



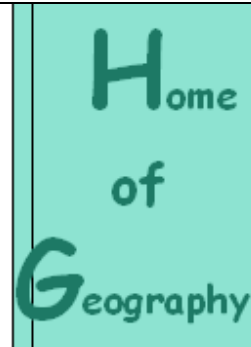
# **IGU E-Newsletter**

## **From the Rome Home of Geography**

Quarterly

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# 22

October

2010

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Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

*This Newsletter is circulated to about 1500 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome. Please send them to [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org) or [giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it](mailto:giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it)*



### **CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE**

#### **1) President 's Abler remarks:**

#### **2) Minutes of the IGU EC Meeting, Tel Aviv, 12-13 July 2010**

#### **2a) Comptes rendu de la réunion du CE de l'UGI, Washington, 12-13 Juillet 2010**

#### **3) Next IGU official Initiatives**

##### **3.1) Santiago de Chile 2011 IGU Regional Conference**

##### **3.2) Köln 2012 International Congress**

#### **4) Reports from Conferences and Meetings**

##### **4.1) Festival Internationale de la Géographie 2010, Saint Dié des Vosges**

##### **4.2) Jerusalem, the Global Challenge, Jerusalem, 14-16 October**

#### **5) Forthcoming Events**

##### **5.1) Applied Geography in Theory and in Practice, Zagreb, 5-6 November**

##### **5.2) Symposium Autocarto 2010, Orlando (Florida), 15-19 November**

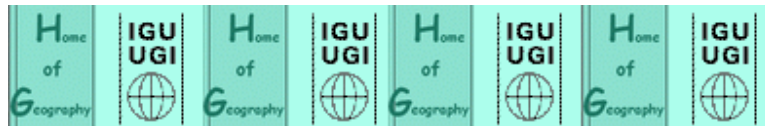
##### **5.3) L'Homme@distance, Le Havre, 17-19 November**

##### **5.4) East Asian Seas Conference 2009, Manila 23-27 November**

- 5.5) ATIGN, Geotunis, 29 November-3 December 2010
- 5.6) Congress on Computer Applications and Computational Science, Singapore, 4-6 December 2010
- 5.7) Contained Memory Conference 2010, Wellington (New Zealand), 9-11 December 2010
- 5.8) Congress of Asian Women Studies, Penang, 9-11 December
- 5.9) 11th Asian Conference on Urbanisation, Hyderabad, 10-13 December 2010
- 5.10) IGU Commission C08.25, Seminar in Guwahati (Assam) 11-13 December
- 5.11) Software Engineering and Intelligent Systems Conferences, Wuhan, 16-20 December
- 5.12) Travel and Travelers, Seminar, University of Minho, 17 December 2010

6) Report 2010 from the Egyptian National Commission of the IGU

7) Home of Geography update



## 1) PRESIDENT ABLER's REMARKS

Dear Colleagues,

I write this from Helsinki. The stop in Finland en route to Beijing for a meeting of the IGU Executive Committee was made in order to present the IGU's Planet and Humanity Medal to former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari. President Ahtisaari, you will recall, received the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2008. Vice President Markku Löytönen and I presented the medal to Ahtisaari on the evening of 27 October in the Finnish Government's Banquet Hall at a small dinner hosted by Finnish Minister of Education Henna Virkkunen.

In my remarks at the presentation I highlighted Ahtisaari's continued work for peace and reconciliation in a number of conflicts:

*The award of this Medal to you, sir, celebrates your tireless and effective work in promoting growth in developing countries, negotiating compromises and peace among conflicting parties, and strengthening civil institutions and democratic practices in a number of conflict areas, including Aceh, Kosovo, and North Ireland.*

*A refugee from warfare in your youth, you have devoted your professional life to peace making and state-making. After your distinguished diplomatic career in the service of Finland and the United Nations, your election as President of the*

*Republic of Finland in February 1994 might have been the capstone of an exceptional career for many individuals. But upon leaving office, you founded the Crisis Management Initiative, an independent non-profit organization that continues to work to resolve conflict and to build sustainable peace in many parts of the world. CMI's assistance to the international community in improving preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, and post-conflict state building continues the work toward peace you have pursued throughout your career.*

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*In 1989-90 you played a significant key role in launching Namibia's independence from South Africa. More recently you were instrumental in resolving the conflict between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement. From November 2005 through February 2008 you were the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the future status process for Kosovo. You are an outstanding international statesperson who has demonstrated the effectiveness of mediation in the resolution of international conflicts in Northern Ireland, Central Asia, and the Horn of Africa, in addition to the conflict areas noted earlier.*



*1) From left to right: IGU Vice President Markku Löytönen, Finnish Minister of Education Henna Virkunen, Former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari, Mrs. Eva Ahtisaari, Barbara Abler, and IGU President Ronald F. Abler*

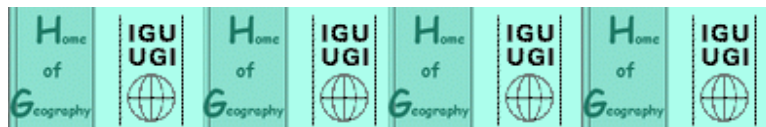
*2) Left: one year before, Martti Ahtisaari receiving the Nobel Prize.*

*President Ahtisaari, all members of the IGU global community of geographers join me tonight in thanking you for your lifelong dedication to making our world a more peaceful and gentle place. Your quiet but forceful work—largely behind the scenes of bitter international conflicts—has enriched the planet and its peoples as well as our understanding of mediation and peacemaking processes. The IGU is honored to confer upon you sir its highest honor—The IGU Planet and Humanity Medal.*

The Planet and Humanity Medal was inaugurated in 1996 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the First International Geographical Congress held in Antwerp in 1871 by honoring individuals who have made outstanding contributions to resolving environmental and global problems. Prior recipients of the Planet and Humanity Medal are Gro Harlem Brundtland (Norway) and Al Gore (USA) in 1996; Christian Pierret (France), Mary Robinson (Ireland), and M. S. Swaminathan (India) in 2000; Nelson Mandela (South Africa) in 2002; and in 2004 Mikhail Gorbachev (Russia).

As always, many thanks to Giuliano Bellezza for assembling and distributing this issue of the IGU E-Newsletter and to Yves Bouquet for translating it into French.

Ron  
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## 2) INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION

### International Geographical Union Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

**Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv, Israel  
12-13 July 2010**

*(draft minutes, subject to definitive approval at the EC Meeting in Beijing, 1-4 November 2010)*

*Present:* President Ronald F. Abler; First Vice President Vladimir Kolossov; Secretary General and Treasurer-elect Michael Meadows; Vice Presidents Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Giuliano Bellezza, Ruth Fincher, Aharon Kellerman, Markku Löytönen and Dietrich Soyez; IGU Executive Assistant Sarah Kim. *Excused:* Secretary General and Treasurer Woo-ik Yu and Vice President Dahe Qin *Visitors:* Benno Werlen (UN-IYGU), Michael Sofer and Izhak Schnell (Tel Aviv Local Organizing Committee). Colonel Juan Vidal, Victoria Beromi, Pedro Mahuzier (Santiago, Chile, Local Organizing Committee), Frauke Kraas (Cologne Local Organizing Committee); and Yukio Himiyama and Yoshitaka Ishikawa (Kyoto Local Organizing Committee).

## **1. Welcome and Meeting Logistics**

President Abler welcomed the members of the committee to Tel Aviv and reviewed the executive committee meeting schedule and the roster of regional conference events in which the committee and various members will participate.

## **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted with one item added: Brazil national membership of the IGU (Item 9.01).

## **3. Minutes**

### 3. 01 Minutes of the April 2010 Washington DC Executive Committee Meeting

Draft minutes were tabled and it was agreed to hold them open for any objections or amendments until the end of August 2010. Bellezza to include them in the newsletter as draft minutes if so required before then.

## **4. Operations**

### 4. 01 IGU Country Membership Reports (Yu)

Sarah Kim has collated those reports that were received in time for the Washington EC meeting; remaining reports to be dealt with at the Beijing meeting.

### 4. 02 IGU Financial Report and Projection (Yu)

To be tabled at the Beijing meeting.

### 4. 03 UN-IYGU Initiative (Werlen, Kolossov, Abler)

Benno Werlen was present for this item and reported on developments in relation to this initiative, which have been considerable over the past three to four months.

