



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS
UNION GEODESIQUE ET GEOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE

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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. Editorial: Highlights 2014

The year 2014 went to the history of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) as another year of international scientific cooperation. More than 100 commissions, committees, working groups, services and other scientific groupings of the IUGG family contributed to the successful year. An exciting Scientific Program of the XXVI IUGG General Assembly was developed inviting scientists worldwide to submit abstracts and to attend the assembly to be held in Prague, Czech Republic (see article 4 of this issue). Nicaragua joined IUGG as a Regular Member. The American Geosciences Institute (AGI), the Commission for the Geological Map of the World (CGMW), the International Association for Geoethics (IAGETH), and the Young Earth Scientist (YES) Network became IUGG Affiliate Members. IUGG initiated a broad discussion with Associations and National Members on individual membership.

The Union was involved in various activities and showed its strength in international cooperation and science promotion. Major activities and events in 2014 are highlighted below.

- Four scientific interdisciplinary meetings were organized by IUGG Union Commissions: (i) Conference on Mathematical Geophysics (CMG) in Merida, Mexico (ii) Symposium on Study of the Earth's Deep Interior (SEDI) in Kanagawa, Japan, (iii) the GeoRisk Conference (GRC) in Madrid, Spain, and (iv) the Workshop on Climatic and Environmental Changes (CCEC) in Beijing, China.

- Union Associations organized and co-sponsored many scientific events worldwide.
- IUGG bestowed new *Early Career Scientist Award* on ten outstanding young scientists.
- IUGG awarded four grants to international interdisciplinary projects as well as co-sponsored fifteen scientific meetings and six science education events worldwide.
- The first volume of the Special Publication of the IUGG “*Extreme Natural Hazards, Disaster Risks and Societal Implications*” was published by the Cambridge University Press in May, and the second volume is to be published in early 2015.
- IUGG took part in the General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU) held in Auckland, New Zealand, and participated in the ICSU GeoUnions Steering Committee meeting. IUGG Liaisons participated in the business meetings of ICSU Scientific Committees on Space Research (COSPAR), on Solar-Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP), on Scientific Data (CODATA), and on World Data System (WDS) as well as attended the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP) Steering Committee meeting.
- IUGG cooperated with inter-governmental organizations in promoting scientific knowledge. IUGG became a Participating Member of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and a Member of the Partnership Advisory Committee of the Global Framework on Climate Services (GFCS). IUGG assisted the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) to prepare the 2015 Science and Technology Conference. The Union participated in several events of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), including the WMO Executive Council meeting, and attended the Preparatory Committee meeting for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- The International Council for Science (ICSU) awarded a grant to the IUGG project “Uniting and networking the magnetic community in the northern Indian Ocean region”.
- The IUGG Bureau met in Baku, Azerbaijan, in June and had a teleconference in November to discuss the current activities and to determine the directions in the Union’s development before the General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic.
- The IUGG Secretariat was hosted by the German Research Center for Geosciences (GFZ) in Potsdam. IUGG is grateful to GFZ and the German Research Foundation (DFG) for generous support of the Secretariat.

The IUGG Bureau thanks the Adhering Bodies and National Committees, Union Associations and Commissions as well as all individuals who helped making the year 2014 exciting and productive in strengthening international cooperation in Earth and space sciences for the benefit of humanity.



2. Yearbook for 2015

The 2015 Yearbook is now electronically available in PDF format at the IUGG web site (<http://www.iugg.org/publications/yearbooks/yearbook2015.pdf>). The IUGG web site maintains the directory of Union and Association officials and the archive of IUGG memberships and General Assemblies. Thanks to all of the National Committees and the Associations for helping to update the information in the IUGG Yearbook! During 2015, updates on addresses and other information in the Yearbook should be sent to the IUGG Secretariat (secretariat@iugg.org) as soon as they are known. Our aim is to update the Yearbook as needed throughout the year. The 2015 Yearbook will be published together with the 2014 Annual Report and sent to the National Members in May 2015.

3. Union membership and financial situation

As of 1 January 2015, IUGG has 70 National Members including 60 countries in paying status. The paying members are placed in categories from 1 to 14 depending on the financial contribution to the Union (the membership dues raises with increasing category number). At present the highest category used is category 11. The members pay dues according to a number of units assigned to their category (in category 1 the number of units is 1, and in category 11 the number is 35). According to a decision of the XXII IUGG General Assembly (Boulder, USA, 1995) the price of 1 unit is determined every year using an inflator index obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. In 2015, the price of 1 unit will be US\$1,905. The 70 paying members represent a total of 280 units, which is equivalent to a total income of US\$ 533,400. The funds received as dues are the basis for IUGG's operation as a scientific union, although Union associations have their own funds earned via book selling or donations. The funds are spent to support (i) international scientific programs, projects and services, (ii) general and scientific assemblies, symposia, workshops, and schools; (iii) travel of students, early career scientists, and scientists from developing countries to attend scientific meetings; (iv) scientific activities of Union Associations and Commissions, (v) the International Lithosphere Program, (vi) the International Council for Science, and (vii) administration and management.

