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This informal newsletter is intended to keep IUGG Member National Committees informed about the activities of the IUGG Associations, and actions of the IUGG Secretariat. Past issues are posted on the IUGG website (<http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals/>). Please forward this message to those who will benefit from the information. Your comments are welcome.

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1. IUGG Grants Programme for 2012-2013

IUGG calls for applications for the Grants Programme for 2012-2013 to complement its existing programme of funding symposia and workshops organised or co-sponsored by Union Associations and Union Commissions. Key priority areas are defined for the Grants Programme in line with IUGG overall scientific strategies:

- Creation of new knowledge in Earth and space sciences;
- Dissemination of knowledge, data and information on geophysics and geodesy;
- Geoscience for sustainable development;
- Geoscience and policy interface;
- Geoscience education and outreach in developing countries.

Proposals of high quality related to the priority areas will be funded for a fixed term of one or two years. The IUGG Grants Programme aims to support projects of importance to the international geophysical and geodetic community, which will explore new scientific ideas and develop future international initiatives. A typical proposal may be for a workshop or a meeting of experts from several disciplines to develop a specific scientific programme or assessment, particularly addressing an enhancement of geophysical research and Earth science education in underdeveloped and developing countries. Although the range of activities supported is broad, the project proposals should be of scientific and societal importance, and their results are expected to provide clear recommendations to politicians and other decision makers at national and local levels and to the general public in terms of the urgent actions to be undertaken. The deliverables of the projects should bring increased visibility to IUGG and the Union Associations.

Proposals can be submitted by IUGG Associations and Union Commissions only. Associations' bodies (e.g. Commissions, Task and Work Groups) seeking funding for a project should submit their proposals via relevant Union Associations or Union Commissions. Preference will be given to proposals that are multi- and trans-disciplinary and truly international, especially those involving more than two of the IUGG Associations and Union Commissions and representatives of several nations and countries. Proposals should be global or regional in scope and involve a multi-national group, especially scientists from developing countries, women, and younger researchers. The number of proposals to be funded per year is not fixed, but depends upon relevance, quality, proposal budget requests, and the total amount of funds available for the Grants Programme. The total funding for the Programme in 2012-2013 is US\$80,000. A ceiling of US\$20,000 is imposed on all applications. Co-sponsorship from other sources is encouraged.

The deadline for the project proposal submission is 1 April 2012. All proposals are peer-reviewed in open competition by the IUGG Bureau. If necessary, specialized experts may be invited to participate in the review process. Successful applicants will be notified by 1 July 2012. Grants will be made for periods of one or two years commencing from 1 August 2012. Funds will be allocated as a function of need and quality, and projects may be cancelled if progress has been unsatisfactory. For funded projects, an annual report is to be sent to the IUGG Secretariat by 31 October 2013 and subsequently annually on the same date by all multi-year projects. A final report is to be submitted within three months of the date of the project termination. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications electronically. The application form can be obtained from the IUGG Secretariat on a request of Union Association or Union Commission Secretaries General.

2. IUGG support for scientific meetings to be held in 2012

IUGG calls for applications to support scientific meetings in 2012. The number of co-sponsored meetings ranges from 10 to 15 (ceiling of US\$3,000 is imposed on all applications). Please note that not all meeting proposals worthy of support can be awarded IUGG sponsorship. The program of IUGG support for scientific meetings (e.g. workshops, advanced schools, symposia) is one of the important means by which the Union and its Associations pursue the goal of promoting geophysics and geodesy through international collaboration. The IUGG Executive Committee places great emphasis on maintaining high scientific standards, coverage of a balanced spectrum of topics, and an appropriately broad and international flavour for the scientific programme of the meetings. In that respect, the ICSU rules on non-discrimination in the access of qualified scientists from all parts of the world to any IUGG-sponsored meeting apply. The following guidelines for obtaining IUGG sponsorship should be observed by prospective proposers: (i) An IUGG-sponsored scientific meeting should have a well-defined and scientifically relevant theme, should be scheduled at a propitious time for significant progress in the field, and should be of interest to young researchers as well as senior experts. (ii) While the IUGG embraces all fields in geophysics and geodesy, a proposed program should maintain a balanced scope relevant to IUGG Associations. Each proposal will be judged on its own scientific merits. (iii) Given the international nature of the Union, meetings are by definition internationally oriented. This requires a well-balanced geographical and gender distribution.