*Financial support:* during the last 12 months Werlen has been successful in raising considerable funds from, for example, the Thuringia Provincial Government which has now enabled the Secretariat to continue (September 2009 to March 2012) and Werlen to buy himself out of his University teaching commitments. There have been other additional funds including the important grant from the IGU. There are ongoing attempts to raise further funds via the ICSU Grants Programme and other organizations to facilitate meetings of the Working Group. Design and printing of brochures will require substantial funding during 2011. Other agencies have been approached and a tentative agreement has been reached with FIFA that they will give additional funds provided there is clear political support; other funding possibilities include Google and the Clinton Foundation.

*Institutional support:* The project is planned to fall within the framework of the ICSU-ISSC Grand Challenge initiative. Abler and Werlen have already presented the UN-IYGU plans to ISSC and the GeoUnions of ICSU. Formal support from ISSC is now secured. There is an informal indication of support from ICSU and the next step is to formalise this. It was recommended that IGU affiliate to ICSTI to facilitate contact with others, including engineers, and in this way extend the range of possible support.

*Organisation:* These ideas are to be presented in detail at the Tel Aviv Congress in one of the Thursday sessions. It is envisaged that the Working Group, once established, will oversee various elements of the project including the scientific programme, an outreach programme (including schools and tertiary teaching elements), political support (institutional support is needed from

UN/UNESCO member countries (100 needed by September 2011). The project activities are to be co-ordinated by a management team (Working Group) including Geographers, fund-raising personnel, political and regional representatives. It is intended to establish continental operational centres to facilitate national initiatives. There is a clear need to act quickly and individuals with appropriate profiles and time resources are necessary. Working Group members ideally need to be well known in their fields.

*Timetable:* December 2011 is the UN General Assembly and this is the most appropriate target in relation to aligning the project with the ISSC/ICSU Grand Challenge framework. Other activities, for example establishing country support and the development of high quality brochures for key topics are required in good time to allow this. The deadline for the ICSU grant application is November 2010. Political networking should begin as soon as possible, but certainly by August-September.

Comments and suggestions followed. The EC congratulated Werlen on progress made especially in gaining the base funding for the Secretariat. Kolossov raised concerns around communication with the IGU, especially as he was the designated point of contact and these problems need to be resolved as soon as possible. The EC noted that there is still no formal Working Group established and it remains concerned about the need to expand its membership beyond Europe. Werlen commented that it is indeed the intention to involve members from all continents and a wide range of appropriate disciplines. IGU Commissions and National Committees should be encouraged to contribute to this in readiness for 2014 (for example in the form of research proposals) and the EC would present this to them as an opportunity for engagement at the Commission Chairs and National Committee chairs meeting on Wednesday morning 14th July 2010. It was emphasised that Geographers should be seen as the key link between the social and natural sciences for this project and the IGU should be seen as the lead supporting organisation, although strong supporters are essential from other disciplines who will be collaborating partners. There is however a risk that the other disciplines could dominate if we are not watchful. Project information needs to be directly accessible from the newly designed IGU webpage. Obtaining support at the political level is especially important and may be both difficult and time-consuming, although there are some opportunities to start this process, including the fact that Woo-ik Yu is in a very influential position and there is government involvement in the Chile meeting.

4. 04 Commission Reports that did not come in time for Washington were sent to the EC via email and would continue to be so circulated to facilitate discussion at the Beijing meeting.

#### 4. 05 Journals Project Update (Kellerman, Meadows)

Ton Dietz and colleagues have moved this forward significantly and appreciation was noted for their hard work. A briefing document was being distributed to all delegates at the Tel Aviv Congress, with a further update in Santiago and a more formal launch intended for the Cologne congress. One problem noted was the fact that some journals associated with a particular country may appear listed under the schedule of the country of publication; this could be resolved through a footnote to the relevant country pages and a link to the journal in question. Meadows to inform Dietz regarding this anomaly. Soyez noted that available information from journals and publishing houses may be either incomplete or contradictory so we need to encourage the editors and publishers to modify our findings in the open draft document; amendments and corrections can be suggested by anyone, ultimately via the webpage that will host the database.

#### 4. 06 Corporate Sponsorship (Kellerman)

The plans were to develop two-page city information summaries for the IGU website. Ton Dietz had agreed to take this forward; further developments are anticipated by the end of 2010.

#### 4. 07 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule and Technology (Abler)

The IGU Executive Committee is committed to meeting in Beijing from 1-5 November 2010. The e-mail Abler sent on 7 June proposed a revised future meeting schedule with a trial internet-mediated meeting in spring 2011 that would take the place of the planned regular meeting in Cologne. The question of costs was raised and it was confirmed that the actual costs are small by comparison with the real-time meeting, although Löytönen noted how difficult this can be when there are several participants and there are further constraints regarding timing. Although there are clearly direct cost savings and a reduced carbon footprint, there are many more benefits to the traditional face-to-face meeting. Abler introduced WebEx whereby all that is needed is a webcam and microphone; the chair has control of the common screen but can yield it to any other participant at any time. Abler is to send WebEx details the EC members and a trial meeting will be conducted in due course. Nevertheless it was agreed that Abler and Meadows would visit the LOC in Cologne over the originally scheduled 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011 dates and that an internet-mediated meeting could be attempted during that period.

#### 4. 08 IGU Secretariat Transition (Meadows)

In terms of transfer of responsibility, there was some discussion as to how this could take place. Currently the IGU is registered as a corporation in Korea and this may or may not be needed for South Africa (Meadows to investigate). The immediate need was to establish the IGU bank account in South Africa; it was agreed that this not be arranged through the University of Cape Town but that a separate corporate account be opened (including credit card facility) for which a letter of authority from the President would be required. Meadows accepts that the responsibility for most of the correspondence matters and can get additional secretarial support from existing staff through the payment of modest ad hoc stipend. In terms of book-keeping, locating an accountant who is experienced in working with non-profits would seem advisable and that a modest honorarium would be in order for this.

#### 4. 09 Web Site Redesign (Meadows)

Meadows presented a draft webpage that he had developed in consultation with a commercial designer in Cape Town, noting that this was in preliminary form and is a concept at this stage. However, the plan was to develop a more 'dynamic' webpage and one that would change regularly in terms of information content and features. A key to this is the design of the interface so that it appears higher up the list on conventional search engines. Several features are planned in addition to the usual information content, including a slideshow of photographs that could be submitted by the users, a dedicated custom search engine and the journals project database. Löytönen noted that the Helsinki domain had permitted no commercial activity on the site and it may be possible to get some sponsorship if UCT allows. French translation of key elements of the page is also required. Meadows to continue to develop the ideas and report at the next EC meeting in Beijing.

On a somewhat related point, Abler suggested that the IGU needs a relational database of members of the IGU community that will track the various ways individuals are affiliated with the IGU at different times (corresponding member; commission member; commission steering

committee member, elected officer, etc.). Creating such a database might be explored when the revised web page is up and running.

## **5. Cooperation and Outreach**

### **5. 01 *Festival International de Géographie* (Kolossoff)**

Kolossoff remains in direct contact with the organising committee. Disappointingly, only three Commission Chairs had responded to the letter by Abler and Kolossoff containing the invitation to participate. Nevertheless, there is a dedicated time slot within the Festival (IGU will be represented by Kolossoff, Abler and Soyez). Russia is the *pays d'honneur* for the next Festival, scheduled for October 7th to 10th 2010.

### **5. 02 *Festa de Mirandela*, Portugal (Bellezza)**

Bellezza described this Geography festival, the fourth of which had taken place in May 2010; the organisers are enthusiastic about expanding to become more international and have been in contact with other festivals, including FIG. Abler queried what it is that this Festival wants from the IGU and that if this were to be a Memorandum of Understanding whether or not it could interfere with the IGU relationship with FIG. Fincher suggested a solution whereby there be a hierarchy of MoUs that differentiate between levels of commitment in relation to different festivals. The Memorandum of Understanding for the Mirandela festival to receive further attention for discussion in Beijing.

### **5. 03 *Festival de Geografía*, Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico (Ayala)**

Geographers at the University of Taxco are organizing a Festival of Geography in Mexico from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16th October 2010, including a Geography Olympiad, with participants, including teachers and learners, from several institutions. No financial support is sought but permission to use the IGU logo was requested and was granted by Abler. The organizers have also been in contact with FIG to inform them of the development although there is no intention for this to become an 'international' festival *per se*. The festival is however expected to become an ongoing event, possibly annually or biennially, rotating between different institutions in Mexico. There is no objection to the IGU logo being used on publicity material.