Received from Aksel Hansen, IUGG Treasurer

4. Abstract Deadline for the XXVI IUGG General Assembly

The Local Organizing Committee and the Scientific Program Committee of the XXVI IUGG General Assembly announced the following revised abstract submissions dates:

- **Thursday, 15 January 2015**, due date for the abstract submission in case of an application for a travel grant award; and
- **31 January**, due date for the abstract submission.

Other important dates to be marked in your calendar:

- **31 March**, due date for the notification of paper acceptance and successful grant application;
- **10 April**, early bird registration deadline.

Please read carefully the abstract submission guidelines before submitting your abstract at: <http://www.iugg2015prague.com/abstract-submission-guidelines.htm>. All presenters are limited to two oral presentations, except for the invited Union Plenary Lecturers, who may present two oral presentations in addition to their Union lectures. For all abstract submission and registration details, and the scientific program outline, go to: <http://www.iugg2015prague.com>.

5. Reminder: Delegate certifications needed for the IUGG Council Meeting

The official notification of the XXVI IUGG General Assembly was sent to IUGG Adhering Bodies and National Committees on 23 July 2014. The letter asked the Adhering Bodies to send the name of their Delegate to the IUGG Council to the IUGG Secretariat by **1 February 2015**. This deadline ensures that the Council Delegates will receive the Council Meeting Agenda papers and other important information such as the venue of the meetings. In addition, all Adhering Bodies should issue credentials for their Delegates to the Association business meetings.

6. IUGG grants to support geoscience education meetings in 2015

IUGG awarded seven grants (US\$20,000 in total) to support workshops and training schools organized by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP, Trieste, Italy) in 2015 as recommended by the IUGG Committee on Capacity Building and Education and in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between IUGG and ICTP signed in 2011. The list of the events co-sponsored by IUGG is as follows:

- Workshop on Ionospheric effects on SBAS and GBAS applications at Low Latitudes, 2-13 March, ICTP, Italy;
- School on Ocean Climate Modelling: Physical and Biogeochemical Dynamics of Semi-enclosed Seas, 7-15 September, Ankara, Turkey;
- Workshop on Earthquakes in the Zagros-Makran region: from Mechanics to Mitigation, 21-31 May, Tehran, Iran;
- Third Workshop on Water Resources in Developing Countries: Planning and Management in Face of Hydro-climatological Extremes and Variability, 27 April – 8 May, ICTP, Italy;
- Workshop on Modelling of Wildfires and their Environmental Impacts, 22-26 June, ICTP, Italy;
- Workshop on Uncertainty Quantification in Climate Modeling and Projection, 13-17 July, ICTP, Italy; and
- International School on Geothermal Exploration, 7-12 December, ICTP, Italy.

Founded in 1964 by the late Nobel Laureate Abdus Salam and co-sponsored by UNESCO, IAEA, and the Italian government, the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics - ICTP (<http://www.ictp.it>) seeks to accomplish its mandate by providing scientists from developing countries with the continuing education and skills that they need to enjoy long and productive careers. ICTP has been a major force in stemming the scientific brain drain from the developing world. The impact of ICTP extends well beyond the Centre's facilities to virtually every corner of the Earth. The Earth System Physics (ESP) Section of ICTP studies a wide spectrum of the Earth system, from its fluid components (oceans and the atmosphere) to the planet's interior. IUGG and

ICTP decided to enhance geophysical and geodetic education and science collaboration and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote educational programs related to geodesy and geophysics for the next quadrennium (2012-2015). Among other points, the agreement encourages collaboration in the organization of advanced schools/workshops in geodesy and geophysics in ICTP or in economically less developed countries; in the development of diploma courses related to Earth and space sciences; and in the dissemination of information on educational and scientific meetings.

7. IUGG and climate services

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) is, to quote the official wording, “a UN-led initiative spearheaded by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to guide the development and application of science-based climate information and services in support of decision-making. The GFCS has four initial priority sectors: agriculture and food security, water, health and disaster risk reduction. The vision of the GFCS is to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable to such risks. This will be done through development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice. The greatest value of the GFCS will occur incrementally through the delivery of a multitude of climate services at national or local levels.” There is a lot of support for climate service activities at both national and international levels and the GFCS offers a new and logical framework within which to promote and coordinate such activities. Given the close association between WMO and IUGG over many decades, it was only logical that the Union expressed an interest in being involved in the GFCS. As a result, the Union has been invited to all GFCS meetings and is listed as a member of the Partner Advisory Committee. Having said this, IUGG now faces the challenge of identifying exactly how the Union can contribute to the GFCS and what it would gain by doing so. To this end, a panel discussion will be held during the IUGG General Assembly in Prague, where the Framework will be presented and the IUGG Associations most concerned will be invited to open a debate on how best the Union can respond to this new invitation to high-level co-operation.