Normally, the initiative to propose a scientific meeting for IUGG sponsorship originates from a group of scientists in a certain field. Prospective meeting organizers should contact the respective Association Secretary General well in advance of their intended proposal submission, by sending her/him a request for IUGG support until 15 October 2011. Please note that IUGG will support the scientific meetings to be held in the year following the year of the request submission. To ensure

that the information necessary for the evaluation of the proposals by the Associations and the IUGG Bureau are complete and in a uniform format, allowing an objective comparison between proposals as far as possible, the request for support must specify all entries listed below:

- Name of meeting, venue and dates
- Primary sponsors and other known co-sponsors
- Name and address of the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee
- The meeting web-site
- Scientific objective and scope of the meeting
- Estimated number of participants, abstracts, and sessions
- Level of support requested (in US\$) and explanation of how the money will be used
- Additional information as appropriate

The scientific merit of each meeting proposal should be evaluated by the respective Association Secretary General, taking into consideration comments and advice received from the Association Executive Committee. The Association Secretaries General should communicate their recommendation for selection to the IUGG Secretary General as soon as possible after receiving the requests, but not later than **31 October 2011**. The decision on the IUGG support will be communicated to the Association Secretaries General by the IUGG Secretary General in a letter of award as soon as possible but not later than 1 December 2011. The IUGG support should be acknowledged in all documents related to a sponsored meeting (e.g. in the scientific programme, at the web-page, brochures, publications of proceedings etc.)

3. Global science community gathers in Rome

Representatives of the world's scientific community met in Rome, Italy, on 27–30 September, for the 30th General Assembly (GA) of the International Council for Science (ICSU). More than 250 leading scientists from around the world came together at this unique event to discuss and address how science can contribute to solving some of the most pressing challenges facing society. Particular importance was attached to the approval of the organization's Strategic Plan covering the years 2012-2017, as well as the establishment of a major new ten-year programme of earth system research for global sustainability. The ICSU GA also provided a forum for discussing issues that affect scientists, including: freedom, responsibility and conduct in science; management of data and information; integrated research on disaster risk. The IUGG Delegation consisted of Harsh Gupta (President) and Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Secretary General).

The event began on the evening of Tuesday, 27 September with the official opening ceremony presided over by Catherine Bréchignac (France), President of ICSU. The special guest of the Opening Ceremony was the President of the Italian Republic, H.E. Giorgio Napolitano. The Hon. Mariastella Gelmini (Italian Minister of Education, University and Research) and Francesco Profumo (President of the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche) welcomed the Assembly's delegates and guests. The agenda of the assembly included discussions and decisions on: (i) ICSU's Strategic Plan for the coming six years; (ii) the support for the Earth System Sustainability Initiative; (iii) the establishment of a major new international programme on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment; (iv) the approval of the revised Principle of Universality of Science; as well as reports on the development of recent initiatives in the areas of disaster risk, ecosystem change and society, and data and information. The 30th ICSU GA marked the formal hand-over of the ICSU Presidency to Yuan Tseh LEE (Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry, 1986). For more information and details of the programme visit: www.icsu.org/general-assembly.

4. Artificial intelligence in the Earth's magnetic field study

The Earth's magnetic field is the most important source of information about the inner structure of the Earth and its evolutionary processes. The most accurate and rapid data on the geomagnetic field are provided by INTERMAGNET (International Real-time Magnetic Observatory Network), which has been operating now for more than 20 years (<http://www.intermagnet.org>). The main objectives of the network, which consists of more than 110 observatories all over the world, are observations, acquisition, accumulation, storage, dissemination, analysis and correction of magnetograms with minimum time delay. Huge volumes of recorded geomagnetic data lead to the necessity of fundamentally new methods of processing them. Such methods include pattern recognition and geoinformatics.