### **5. 04 Elsevier Publication Proposal (Soyez)**

An Elsevier representative had suggested to Soyez that IGU should consider strategies regarding special issues and proceedings. LOCs and Commission Chairs would be the obvious individuals to identify possible contributions. It was agreed to discuss this further with Commission Chairs at the meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Soyez was designated to take lead in this discussion at that meeting if time allows.

### **5. 05 Springer Publication Proposal (Kolossoff)**

Chairs of Commissions and the IGU executive had previously been contacted about this but there has been little response. IGU could be promoted this way but the lack of apparent interest is disturbing. Kolossoff was designated to present this to the Commission Chairs meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

### **5. 06 Nomination for ISSC Executive Committee (Abler)**

The IGU has been invited to submit nominations for the executive committee of ISSC and it is clear that this would be in IGU interests to have a Geographer on the executive. Suggestions are to be forwarded to Abler by the end of July 2010.

5. 07 ICSU Science Officer Nomination (Abler)

Nominations have been requested for this paid position in Paris. Any suggestions are to be forwarded to Abler by the end of July 2010.

**6. International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences**

6. 01 Tunis, 2008 International Geographical Congress (Yu, Abler)

The funds promised by the Tunis Local Organizing Committee to the IGU Promotion and Solidarity Fund have still not been received despite several requests.

6. 02 Tel Aviv Regional Conference 2010 (Schnell, Kellerman)

Izhak Schnell and Michael Sofer from the Local Organising Committee attended and provided a brief report. The congress appears to have around 500 participants. Schnell and Sofer thanked the IGU for its ongoing support over difficult times and this was reciprocated by the EC.

6. 03 Santiago, Chile Regional Conference 2011 (Abler)

There is some concern within the EC around this meeting, particularly with regard the LOC composition and the need to expand its membership to include academics from other institutions and possibly regional representatives from other countries. Members of the LOC attended for this item and made a presentation around the conference that will be held from 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Chile organized the ICA meeting in 2009 and this had been a success in the same venue (the Institute of Military Geography). One thousand delegates are anticipated, although it was noted that this may be optimistic, especially if well-known South American Geographers are not clearly identified as conveners. Colonel Vidal responded to this concern and noted that relations have been extended to academic institutions in Chile and that invitations to participate have been sent to academic institutions in adjacent countries; he agreed that members from such countries would be invited to join the LOC and to participate in the organization of the associated scientific programme and field excursions. With regard costs of participation, it is anticipated that the costs will be lower than the ICA conference so as to encourage attendance (US\$461 is estimated as full participant registration cost but there are various other categories). There will be cheaper accommodation for students and there is a grants programme planned to facilitate participation from younger and developing world delegates. The conference website is to be found at: [www.ugi2011.cl](http://www.ugi2011.cl)

6. 04 Köln, Germany International Geographical Congress 2012 (Soyez)

Frauke Kraas, Cologne LOC, attended for this item and participated in the discussion after Soyez' brief presentation. The meeting is scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2012; the conference website is to be found at: <http://www.igc2012.org/>. The congress will feature three main sections: First, the traditional sessions organized by Commissions and Task Forces, second, sessions dedicated to four specific key topics and, third, a Young Researchers' Forum. In cooperation with a national Scientific Committee a wide consultation has been carried out during two workshops with about 80 participants, each, mainly colleagues from Germany and neighbouring countries, in order to select and specify the key topics. An open call for Session Proposals has been issued on the Cologne homepage since early July 2010. This Scientific Committee is planned to be extended by another 16 scientists from all over the world. They will meet at a Cologne workshop in spring 2011 with the main task of selecting the most promising session topics. There was considerable discussion around the four proposed identified themes of the congress, which were

deemed by some EC members as possibly excluding more traditional systematic contributions from Geographers. Kraas and Soyez underlined that the first section of the congress allows for exactly the same procedures as traditionally, but that a stricter topical focus in the second section is intended and understood as a new and desirable Cologne specificity. The LOC, is willing, however, to consider ways in which it may encourage participation from all constituencies.

#### 6. 05 Kyoto, Japan Regional Conference 2013 (Himiyama)

Yukio Himiyama and Yoshitaka Ishikawa attended for this item. The LOC has now been established under Yoshitaka Ishikawa as Chair. Meeting dates are August 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> 2013 at the Kyoto Convention Centre under the theme 'Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth's Future'. An official website is already established at [www.igu-kyoto2013.org/](http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org/) and a DVD introducing the conference was shown to the meeting. With regard the registration fees, the LOC was attempting to reduce registration fees through financial support from various bodies, including Kyoto City and the Japanese Science Council.

#### 6. 06 Moscow, Russia Regional Conference 2015 (Kolossof)

The Russian Geographical Society has extended an invitation for the entire EC to attend its meeting in St Petersburg 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The invitation is extremely generous but some EC members have scheduled conflicts and may not be able to attend. It was agreed that EC members would inform Meadows as to their availability to attend on those dates.

#### 6. 07 IGU Congress and Conferences Memoranda of Agreement (Abler)

In 2009 at St Die there had been a robust discussion around the responsibility for financial support for EC members attending congresses. In April 2010, Abler had presented a draft that was tabled for consideration, especially in relation to the projected deficit for the Tel Aviv congress. Kellerman noted that, under Finance, there was a clause that left the LOC bearing the sole costs except for those that the IGU agrees to bear and proposed that this be amended to indicate a more equitable distribution of financial responsibility. For example, the LOC should have responsibility for delegate facilities (venue, programme etc.) while, on the other hand, direct costs of the EC attendance and costs associated with the IGU EC operations at the meeting venue (e.g. costs of renting space for the EC meetings, General Assembly, information booth, etc.) should be carried by the IGU itself. Furthermore, Kellerman proposed that the consolidation fund contribution of US\$15 per delegate only be payable to the IGU from the LOC if the congress in question yields a financial surplus. There being no obvious consensus within the committee on these and other meeting policy questions at this stage, it was decided to continue discussion on the matter at the November meeting in Beijing.

\*\* As there was no further time available to continue deliberations owing to committee member commitments at the regional conference, it was agreed that further discussion on the remaining agenda items (except for the additional item 9. 01), including items 4.01, 4.02 and 4. 03) will be conducted via e-mail or continued at the committee's meeting in Beijing in November.

### **7. Organization**

#### 7. 01 Priorities for IGU for 2008-2012 (Soyez, Abler)

#### 7. 02 IGU Vice President Election (Abler)

## **8. Honors and Awards**

- 8. 01 IGU Planet and Humanity Medal (Löytönen)
- 8. 02 IGU Honors Committee (Abler)
- 8. 03 IGU Commission Awards and Prizes (Abler)

## **9. Items added to the agenda**

- 9. 01 Brazil country membership reinstatement

A letter of application for reinstatement of Brazil's membership has been received, accompanied by full payment of fees for 2010. Brazil country membership was confirmed and representative Ita Cruz congratulated.

## **10. Adjourn**



*(Tel Aviv is a western style planned city, but with no exasperation (if not on the touristic seafront, out of sight in this photo))*

## **2a) COMPTES RENDU DE LA REUNION DU CE DE L'UGI, TEL AVIVE, 12-13 JUILLET 2010**

*(procès-verbal sous réserve d'une approbation définitive a la Réunion de Pékin)*

- *Présents*: le président Ronald F. Abler; le premier vice-président Vladimir Kolossov; le secrétaire général et trésorier nouvellement élu Michael Meadows; les vice-présidents Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Giuliano Bellezza, Ruth Fincher, Aharon Kellerman, Markku Löytönen et Dietrich Soyez; la secrétaire de direction de l'UGI Sarah Kim.
- *Excusés*: le secrétaire général et trésorier Woo-ik Yu et le vice-président Dahe Qin
- *Invités*: Benno Werlen (UN-IYGU), Michael Sofer et Izhak Schnell (comité local d'organisation de Tel Avive), le colonel Juan Vidal, Victoria Beromi et Pedro Mahuzier (comité local d'organisation de Santiago du Chili), Frauke Kraas (comité local d'organisation de Cologne); Yukio Himiyama et Yoshitaka Ishikawa (comité local d'organisation de Kyoto).

## **1. Accueil et logistique de la réunion**

Le président Ablér a souhaité la bienvenue à Tel Avive aux membres du Comité, et présenté le calendrier de la réunion et des conférences régionales auxquelles participeront les membres du Comité et d'autres..

