



## **IGU E-NEWSLETTER**

Quarterly

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*This Newsletter is circulated to nearly 2000 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome. Please send them to [giuliano.bellezza@gmail.com](mailto:giuliano.bellezza@gmail.com) or [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org)*

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## **1) REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT YUKIO HIMIYAMA**

Hello everyone. In the three months since the issue of the last e-Newsletter, there has been many important things in and around IGU. I would like to focus on some of them for your attention.

### **1) Promotion of national/regional activities and Commissions' activities:**

The year 2017 started with an exciting news from the South Pacific, i.e. Samoa joined the IGU family. As for Commissions, we now have Commission on 'Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering'. These great achievements are the results of the immense efforts of the initiators and their supporters.

In the last Newsletter I encouraged Commissions, Task Forces and National Committees to propose Thematic Conferences (TCs) to the Executive Committee (EC). I am pleased to inform you that we now have Bucharest/Tulcea (September) on our list of 2017 Thematic Conferences, in addition to Hyderabad (March) and La Paz (April). For detail of these Conferences and other activities of IGU, please visit our official website: <http://igu-online.org/> The EC will discuss how to promote TCs further in its next meeting at Quebec in May 2017.

### **2) Enhancement of contribution to Global Programs such as Future Earth:**

The IGU has long been a member of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC), and it recently joined the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH). ICSU and ISSC are expected to merge soon in order to 'enable and advance science for the future', and the IGU has been, and will continue to be, deeply involved in the process, as the vision and mission of the new organization would enhance our own goals. The close relation of IGU with CIPSH started through its strong support to IYGU, and it is likely to progress further, offering us geographers a great opportunity of enriching our insight and scope in this turbulent and rapidly changing world. As for Future

Earth, it is now becoming increasingly clear that Future Earth functions as the major academic platform for implementation of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I believe it means that the National Committees for IGU have a grand opportunity to contribute to their government as specialists of some of the SDGs. In order to assist such effort, the EC will continue to forward information on them to the geographic community through its website, mailing lists and other means.

3) Promotion of geographical and environmental education in association with IYGU:

The 2016 International Year of Global Understanding proclaimed by ICSU, ISSC and CIPSH is now over with a great success, and we are entering the harvest year. It is not yet clear if IYGU succeeds in getting sizable funding for further activities in the coming years, but it can at least continue and develop much of its mission with the new IGU Commission on 'Global Understanding' at its core. The budget of a Commission is generally modest, but with the support of the many Regional Action Centres throughout the world and the IGU community, the Global Understanding Commission can do something substantial. An impressive fact is that the number of IYGU Regional Action Centres is still increasing. A couple of weeks ago I was invited to the Korea National University of Education at Cheongju City, where the opening ceremony for the IYGU Regional Action Centre for Korea took place. I was particularly impressed by the passion of Professor Ryu, the President of the University, to create an Asiatic regional hub of education for sustainable development, and the important roles the geographers in the University play to support the President with the help of IYGU.

4) Executive Committee meetings

There are normally two EC meetings each year, as there are many important items to discuss including urgent ones. The meetings are usually held in association with IGCs or Regional Conferences, or otherwise at the place in the vicinity of where one of the EC members lives. The Executive Committee for 2016-2018 had its first formal meeting at University of Paris, Paris, France, during 15-17 November 2016. The reasons for the choice of the venue were to re-consolidate the somewhat weakened relation between the IGU and the French speaking world, and to pave the way to the 2024 Extraordinary Geographical Congress planned to be held in Paris to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the birth of IGU.

The next EC meeting will be held during 8-10 May 2017 at Quebec, Canada. The place was chosen because it is where the next Regional Conference is to be held in August 2018. The Organizing Committee of the Quebec Regional Conference and the Canadian Association of Geographers kindly host the meeting.

I see the EC meetings held at various places in the world as a very good opportunity for the EC members to meet the local geographers, as well as to see and experience the locality which may otherwise remain remote.

So, let's continue working together. I look forward to seeing you in some of our variety of meetings, or hearing from you by e-mail, etc.

**Yukio Himiyama**  
*President of IGU*



## 2) IGU EC MEETING, PARIS, 14-17 NOVEMBER 2016

### DRAFT Minutes of the IGU Executive Committee Meeting

Maison de la Recherche, Paris, France

14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### Welcome, Meeting Logistics and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by President Himiyama, who welcomed Secretary-General Mike Meadows and Vice Presidents Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Barbaros Gönençgil, Iain Hay, Vladimir Kolosov, Nathalie Lemarchand, Rémy Tremblay, Zhou Chenghu (with Ma Xiaoyi in attendance).

### Adoption of the Schedule and Agenda

The schedule and agenda was discussed and adopted. This being the first EC meeting for several new members, brief introductions were conducted.

### Minutes

The minutes of the Beijing meeting in August 2016, previously approved via email, were tabled for noting and reference and, with a minor editorial correction, were confirmed.

