Nominating Committee for IUGG Bureau and Finance Committee Members for 2011-2015 as follows:

Chair: *Masaru Kono* (Japan)

Members: *Gerhard Beutler* (Switzerland), *Marta Calvache* (Colombia), *Vladimir Cermak* (Czech Republic)

The Nominating Committee has the task of collecting the nominations and preparing the ballot, following the rules regarding nominations and elections for these positions (IUGG Statute 11 and By-Law 10).

Instructions regarding the procedures to be used to submit nominations will be posted on the IUGG web-site and will be mailed to all IUGG/ Association officers and Adhering Organizations soon. The first deadline for nominations is 25 September 2010. For further information, contact M. Kono (masarukono@gmail.com) or the IUGG Secretariat.

5. IUGG Grants Programme 2008-2011 – Second Call

IUGG Grants Programme for 2008-2011 opens new call for applications. Key priority areas are defined in line with IUGG overall scientific strategies:

- (a) Creation of New Knowledge in Geodesy and Geophysics;
- (b) Dissemination of Data and Information on Geophysics and Geodesy;
- (c) Geo-science for Sustainable Development;
- (d) Geo-science and Policy Interface;
- (e) Geo-science in Africa.

Proposals can be submitted by IUGG Associations and Union Commissions *only*. Associations' bodies (e.g., Commissions, Task and Work Groups) seeking funding for a project should submit their proposals via relevant Union Associations. Preference will be given to proposals that are multidisciplinary, especially those involving more than two of the IUGG Associations and Union Commissions. Proposals should be global or regional in scope and involve a multi-national group, especially scientist from developing countries, women, and younger researchers.

The number of proposals to be funded per year is not fixed, but depends upon relevance, quality, proposal budget requests, and total amount of funds available for the Grant Programme. The total funding for the Programme in 2010-2011 is US\$75,000. Typical size of grants is expected to range between US\$10,000±5,000. Co-sponsorship from other sources is encouraged.

Deadline for project proposal submission is **1 March 2010**. Application forms can be obtained from the IUGG Secretariat by the Secretaries-General of IUGG Associations or Union Commissions. Applicants should submit their applications electronically by e-mail to the IUGG Assistant Secretary General (Simone.Oswald@kit.edu).

6. Report on the IAGA Scientific Assembly in Sopron

By the end of summer in Hungary and a few days after hosting German Chancellor Angela Merkel visiting for the twentieth anniversary of the Pan-European Picnic, Sopron, a town well-known for both its old and recent history, opened its gate to some 800 geoscientists ready to enjoy the 11th IAGA Scientific Assembly. More than 830 people participated in this event. The Scientific Assembly covered all scientific fields of interest in the Association, with 56 sessions and 2 inspiring Association Lectures. The number of contributions was significant, 1250 papers of which 796 were scheduled as oral presentations and 454 as posters.

2009 being the last year of the IGY+50 anniversary years, the Hungarian website of International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) included brochures about the IYPE themes in the Hungarian language as well as the information about another International Years held in 2007-2009. The role of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) in outreach and the press program was extremely useful. The Assembly, full of exciting scientific results, was held in a framework of social interaction not only

between the scientists, but also with the town inhabitants and its great cultural atmosphere. This Scientific Assembly was one of the very best organized ever, and the LOC, with László Szarka as Chair, did an impressive work.



Participants of the IAGA Scientific Assembly

Springer Science+Business Media will publish the IAGA Special Sopron Book Series as a sub-series to the IYPE series as a legacy to the Year. The program and abstract book, the videos about the two association lectures are downloadable from the conference website www.iaga2009sopron.hu.



During the IAGA Scientific Assembly, IUGG President Tom Beer presented IYPE commemorative coins to the President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Jozsef Palinkas in the presence of the Mayor of Sopron Thomas Fodor.

The 11th Scientific Assembly also marked the end of the nominal 8-year term of the Secretary General, *Bengt Hultqvist*. In the Executive Committee of IAGA he represented a genuine wisdom acquired through a long scientific career with extensive leadership and management experience. As Secretary General he combined this wisdom with a developed sense for details and promptness that

all IAGA and in particular the National Correspondents benefited from in the daily operation of IAGA business matters. The Assembly elected Mioara Manda (Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris, France) as the Secretary General of IAGA.

Received from Mioara Manda, IAGA Secretary-General and
Eigil Friis-Christensen, IAGA President

7. Report on the IAHS Scientific Assembly in Hyderabad

The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) in association with the Association of Hydrologists of India (AHI) hosted the Joint International Convention (JIC) of the 8th Scientific Assembly of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) and 37th Congress of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) from 6 to 12 September 2009. The focal theme of the JIC was "Water: A vital resource under stress: How science can help". The IAHS and IAH are the pivotal global scientific associations dealing with the hydrological sciences and are committed to propagation of the recent trends in the development and management of water resources in different parts of the world.



Participants of the Joint IAHS-IAH Convention in Hyderabad.

The Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Higher Education) of the Government of India Mrs. D. Purandeswari, the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee Vijay Dimri, IAHS President Arthur Askew, and IAH President Willi Struckmeier addressed the delegates at the opening ceremony. The IAHS Secretary-General Pierre Hubert and IAH Secretary-General Shaminder Puri presented reports on worldwide activities of the associations. Ghislain de Marsily (University of Paris VI, France) presented a key-note lecture "Freshwater stocks on Earth as ice, surface water, ground water: are we losing water?" He emphasized the need for focusing attention towards other issues also like type of food, habits, availability of quality soil etc to manage the water resources more effectively. Another important event of the JIC was a special lecture "Hard-rock aquifers in tropical regions- using science to inform development and management" delivered by Stephen Foster (World Bank GW-MATE Director and IAH Past President). He opined that there should be better coordination between water users and knowledge centers in order to educate the users about the conservation and usages of ground water in sustainable manner.

JIC was structured into 22 symposia dealing with almost all topics of hydrological sciences such as ecohydrology, hydroinformatics, ground water sustainability in highly stressed aquifers, integrated

water resources management, interaction between surface and ground water, transboundary water management, isotope hydrology, high mountain snow and ice hydrology, sediment management in Asian river, flood risk management, prediction in ungauged basins, precipitation variability and water resources, new statistics in hydrology, ground water development and management in hard rock region, ground water pollution, socio-economic issues relevant to ground water etc. A field trip to the Himayat Sagar and Osman Sagar, which are the main sources of drinking water supply to the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, was organized. More than 500 delegates from 62 countries attended the Joint convention and presented more than 680 research papers in 121 oral sessions and 9 poster sessions. At the closing ceremony H. Gupta (IUGG Vice-President), W. Struckmeier, G. Young (IAHS President-elect), and V.P. Dimri presented their views on significance of the JIC and the need for scientific approaches to be practiced for sustainable development and management of water resources. The several pre-conference volumes are published as IAHS red books.



*G. Young received the IAHS President's silver plate at the handing over ceremony.
From left to right: K. Takeuchi (former IAHS President), U. Shamir
(former IAHS President and Past-President of IUGG), G. Young,
A. Askew (Past-President of IAHS), and P. Hubert (IAHS Secretary-General).*

Received from Pierre Hubert, IAHS Secretary-General

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

China to host new international disaster research programme

China will host the office of the new ICSU programme “Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)”. The IRDR is a major new 10-year international research programme that aims to provide answers to the growing global problem of disasters and how countries can reduce the root causes of disaster risk. In a break from past approaches, it will combine diverse expertise and perspectives into one coordinated effort, drawing on the natural, socio-economic, health and engineering sciences.

The International Programme Office for IRDR will be established in Beijing at the Headquarters of the Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth (CEODE)—the first time an international office of this type has been hosted in Asia. ICSU, along with the other IRDR co-sponsors – the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) – selected Beijing following an international call for offers. The office will be jointly funded by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). “China offers an impressive array of facilities and talented researchers within Beijing, and throughout the country. I am confident that the programme office will benefit from the support and resources that will be put at its disposal,” said Gordon McBean, Chair of the IRDR Scientific Committee. “The research community in China—and throughout Asia—will also benefit since IRDR and its office will be a catalyst for the interdisciplinary work that is necessary for sustainable risk reduction,” McBean added.

CEODE is recognised for its commitment to scientific research, with wide experience and expertise in research on disaster mitigation – especially remote sensing, data collection and modelling. The centre also has as a proven track record in international cooperation; establishing long-term partnerships with institutions from more than 20 countries and international organisations. The International Programme Office will not only support the management and administrative needs of IRDR; it will also play a major role in organising the capacity building and outreach activities that will be important for the success of the programme. “Our first task will be to ensure that the office has a secretariat that is both innovative and responsive. This will ensure that the IRDR programme has the behind-the-scenes support that will be essential if it is to successfully address the challenge of natural and human-induced hazards and disasters,” said McBean.

More information: http://www.icsu.org/1_icsuinscience/ENVI_Hazards_1.html,
CEODE: <http://english.ceode.cas.cn>

Source: Joint Press Release by ICSU, ISSC (International Social Science Council) and UN-ISPDR (UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction), 13 November 2009

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

Report on the First World Congress for Young Earth-Scientists

The First World Congress for Young Earth-Scientists (YES Congress) was held at the University of Geosciences, Beijing, China on 25-28 October 2009. The YES network is an association of earth-scientists under the age of 35 years representing geological societies from around the world, in collaboration with the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). This congress focuses on global climate, environmental and geological challenges facing today’s society, and aims to establish an interdisciplinary global network of individuals committed to solving these challenges. This congress was supported by the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), IUGS, UNESCO, and some other organizations. More than 300 participants from about 40 countries and regions over the world participated in the congress. 14 topical sessions and 9 roundtable symposia were held during the congress. The 14 topical sessions covered the topics of the IYPE, namely, underground water, disasters, Earth and health, energy, climate, mineral resources, megacities, deep Earth, ocean, soils, Earth and life, as well as the Tibet Plateau upward, shifting, and global changes, digital Earth engineering, geoheritage conversation and geoparks. The 9 roundtable symposia contained issues facing global geoscience education and research; natural hazards; climate change; natural resources and energy sustainability; international licensure; industry-academic linkages; women in the

geoscience workforce; synthesis and strategy; and geology philosophy of China and geological culture. IUGG was represented at the congress by Jianping Li, the Secretary-General of the Chinese National Committee for IUGG. He is the member of the YES International Scientific Council and was the Scientific Council Advisor of the Roundtable symposium 3 on Climate Change. The next YES Congress will be held in conjunction with the 34th International Geological Congress in Brisbane, Australia (August 2012, www.34igc.org)

