



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS
UNION GEODESIQUE ET GEOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE

The IUGG Electronic Journal

Volume 10 No. 5 (1 May 2010)

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. IUGG Honours and Recognition Committee constituted
2. IUGG Committee on Membership Issues constituted
3. On the IUGG Statement on Volcanic Ash Clouds
4. GeoUnions Business Meeting
5. GeoUnions Meeting at UNESCO
6. Meeting of International Scientific Unions of ICSU
7. News from the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE)
8. News from the International Polar Year (IPY)
9. IUGG-related meetings occurring during May - July 2010

1. IUGG Honours and Recognition Committee constituted

IUGG President Tom Beer has announced the members of the new Honours and Recognition Committee:

Chair: Viktor Savinykh (Russia)

Members: Harry Bryden (UK), Crisan Demetrescu (Romania), and Jianping Li (China)

The Committee was formed by the decision of the IUGG Executive Committee meeting held on 9-11 October 2009 in Melbourne (Australia) to consider the topic of honours and recognition and if considered appropriate to recommend ways to: (i) develop IUGG Fellows, Medals and Awards programs and maintain oversight of the programs; (ii) recommend changes to the policies and statutes and by-laws (if needed) in order to enhance the effectiveness of the IUGG honours and recognition programs; (iii) ensure that protocols and nominating procedures for the medals and awards are well defined and properly publicised; (iv) recommend procedures for the nomination and selection of Fellows, medallists and awardees; (v) make recommendations to ensure that sufficient and appropriate nominations for the Fellows, Medals and Awards are received; ensure that the Union medals and awards are appropriate and current; (vi) ensure that IUGG scientists are nominated for appropriate external awards; and (vii) search for fund-raising opportunities for the Union's honours and recognition programs.

2. IUGG Committee on Membership Issues constituted

IUGG President Tom Beer has announced the members of the new Union Committee on Membership Issues:

Chair: Aksel Walloe Hansen (Denmark)

Members: Silvia Blanc (Argentina), T. Harinarayana (India), Jiaqi Liu (China), Fred Spilhaus (USA), and Ali Tealeb (Egypt)

The Committee was formed by the decision of the IUGG Executive Committee meeting held on 9-11 October 2009 in Melbourne (Australia) to consider the topic of membership and if considered appropriate to recommend ways to develop an IUGG Fellows Program; Individual and Honorary Membership programs; an IUGG Adjunct Members program (e.g., to provide a tight link between IUGG and national and regional geophysical and geoscience unions and societies); an IUGG Inactive Members program (to deal with the countries whose “observer” status is expired); and to liaise with the IUGG Finance Committee, Statutes and ByLaws Committee, and Honours and Recognition Committee on the issues related to membership.

3. On the IUGG Statement on Volcanic Ash Clouds

Ash clouds from the Icelandic volcano have caused extreme disruptions to scheduled aircraft flights as they drifted over northern to central and eastern Europe and affected hundreds of thousand of travellers on all continents. The IUGG Bureau released on 20 April 2010 a statement on volcanic ash clouds (see a special issue of the IUGG E-Journal on 21 April 2010 or the IUGG web site at http://www.iugg.org/resolutions/VAC_IUGG_Statement_20April.pdf). The International Council for Science (ICSU) recognized the IUGG Statement on Volcanic Ash Clouds and also placed it on the ICSU website: <http://www.icsu.org>.

Copies of the Statement were distributed at the Congressional Briefings on Reducing Volcano Risks in the United States Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives on 21 April. The briefings were attended by media, congressional staff, and other interested stakeholders. More information can be found at http://www.hazardscaucus.org/briefings/volcano_briefing0410.html. IUGG thanks Ms. Linda Rowan, Director of Government Affairs, American Geological Institute, for her assistance in distribution of the IUGG Statement at the briefings.

4. GeoUnions Business meeting

IUGG President Tom Beer, Past President Uri Shamir, and Secretary-General Alik Ismail-Zadeh attended the GeoUnions Caucus at Salle Louis Martin Chauffier, Academie des Sciences, Institut de France at Paris on 6 April 2010 prior to the ICSU Unions meeting described in the next item. GeoUnions is a consortium of the Scientific Unions of the International Council for Science (ICSU) comprising eight International Unions: International Astronomical Union (IAU), International Geographical Union (IGU), International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), and International Union of Radio Science (URSI). Professor Deliang Chen, ICSU Executive Director, participated in the meeting. Professor Jean Dercourt, Secrétaire Perpetuel of the Academie des Sciences, welcomed the Officers of the GeoUnions.

Each Union reported on the progress since the last business meeting in Maputo, October 2008. The major topics for discussion were (i) the role of GeoUnions in ICSU activities; the relationship with the ICSU Secretariat and with the ICSU Regional Offices; (ii) major research topics and programmes of GeoUnions (Health Program, Natural Hazards Program, new initiative on Global Understanding); (iii) GeoUnion Joint Resolution “Natural Hazards, Risks and Disasters”; (iv) new initiatives of the International Year of Planet Earth: Planet Earth Institute and Global Geoscience Initiative; (v) Participation of the GeoUnions at GEOITALIA 2011 in Turin prior to the ICSU General Assembly, Rome, September 2011; (vi) the role of GeoUnions in the activities of UNESCO.