### Organization and Operations

**Executive Committee Member Reports.** Given the very short time between the last Executive Committee meeting and the current one, members were not requested to submit written reports on their IGU-related activities.

**Executive Committee Meeting Calendar 2017 onwards.** The Executive Committee schedule for the next two years was discussed. It was agreed that the first meeting of 2017 would be held in Quebec, Canada in May, with arrivals 7<sup>th</sup>, meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, possible field excursion on 10<sup>th</sup>, departure on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017. It was confirmed that the second meeting of 2017 would be in September in Amsterdam, with arrivals on 6<sup>th</sup>, meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, possible field excursion on 9<sup>th</sup> and departures on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Himiyama offered to host the first meeting of 2018 in Japan, preferably in Tokyo, in early April, possible arrivals on 9<sup>th</sup>, meeting 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>,

departures 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018 depending on field excursion. There would also be a meeting held either immediately prior to or following the Quebec Regional Conference in August 2018 (dates are 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018). Arrangements for the final meeting of 2018 can only be made once the outcome of the election of new EC members is known (mid-2018).



*Foreground: Vladimir Kolosov, Mike Meadows, Nathalie Lemarchand, Rémy Tremblay, (Ma Xiaoyi, in attendance); second line: Iain Hay, Barbaros Gönencgil, Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Zhou Chenghu, Yukio Himiyama.*

**IGU Strategy 2016-22.** The original strategy, drawn up initially by Kolosov at the beginning of his Presidential term and followed by several iterations, was tabled. Himiyama emphasized that we should continue with these efforts and in particular to enhance and emphasise the role and activities of the Commissions and National Committees, especially in regard to Future Earth and IYGU. The information from Future Earth and IYGU needs to be regularly monitored to ensure that the relevant Commissions are alerted and become involved as appropriate. New initiatives and special projects may be required to be developed over the next four years; creative opportunities may exist in relation to external bodies, such as Future Earth and CIPSH, as well as through our own IYGU. Implementation of the strategy requires a better division of labour than has been the case thus far. This was discussed at some length; the strategy document indicates the main goals and activities and the key elements were raised and, where appropriate, allocated to EC member responsibilities. It was agreed to take these important matters up again early in the May 2017 EC meeting in Quebec.

**EC member responsibilities.** The new Executive Committee considered the list of IGU National Committees and agreed to allocate liaison responsibilities as indicated in Appendix 1.

**IGU Financial Report and Projection.** Given the short time since the last Executive Committee meeting, Meadows did not table a written financial report but confirmed that the financial situation remains meaningfully sound. In line with the recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee at the General Assembly in Beijing, Meadows agreed to employ an assistant to help in finalizing the 2017 accounts and a suitably qualified professional to sign off on them.

**IGU National Membership Update.** Meadows presented an update on the national membership situation. Hay reported that he had approached several nations in Oceania with a view to encouraging membership and there has been follow-up by some of these. Payment of dues from the new national membership approved at the Beijing General Assembly has been inconsistent and these need to be followed up (Meadows). The application from Samoa was tabled and it was agreed that this met with the usual requirements and an email ballot of the General Assembly will be initiated to gain the necessary authorization (Meadows). An application from Fiji is also anticipated shortly. Meadows agreed to draft a letter to be distributed to National Committee chairs by the EC member liaisons.

**IGU Commission and Task Force update.** Dell’Agnese has reported that she has made progress with several of the suspended Commissions. The new Executive Committee considered the list of IGU Commissions and Task Forces and agreed to allocate liaison responsibilities as indicated in Appendix 2. It was suggested that the lists of Steering Committee members for each Commission and Task Force be made available on the Commissions page on the IGU website (Meadows). The proposed new Commission on Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering was tabled. Since initial discussion at the last EC meeting the proposal has been revised. There was further discussion regarding the relationship between this and the existing IGU Rural Sustainability Commission, among others. It was agreed in principle that the Commission should be established but that the proposers need to ensure that they liaise fully with relevant other Commissions (especially Rural Sustainability) with respect to possible overlap and to ensure that the steering committee membership structure meets with IGU statutory requirements. This should be reported at the latest by the time of the next EC meeting (Zhou will follow up). The other relevant commissions are to be informed that this new Commission has been given in principle approval to be established (Meadows). Werlen had tabled a new version of the Commission on Global Understanding for noting. The steering committee has still to be populated. Given that Ron Abler and Dieter Soyez have stepped down from the IGU Commission Excellence Award sub-committee, Kolosov and Gönençgil agreed to replace them.