Arthur Askew, an IUGG Liaison Officer to the WMO

8. Report on the XI GEO Plenary

The XI Plenary of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) was held on 13-14 November in Geneva, Switzerland. As a Participating Organization of GEO, IUGG was invited to attend the meeting. The IUGG Secretary General Alik Ismail-Zadeh represented the Union and addressed the Plenary. The following topics were considered at the meeting: (i) GEO Strategic and Implementation Plans for 2016-2025; (ii) GEO engagement strategy; (iii) data management principles and mechanisms to ensure legal interoperability of shared data; (iv) monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS); and (v) AfriGEOSS implementation plan. The Plenary approved the budget for 2015 and the membership of the implementation board, updated the rules of procedure, and considered the GEO Executive Committee and the financial reports. The XII GEO Plenary and the Ministerial Summit will be held in the fall of 2015.

9. News from the International Council for Science

Global conference on science advice to governments: final report available

The synthesis report of the first international conference of practitioners and scholars on Science Advice to Governments which took place in Auckland earlier this year is now available at: <http://www.icsu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/synthesis-report-of-the-science-advice-to-governments-conference-2014>. The conference, which took place in August ahead of ICSU's General Assembly, was convened by the International Council for Science (ICSU) and hosted by New Zealand's Chief Science Advisor Sir Peter Gluckman. It brought together some 200 participants including science advisors, senior officials, representatives of national academies, experts and scholars from more than 40 countries across Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, the United States, Canada and Latin America. The aims of the conference were (i) to create an informal space for open discussion about the practice of science advice; (ii) to start to build a peer network of science advice practitioners and scholars; and (iii) to respond to the growing global interest in the role of the scientific voice in policy-making and assess whether it is possible to develop a set of guiding principles for science advice. ICSU will continue to work closely with Gluckman's office and other members of the Organizing Committee to develop follow up activities in 2015.

CFRS supports scientists whose human rights are under threat as a result of scientific activity

The Chair of ICSU's Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the conduct of Science (CFRS), Leiv K. Sydnes, recently attended a court hearing in Turkey against the scientist Büşra Ersanlı. In advocating the globally endorsed Principle of Universality of Science, ICSU also supports scientists whose human rights are violated or who are imprisoned as a result of them conducting scientific work. CFRS had monitored the situation related to the case of this female scientist since she was first imprisoned. Ersanlı, a faculty member in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Marmara University in Istanbul, was arrested in October 2011 as part of a crackdown on Kurdish political parties. She was charged with suspected links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Ersanlı was in fact a member of the Assembly of the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), and she never advocated violence. CFRS wrote to the Turkish authorities expressing concern, and asked for her unconditional release on bail or for further information on the causes of her imprisonment. In July 2012, she was released, pending the outcome of the trial. Sydnes met Ersanlı in August 2013 in Istanbul to discuss her case and to confirm the Committee's continued support. Although no final verdict was taken and the court deferred the cases to the Constitutional Court in Ankara, Ersanlı says the presence of Leiv Sydnes in the courtroom as a foreign witness "made a difference." CFRS will continue to monitor the case of Ersanlı and intervene as appropriate.

Source: ICSU webpage

10. Meeting calendar

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

January

- 9-10, URSI, Hooghly, West Bengal, India, International Conference on Foundations and Frontiers of Computer, Electrical Engineering : commemorating 150 years of Maxwell's Equations. Web: http://www.ursi.org/en/event_item.asp?id=315
- 10-13, IMU, San Antonio, TX, USA, 2015 Joint Mathematics Meetings. Web: <http://jointmathematicsmeetings.org/jmm>
- 14-16, IRDR, Science Council of Japan, Tokyo, Japan. The Tokyo Conference on International Study for disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience. Web: <http://monsoon.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp/AWCI/TokyoConf/en/index.htm>
- 19-23, GCW CryoNet and Steering Group Joint Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark

February

- 25-27, ISPRS, Avila, Spain, 3D-ARCH: International Workshop on 3D Virtual Reconstruction and Visualization of Complex Architectures. Web: <http://www.3d-arch.org>

March

- 2-6, IACS, IGS, ICIMOD, Kathmandu, Nepal, International Symposium on Glaciology in High-Mountain Asia. Web: <http://www.icimod.org/igs2015/>
- 14-18, UNISDR, Sendai, Japan, 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015. Web: <http://www.wcdrr.org/>
- 23-27, IACS, IAMAS, Rosendal, Norway, Dynamics of Atmosphere-Ice-Ocean Interactions in the High-Latitudes Workshop. Web: <http://highlatdynamics.b.uib.no>
- 23-28, WCRP, Rottach-Egern, Germany, WCRP Grand Challenge Workshop: Clouds, Circulation and Climate Sensitivity. Web: <http://www.mpimet.mpg.de/en/science/the-atmosphere-in-the-earth-system/ringberg-workshop.html>
- 25-27, ISPRS, Munich, Germany, Photogrammetric Image Analysis & HRIGI High resolution earth imaging for geospatial information. Web: <http://www.pf.bgu.tum.de/isprs/pia15/index.html>

End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 15 Number 1 (1 January 2015)

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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.