5. GeoUnions Meeting at UNESCO

The GeoUnions Officers met Dr. Robert Missotten, Chief of the UNESCO Global Earth Observation Section, at UNESCO on 9 April to discuss possible ways to strengthen cooperation between the ICSU GeoUnions and UNESCO. IUGG President Tom Beer, Past President Uri Shamir, and Secretary-General Alik Ismail-Zadeh attended the meeting. Several topics of common interest were discussed, particularly programs on Solid Earth, Natural Hazards, and Water. UNESCO would like to develop closer interaction with the GeoUnions. Several joint programmes of UNESCO and ICSU GeoUnions are already well developed, namely the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) with IUGS involvement, International Hydrological Programme and several programs of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (e.g. GOOS) with IUGG involvement, and some others. UNESCO seeks support of GeoUnions in the programs related to geo-engineering, natural hazards, and climate, and also GeoUnions support for the UNESCO program on education and science in Africa.

6. Meeting of the International Scientific Unions of ICSU

The meeting was held on 7-8 April 2010 at the Jacques Monod amphitheatre, Institut Pasteur in Paris. The theme of the meeting was “Strengthening the Involvement of Unions in ICSU Activities”. IUGG President Tom Beer, Past President Uri Shamir (as an ICSU Executive Board Member), and Secretary-General Alik Ismail-Zadeh attended the meeting. Prof. Alice Dautry, President of the Institut Pasteur, and Prof. Catherine Bréchnignac, ICSU President, welcomed the participants of the meeting. Prof. Deliang Chen, Executive Director, then presented the ICSU view on the role of the Scientific Unions in ICSU.

The following topics were discussed: (i) the implementation of the ICSU Strategic Plan 2006-2011 and the development of the ICSU Strategic Plan 2012-2017; (ii) International Years and trans-Union activities (IUGG reported on the IUGG programmes: International Heliophysical Year and Electronic Geophysical Year); (iii) Visioning Process in ICSU; (iv) ICSU Foresight Analysis (Officers of the ICSU GeoUnions together with Prof. D. Chen and Prof. Y.T. Lee, ICSU President-elect, discussed our vision of the major changes in the conduction of science and of the evolvement of the science-society interface over the next 20 years); (v) Health and Well Being in the Changing Urban Environment; (vi) World Data System and the Union role in responding to GA29 Resolution 2 on data; (vii) Unions’ role in ICSU Programmes; (viii) ICSU finances and weighted voting; (ix) ICSU Grants Programme; (x) ICSU communications; ICSU Regional Offices; (xi) ICSU’s role in Sustainable Development; (xii) freedom and responsibility, and some others. On 7 April the French Academy of Sciences invited the participants of the meeting to the lecture “Population and

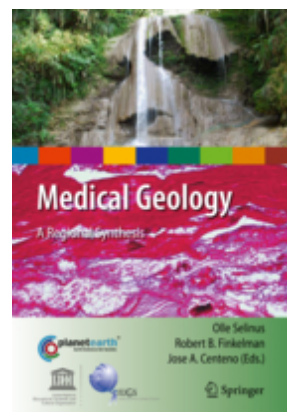
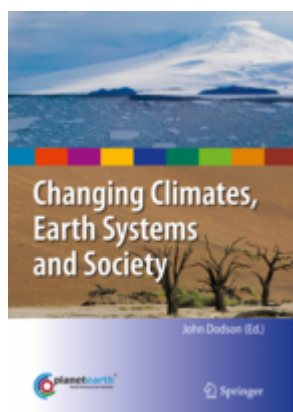
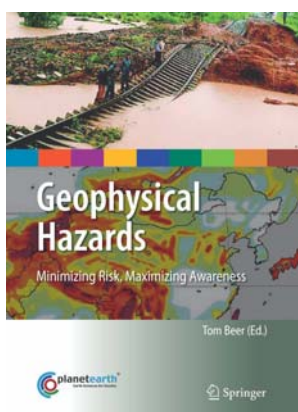
Sustainable Development” by Prof. Henri Leridon at the French Academy of Sciences, which was followed by a reception.



Participants of the ICSU Meeting with officers of the French Academy of Science. Catherine Bréchignac, ICSU President, is front centre with Jean Dercourt, Secrétaire Perpetual of the Academie des Sciences, on her right.

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

The second issue in the IYPE-Springer Legacy Series, *Geophysical Hazards* by Tom Beer (Ed) is available now. *Changing Climates, Earth Systems and Society* by John Dodson (Ed) is in production and *Medical Geology* by Selinus, Finkelman & Centeno (Eds) is in the proofing stage.