**IYGU.** Werlen had forwarded the latest update on IYGU. It is an impressive document in terms of the scope of its activities and the EC complimented the Director on this. There is concern regarding the sustainability of the entire initiative due to the fact that it is so reliant on the extraordinary efforts of a single person. This could be a problem especially if there is to be a ‘Decade of Global Understanding’, which is one of the suggested scenarios. The newly established Global Understanding Commission must be seen as a key resource in regard to the continuation of IYGU activities and Werlen needs to consult its steering committee as to how the sustainability issue can be addressed. Himiyama was asked to communicate these concerns to Werlen and to emphasise that, if indeed the ‘decade’ is manifested, IGU endorsement will be

conditional on a satisfactory solution to the sustainability challenge. Existing Commissions are also to be encouraged to interact with IYGU. The application for funding to ICSU following the 2016 call was submitted on time and this has a strong IYGU focus. The proposal has a co-lead applicant (International Union for Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences), supported by two others (International Union of Psychological Sciences and International Union of Soil Sciences).

**IGU Africa and Latin America initiative.** Sessions devoted to both African and Latin American geographers had been convened at the Beijing congress, although only with relatively limited numbers of participants. Some useful ideas emerged nevertheless. There was a suggestion that the community of African geographers already active in IGU initiatives be approached to form a core group to foster a larger network. Kenneth Matengu has agreed to pursue the idea of a thematic conference in Namibia and an indication of a concept note in respect of a possible Task Force or Commission for Africa has been indicated and Meadows agreed to follow up with these contacts. Lemarchand has a network within Francophone Africa that can also be a useful resource. The question was raised as to whether or not the local organisers of the Quebec Regional Conference could consider the possibility of generating funds to support attendance of francophone African geographers and to consider a special session or sessions on Africa (Tremblay). The Latin American initiative already has considerable impetus through the upcoming La Paz Thematic Conference and the newly elected national members from the region.

**International assessment in Geography.** Joseph Stoltman has approached the EC for endorsement of the idea of international assessment, arising as a logical next step to the signing of the International Charter on Geographical Education. Several concerns relating to the proposal were highlighted; including the claims that ‘strong support’ for the idea is indicated by research conducted among Australian geography teachers. The EC supports meaningful and appropriate international assessment in the discipline but feels that a full endorsement at this stage is premature. The IGU Commission on Geographical Education is to be encouraged to continue to develop the idea and endorse it as it sees fit.

**IGU Website.** The IGU website continues to be updated as usual.

**IGU Journals Project.** The database has been updated and the new information is in the process of being uploaded.

**IGU Bulletin.** Volumes 59-60 will be compiled early in 2017. Meadows has agreed to post these on the website.

**IGU eNewsletter.** Former Vice-President Bellezza’s work on this was again praised and it is anticipated that he will continue to produce the quarterly e-newsletter as usual.

**OurSus** (Droogleever-Fortuijn). Activities in association with the Beijing Congress seem to suggest a turning point for *OurSus* and there are now several IGU Commissions willing to engage with the project. Funding has been obtained from the Geographical Society of China and one of the Beijing Normal Universities. Prospects of collaborating with IYGU are also being

discussed with Werlen. The domination of Chinese city cases remains, but Ton Dietz, who has already identified several possible new participant cities, will have an opportunity to be even more active with *OurSus* following his retirement in 2017. Droogleever-Fortuijn remains the EC contact person and will communicate to Li Qi and colleagues the positive impression that the developments are creating within IGU. The possibility of a Task Force devoted to this project needs to be further explored.

**IGU Thematic Conferences.** The proposed Baku, Azerbaijan, thematic conference (originally scheduled to take place in August 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 2017) will not now take place; Mamedov reported that the Azerbaijani government is no longer in a position to provide financial support. Kolosov suggested an alternative proposal; 2017 has been proclaimed ‘the year of the environment’ in Russia and it is proposed that a thematic conference on the topic ‘Environmental challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century’ be held in Moscow in November 2017. A first circular is currently under construction.

The website of the thematic conference in La Paz, Bolivia is now live and is being showcased on the IGU website also. dell’Agnese is working hard to market this conference and solicit presentations across the diverse aspects of the theme; she is also organizing a field excursion as part of the meeting. Dell’Agnese and Kolosov will participate and will need to take a range of IGU publicity materials for display and distribution. Meadows agreed to update the IGU flyer with new EC member details and the revised list of Commissions and Task Forces and will circulate the pdf files once finalized. EC members will then be able to print flyers as needed.

The organization of the ‘Urbanisation: Health and Wellbeing’ IGU thematic conference in Hyderabad, India, 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017 is well underway. Himiyama will attend this conference. IGU publicity material is also required for this.

The chair of bid committees of the unsuccessful 2024 Congress proposals should be invited to consider organizing a thematic conference (Kolosov, Meadows, Hay).

**MIT Press proposal.** Meadows has received a proposal from a commercial publisher (MIT Press) to promote their geographically-related books through offering a discounted rate for ‘members’. Since IGU no longer has individual membership this option is impractical, but Hay pointed out that this proposal raises the broader possibility of developing an income stream from reputable publishers of geography-related books. Himiyama indicated that a substantial increase in the income stream could possibly threaten the financial support of national committees. One possible solution to this would be to suggest that the publishers remunerate IGU for a promotional link or ‘pop-up’ on the IGU website and that these funds be used to promote the aims of IGU, including, for example, facilitating membership of more low-income countries. Hay agreed to take this issue forward in consultation with Lemarchand and Tremblay, initially with MIT but with a view to extending the arrangement to other possible publishers in due course.

