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NOTE: This June issue of the IUGG E-Journal follows 2 weeks from the 1 June issue. The next issue will appear on 1 August, but there will not be a July issue. Normal E-Journal issues should resume in August. These unusual issue dates are necessary to accommodate the events leading up to, and including, the General Assembly.

Special Issue for the XXVth General Assembly of the IUGG
Melbourne, Australia, 27 June-8 July 2010
www.iugg2011.com

This special newsletter provides the latest information and key dates for the IUGG2011 General Assembly to be held in Melbourne, Australia, from 27 June to 8 July 2011.

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1. The XXVth General Assembly of the IUGG (www.iugg2011.com)

IUGG General Assemblies are held every four years and provide an opportunity for scientists from 69 Member Countries and from the eight Union Associations that comprise the IUGG to come together to share their latest scientific discoveries. This will be the first time that the General Assembly has been held in Melbourne – considered one of the safest and most livable cities in the world – and only the second time that it has been held in Australia (the previous occasion being the XVII General Assembly in Canberra in 1979). Australia and New Zealand are ideal destinations for holidays and tourism, offering exotic touring opportunities. The indigenous Aboriginal culture of Australia and the Maori culture of New Zealand are unique in the world

The General Assembly will be held in the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre positioned in the middle of the city. The centre is shown in the illustration below and more information is at <http://www.mcec.com.au/>. This is the only 6 Star Green Star environmentally rated convention centre in the world and offers IUGG attendees the advantage of having all the sessions conveniently held in the one building.

2. Scientific Program of the Assembly

The Scientific Program of the XXVth General Assembly of the IUGG will run from **Tuesday 28 June until Thursday 7 July**. Each day will consist of four 90-minute sessions and one poster session (excluding the first Tuesday and the second Thursday). The Tuesday afternoon session of the first week will be the Opening Ceremony, the Thursday afternoon session of the second week is the Closing Ceremony, and three morning sessions will have Union Plenary presentations.

The Scientific Program of the 2011 IUGG General Assembly includes three categories of symposia and a number of workshops on a wide range of geophysical themes. These include:

- **Union Symposia** which cover a wide range of themes of concern to the eight Associations. Invited speakers feature in these Symposia, supported by poster presentations selected by the convenors from those submitted. Some of the Union Symposia are expanded or followed in greater depth in related Joint Symposia or in Association Symposia.
- **Joint Symposia** with keynote speakers and scientists whose presentations (which consist of oral and poster presentations) are accepted by the session convenors. The themes have been devised by at least two Associations, one of which is the lead Association. Some Joint Symposia are developed further separately in Association Symposia and Workshops.
- **Association Symposia** with keynote speakers and scientists whose presentations (which consist of oral and poster presentations) are accepted by the session convenors. The eight Associations, and the single letter code used to identify them, are:
 - C - IACS International Association of Cryospheric Sciences
 - G - IAG International Association of Geodesy
 - A - IAGA International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy
 - H - IAHS International Association of Hydrological Sciences
 - M - IAMAS International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science
 - P - IAPSO International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans
 - S - IASPEI International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior
 - V - IAVCEI International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior

The detailed Scientific Program is available online at: <http://www.iugg2011.com/program.asp>.

3. Union Plenary Lectures

The scientific theme for the General Assembly is Earth on the Edge: Science for a Sustainable Planet. The IUGG President has invited nine of the world's leading geo-scientists to present Plenary Lectures on the following topics, listed in the order of presentation:

- **Environmental Observations as a Basis for Environmental Intelligence** (by *Greg Ayers*, Australian Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne, Australia)
- **Present-day Sea Level Rise: How Unusual and Can We Explain It?** (by *Anny Cazenave*, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, Toulouse, France)
- **The Hidden History of Ice Sheets: The Secret to Predicting Sea-level Rise** (by *David Vaughan*, British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge, UK)
- **Probing the Earth** (by *Brian Kennett*, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia)