An IYPE international event will be held at UN Headquarters in New York City on 13 May on the occasion of the meeting of the UN Commission of Sustainable Development. Another event is scheduled for October 2010 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris with a presentation of the results of the UNESCO Initiative on Earth Science Education in Africa.

Young Earth Scientists

The Young Earth Scientists (Y.E.S.) held elections for their Network in which IYPE's Executive Director and IYPE Board member Edmund Nickless assisted as scrutinizers. The new Y.E.S. President is Joanne Venus (UK). Also Support Teams were elected for Communications, Financial Planning, Outreach activities, Professional Development, Visioning and Advisory. Moreover national representative were elected from 30 countries. More information on: http://www.networkyes.org/index.php/leadership_team/

Received from the IYPE Secretariat

8. News from the International Polar Year (IPY)

More than 2600 abstracts have been submitted for the IPY Oslo Science Conference (8-12 June, <http://www.ipy-osc.no>) – making this the largest polar conference ever organized. As a reflection of the success and emphasis of IPY, there will be very strong participation by early-career scientists and strong elements of education and outreach. Two major IPY publications will be launched at the conference: a polar resource book *Polar Science and Global Climate: An International Resource for Education and Outreach* (<http://www.ipy.org/hidden/item/2297-promotional-material-for-the-polar-resource-book>) that provides information and activities for educators; and a final IPY report from the Joint Committee and more than 120 scientists that captures the main elements of the planning, implementation and initial science highlights of the IPY.

9. IUGG-related meetings occurring during May – July 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.

- May 2-7, EGU, Vienna, Austria, General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union.
- May 8-16, AGU, Agros, Cyprus, AGU Chapman Conference “Detachments in Oceanic Lithosphere: Deformation, Magmatism, Fluid Flow and Ecosystems”.
- May 17-21, IAHS, Taormina, Italy, Advances in statistical hydrology.
- May 17-24, AGU, Valparaiso-Vina del Mar & Valdivia, Chile, AGU Chapman Conference “Giant Earthquakes and Their Tsunamis”.
- May 24-28, IASPEI, IUGG, Zelenogorsk Town, Russia, VIII international workshop “Physics of forecasting of rock destruction”.
- May 25-28 UN-SPIDER, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Regional Workshop “Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management and Emergency Response for Africa”.
- May 25-29, IAHS, IUGG, Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia, BALWOIS 2010.
- May 27-28, UN-SPIDER, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, Fourth Central Asia GIS Conference - GISCA 2010: Water: Life, Risk, Energy and Land Use.

- May 31 - June 4, CGU, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Congress of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society (CMOS) and the Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU): "Our Earth, Our Air, Our Water: Our Future".
- June 7-11, CMG, Pisa, Italy, 28th IUGG Conference on Mathematical Geophysics - Modelling Earth Dynamics: Complexity, Uncertainty and Validation.
- June 7-15, IACS, IUGG, Fairbanks & McCarthy, Alaska, USA, International summer school/workshop in glaciology.
- June 8-12, IPY, Oslo, Norway, IPY Oslo Science Conference.
- June 13-18, IAHS, Zurich, Switzerland, Groundwater Quality 2010 Conference.
- June 14-18, IAHS, Warsaw, Poland, International Symposium on sediment dynamics for a changing future.
- June 15-18, IAGA, Boulder, Colorado, USA, 6th Workshop on Long-Term Changes and Trends in the Atmosphere (TREND 2010).
- June 16-19, IAHS, Constantza, Romania, Water 2010.
- June 23-25, IAHS, Coimbra, Portugal, Tenth International Conference on Precipitation (IPC10).
- July 2-3, IAHS, Paris, France, Xth Kovacs Colloquium.
- July 2-7, GeoRisk Commission, IUGG, Torino, Italy, symposium "Breaking Seismo-ill-Logical Circulus Vitiosus" (ESOF 2010).
- July 5-9, AOGS, Hyderabad, India, 7th Annual Meeting and Geosciences World Community Exhibition.
- July 11-16, IAMAS, IUGG, Halifax, Canada, CACGP/IGAC Joint Conference "Atmospheric Chemistry: Challenging the Future".
- July 12-16, SCOSTEP, IAGA, Berlin, Germany, SCOSTEP Symposium.
- July 12-16, IAMAS, Berlin, Germany, Solar-Terrestrial Physics Symposium (STP-12).
- July 15-16, IAMAS, IUGG, Columbus, Ohio, USA, Workshop on Antarctic Clouds.
- July 18-25, COSPAR, IUGG, Bremen, Germany, 38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly.
- July 19-23, SEDI, IUGG, Santa Barbara, California, USA, 12th SEDI Symposium.

End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 10 Number 5 (1 May 2010)

A.T. Ismail-Zadeh, Secretary General [<http://www.IUGG.org>]
 E-mail: Alik.Ismail-Zadeh@kit.edu Fax: +49 721 71173.

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.