**IGU Publications.** Springer publishes several series with strong geographical relevance, including the newly proposed series on the Sustainable Development Goals (series editors Singh,

Mal and Meadows) and the existing World Regional Geography Series (series editor de Mulder) and Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences (series editor Singh). The IGU logo can be used on the cover of these volumes provided that there is additional short description of IGU involvement on the back cover or other suitably prominent place.

### **Cooperation and Outreach**

**Festival International de Géographie.** There still appear to be challenges regarding cooperation between FIG and the IGU. Lemarchand reported on informal discussions with the local organisers and others, including Jean-Robert Pitte, and it is clear that any such cooperation needs to be mutually beneficial. The 2017 guest country is South Africa. Lemarchand agreed to take these discussions further with the appropriate individuals.

**IGU Representatives on International Bodies.** There was nothing specific to report except to reinforce the fact that communication with the bodies on which we have successfully nominated individuals remains less than ideal. Follow-up with these individuals (Nel and O'Brien) needs to be improved.

**ICSU (incl. GeoUnions).** The Extraordinary General Assembly held in Oslo on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Meadows and Droogleever-Fortuijn attended on behalf of IGU and presented the view that, while IGU is supportive of the merger, this should not be at the expense of research and projects on core aspects of our discipline. Following considerable discussion and voting, the decision to take forward the merger in principle in accordance with the agreed framework was ratified.

**ISSC.** Meadows attended the ISSC General Assembly in Oslo as a follow-up to the previous meeting. The major item of discussion was the proposed merger.

**CIPSH.** The CIPSH World Humanities Congress will take place in Liège, Belgium, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Kolosov will attend if he is able to secure funding, as one of the themes is Border Studies and Droogleever-Fortuijn agreed to participate if Kolosov cannot. CIPSH has good connections with UNESCO through a recently signed framework agreement; there are also strong linkages also with IYGU. Both the Cultural Geography and History of Geography Commissions have obvious synergies with CIPSH and Hay and Kolosov agreed to encourage them to forge a closer relationship. Tremblay expressed an interest in further exploring the possible relations between IGU and CIPSH. It would certainly be useful to have representation on the CIPSH Board if possible.

**EUROGEO, EUGEO (Kolosov).** IGU representation at the events of both these organisations is desirable. Droogleever-Fortuijn agreed to attend the upcoming EUROGEO conference in Amsterdam, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017. The next EUGEO conference is being held in Brussels shortly before our September 2017 EC meeting in Amsterdam and is sure to attract attendance from several EC members.

**UGAL/EGAL** (dell’Agnese). The success of this organization (UGAL) and its meetings (EGAL) continues to impress, and the fact that the next EGAL meeting in La Paz has been branded as an IGU thematic conference is a very exciting development, especially since some 3000 delegates are expected to attend.

**IAG (International Association of Geomorphologists) MoU** (Meadows). Meadows recently met with the President of the IAG, who has proposed a possible ‘joint working group/commission’ along the lines of the IGU/ICA Toponymy. This was approved by the EC and Meadows will engage with the relevant IGU Commission in this regard.

**Relations with other organisations (e.g. AAG, RGS, ICA (All)).** There will be no formal representation of IGU at the 2017 RGS conference in London. In relation to the AAG in Boston 2017, it was agreed that IGU should if possible be represented in the exhibit and that those EC members already intending to participate in the AAG Conference in Boston can periodically attend to the IGU stand when available. Himiyama will approach Doug Richardson (urgently) with a view to continuing the usual arrangement whereby IGU is given such space as a *quid pro quo* for equivalent space at IGU conferences and congresses (Himiyama). For ICA it is recognized as important to develop a connection in relation to the Paris Extraordinary IGU Congress in 2022.

### **International Geographical Congresses and IGU Regional Conferences**

**Beijing, China, International Geographical Congress and General Assembly 2016.** Zhou presented a brief report on the Congress; the preliminary final report has been compiled and distributed as a contribution in the IGU e-Newsletter and is available on the IGU website. All conference materials have been presented in the form of hard copies and a hard-drive with e-copies of all the files. Ma Xiaoyi presented a preliminary financial report that indicated a relatively small but manageable operating loss. The final report is expected to be ready before January 2017. The Executive Committee congratulated the local organizing committee on an excellent job.

**Regional Conference, Québec, Canada, 2018.** Tremblay agreed to liaise with the local organizing committee to ensure the success of the conference. Former IGU Vice-President Kellerman has proposed a new kind of paper session devoted specifically to the newest concepts and methodologies in the discipline. The local organizing committees of upcoming meetings are to be appraised of the contents of this proposal for possible implementation (Himiyama).