## **2. Adoption de l'Agenda**

L'agenda a été adopté avec addition d'un élément : l'adhésion du Brésil (élément 9. 01).

## **3. Compte-rendu**

3. 01 L'adoption définitive du compte-rendu de la rencontre du Comité Exécutif à Washington en avril 2010 a été ajournée et on s'est mis d'accord pour le garder ouvert à objections ou amendements jusqu'à fin d'août 2010. Bellezza l'intégrera dans le bulletin d'information en tant que compte-rendu provisoire si besoin est avant cette date.

## **4. Fonctionnement**

### **4. 01 Rapports des pays membres de l'UGI (Yu)**

Sarah Kim a regroupé les rapports qui sont arrivés à temps pour la réunion de Washington. Les autres seront traités lors de la réunion de Pékin.

### **4. 02 Rapport financier de l'UGI et projections (Yu)**

A examiner lors de la réunion de Pékin.

### **4. 03 Initiative UN-IYGU (Werlen, Kolossov, Ablér)**

Benno Werlen assistait à la réunion pour l'examen de ce point, et a présenté les progrès de cette initiative, qui ont été substantiels au cours des trois ou quatre mois écoulés.

*Soutien financier:* durant les douze derniers mois, Werlen a eu beaucoup de succès pour d'importantes levées de fonds. Par exemple, de la part du gouvernement régional de Thuringe qui permet au secrétariat de fonctionner (septembre 2009 à mars 2012) et à Werlen de s'affranchir de ses obligations d'enseignement à l'université. Il y a eu d'autres soutiens financiers, en particulier une dotation conséquente de l'UGI. D'autres efforts sont actuellement en cours pour lever des fonds supplémentaires, via le programme de financements de l'ICSU et d'autres organisations, pour faciliter les réunions du groupe de travail. La conception et l'impression de brochures vont exiger des fonds importants en 2011. D'autres agences ont été sollicitées et un protocole d'accord a été conclu avec la FIFA, qui fournirait des sommes additionnelles, sous condition qu'il y ait un soutien politique fort; d'autres possibilités incluent Google et la fondation Clinton.

*Soutien institutionnel:* Il est prévu que le projet s'inscrive dans le cadre de l'initiative Grand Challenge de l'ICSU-ISSC. Ablér et Werlen ont déjà présenté les projets UN-IYGU à l'ISSC et aux GeoUnions de l'ICSU. Un soutien formel de l'ISSC est maintenant assuré. Il y a des indications informelles d'un soutien par l'ICSU et la prochaine étape est de le formaliser. Il a été recommandé que l'UGI s'affilie à l'ICSTI pour faciliter le contact avec d'autres, y compris les ingénieurs, et de cette façon étende au maximum la gamme des soutiens envisageables.

*Organisation:* Ces idées doivent être présentées en détail au congrès de l'UGI lors d'une session jeudi [15 juillet 2010]. Il est prévu que le groupe de travail, une fois mis en place, supervise différents éléments du projet incluant le programme scientifique, un programme d'ouverture vers l'enseignement scolaire et universitaire, le soutien politique (il faut obtenir d'ici septembre 2011 le soutien de 100 pays membres des Nations Unies/UNESCO). Les activités du projet seront coordonnées par une équipe de gestion (groupe de travail) incluant des géographes, des

collecteurs de fonds, des représentants politiques et régionaux. Il est prévu de mettre en place des centres opérationnels sur chaque continent pour aider les initiatives nationales. Il est clairement nécessaire d'agir rapidement et de trouver des personnes aux profils adéquats et disposant de temps. Les membres du groupe de travail, idéalement, devraient être des personnalités reconnues dans leur domaine.

*Calendrier:* Décembre 2011 est la date de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies, et c'est l'horizon le plus approprié pour inscrire le projet dans le cadre du Grand Challenge ISSC/ICSU. D'autres activités, comme l'obtention du soutien des pays et le développement de brochures de qualité pour les points essentiels, doivent être menées à temps pour que cela marche bien. La date limite pour le dépôt du dossier de financement auprès de l'ICSU est novembre 2010. Le développement des réseaux de contacts politiques devrait commencer aussitôt que possible, certainement en août-septembre.

Commentaires et suggestions ont suivi cet exposé.

Le Comité Exécutif a félicité Werlen pour les progrès accomplis, en particulier pour le financement de base du secrétariat. Kolossov a exprimé ses inquiétudes à propos de la communication avec l'UGI, étant donné qu'il est la personne-contact et que les problèmes doivent être résolus au plus vite. Le Comité Exécutif a noté qu'il n'y avait pas encore formellement de groupe de travail établi, et qu'il fallait y intégrer des membres non-européens. Werlen a répondu qu'effectivement il avait l'intention d'impliquer des membres venus de divers continents et d'une large gamme de disciplines appropriées. Les commissions de l'UGI et les comités nationaux devraient être encouragés à être prêts pour 2014 (par exemple sous la forme de propositions de recherches) et le Comité Exécutif devrait présenter cela comme une opportunité de s'engager lors de la réunion des présidents de commissions et de comités nationaux prévue mercredi matin 14 juillet 2010. Il faut insister sur le fait que les géographes devraient être perçus comme un lien essentiel entre sciences sociales et naturelles pour ce projet, et que l'UGI devrait être identifiée clairement comme un élément moteur, même s'il est important d'avoir des soutiens forts dans d'autres disciplines partenaires. Il existe cependant un risque que d'autres disciplines dominent si nous ne sommes pas vigilants. Les informations sur le projet doivent être directement accessibles sur le nouveau portail internet de l'UGI. Obtenir des soutiens politiques est important, mais à la fois difficile et consommateur de temps, bien qu'il y ait des opportunités pour démarrer le processus, puisque Woo-ik Yu occupe une position très influente et qu'il y a une implication gouvernementale dans la conférence du Chili.

#### 4. 04 Mises à jour des Commission (tous)

Les rapports de commissions qui ne sont pas arrivés à temps à Washington ont été envoyés au Comité Exécutif par courrier électronique et devraient continuer à circuler ainsi pour faciliter les discussions lors de la réunion de Pékin.

#### 4. 05 Le point sur le projet des revues (Kellerman, Meadows)

Ton Dietz et ses collègues ont fait des progrès significatifs et leur travail a été salué. Un document d'information a été distribué à tous les participants au congrès de Tel Aviv, avec une mise à jour prévue à Santiago, et un lancement plus solennel est envisagé à Cologne. Un problème qui a été soulevé est que certaines revues associées à un pays spécifique peuvent apparaître comme relevant du pays de publication. Ce souci pourrait être résolu par une note infrapaginale dans les pages du pays de référence et avec un lien au pays en question. Meadows va informer Dietz de cette anomalie. Soyez a relevé que les informations disponibles auprès des revues ou des maisons d'édition peuvent être incomplètes ou contradictoires, si bien que nous

devons encourager rédacteurs en chefs et éditeurs à amender nos résultats dans des documents provisoires ouverts à révisions; amendements et corrections peuvent être suggérés par tous, prochainement par le portail web de l'UGI qui hébergera la base de données.

#### 4. 06 Mécénat d'entreprise (Kellerman)

Il était prévu de développer de courtes informations de 2 pages sur les villes pour le site web de l'UGI. Ton Dietz a donné son accord pour faire avancer les choses, et des progrès sont attendus d'ici la fin 2010.

#### 4. 07 Technologie et calendrier des réunions du Comité Exécutif (Abler)

Le Comité Exécutif de l'UGI doit se réunir à Pékin du 1er au 5 novembre 2010. Le courriel envoyé par Abler le 7 juin a proposé un calendrier modifié des réunions avec au printemps 2011 une expérience de rencontre virtuelle via Internet au lieu de la réunion habituelle programmée pour Cologne. La question des coûts a été soulevée et on a pu confirmer que les coûts réels sont en effet bien moindres que ceux d'une rencontre en présentiel, bien que . Löytönen ait fait remarquer combien difficile cela peut être quand il y a plusieurs participants vivant dans des fuseaux horaires variés. Bien que les réunions virtuelles permettent une réduction des coûts (déplacements, hébergement) et des impacts carbone, il y a aussi beaucoup plus d'avantages dans des rencontres traditionnelles en tête-à-tête. Abler a présenté le système WebEx où on a besoin seulement d'une webcam et d'un micro; le président dirige la séance en contrôlant l'écran commun, mais peut céder la parole à tout moment à l'un des intervenants. Abler va envoyer des précisions sur WebEx aux membres du Comité Exécutif, et une réunion d'essai sera organisée prochainement. Néanmoins il a été convenu qu'Abler et Meadows rendraient visite au comité local d'organisation de Cologne aux dates originellement prévues (16-19 mai 2011) et qu'une expérience de réunion virtuelle serait tentée à cette occasion.