- **Forecasting Earthquakes and Predicting Their Hazards** (by *Tom Jordan*, University of South California, Los Angeles, USA)
- **The Challenge in Earth Observation: From the Fast Response to Catastrophic Events to the Reliable Detection of Very Small Trends** (by *Markus Rothacher*, ETH Zurich, Switzerland)
- **Assessing Solar and Solar-Terrestrial Influences as a Component of Earth's Climate Change Picture** (by *Dan Baker*, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA)
- **Hydrology and Change** (by *Demetris Koutsoyiannis*, National Technical University of Athens, Greece)
- **Volcanism and Global Sustainability** (by *Steve Self*, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Alameda, USA)

The abstract of the lectures can be viewed at

http://www.iugg2011.com/pdf/IUGG_UnionSpeakersAbstracts_revAIZ.pdf

The short CVs of the Speakers are available at <http://www.iugg2011.com/speakers.asp>

4. Important Events

Following are a list of special scientific and business events that will take place during the General Assembly, in chronological order (room number is in parentheses). The full list of business meetings can be found at: <http://www.iugg2011.com/program-business-meetings.asp>

Monday, 27 June	14:00 – 18:00	First session of the IUGG Council Meeting (Room MR106)
Tuesday, 28 June	08:30 – 10:00 10:30 – 12:00 13:30 – 15:00	Union Symposium U12 “ <i>Geoscience and the Future of the Planet Earth</i> ” (Room MR203)
Tuesday, 28 June	16:30 – 18:00	Opening Ceremony
Tuesday, 28 June	18:00 – 20:00	Welcome Reception
Wednesday, 29 June	08:30 – 10:00 10:30 – 12:00 13:30 – 15:00	Union Symposium U02 “ <i>Grand Challenges in Natural Hazards Research and Risk Analysis</i> ” (Room MR203)
Wednesday, 29 June	16:30 – 18:00	Open Forum on Natural Hazards as a part of U02 (Room MR203)
Thursday, 30 June	08:30 – 10:00 13:30 – 15:00	Hearing of the IUGG Site Evaluation Committee (open to Council Members and Guests, Room MR102)
Thursday, 30 June	10:30 – 12:00	Union Plenary. Speakers: <i>Greg Ayers (Australia)</i> , <i>Anny Cazenave (France)</i> , <i>David Vaughan (UK)</i> (Room PH2)
Thursday, 30 June	13:30 – 15:00 16:30 – 18:00	Union Symposium U08 “ <i>Global and Regional Sea Level Change</i> ” (Room MR203)
Friday, 1 July	08:30 – 10:00 10:30 – 12:00	Union Symposium U04 “ <i>Progress and Perspectives in Studies of the Continental Lithosphere</i> ” (Room PH2)
Friday, 1 July	13:30 – 15:00 16:30 – 18:00	Union Symposium U06 “ <i>Geoengineering</i> ” (Room PH2)

Saturday, 2 July	08:30 – 10:00 10:30 – 12:00	Union Symposium U10 “ <i>Climate Change</i> ” (Room PH2)
Saturday, 2 July	10:00 – 13:00	Second Session of the IUGG Council Meeting (Room MR106)
Saturday, 2 July	13:30 – 15:00 16:30 – 18:00	Union Symposium U02e “ <i>Earth on the Edge - Recent Pacific Rim Disasters</i> ” (Room PH2)
Saturday, 2 July	19:00 – 21:00	Presidential Reception (by invitations only)
Sunday, 3 July	10:30 – 12:00	Union Plenary. Speakers: <i>Brian Kennett (Australia), Thomas Jordan (USA), Markus Rothacher (Switzerland)</i> (Room PH2)
Sunday, 3 July	13:30 – 15:00 16:30 – 18:00	Union Symposium U01 “ <i>Science & Nuclear Test Ban Monitoring</i> ” (Room MR210)
Monday, 4 July	08:30 – 10:00 10:30 – 12:00	Union Symposium U07 “ <i>Mathematical Tools in Geophysical Modeling</i> ” (Room PH2)
Monday, 4 July	13:30 – 15:00 16:30 – 18:00	Union Symposium U09 “ <i>Do We Really Know the Hydrological Cycle?</i> ” (Room PH2)
Tuesday, 5 July	08:30 – 10:00	Union Symposium U07 “ <i>Mathematical Tools in Geophysical Modeling</i> ” (Room PH2)
Tuesday, 5 July	10:30 – 12:00	Union Plenary. Speakers: <i>Daniel Baker (USA), Demetris Koutsoyiannis (Greece), Stephen Self (USA)</i> (Room PH2)
Tuesday, 5 July	13:30 – 15:00 16:30 – 18:00	Union Symposium U03 “ <i>Recent Progress in the Studies of the Earth’s Deep Interior</i> ” (Room PH2)
Wednesday, 6 July	08:30 – 10:00 10:30 – 12:00 13:30 – 15:00	Union Symposium U11 “ <i>Earth and Space Science in Africa</i> ” (Room PH2)
Wednesday, 6 July	15:00 – 18:00	Third Session of the IUGG Council Meeting (Room MR106)
Thursday, 7 July	08:30 – 10:00 10:30 – 12:00 13:30 – 15:00	Union Symposium U05 “ <i>Data Science / Informatics and Data Assimilation in Geophysical Models</i> ” (Room MR203)
Thursday, 7 July	16:30 – 18:00	Closing Ceremony

