



**UNION GEODESIQUE ET GEOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE  
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS**

## **The IUGG Electronic Journal**

**Volume 7 No. 10 (October 1, 2007)**

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

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### **1. Open Letter of the IUGG President, Dr. T. Beer, to Participants in the XXIV IUGG General Assembly in Perugia, Italy**

It has come to my attention that there were participants at the XXIV General Assembly who experienced discomfort as a result of their attendance. I offer my own personal apology to them, as well as that of IUGG.

Uri Shamir, the President of the IUGG during the XXIV General Assembly, asked members of IUGG Council to document their concerns and those that were received are being considered. Such issues can be divided into those concerning the scientific program, and those concerning local arrangements. In general, issues concerning the scientific program are the purview of the Associations, who are committed to an improved process in 2011. Those concerning the local arrangements are the purview of the local organising committee (LOC) for the XXV General Assembly.

I have requested the Site Evaluation Committee for the 2011 Bid to continue their work and to collaborate with the IUGG Secretary-General to review the Terms of Reference for IUGG General Assemblies and to ensure adequate incorporation of a guidelines document for LOCs. Bob Engdahl, the past-President of IASPEI, who was the Chair of the Site Evaluation Committee has already been specifically asked to set up a guidelines document for LOCs. I believe that these tangible steps will also be of great help.

I should make it clear that IUGG insists that the LOC assume all financial responsibility for the General Assembly, whether that be profit or loss. Such an insistence comes at a price. The level of fees is also entirely an LOC decision.

I wish to commend the valuable hard work of many individuals who invested enormous time and effort into the conduct of the XXIV General Assembly. Following the closing ceremony I expressed my thanks individually to the key members of the XXIV Local Organising Committee. It was especially pleasing to note that 32% of the XXIV General Assembly participants were students because such young people represent the future of IUGG and we must all work hard to ensure that we can provide the best possible science and the best possible logistics for them in the future.

Dr. Tom Beer, IUGG President

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## 2. IUGG Grants Programme 2008-2011

IUGG has established a new Grants Programme for 2008-2011 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:

- (a) Creation of New Knowledge in Geodesy and Geophysics;
- (b) Dissemination of Data and Information on Geophysics and Geodesy;
- (c) Geo-science for Sustainable Development;
- (d) Geo-science and Policy Interface;
- (e) Geo-science in Africa.

Proposals of high quality related to the Priority Areas will be funded for a fixed term. The Grants Programme follows the procedures of several other organizations within the ICSU family. The IUGG Grants Programme aims to support projects of importance to the international geophysical and geodetic community that 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 the 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 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 multidisciplinary, especially those involving more than two of the IUGG Associations and Union Commissions. Proposals should be global or regional in scope and involve a multi-national group, especially scientist 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 total amount of funds available for the Grant Programme. The total funding for the Programme in 2008-2009 is US\$75,000 (\$50,000 for Priority areas *a-d*, and \$25,000 for Priority area *e*). The same amounts are reserved for 2010-2011. Typical size of grants is expected to range between US\$5,000 and US\$10,000. Co-sponsorship from other sources is encouraged.

Deadline for project proposal submission is **1 March 2008** for the first call and **1 March 2010** for the second call. Following a biennial call, 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 October 2008 and 1 October 2010, respectively.

Grants will be made for periods of one to two years commencing from 1 November 2008. 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 30 November 2009 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.

Application forms can be downloaded from the IUGG web site ([www.IUGG.org](http://www.IUGG.org)) after October 15, 2007. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications electronically. Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to the IUGG Secretariat at [secretariat@iugg.org](mailto:secretariat@iugg.org) with a copy to the IUGG Secretary General ([Alik.Ismail-Zadeh@gpi.uka.de](mailto:Alik.Ismail-Zadeh@gpi.uka.de)).