#### 4. 08 Transition au secrétariat de l'UGI (Meadows)

On a discuté de la façon dont cela pourrait se faire le transfert des responsabilités. Actuellement l'UGI est inscrite comme entreprise en Corée du Sud, et cela peut – ou peut-être pas – être exigé aussi en Afrique du Sud (Meadows va se renseigner). Un besoin immédiat est d'ouvrir un compte en banque pour l'UGI en Afrique du Sud. On s'est mis d'accord pour ne pas le faire par l'intermédiaire de l'Université du Cap, mais qu'un compte d'entreprise indépendant serait ouvert, avec facilités pour les cartes de crédit, ce pour quoi une lettre du président sera nécessaire. Meadows a accepté la responsabilité pour la plupart des correspondances de l'UGI, et peut obtenir des moyens supplémentaires en secrétariat avec le personnel déjà en place, moyennant quelques modestes compensations financières ad hoc. Pour la tenue des comptes, il est recommandé de trouver un comptable qui ait l'expérience du travail avec des organismes à but non lucratif, et un honoraire modeste serait de rigueur.

#### 4. 09 Conception du nouveau site web de l'UGI (Meadows)

Meadows a présenté une esquisse de page web préparée en concertation avec un concepteur commercial du Cap, en notant que c'était une ébauche préliminaire, encore au stade de concept. Cependant, l'objectif est de développer un site web plus dynamique qui actualiserait fréquemment son contenu et ses informations. Un élément-clé est la conception de l'interface, qui doit faire apparaître plus vite le site sur les moteurs de recherche. Plusieurs éléments sont envisagés, en plus des informations habituelles, comme un diaporama de photos qui pourraient

être envoyées par les utilisateurs, un moteur de recherche spécifique et le projet de base de données des revues. Löytönen a indiqué que le domaine hébergeur d'Helsinki n'autorisait pas d'activités commerciales sur le site, et qu'il serait possible d'obtenir des mécénats si l'Université du Cap le permet. Une traduction en français des éléments-clés du site est également indispensable. Meadows va continuer à creuser ces idées et fera un rapport lors de la prochaine réunion du Comité Exécutif à Pékin.

Sur un point connexe, Abler a suggéré que l'UGI devrait construire une base de données des membres de la communauté UGI qui suivrait la façon dont tel ou tel individu travaille pour l'UGI à des moments différents (membre correspondant, membre de commission, membre du comité de pilotage de commission, élu de l'UGI...). La création d'une telle base de données pourrait être étudiée avec la mise en place du nouveau site web.

## **5. Coopération et Ouverture**

### *5. 01 Festival International de Géographie (Kolossoff)*

Kolossov reste en contact direct avec le comité d'organisation. Il est dommage que seuls trois présidents de commission aient répondu à la lettre d'Abler et Kolossoff les invitant à participer. Néanmoins, il y aura des périodes prévues pendant le festival, où l'UGI sera représentée par Kolossoff, Abler et Soyez). La Russie est le *pays d'honneur* pour le prochain festival, du 7 au 10 octobre 2010.

### *5. 02 Festa de Mirandela, Portugal (Bellezza)*

Bellezza a décrit ce festival de géographie, le 4ème, qui s'est déroulé en mai 2010. Les organisateurs sont très enthousiastes devant la perspective d'internationalisation de leur manifestation et sont entrés en contact avec d'autres festivals comme le FIG. Abler a demandé ce que les organisateurs de ce festival souhaitent obtenir de l'UGI; s'il y avait un protocole d'accord avec l'UGI, cela ne compromettrait-il pas les liens entre l'UGI et le FIG ? Fincher a suggéré de mettre en place une hiérarchie de protocoles d'accord qui permettrait de différencier les niveaux différents d'implication dans différents festivals. Un protocole d'accord pour le festival de Miradela sera à nouveau discuté à Pékin.

### *5. 03 Festival de Geografía, Taxco, Etat de Guerrero, Mexique (Ayala)*

Les géographes de l'Université de Taxco organisent un Festival de Géographie au Mexique du 14 au 16 octobre 2010, comprenant une Olympiade géographique, avec des participants, enseignants et élèves, de diverses institutions. Aucun soutien financier n'est demandé, mais la permission d'utiliser le logo de l'UGI a été demandée et Abler a donné son accord. Les organisateurs sont aussi en contact avec le FIG pour les informer, mais il n'y a pas d'intention de devenir un festival international. Cependant il est envisagé de pérenniser ce festival au Mexique, tous les ans ou tous les deux ans, en tournant entre diverses institutions mexicaines. Il n'y a pas d'objection pour l'utilisation du logo de l'UGI dans les documents de promotion de ce festival.

### *5. 04 Proposition de publication Elsevier (Soyez)*

Un représentant des éditions Elsevier a suggéré à Soyez que l'UGI devrait envisager des stratégies relatives aux publications spéciales et aux actes de conférences. Les comités locaux d'organisation et les présidents de commissions seraient de toute évidence les personnes idoines pour choisir des contributeurs. Il est convenu d'en discuter plus longuement avec les présidents de commission le mercredi 14 juillet 2010. Soyez est désigné pour conduire la discussion durant cette conférence si on en a le temps.

#### 5. 05 Proposition de publication Springer (Kolossof)

Les présidents de commissions et la direction de l'UGI avaient déjà été contacts mais il y a eu peu de réponses. L'UGI pourrait bénéficier de cette proposition mais le manque de réponses est inquiétant. Kolossof est désigné pour en parler aux présidents de commissions le mercredi 14 juillet 2010.

#### 5. 06 Nomination au Comité Exécutif de l'ISSC (Abler)

L'UGI a été invitée à présenter des nominations pour le Comité Exécutif de l'ISSC, et il est clair qu'il serait dans l'intérêt de l'UGI d'avoir un géographe la représentant au Comité Exécutif. Des suggestions de noms seront fournies à Abler avant la fin juillet 2010.

#### 5. 07 Nomination d'un membre du bureau scientifique de l'ICSU (Abler)

Des nominations sont demandées pour cette position rémunérée à Paris. Des suggestions de noms seront fournies à Abler avant la fin juillet 2010.

### **6. Congrès Internationaux de Géographie et Conférences régionales de l'UGI**

#### 6. 01 Tunis, 2008 , Congrès International de Géographie (Yu, Abler)

Les sommes promises par le comité local d'organisation de Tunis pour le Fonds de Promotion et de Solidarité de l'UGI n'ont toujours pas été versés malgré des demandes répétées.

#### 6. 02 Tel Aviv, Conférence Régionale 2010 (Schnell, Kellerman)

Izhak Schnell et Michael Sofer, représentant le comité local d'organisation, ont été conviés et ont présenté un bref rapport. Il semble qu'il y ait environ 500 participants à la conférence. Schnell et Sofer ont remercié l'UGI pour son soutien permanent en des circonstances difficiles, et le Comité Exécutif remercie aussi les organisateurs.

#### 6. 03 Santiago du Chili, Conférence Régionale 2011 (Abler)

Il y a quelques inquiétudes au sein du Comité Exécutif quant à cette conférence, en particulier à propos de la composition du comité local d'organisation et de la nécessité de l'élargir pour y inclure des universitaires d'autres institutions et peut-être des représentants de pays voisins. Des membres du comité local d'organisation ont été conviés et ont présenté la conférence qui se déroulera du 14 au 18 novembre 2011. Le Chili a organisé la conférence ICA [Association Internationale de Cartographie] en 2009, sur le même site (Institut de Géographie Militaire) et cela fut un succès. On attend un millier de délégués, bien que certains trouvent ce nombre très optimiste, surtout si des géographes sud-américains réputés n'apparaissent pas parmi les organisateurs.

Le Colonel Vidal a répondu à ce souci en notant que des relations ont été nouées avec les institutions académiques chiliennes et que des invitations à participer ont été envoyées à des institutions académiques des pays adjacents. Il a accepté que des représentants de ces pays soient invités à rejoindre le comité local d'organisation et à participer à l'organisation du programme scientifique et des excursions de terrain.