**Istanbul, Turkey, International Geographical Congress 2020.** Gönençgil briefly reported the on-going activities and developments. The website is live in both English and French and publicity material has been distributed (at the AAG in San Francisco, 2016 and Beijing 33rd IGC for example) and will continue to be made available at relevant events (Gönençgil).



*Barbaros Gönençgil, Zhou Chenghu, Yukio Himiyama, Mike Meadows, Nathalie Lemarchand, Françoise Ardillier Carras (representing French Geographical Society). Vladimir Kolosov, Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Rémy Tremblay, Iain Hay.*

**Extraordinary International Geographical Congress, Paris 2022.** Lemarchand reported that a new association ‘Paris 2022’ will be launched in 2017 to facilitate organization and fund-raising. The election for the new President of the French National Committee (CFNG) is being held shortly; Antoine Leblanc is the sole candidate. Within the CFNG there is a new sub-group on Paris 2022 to be formed. The Sesquicentennial and Centennial Task Force under the new leadership of Kolosov now has some firm plans. These include the publication of two volumes to be produced in time for the Congress and the first task will be to establish the editorial board and decide on the detailed contents. The first volume is intended to be a documentation of the history of the IGU itself based on the archives; the second volume will explore the role of internationalization in developing the discipline, including some case studies etc. It is also agreed to assist the local organizing committee of the Extraordinary Congress in appropriate ways, which will include the drafting of a preliminary list of possible special guests, including both individuals from within and beyond the academic discipline. The Task Force should support and enrich the event itself and will need additional membership of high profile, active geographers (Kolosov).

**IGU Congress Dublin 2024.** There is nothing to report at this stage.

### **Other Business**

**IGU Planet and Humanity Award 2012; 2016.** Meadows arranged the casting of new medals and there are three available to award over in addition to the two that have already been engraved with the names of Lester Brown (2012) and Carl Folke (2016). Professor Carl Folke was presented with his medal and framed certificate in Stockholm at the Swedish Royal Academy by Meadows. It was suggested that we ask former Vice-President Ron Abler to find an appropriate means of handing over the 2012 medal in person (Meadows).

## Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 17h10 on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Nathalie Lemarchand and her colleagues were congratulated and thanked warmly for the fine arrangements and warm hospitality in organizing the meeting.



### 3) REMEMBERING ADALBERTO VALLEGA AFTER 10 YEARS

*Adalberto Vallega, 11th May 1934 - 22nd November 2006*

#### **Ronald F. Abler, Past President, International Geographical Union**

(Remarks at the 10th anniversary commemoration of the death of International Geographical Union President Adalberto Vallega, 22 November 2016, *Società Geografica Italiana*, Rome, Italy.)

There's a saying in English that "you never miss the water until the well runs dry." I'm certain there is a cognate proverb in Italian and many other languages. The saying, whatever the language, expresses especially pointedly the effect of Adalberto's untimely loss to the IGU, and on me personally.

I first met Adalberto and Bruna in Moscow in 1995 in a most peculiar setting. When I asked one of the Russian hosts who organized the meeting on global change we were both attending why there was a large safe in my room, I was informed that it was for the secure storage of top-secret documents and the side arms of the high-ranking military officers who were the hotel's normal clientele. The Russian armed forces at that time were extremely short of cash and were earning foreign exchange by renting rooms to professors attending conferences at the nearby Moscow State University.

In that inauspicious setting, Adalberto and I talked over dinner about supporting each other at the forthcoming 1996 IGU Congress, where we both were to stand for election as Vice Presidents. We did support each other, both of us were elected, and the rest, as people often say, is not history but in our case—*geography*. Our mutual support and collaboration continued during the next two IGU election cycles. I was elected Secretary General in 2000. Adalberto was re-elected Vice President for the 2000-2004 term and elected President of the IGU in 2004. In the normal

course of events he would have served on the IGU Executive Committee through the 2012 Cologne Congress had not the fates intervened so harshly in 2005-2006.



*I like to post this photo of him: I know it is the most liked one by his wife Bruna.*

What I came to treasure in working with Adalberto was the combination of a number of his admirable traits, as well as his thoughtful initiative and his energy in applying them within the IGU.

First and foremost, Adalberto was a true gentleman. Some of us play at being gentlemen but in my experience Adalberto was the genuine article. I know that at times I gave him good cause to be annoyed or even angry at me. His responses to my deficiencies and provocations were unfailingly calm but firm. As representative of the IGU in the world of international science, he was an excellent ambassador, courtly but firm in his goals.