Left: At the workshop. Right: Alexei Gvishiani (President of the National Geophysical Committee of the Russian Federation and Mioara Manda, IAGA Secretary General)

The International Workshop “Artificial Intelligence in the Earth's Magnetic Field Study. INTERMAGNET Russian Segment” was organized on 26-28 January 2011 in Uglich, Yaroslavl region, Russia, and co-sponsored by IUGG. The main goal of the Workshop was to exchange knowledge and experience in the application of modern geomagnetic instruments, the deployment of magnetic observatories as well as the technical/scientific processing of magnetograms. The specific objective was to discuss plans for a further INTERMAGNET development in Russia. The Workshop brought together leading scientists and specialists in geomagnetism and magnetic observations from Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Russia, USA and Ukraine. Manufacturers and suppliers of geomagnetic and modern computer equipment took part in the exhibition organized within the framework of the Workshop. The installation of new INTERMAGNET observatories was planned. As a result of this meeting, several important steps in cooperation to develop the INTERMAGNET Russian Segment were undertaken including (i) a decision to establish a working group within the National Geophysical Committee of the Russian Federation (which is the National Committee for IUGG) to set up the INTERMAGNET Russian Segment; (ii) an agreement to establish a national geomagnetic node for collecting and processing geomagnetic data. Leading geomagnetism scientists formulated specific recommendations on the deployment of new INTERMAGNET observatories in Russia. Detailed information on the Workshop is available on the website http://uglich2011.gcras.ru/index_e.html.

Received from R. Krasnoperov, Secretary General,
Russian National Geophysical Committee

5. IUGG-related meetings occurring during October – December 2011

A calendar of meetings of interest to IUGG disciplines (especially those organized by IUGG Associations) is posted on the IUGG web site (<http://www.IUGG.org/calendar>). Specific information about these meetings can be found there. Individual Associations also list more meetings on their web sites according to their disciplines.

October

- 3-5, IAHS, Bled, Slovenia, V International Symposium on Transboundary Waters Management
- 5-8, IAHS, Kalavrita, Greece, 9th International Hydrogeological Congress
- 15-23, IAHS, Tehran, Iran, 21st International Congress on Irrigation and Drainage & 8th International Micro Irrigation Congress
- 17-19, IAHS, Prague, Czech Republic, HYDRO 2011 - Practical Solutions for a Sustainable Future
- 18-21, IAHS, Jeju Island, Korea, the Second Asia-Pacific Coastal Aquifer Management Meeting
- 21-23, IAHS, Xi'an, China, International Symposium on Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources in Arid and Semi-arid Regions
- 24-28, WCRP, Denver, CO, USA, WCRP Open Science Conference: Climate Research in Service to Society
- 31 October - 2 November, IRDR, ICSU, ISSC, UNISDR, Beijing, China, IRDR Conference 2011 on Disaster Risk: Integrating Science and Practice
- 31 October - 4 November, IAHS, Austin, TX, USA, 14th World Lake Conference. Lakes, Rivers, Groundwater and Coastal Areas: Understanding Linkages

November

- 13-17, IAGA, Luxor, Egypt, IAGA-3: Heliospheric physics during a deep solar minimum.
- 14-18, IGU, Santiago, Chile, UGI2011 – Regional Geographic Conference
- 20-23, IAHS, Cairo, Egypt, Second Arab Water Forum
- 21-24, IAHS, Panama, HELP International Symposium 2011
- 23-26, IAGA, Tandil, Argentina, Second Latin-American Association of Paleomag /Geomag
- 30 November - 3 December, IAHS, Irvine, CA, USA, Groundwater Resources Management: Adaptations to Water Scarcity. Science and Policy Responses

December

- 5-9, AGU, San Francisco, CA, USA, Fall Meeting
- 6-9, IAHS, Penang, Malaysia, 3rd International Conference on Managing Rivers in the 21st Century

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Note: Contributions to IUGG E-Journal are welcome from members of the IUGG family. Please send your contributions to Alik Ismail-Zadeh by e-mail (insert in Subject line: *contribution to E-Journal*). The contributions will be reviewed and may be shortened by the Editor.