Received from Jianping Li, IUGG representative at the YES Congress

Meeting of the Board of Directors of the IYPE Corporation

The IYPE Board meeting was held on 19 November 2009 in Lisbon (Portugal). Several important topics were considered at the meeting: status of the corporation; activities of the IYPE Secretariat in 2009 and expectations for 2010; financial review of IYPE activities in 2007-2008, implementation of the IYPE budget for 2009, and proposed budget for 2010; reports of the Development, Outreach and Science committees; discussion on the IYPE national committees and IYPE international events in 2009-2010, IYPE legacy; and the future scientific and outreach activities. A technical report on the IYPE triennium is to be presented to the United Nation as well as to the IYPE Founding and International Partners. To assist the IYPE Secretariat in preparation of the report, a working group represented by the Board members was formed (David Dent as Chair, Alik Ismail-Zadeh and Eduardo Rubio as members of the group). The financial reports for 2007 and 2008 were approved unanimously. The Board discussed the outreach activities, specifically the production of the new Planet Earth books, Planet Earth TV program, and IYPE exhibitions. Also the Board discussed a current status of the IYPE-Springer book series. It was reported that the first book on the Deep Earth was already published (Eds. S. Cloetingh and J. Negendank, ILP) and the next one on Geophysical Hazards is in press (Ed. T. Beer, IUGG). Many IYPE National Committees were active in 2009. The joint meeting of the Science Program Committee and representatives of the African national committees were held in 2009 in Pretoria, South Africa. The IYPE initiative to develop a major geoscience program will be discussed in San Francisco at the AGU Fall Meeting, December 2009, and in Vienna at the EGU General Assembly, May 2010. Ed de Mulder, Executive Director of the IYPE Corporation, reported on the major items of the IYPE legacy: OneGeology project, series of IYPE books, etc. During discussion it was emphasized that one of the major achievement of the IYPE was fruitful cooperation of many geosciences unions and societies worldwide, industrial partners, media and representatives of the government, aimed to highlight the achievements of Earth scientists and to show the importance of our science for society.

Conference “Planet Earth: Present for the Future”

The Conference was held in Camoes Theatre in Lisbon, Portugal, 20-21 November 2009. The President of the Republic of Portugal, the President of the European Commission, and a personal representative of the UNESCO Director-General addressed the meeting at the opening ceremony. Research ministers of several countries (Portugal, Cape Verde, Angola, Norway, and Tanzania) presented their national science policies. Several symposia were held during the two-day conference: “Renewable Energy”, “Sustainable Land and Water Management”, “One Geology”, “Planet Ocean”, “Youth and Earth”, “IYPE and International Partners”, “Planet Earth Africa”. IUGG was invited to give a talk at the “Youth and Earth” Symposium. Alik Ismail-Zadeh presented the IUGG activities related to early career scientists. During Award Ceremony, 17 IYPE National Committees received recognition from the IYPE Corporation: Angola, Austria, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Tanzania, UK, and USA.

10. Honours and Awards

Mark A. Parsons, member of the IUGG Union Committee on Data and Information, received the Charles S. Falkenberg Award of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), presented jointly by AGU and the Earth Science Information Partnership (ESIP), at the 2009 Summer Federation of Earth Science Information Partners Conference, held 7–10 July 2009 in Santa Barbara, California (USA). The award honors “a scientist under 45 years of age who has contributed to the quality of life, economic opportunities, and stewardship of the planet through the use of Earth science information and to the public awareness of the importance of understanding our planet”. Congratulations to Mark!

11. IUGG-related meetings occurring during January – March 2010

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.

- February 1-3, IACS, Valdivia, Chile, International Glaciological Conference Ice and Climate Change: A View from the South (VICC 2010).
 - February 4-7, IUGS, Varanasi, India, Sixth International Dyke Conference.
 - February 15-19, AGU, Hyderabad, India, Chapman Conference on Complexity and Extreme Events in Geosciences.
 - February 22-26, AGU, Portland, USA, 2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting.
 - February 25-28, IUGG, Manila, Philippines, EMSEV-PHIVOLCS International Workshop on Monitoring Active Volcanoes by Electromagnetic and other Geophysical Methods: Application to Asian volcanoes.
 - March 2-5, IAG, IUGG, Havana, Cuba V Congreso Agrimensura.
 - March 14-18, AGU, Baltimore, USA, Chapman Conference on the Exploration and Study of Antarctic Subglacial Aquatic Environments.
 - March 24-26, IAHS, Agadir, Maroc, Integrated Water Resources Management and Challenges of the Sustainable Development (GIRE3D)
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End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 10 Number 1 (1 January 2010)

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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.