5. Information for Council Delegates

The IUGG Council Meeting will be held on **27 June** (1st Session), **2 July** (2nd Session), and **6 July** (3rd Session) in **Room MR106**. Attendance is restricted to accredited Delegates and invited Guests. Please ensure that the Adhering Body has sent the original letter of accreditation to the IUGG Secretariat and issued credentials for delegates to the Association Plenaries. Please carry a copy of your accreditation letter when you attend the Council meeting.

Of the 69 members of IUGG, there are 5 Associates, 9 Observers, and 55 countries with dues paid that are therefore eligible to vote. If dues are received from an Observer country prior to the General Assembly, the relevant National Delegate will be able to vote. As of this date, delegates from 51 members will attend the Council meeting, including Associate Members who attend as Listeners of the Council (without the right to speak, according to ByLaw 11).

A hard copy of the Agenda Book will be given to each Council Delegate. An electronic copy of the Agenda Book is posted as a PDF file on the IUGG website in the Member zone: <http://www.iugg.org/restricted/index.php>.

Important votes to be taken at the third session of the Council Meeting (6 July) include (i) changes to Statutes and By-Laws, (ii) approval of the Budget for 2012-2015, (iii) election of officers, and (iv) selection of the venue of the 2015 General Assembly. Delegates unable to attend a specific Council session may arrange with the Secretary General to submit a ballot in advance.

Selection of the venue of the XXVI General Assembly of IUGG in 2015. Invitations were received to hold the XXVI General Assembly of IUGG in 2015 in Buenos Aires, *Argentina*; Copenhagen, *Denmark*; Prague, *Czech Republic*; Athens, *Greece*; Hyderabad, *India*; and Honolulu, *USA*. Recently Greece withdrew its invitation. The Site Evaluation Committee will hold the Hearing on 30 June (Room MR102) to select two finalists. At the beginning of the second session of the Council Meeting (2 July) the IUGG President will announce the finalists to the Council. At the third session of the Council meeting, each of the two finalists will present their bids to the Council. Council Delegates and Guests can attend the Committee Hearing on 30 June.

The Statutes and By-Laws of the Union are found at: <http://www.iugg.org/statutes/>. The Council Meetings are conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. The edition in current use is the Tenth Edition (2000) (hardback ISBN 0-7382-0384-X; paperback ISBN 0-7382-0307-6; leatherbound ISBN 0-7382-0923-6). Section 58 of Robert's Rules of Order deals with an assembly of delegates. The duties of delegates are as follows: "When a member of a constituent unit (the Adhering Body in the case of IUGG) has accepted election as a delegate, he has the obligation to attend the convention, with such expense allowance as the unit may provide; he should not leave it to an alternate to serve in his place except for serious reason. At the convention, the delegate has the duty to be present at the business meetings, and to be prepared on returning from the convention to present to his unit an information report on what transpired. A delegate is free to vote as he sees fit on questions at the convention, except as his constituent unit may have instructed him in regard to particular matters scheduled for consideration."

End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 11 Number 7 (15 June 2011)

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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.