Quant aux coûts de participation, ils devraient être plus faibles que pour la conférence ICA, de façon à encourager une participation importante (on estime à environ 461 dollars US le tarif

d'une pleine inscription, mais il y a diverses catégories). Des hébergements à bon marché seront proposés aux étudiants et un programme de bourses de voyage est prévu pour faciliter la participation de jeunes délégués et de délégués venus de pays en développement. Le site web de la conférence est accessible à: [www.ugi2011.cl](http://www.ugi2011.cl)

#### 6. 04 Cologne (Allemagne), Congrès International de Géographie 2012 (Soyez)

Frauke Kraas, du comité local d'organisation de Cologne, a été invitée pour cette partie de la discussion après la brève présentation de Soyez.

La conférence se déroulera du 26 au 30 août 2012 (site web: <http://www.igc2012.org/>). Le congrès comprendra trois parties principales. Premièrement, les sessions traditionnelles organisées par les commissions et groupes d'études; deuxièmement, des sessions consacrées à quatre thématiques spécifiques; et, troisièmement, un Forum des Jeunes Chercheurs. En collaboration avec un Comité Scientifique national, une large consultation a été menée durant deux ateliers de travail réunissant chacun environ 80 participants, principalement des collègues allemands et des pays voisins, de façon à identifier et préciser les quatre thématiques retenues. Un appel à propositions de sessions a été ouvert sur la page web du congrès de Cologne en juillet 2010. Le Comité Scientifique doit être élargi avec l'inclusion de 16 collègues du monde entier. Ils se réuniront à Cologne en mai 2011 pour identifier les sujets de sessions les plus prometteurs. De longues discussions ont eu lieu au sujet des quatre thèmes, qui selon certains membres du Comité Exécutif pourraient exclure des contributions systématiques plus traditionnelles de géographes. Kraas et Soyez ont souligné que la première partie du Congrès permet exactement cette approche plus traditionnelle, mais qu'une focalisation plus stricte dans la seconde partie est souhaitée et comprise comme une innovation et une spécificité désirable du congrès de Cologne. Le comité local d'organisation, cependant, est prêt à considérer de quelles façons il pourrait encourager la participation de toutes les composantes de la géographie.

#### 6. 05 Kyoto (Japon), Conférence Régionale 2013 (Himiyama)

Yukio Himiyama et Yoshitaka Ishikawa ont assisté à la réunion pour ce sujet. Le comité local d'organisation est maintenant en place, il est présidé par Yoshitaka Ishikawa. La conférence aura lieu du 4 au 9 août 2013 autour du thème 'Sagesse traditionnelle et connaissance moderne pour le futur de la Terre'.

Un site web officiel a été créé ([www.igu-kyoto2013.org/](http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org/)) et un DVD présentant la conférence a été montré durant la réunion. En ce qui concerne les frais d'inscription, les organisateurs locaux cherchent à les réduire en sollicitant un soutien financier de diverses entités, y compris la ville de Kyoto et le Conseil des Sciences du Japon.

#### 6. 06 Moscou (Russie), Conférence Régionale 2015 (Kolossof)

La Société de Géographie de Russie a invité l'ensemble du Comité Exécutif à assister à sa réunion de St Pétersbourg du 22 au 26 novembre 2010. Cette invitation est extrêmement généreuse mais certains membres du Comité Exécutif ont indiqué qu'en raison d'autres obligations ils ne pourraient y assister. Les membres du Comité Exécutif informeront Meadows de leur disponibilité à ces dates..

#### 6. 07 Protocole d'Accord sur les Congrès et Conférences de l'UGI (Abler)

En 2009 à St Dié il y avait eu une vigoureuse discussion au sujet du soutien financier pour la participation des membres du Conseil Exécutif aux manifestations de l'UGI. En avril 2010, Abler

avait présenté une ébauche dont l'examen avait été reporté, en particulier au vu du déficit projeté de la conférence de Tel Aviv.

Kellerman a noté que, pour les finances, il y a une clause qui laisse le comité local d'organisateur seul responsable de ces coûts à l'exception de ceux que l'UGI accepte de couvrir, et il a proposé que cela soit amendé pour aboutir à une répartition plus équitable des responsabilités financières. Par exemple, le comité local d'organisation pourrait supporter la responsabilité pour l'accueil des congressistes (locaux, programme, etc), tandis qu'au contraire les coûts directs de participation du Comité Exécutif et les coûts associés aux activités du Comité sur le lieu du Congrès (location d'espace pour les réunions du Comité, Assemblée Générale, stand d'information) devraient être assumés par l'UGI elle-même.

De plus, Kellerman a proposé que la contribution de 15 dollars par délégué au fonds de consolidation ne soit payée à l'UGI par le comité local d'organisation que si le congrès dégage un surplus financier.

Comme il n'y a eu visiblement aucun consensus au sein du Comité sur cette question et d'autres questions sur la politique à tenir au sujet des conférences, l'examen de ces points sera repris lors de la réunion de Pékin en novembre.

## **7. Organisation**

7. 01 Priorités de l'UGI pour 2008-2012 (Soyez, Abler)

7. 02 Élection d'un vice-président de l'UGI (Abler)

## **8. Prix et récompenses**

8. 01 Médaille UGI Planète et Humanité (Löytönen)

8. 02 Comité des Honneurs de l'UGI (Abler)

8. 03 Prix et récompenses des commissions UGI (Abler)

## **9. Points supplémentaires de l'agenda**

9. 01 Retour du Brésil comme pays membre

Une lettre de candidature pour le retour du Brésil au sein de l'UGI a été reçue, accompagnée du paiement des droits 2010. La participation du Brésil est approuvée, et sa représentante Ita Cruz est félicitée.

## **10. Session ajournée**

*Traduction en français par Yves Boquet, Université de Bourgogne, Dijon, France*



### 3) NEXT IGU OFFICIAL INITIATIVES

#### 3.1) 2011 SANTIAGO DE CHILE CONFERENCE

##### PREPARATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE OF THE IGU IN 2011: VISIT TO EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTORS IN SEPTEMBER 2010

A delegation from Chile, has recently made a tour in Europe visiting various scientific bodies and organisations, bringing news of the major geographic event of 2011.

Flanked by the Andes mountains and the Pacific ocean, Chile's unique and varied geography includes the driest desert in the world, glaciers, steppes, islands, vineyards, ports, beach and ski resorts, lush forests, rushing rivers, fertile valleys and a rich diversity of cultures thriving in settlements ranging from major cities to remote outposts. Considering the natural attractions present from north to south throughout Chile, also the range of services that Santiago offers as a modern city, this country is the ideal location for this gathering of geographers and those professionals involved with the geo-sciences, meeting at an occasion for science and friendship in relation to geography.

The International Geographic Union, in conjunction with its National Committee in Chile, is organising the Regional Geographic Conference scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The Military Geographic Institute of Chile (IGM) is headquarters of both the National Committee and of the Local Organising Committee (LOC). The full list of organisations involved in UGI 2011 in various capacities is already too long to give here; see [www.ugi2011.cl](http://www.ugi2011.cl).

In order to give potential participants in UGI 2011 the opportunity to meet the organizers in person, the Sub-Director of the IGM, Colonel Leonardo Oyarzun, and the Coordinator of LOC, Mr Pedro Mahuzier, recently concluded a tour in Europe, of which the highlights were:

- Open meetings with Spanish geographers and geosciences specialists at the “Centro Geografico del Ejercito” (Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>) and the “Instituto Geografico Nacional” (Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>) in Madrid, Spain.
- Open meeting with Spanish and Catalan geographers and geosciences specialists at the “Institut Cartografic de Catalunya” (Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>) in Barcelona, Spain.
- Visit to “IGN-France-International” (Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>) in Paris, France.
- Visit to “EADS-Astrium” corporation (Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>), Toulouse, France.
- Open meeting with Italian geographers and geosciences specialists at the corporate headquarters of “Telespazio” (Sept. 30) in Rome, Italy.
- Open meeting at the Home of Geography and “Società Geografica Italiana” (Oct. 1).

In these meetings several scholars were met, and among them we like to remember:

Sebastian Mas Mayoral, Director of the National Geographical Information Centre at the "Instituto Geografico Nacional", Madrid.

Miguel-Ángel Bernabé Poveda, Professor of the Topographic engineering & Cartography Department of the Polytechnic University of Madrid.

Jacobo García-Álvarez, Carlos III University (Madrid) and chair of IGU CO8.20 History of

Geography .

Francisco Hernandez Cifuentes, Head of Army Geographic Center, Madrid.

Miguel Pelaz Puebla, CEO GTB-Iberica, Madrid.

