

Tom Beer – President of IUGG

Dr Tom Beer was elected President of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) at the Perugia General Assembly in 2007. He was Vice-President of IUGG from 2003-2007 and a Bureau member since 2001. His long association with IUGG started in the 1970s when he was Senior Lecturer at the University of Ghana, West Africa, and a member of the local IAMAS committee.

Dr Beer is the Deputy Chair of the Organising Committee for the 2011 IUGG General Assembly that is to be held in Melbourne, Australia. Dr Beer was the organiser of the hugely successful 1997 IAMAS/IAPSO joint assembly held in Melbourne, and ran both inter-association and all-union symposia at the 1999 Birmingham, and 2003 Sapporo IUGG General Assemblies.

Dr Beer is the Leader of the Hazards Theme of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), and a Senior Advisor to the IYPE Board. He was the founding Chair of the IUGG Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability that, at its inaugural meeting at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, issued the Budapest Manifesto on Risk Science and Sustainability. The text of the Manifesto can be found on the IUGG web site. Dr Beer transmitted the IUGG statement on the 2004 Tsunami disaster to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe. He is a member of the Planning Group for the 2006-2011 ICSU Program on Natural and Human Induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters.

Following on his work in West Africa, Dr Beer was an expert advisor to the Mekong Secretariat. He completed a Diploma in Asian Studies from the University of Southern Queensland and visited every ASEAN country, as team leader of a mission to review their oceanographic programs. He was interim planning co-ordinator of the Regional Global Change Research Network for Oceania (now START-Oceania), and subsequently chaired the South Pacific Node of the UN University State of the Future Project. Prof. Beer was part of the World Bank team that examined the National Greenhouse Strategy for Thailand. He was a member of the IPCC Expert Group on Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Waste, and Lead Author for the chapter on waste in the IPCC Special Report on Technology Transfer. He thus shared in the recognition when the IPCC was awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr Beer is Leader of the Transport Biofuels Stream for the CSIRO Energy Transformed Flagship, which is the successor to the Environmental Risk Network that he co-ordinated. Prior to that he was Science Adviser to the Environment Protection Agency in Canberra. He was Editor of the Springer scientific journal *Natural Hazards* from 1999 to 2007 and continues as a member of the Editorial Board, as well as the Editorial Board of *Environment International*. He has edited numerous monographs including *Risk Science and Sustainability* (jointly edited with A. Ismail-Zadeh) based on the GeoRisk Commission workshop in Budapest. He is the author of twelve books and over one hundred and thirty articles in refereed journals. His textbook *Environmental Oceanography*, presently in its 2nd edition, was translated into Chinese. He was responsible for the production of the innovative *Applied Environmetrics Oceanographic, Meteorological and Hydrological Tables*, which provided authoritative geophysical data in computer-compatible form.

Dr Beer was awarded the Adam Hilger Prize for his monograph *Atmospheric Waves* and won the CSIRO Chairman's Gold Medal for his work (as part of a team) examining greenhouse gas emissions from low emission vehicles. In 2004 he was awarded a Doctor of Science degree by the University of Canterbury in New Zealand for his work on atmospheric risks.