Adalberto possessed a great deal of energetic insight and he applied it to great and beneficial effect in the IGU. As befits the President of an educational organization, he thought constantly about building intellectual bridges among Commissions within the IGU and between the IGU and other scientific and scholarly organizations. And whereas some leaders are content to suggest directions others should take to implement the goals they identify, Adalberto's suggestions and plans always—*always*—included action plans. Those of you who have worked with Adalberto will be familiar with the way he would lay out his proposals with objectives, strategies, and tactics on the left side of each page and the corresponding actions and who should take them on the right side of each page. Adalberto's proposals and plans were unfailingly meticulously prepared, perhaps sometimes to a fault, but I came to admire the forethought they incorporated and the goal-directed philosophy his plans expressed.

Adalberto's plans often focused on his first intellectual loves, the seas and related maritime topics. But Adalberto's greatest contribution to the IGU was the launch of his grand Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development (CCHD) initiative. I and the other members of the IGU Executive Committee welcomed Adalberto's initiative. In contrast with other programs in which the IGU collaborated with other international scientific unions under the auspices of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in

a supporting or collaborative role, CCHD was to be an initiative launched and led by the IGU and one that was to be firmly rooted in geography.

Regrettably, Adalberto's hopes for CCHD encountered two obstacles, both of which were matters over which he had no control. The first, of course, was the illness that eventually led to his death, which became evident at almost the same time Adalberto presented the CCHD proposal. The second was the distaste, if not the outright horror with which anthropologists and sociologists view the word "civilizations." Little daunted after the diagnosis of his illness as stomach cancer and a dim prognosis for a cure, Adalberto continued to pour his energies and talents into advancing the CCHD initiative and the IGU. I received my last email message from him only five days before he succumbed ten years ago today.

Not forgetting the Villa Celimontana—Home of Geography, in which Adalberto was so instrumental and of which others who follow me will certainly speak, CCHD in its modified form of the IGU initiative for an International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU) certainly stands as a monument to Adalberto's energy and foresight. Led by Professor Benno Werlen of the University of Jena, IYGU now consists of a global network of dozens of support groups and action plans being implemented in more than 20 countries of the world, supported by committed funding of more than 2.5 million Euros. IYGU was originally launched under the aegis of ICSU, ISSC, and the CIPSH (International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences) as a program for an international scientific year. Benno and the IYGU leadership are now considering transforming IYGU into an indefinite worldwide effort to integrate the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities into a unified campaign to educate and train individuals, families, firms, and governments to think constantly about the global implications of their daily local actions.

Although it has a different name and another leader, IYGU is rooted firmly in the fertile soil Adalberto prepared by formulating CCHD. CCHD was launched here in Villa Celimontana in 2005, and it was here two years later that a number of us met to reshape CCHD into IYGU with Benno Werlen as its Director. Sadly, neither the creator of CCHD-IYGU nor the Home of Geography have survived, but we should be pleased and proud of how instrumental Adalberto Vallega and Villa Celimontana—Home of Geography were in producing the innovative and effective scientific program that IYGU has now become.

And on my part, I am pleased and proud to have had the honor of serving with Adalberto as an IGU Vice President from 1996 to 2000, as his Secretary General during his all-too-brief Presidency, as his successor, and throughout, as a comrade in intellectual arms. Although I did not realize it at the time I learned a great deal from Adalberto about patience, thoroughness, and especially about courage under duress. At a distance of ten years since his passing, I miss him more than ever.

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## **The Italian Friends could never fill the void left by Adalberto**

In Italy Ron Abler's words of memory arrived on 28<sup>th</sup> afternoon: they have been received with strong emotion. It has been rather difficult, still I succeeded in posting Ron's and these short lines of ours in the next IGU Newsletter, due within 3 days: this short time is the opposite of the duration his memory will remain with us.

Ten years back, just some days after Adalberto demise, a Ceremony was organized in Roma by Franco Salvatori, President of the Società Geografica Italiana, who choose the editor of this Newsletter to open the Meeting. In fact, the production of a quarterly IGU e-Newsletter to be produced in the Home of Geography had been decided by Adalberto in 2004. I have been the Editor since the beginning (July 2005) and ever since the work could continue only thank the help received in several daily communications with Adalberto. Two foremost representative of the International Geographical Union where present:, the previous President Anne Buttimer and the one who was later elected as new President, Ron Abler.

Soon after, producing the Newsletter became a really harder task, but the editing still continues, even after the official end of the once Home of Geography. The Editor considers this as a grateful tribute to the one who has been for long time his best friend. So, it is not a case if on last 22 November 2016 Franco Salvatori organized and presented in the SGI a Decennial Remember Meeting and, after the words of the family members, he once again choose the Newsletter Editor as first to speak.

Actually, the void left in Italy by Adalberto is quite impossibility to fill. All the speakers stressed the lack of the one we all were, and still are, unanimously recognizing as the Maestro in theoretic Geography, the one who really introduced us in the recent International Arena of the field.

Of course, today there is quite a good number of Italian Geographers widely recognized as very good in theoretical, in practical, in applied researches. Possibly someone, obtained better results in particular fields, but no one reached his level in all the different partition of what we like to consider as a single scientific discipline.