Jaume Miranda y Canals, Director of the Cartographic Institute of Catalonia, Barcelona.

Giorgi Khazaradze, Prof. in Geology Faculty, University of Barcelona.

Nathalie Marthe-Bismuth, Directeur IGN-France-International, Paris.

Eric Beranger, CEO Astrium-Services, Paris.

Marc Tondriaux, Business Director, EADS-Astrium, Toulouse.

Herve Buchwalter, President of SPOT-Image (Toulouse, France)

Jean-Louis Bellan, Project Management, Infoterra, Toulouse.

Renato Cumani, Environment Officer of Land & Water Division of the FAO, Rome.

Franco Salvatori, President Società Geografica Italiana, Rome.

Alfonso Giordano, Società Geografica Italiana, Rome.

Giuliano Bellezza, IGU Vice President, Rome.

Armando Montanari, University of Roma and Chair of IGU C0.17, Global Change and Human Mobility

Roberto Zapulli, Area Manager, Telespazio, Rome.



*Leonardo Oyarzun in Madrid, Pedro Mahuzier in Rome*

Each open meeting included two presentations; one about UGI 2011 and the other about the work performed in Chile by the IGM with cartographic and surveying services in support of disaster relief and reconstruction in the period following the major earthquake and tsunami that occurred in central Chile on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, 2010. The presentations were followed by questions from an audience of specially-invited academics and geo-sciences specialists.

The tour was successful, enabling geographers and organisations to obtain the basic information they need for successful participation in UGI 2011. The tour demonstrates the commitment of the conference hosts to reach out, open up this gathering to the world community and offer it the following opportunities:

- For authors: Present and publish papers and posters of high scientific and academic value
- For geographers: Network with the world's community of geographers both in scientific business meetings and socially
- For attendees: Observe and capture the latest advances in the world of the geo-sciences

- For visitors to Chile: Observe and absorb the unique, multiple environments of Chilean geography (field trips and tourism)
- For organisations: Exhibit services and products, and integrate corporate image with UGI 2011 (trade exhibition and sponsorship)

The Submissions System is now on-line and available for abstracts, linked to the conference web site at [www.ugi2011.cl](http://www.ugi2011.cl), which also contains full information. Contact LOC through [info@ugi2011.cl](mailto:info@ugi2011.cl).

Edwin Hunt  
 Communications Sub-Committee for UGI 2011  
 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### **3.2) 2012 KÖLN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS**

Less than two years from now the IGC 2012 will be welcoming geographers from around the world in Cologne. Although this might still seem a long time to go, preparations in Cologne are now rapidly gathering pace.

Over the last few months the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the IGC 2012 has been busy advertising the IGC 2012 and presenting the new concept to geographers around the world. Members of the LOC attended the IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel, the annual conference of the Royal Geographical Society in London, United Kingdom, and the F estival International de G eographie at Saint-Di -des-Vosges in France. Furthermore, over the next few months the IGC 2012 will be present with a stall at the Russian Geography Conference in St. Petersburg and at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Geographers of India in Chandigarh.

The interest in the IGC 2012 has been notable, although many geographers, especially from the younger generation, still seem to know little about the work of the IGU. The introduction of a special Young Researchers' Forum at the IGC 2012 will hopefully provide an exciting and stimulating new framework and increase the attraction of the IGU for young geographers.

In an attempt to open up the IGC to new participants, an open call for sessions has been published in July 2010. As part of the innovative concept for the IGC 2012 all geographers are now invited to submit session proposals before 1 April 2011 under one of the four key topics:

- Global Change and Globalisation
- Society and Environment
- Urbanisation and Demographic Change
- Risks and Conflicts

Related to this open call for sessions, the Local Organising Committee (LOC) has also invited all IGU commissions and task forces to register their planned sessions and meetings before the 1 April 2011 to enable the LOC to produce a complete draft programme.

We would like to thank all commissions and task forces who have already submitted their session proposals or announced their interest in holding sessions on a specific day.

Although the call for session proposals will remain open until April 2011, it is recommended to submit the session registration as soon as possible, as timeslots will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Of course, there will be ample of timeslots available for all commissions and

task forces to participate in the 2012 meeting, but certain days (i.e. Monday) might fill up more quickly. Thus an early registration of sessions will not only increase your chances of being allocated your preferred timeslots, but it will also give the LOC more flexibility in planning an interesting and balanced conference program.

The LOC looks forward to welcoming you all in Cologne in 2012.

*Valerie Viechoff*



## 4) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

### 4.1) FESTIVAL INTERNATIONALE DE LA GEOGRAPHIE 2010, SAINT DIE DES VOSGES

Le 21<sup>ème</sup> Festival International de Géographie de Saint-Dié-des-Vosges qui s'est tenu du 7 au 10 octobre 2010 a connu un fort succès. Le thème : « La forêt: or vert des Hommes ? » était un sujet d'étude et de débats passionnants. Le public est venu en masse rencontrer les géographes spécialistes de la forêt et de la Russie, 50 000 personnes ont écouté 300 intervenants universitaires, journalistes ou auteurs traitant de ces sujets. La Russie était notre pays invité d'honneur. De nombreuses rencontres, conférences et tables-rondes ont traité des évolutions de ce pays. M. Aleksandr Chupryan, vice-ministre des situations d'urgence, SE M. Aleksandr Orlov, ambassadeur de Russie en France ont présenté les nouveaux défis russes et ont pu revenir sur les catastrophes forestières dues aux feux de l'été dernier.

Ce 21<sup>ème</sup> Festival achevé, rendez-vous est donné aux géographes du 6 au 9 octobre 2011 autour du thème : « *L'Afrique plurielle : paradoxes et ambitions* », invités : Réunion, Mayotte et les Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises.



*A gauche, la séance inaugurale; a droite, Mr. F.Pierret et le hôtes Russes devant une maquette de l'église de Sainte Basile*

*(English text)*

*The 21th International Festival of Geography in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges was a real success, from 7 to 10 October. The theme was "Forests : Green Gold of humanity ?". The audience was large: 50 000 visitors listened to 300 professors, journalists and writers specialized in forest problems.*

*Russia was the guest country. Many conferences highlighted the great evolution of the country. To be noticed the speeches of Mr. Aleksandr Chupryan, Vice-Minister of Emergency Situations in Russia, and of Mr Aleksandr Kolossov, Russian Ambassador in France, presented the new Russian challenges, especially catastrophic fires in Russia during summer 2010.*

This 21th International Geography festival completed, and it can be already announced that the 22th is forecasted for October 2011, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> on the theme: "Africa : paradoxes and ambitions".

#### **4.2) JERUSALEM, THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE; JERUSALEM, 14-16 OCTOBER**

The first annual international conference on the issue of Jerusalem and the challenges it faces, has been organized by the International Peace and Cooperation Center, the Futura Institute in Jerusalem, and the Swiss Lasalle Institute. The conference, which was held in Jerusalem at the Notre Dame Centre, was terminated on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010. Dozens of academics and experts in Jerusalem studies, both from the city and European nations, especially Switzerland and Germany, participated.

##### **Calendar of the works**

Mr. Mario Carera, consultant in the Swiss Foreign Ministry, delegate of the federal government and special envoy to the Middle East, opened the conference. He focused in his speech on the international importance of Jerusalem, the importance of including it in the agenda of negotiations and the political solution, and warned of the outbreak of conflict in the city on the ground on a daily basis, as this kind of decline will have negative consequences for the conflict zone and the area in general. He called for an intensification of international presence and support for the issue of Jerusalem and the challenges the city faces as a result of unilateral policies undertaken by the Israeli side.



*Opening Ceremony, left to right: Niklaus Brantschen, Pia Gyger, Shlomo Hasson, Rami Nasrallah, Peter Hess*

The head of the International Peace and Cooperation Centre, Dr. Rami Nasrallah, pointed out in his opening speech to the striking Swiss presence, which included thinkers, members of parliament, and legal activists. Dr. Nasrallah called the absence of cooperation on Jerusalem a

neglected issue, and said that what the city is witnessing today is an outburst of conflict and confrontation, resulting in the degradation of the daily lives of Jerusalemites, which is a direct result of Israel's politics and the delay of research into Jerusalem and its future.

Dr. Peter Hess, former head of the federal parliament, called for an intensification of international efforts to find a political solution to the issue of Jerusalem building on the view of two states, two capitals, and said that it is not possible to wait any longer as he called on the international community to devote major attention to the issue of Jerusalem.