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### **3. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Russian National Geophysical Committee for IUGG and International Conference “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the IGY and Launch of eGY in Russia”**

In 1954 the U.S.S.R. Council of Ministers took a decision to participate in the International Geophysical Year (IGY) and to set up the Inter-Departmental Committee under supervision of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences to be responsible for scientific activities during the IGY. In 1957 the Committee was reorganized into the Geophysical Committee of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The first President of the Committee was Prof. Vladimir Belousov, a prominent Soviet geoscientist and former IUGG President (1960-1963). The Geophysical Committee coordinated comprehensive geophysical studies on international projects and programs, secured the participation of Soviet scientists in the activities of IUGG and its Associations, was a contact point in geophysical data exchange; and published scientific results on international geophysical projects. As a result of the Russian perestroika, the Geophysical Committee was split in 1992 into two institutions: the Russian National Geophysical Committee for IUGG (RNGC) and the Geophysical Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the host organization for the RNGC. Prof. Gennadiy Sobolev was elected the first RNGC President and served in this capacity till 2006.

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Geophysical Year and the RNGC foundation and to launch the electronic Geophysical Year in Russia, International Conference was held on 17-19 September 2007 in Suzdal. Scientists from France, Germany, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, UK, and USA were gathered together to discuss research results in various

fields of geophysics and geodesy. The Conference participants were welcomed by Prof. Yury Leonov, the Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences, Russian Academy of Sciences; Mr. Sergei Godunin, Mayor of Suzdal; Dr. Alik Ismail-Zadeh, IUGG Secretary General; Dr. Robert Chen, ICSU CODATA Secretary General; Dr. Jean Bonnin, Chairman of EDNES; Dr. Eric Kihn, National Geophysical Data Center, Boulder, USA; Prof. Michael Zgurovsky, Rector of the National Technical University of Ukraine and former Ukrainian Minister of Education; and others. The Conference covered a wide range of issues related to Earth sciences: geological and geophysical problems; mathematic methods including methods of artificial intelligence, specially dealing with predicting natural hazards and catastrophes; transfer of huge analog data massifs to electronic form; development of data search and data processing on the basis of modern information technologies etc. Lecture by Professor Rip Bulkeley (Oxford University, UK) on the history of the Soviet participation in the IGY attracted a high attention of the audience. The Conference participants enjoyed not only interesting presentations and discussions, but also a fascinating atmosphere of Suzdal, dating from XII century, with its golden domes of monasteries and churches and picturesque surroundings.

Dr. A. Gvishiani, President, Russian National Geophysical Committee

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#### **4. IYPE Secretariat gets support from the Norwegian Government**

The International Year of Planet Earth Corporation has welcomed its first four-star donor, the Norwegian Government (see IYPE News: [www.yearofplanetearth.org](http://www.yearofplanetearth.org)). The State Secretary for Knowledge Development confirmed its sponsorship to the IYPE Secretariat for a total of 4 million Norwegian Kroner (NOK) during the period 2007 to 2010. That was announced by Deputy Minister (State Secretary) P. B. Maurseth in a public outreach activity with Earth-music, all dedicated to the IYPE in front of the old Oslo University in the centre of Oslo, Norway. This public announcement follows an IYPE presentation at the Ministry on 29 March 2007 in Oslo.

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#### **5. IUGG-related meetings occurring during October – December 2007**

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

- October 1-13, IASPEI/GeoRisk Commission, Abdus Salam Intl Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy, 9th Workshop on Nonlinear Dynamics and Earthquake Prediction.
- October 2-4, IAG, Toulouse, France, Scientific and Fundamental Aspects of the Galileo Programme ([www.congrex.nl/07a06/](http://www.congrex.nl/07a06/))
- October 9-11, DLR Oberpfaffenhofen/Munich, Germany, PV 2007 International Conference Ensuring the Long-term Preservation and Value Adding to Scientific and Technical Data

- October 23-27, CAWSES, Kyoto, Japan, International CAWSES Symposium ([www.bu.edu/cawses](http://www.bu.edu/cawses))
  - November 6-7, EMSEV, Bandung, Indonesia, IWSEP2007 International Workshop on Seismo Electromagnetic Phenomena: Recent Progress
  - November 19-24, IAVCEI, Shimabara, Japan, Cities on Volcanoes 5
  - December 2-7 IAHS Fremantle, Western Australia, GQ2007: Securing Groundwater Quality in Urban and Industrial Environments
  - December 10-14 AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA, USA
  - December 18-21 IAHS Roorkee, India Water, Environment, Energy and Society (WEES-07)
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A.T. Ismail-Zadeh, Secretary General [<http://www.IUGG.org>]  
E-mail: [Alik.Ismail-Zadeh@gpi.uka.de](mailto:Alik.Ismail-Zadeh@gpi.uka.de) Fax: +49 721 71173.