Forgive us for the uncertainty of our written English: we just hope that you understand the intensity of our emotion.

*From the Editor of the Newsletter and the President of the SGI.*



#### 4) 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2017: MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS



**American Association of Geographers  
1710 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington DC 2009**

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#### **AAG Statement on President Trump's Executive Order**

**President Glen MacDonald and the governing Council of the American Association of Geographers (AAG) today issued the following statement:**

We are deeply concerned by the recent executive order that restricts the ability of AAG members and the broader geography community from certain countries from being able to enter or return to the United States.

This executive order is contrary to the values we hold dear in geography, which is an inherently open and international discipline. Diversity and international interactions in the field of geography are essential to addressing global issues including security, peace, economic well-being, and health, as well as to achieving global understanding of our world and understanding *in* our world.

The AAG community, like universities and other associations across the United States, has long been deeply enriched by researchers, scholars, and students from around the world, including the affected countries, coming to study, teach, share knowledge, and learn. It is critical that the United States continues to welcome geographers and others of all backgrounds and nationalities. This is not only just and ethical, but our nation's ability to remain a global leader in innovation, science, research, and education depends on it.

The AAG welcomes all of our members and the international scientific community to participate in our association's activities, including at our Annual Meetings which provide the world's largest forum for international exchange of scholarship, research, and applications in geography, to over 9,000 attendees annually. This year an extraordinary special session will discuss the challenges we now face and draw upon the insight and help of our membership.

We are committed to supporting all AAG members who are impacted by this executive action. The Council and Executive Director are actively working with determination in this effort and will provide regular updates.



Glen MacDonald  
President



Douglas Richardson  
Executive Director



## 5) MESSAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I hope you'll let me express why I enthusiastically accepted, nearly 13 years ago, the proposal to take the direction of the Home of Geography and took personal (and unskilled) care of the HofG website. In 2005 Adalberto Vallega, then President of the IGU charged me to improve the website and edit a quarterly IGU e-Newsletter: a rather strong challenge.

After 2010 the IGU Website has been deeply renewed, and the HofG's one is still online: there is a quite big difference among them. IGU-online is a professional website, while HofG and the IGU Newsletter, are totally results of my activity (still unskilled, I must admit).

In any event, I deem my activity consistent with my main intention: diffusing as much as I can the importance of Geography. And not only to common people: I see that in our own community of geographers we don't know enough our activity and the results obtained. ONU, UNESCO, Unicef, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and all the important International Organisations don't recognize us as what we actually are: the widest number of experts able to organize researches in every field and at any scale, from local to global. Geomorphology, hydrography, climate, demography, economy, regional planning, commerce, International relations and so on. The reason is our scarce communication capability, and not only to the rest of the world: we shall communicate much more among us. Geologist and Engineers and specialists of hard disciplines produce tangible results, easy to advertise, but I am frustrated in Italy seeing that only Architects can sign the project to define the area of a Natural Park, while Geographers (having taken exams of Geology, Botany, Zoology, not to quote Economy, Demography, History etc.) are not enabled for this. Probably something similar happens in the whole world. And it starts from the scarce time given to Geography in the Schools and, in many cases because it is taught by persons more interested in teaching other disciplines.

Coming to the point: we must begin be aware as much as possible about our activities inside our Community, and the HofG website is particularly structured for this, for a simple reason. After retirement and having expired my term as IGU Vice President, this is now my only activity, and I like it. That's why in this Newsletter you are receiving at home the draft Minutes of the last IGU Executive Committee Meeting, without waiting for the annual paper Bulletin. At a minor level, when I receive an advise for a Conference, Meeting or whatever else, I usually post it in the website in a few hours. There are not official links to ICSU, ISSC, Future Earth and other important international entities, but in the Newsletter you find a slection of new of major interest for Geographers. Moreover, in the points "news 2017" or "events 2017" of the HofG website you will find what their Newsletters. Moreover, in the IGU Newsletter I always post again the 'forthcoming events' of the following three months and I always ask the organisers to send me a report, and I remind them again 2 weeks before completing. I am disappointed, because only very rarely I receive these reports (no one figures in this Newsletter). Too bad, because, as I wrote before, we need to diffuse as much possible that Geographers are active in researching and producing results.

G.B. Editor



## 6) FROM ICSU NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 2017



**A new commentary on fundamental questions in climate research was published.** Appearing in Nature Climate Change, it calls on the climate research community to sharpen its focus to enable societies to successfully respond to the challenges posed by anthropogenic climate change.