Professor Shlomo Hasson from the Hebrew University and Futura Institute for Policies touched on the role of political conflict in the decline of the city on the functional level, and in terms the city and its position with regards to the two peoples - and its international position - while he confirmed that the solution of the political conflict will not take place without the division of the city politically into two domains and two capitals, and the establishment of administrative conditions that differ in levels of the relationship and overlap between them. Thus the symbolic, national, and cultural administrations would be totally separate, while economic and infrastructural administration on a strategic level would be closer to cooperation and integration.

### **Summary of content and discussion:**

Jerusalem has been used as a symbol and a label for conflict and confrontation, and was never used as a symbol for peace and coexistence, and this is our focus and our strength. Jerusalem should be transformed from a city of conflict into one of peace and prosperity, an open city for all. It is no longer possible to wait, and Jerusalem should receive major local and international attention as one of the most urgent issues to deal with.

Today, there is an absence of cooperation on Jerusalem which transformed it into a neglected issue. The outburst of conflict and confrontation that the city is witnessing today, has been resulting in the degradation of the daily lives of Jerusalemites, and is a direct result of Israel's politics and the delay of research into Jerusalem and its future.



*Mario Carera, general keynote – Shahd Wa'ary Eeta Gibson, Rami Nasrallah in Session 1*

There is an urgent need for intensifying international efforts to find a political solution to the issue of Jerusalem building on the view of two states, with their two capitals in Jerusalem; which should be developed as a capital and an open city, on the basis of the political division of Jerusalem into the East, as a Palestinian capital, and the West, as an Israeli capital, while maintaining the city open and physically united. This idea of an open city is one that has to exist side by side with the macro political arrangements between the Palestinian and Israeli governments, especially that the solution of the political conflict will not take place without the

division of the city politically into two domains and two capitals, and the establishment of administrative conditions that differ in levels of the relationship and overlap between them.

In order for the vision of Open Jerusalem to be realistic on a functional level, serious work has to be accomplished on many layers and levels. And while complete separation will be necessary on the national-political, educational and cultural administration, it is essential that cooperation and unity take place on the infrastructure as well as economic and environmental levels.

This concept of Jerusalem, while politically divided as a capital and centre must be supported by an international administrative organization which is in keeping with the international importance of Jerusalem, and its prominence as an administrative framework for the political solution.

In this conference, the basis and guidelines were set down for the transformation of Jerusalem from a marginalized and fragmented city of conflict into a capital and political centre, and an important city which can be included on the globalized network which presents important international jobs in education, culture, tourism, and services.

The conference also discussed the concept of Jerusalem as an international city in terms of urban and developmental functions and the broadening of the scope of the city based on cultural and urban pluralism in a way that supports its political centrality as a capital and centre.

### **Summary of conclusions:**

The conference “Jerusalem: the Global Challenge” was a great success and an outstanding accomplishment in taking a first step towards our vision of an Open Jerusalem. We feel that Jerusalem as an open city is no longer a myth and we will go forwards in trying to realize this vision on the ground through translating it into concrete projects and programs.



*Second Session*

The point of the conference is to focus on interest of the city. Both sides were represented, and the neglect of functionality of the city had to be tackled. The idea of the conference is to also understand the obstacles –the roots of the problem- with regards to the city functions for all sides: the Palestinians, Israelis and international, in order to be able to move on in dealing with them.

The conference also discussed the concept of Jerusalem as an international city in terms of urban and developmental functions and the broadening of the scope of the city based on cultural and urban pluralism in a way that supports its political centrality as a capital and centre. At the center was the mutual recognition that Jerusalem should be divided according to the principles of the two-state solution. It was also recognized that an administrative and economic arrangements are essential to support the two-state solution. Hence the idea of a city which is politically divided but physically, socially and economically united.

An important policy that has been suggested by the conference is to work on how we can use urban planning to promote more positive encounter and interaction between both sides. We should work together as Palestinians and Israelis in order to come up with a new model that would help shift the attitudes towards each other, to create the venue and space of interaction, and which proved possible through the cooperation of both teams in the content of the scenarios and vision for the future of Jerusalem. Among the major accomplishments of the conference itself is the importance of cooperation to create hope on the Palestinian side and security on the Israeli one, so promoting its trust in the possibility of peace-building.

Based on the feedback of most participants and organizers, organizational aspects as well as contents of the panels and discussions were interesting and informative, as well as instructive and constructive. The contribution of the Palestinian and Israeli teams was recognized and commended by the participants. The commitment of the international audience and their contributions has been praised, and was so encouraging to move forwards to the next conference with larger audiences, and increase the engagement of supporters on all sides; Palestinian, Israeli and International.

Examples of the very positive reactions on the part of internationals and the Swiss, and the locals were mentioned, and this included individual and group initiatives on how to follow up on the conference and tackle issues that were not yet tackled, how to get into details, or volunteering to write policy papers on specific sectors. A decision was made to continue the joint work by learning from the experience of regions and cities in Europe that manage to develop cross-border cooperation. Members of the Lassalle-Institut offered their help in arranging a visit to the Basel area and the Swiss parliament in Bern. Once these experiences are explored, the two teams will prepare a detailed plan for Jerusalem area. This is in addition to using some other cities in Europe as study cases and models for the sectors that unite the city, like the case of Basel suggested by Prof. Alfred Bodenheimer, and which will be studied by the team in the coming weeks.



## **5) FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

*(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2010)*

**5.1) APPLIED GEOGRAPHY IN THEORY AND IN PRACTICE, ZAGREB, 5-6 NOVEMBER**

**5.2) SYMPOSIUM AUTOCARTO 2010, ORLANDO (FLORIDA), 15-19 NOVEMBER**

**5.3) L'HOMME@DISTANCE, LE HAVRE, 17-19 NOVEMBER**

**5.4) EAST ASIAN SEAS CONFERENCE 2009, MANILA 23-27 NOVEMBER**

**5.5) ATIGN, GEOTUNIS, 29 NOVEMBER-3 DECEMBER 2010**

**5.6) CONGRESS ON COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AND COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE, SINGAPORE, 4-6 DECEMBER 2010**

- 5.7) CONTAINED MEMORY CONFERENCE 2010, WELLINGTON (NEW ZEALAND), 9-11 DECEMBER 2010**
- 5.8) CONGRESS OF ASIAN WOMEN STUDIES, PENANG, 9-11 DECEMBER**
- 5.9) 11TH ASIAN CONFERENCE ON URBANISATION, HYDERABAD, 10-13 DECEMBER 2010**
- 5.10) IGU COMMISSION C08.25, SEMINAR IN GUWAHATI (ASSAM) 11-13 DECEMBER**
- 5.11) SOFTWARE ENGINEERING AND INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS CONFERENCES, WUHAN, 16-20 DECEMBER**
- 5.12) TRAVEL AND TRAVELERS, SEMINAR, UNIVERSITY OF MINHO, 17 DECEMBER 2010**



## 6) HOME OF GEOGRAPHY UPDATE

The Home of Geography answered a request from the Santiago de Chile Regional Conference Local Organizing Committee to host a meeting at the *Società Geografica Italiana* to inform the Italian geographical community about the Santiago meeting. On 1 October several dozen individuals, mainly students from the University Tor Vergata (Roma 2), attended the presentation given by Colonel Leonardo Oyarzun, and Mr. Pedro Mahuzier (see point 3.1).



*West flank of Judean Mountains, sea level: nomad kids joking and goats grazing*

A few days later I had the opportunity to enjoy two outcomes of the July 2008 Tel Aviv IGU Regional Conference: first I was invited to participate in a conference in Jerusalem dedicated to “Jerusalem: The Global Challenge” (see above, point 4.2), and after that meeting I was able to visit Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem. I was invited there by Professor Musallam Abu Helo. With his expert guidance, I enjoyed a tour of the West Bank starting from Al-Quds and crossing the small town of Al Azaryeh (Bethany for Christians—where Lazarus was revived) and then

going down to the Dead Sea, and Jericho. From Jericho we headed west, climbing 1,000 meters on the western flank of the Jordan rift valley to the top of Judean Mountains, passing some temporary nomad settlements en route. Once at the top after crossing several Palestinian settlements we turned south to Ramallah and back to East Jerusalem. My deepest thanks to Professor Abu Helu for the tour and for his expert and passionate guidance.



*Same area, 600 metres higher: a rubber pipe takes water from a well to a tent at lower quote*

Giuliano Bellezza