The commentary is the result of a workshop organized by the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), followed by a side event co-organized by the Council at COP22 in November 2016

**An African Open Science Platform was launched to boost the impact of open data for science and society.** The Africa-wide initiative will promote the development and coordination of data policies, data training and data infrastructure. The initiative originates from the Science International Accord on Open Data in a Big Data World, which was launched at the SFSA in 2015.  
Link: <http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/news/top-news/african-open-science-platform-to-boost-the-impact-of-open-data-for-science-and-society>

**A book on Advancing Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment was published.** The book addresses up-to-date urban health issues from a systems perspective and provides an appealing integrated urban development strategy based on the Urban Health and Wellbeing programme. Many members of the community of this ICSU co-sponsored programme are among the authors of the book.  
Link: <http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/news/top-news/book-on-advancing-health-and-wellbeing-in-the-changing-urban-environment-published>

### *News from our Regional Offices*

#### **Latin America & the Caribbean**

On 29–30 November 2016, the Regional Committee held its 20th meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador. Seven members were present: José Luis Morán-López, Lilliam Álvarez, Ana Rada Tarifa, German Poveda, Juan Jaén, Hernán Thomas, and Paloma González. Besides discussing pressing matters about the work of the ROLAC office, Carlos Canjura, Deputy Minister of Education and María Isabel Rodríguez, Presidential Advisor, were present at the meeting and presented to members of the Committee about the “Jóvenes Talentos” program. Dr. Juan Jaén was appointed as the new Chair of the Committee and ICSU ROLAC new staff was introduced to the members of the regional committee. Other topics addressed were: review progress on the Priority Areas and outreach activities.

#### **Asia & Pacific**

**The Advanced Institute (AI) on Knowledge-based Actions for Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Taipei in April 2017.** The AI is primarily intended for young to mid-career candidates from academia, practitioner, and policy communities from the Southeast Asia region with the main objective being to provide the participants with the best practices, enhanced understanding, skills, and practical knowledge to apply systems approaches on DRR knowledge-based actions, based on the successful experience of the flagship project.

Link: <http://www.icsu.org/asia-pacific/news-centre/news/2017-advanced-institute-on-knowledge-based-actions-for-disaster-risk-reduction-ai-kba>

*More news from our Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific:* <http://www.icsu.org/asia-pacific>

### **Africa**

The 3rd African Science Plans Steering Committee meeting will take place in Maputo, Mozambique on 7 February 2017. Members of the African Science Plan Steering Committee will discuss and consolidate the planning, development and implementation of the project proposals to be derived from the new ICSU ROA science plans as well as propose the action items for the scoping meeting. All twelve members of the committee confirmed their participation. The meeting will be followed by a scoping workshop.

*More news from our Regional Office for Africa :* <http://www.icsu.org/africa>

### **Events**

**METEOROLOGY Fourth International Conference on Earth System Modelling (4ICESM).**  
Hamburg, Germany. 28 August - 1 September 2017.

*Internet Link:* <http://www.icsu.org/events/partner-organization-events/fourth-international-conference-on-earth-system-modelling-4icesm>

**DISASTERS AND RISK: 7th International Conference on Building Resilience.** Bangkok, Thailand, 27-29 November 2017.

*Internet link:* <http://www.icsu.org/events/partner-organization-events/7th-international-conference-on-building-resilience>



## **7) FROM FUTURE EARTH NEWS, OCTOBER 2016**



**Future Earth launches a new magazine: Anthropocene Magazine,**

**Link:** <http://www.futureearth.org/news/future-earth-launches-new-magazine-anthropocene>

## Global Carbon Budget 2016 Release

### Almost no growth in carbon emissions for third year running

New research from the Global Carbon Project finds that emissions from burning fossil fuels barely increased in 2016 – despite booming economic growth in parts of the world. [Learn more...](#)

from: <http://futureearth.org/news/low-growth-global-carbon-emissions-continues-third-successive-year>

### Rare good news for climate change

New research shows that land ecosystems, from forests to prairies, are absorbing more carbon dioxide than they did decades ago. This spike in the world's "carbon sink" has also slowed the build up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. But there's a limit to how much plants can help people to combat climate change. [Read more...](#)

<http://futureearth.org/blog/2016-nov-22/carbon-dioxide-climbs-photosynthesis-ramps>

**New report from the UN: Plans to meet climate targets may fall short.** See the link:

<http://futureearth.org/news/plans-meet-international-climate-targets-may-fall-short-new-report-says>



## 8) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

*(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2016)*

8.1) Resilient Cities, Delhi February 2017

8.2) Applied Geomorphometry in Earth Sciences and Environment, Istanbul, 16-19 February 2017

8.3) Geospatial Technology and Regional Development, University of Gorakhpur, 18-18 February 2017

8.4) Eurogeo Conference, Bruxelles, 2-3 March 2017

8.5) EUGEO, Bruxelles 2017, extended dead line

8.6) Urbanisation Sustainable Goals, Hyderabad 17-19 March 2017

8.7) IGU Thematic Conference, Geographies for Peace-Geographies para la Paz, La Paz (Bolivia), 23-25 April 2017

8.8) AAG Annual Conference, Boston, 5-9 April 2017

8.9) 5th UNESCO UNITWIN Conference 2017, Coimbra (Portugal), 18-22 April 2017

