



UNION GEODESIQUE ET GEOPHYSIQUE INTERNATIONALE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS

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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. Scientific meetings selected for IUGG support in 2008

IUGG co-sponsors symposia and workshops appropriate to our disciplines of study. IUGG allocated US\$20,000 to assist meetings in 2008 and especially to support the participation of young scientists and scientists from developing countries. Officers of the Union, Associations and Union Commissions propose meetings to receive these awards. For 2008, IUGG will support the following meetings (all available funds are now allocated):

- International Workshop “Mass Balance Measurements and Modeling”, 26-28 March, Skeikampen, Norway
- 12th International Symposium on Equatorial Aeronomy (ISEA 12), 18-24 May, Crete, Greece
- International Symposium “Effects of Climate Change on the World’s Oceans, 19-23 May, Gijon, Spain
- BALWOIS 2008 - Third International Conference on Water Observation and Information System for Decision Support, 27-31 May, Ohrid, Macedonia
- International Conference “Groundwater & Climate in Africa”, 24-28 June, Kampala, Uganda
- International Conference on Clouds and Precipitation (ICCP), 7-11 July, Cancun, Mexico

- 37th COSPAR Scientific Assembly, 13-20 July, Montreal, Canada
 - Symposium “The Planet Earth” at the Euroscience Open Forum, 18-22 July, Barcelona, Spain
 - SEDI 2008 Symposium, 27-31 July, Kunming, China
 - Workshop on Deep Ocean Exchange with the Shelf, 5-9 October, Cape Town, S. Africa
 - International Conference “Frontiers in Stress Research: Observation, Integration and Application”, 14-17 October, Heidelberg, Germany
 - Second Workshop on Collapse Calderas, 19-25 October, Quertaro, Mexico
 - 7th General Assembly of Asian Seismological Commission, 24-27 November, Tsukuba, Japan
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2. Corrections and updates to the IUGG Yearbook

Corrections and updates to the information contained in the IUGG Yearbook (<http://www.iugg.org/publications/yearbooks/yearbook2007.pdf>) are now being finalized in preparation for the 2008 Yearbook. Please contact the IUGG Secretariat urgently in the case of any additions and corrections [iugg.katina@gmail.com]

3. News from ICSU

Monitoring Gaps in IPCC report

The WCRP, IGBP and GCOS in collaboration with the IPCC organized a workshop in Sydney, Australia, 4-6 October, to investigate the gaps and uncertainties identified in the reports for Working Group I and II of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4). The goals of the workshop were:

- To establish the requirements for future observing system and climate change research.
- To determine observation and research requirements that lead to better climate change risk analyses and adaptation measures; and result in lower vulnerability and impacts to a changing climate.
- To outline observation and research priorities for possible input into future IPCC assessments.

A number of products are currently being prepared from the workshop, including a comprehensive report summarizing the discussions and input from the participants. The report will be included at the upcoming steering committee meetings of all three organizations, and will provide valuable advice to IGBP, WCRP and GCOS in learning from the 4th assessment.

Hazards and Disasters

The Planning Group for the new ICSU initiative Natural and Human-induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters presented its latest report to the Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR) in September.

The planning and consultation process has been extended, in recognition of the need for the widest interaction and debate among potential partners and sponsors. It will include more consultation within and beyond the ICSU family. A one-day Consultation Forum in Paris was held on 29 October that was attended by representatives from IUGG and IAMAS. The draft report will be sent to Members for a second round of consultations in early 2008. The Planning Group will submit its final report to CSPR in April.

Urban Health and Well-being

Following a scoping exercise and consultation with Members, ICSU is now establishing a Planning Group to develop a new interdisciplinary initiative focusing on 'A Systems analysis Approach to Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment'. The planning exercise will begin with a workshop in January 2008 that is being jointly organised with ICSU's Scientific Unions. The [Scoping Group report](#) is available online.

Earth Systems Science Partnership

In August, members of the Review Panel for the Earth Systems Science Partnership (ESSP) met representatives from the four sponsoring programmes and the Chair of the ESSP Scientific Committee. The second meeting of the Review Panel was held in parallel with the first Scientific Committee meeting in late October. A draft of the Review Panel's findings will be sent to ICSU Members early next year for review, while the final report will be completed by April 2008.

Geosphere-Biosphere

The International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) celebrated its 20th anniversary with a [symposium](#) at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm on 17-18 September. The symposium 'Earth System Science and Society' focused on the socio-political context of IGBP's research and explored directions for the future.

ICSU [invites applications](#) for the position of Executive Director of IGBP, to succeed Professor Kevin Noone, who steps down on 1 September 2008. Applications must be received by ICSU no later than 15 November 2007.

Climate Research

A [review](#) of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) will begin in Paris on 21-22 January 2008. The Review Panel will be chaired by D. James Baker, USA. The review is being conducted by ICSU and IGFA in conjunction with the World Meteorological Organization and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. The information gathering phase will begin in January and the final report will be completed in February 2009.

Grants Programme

A small Grants Programme will be reinstated in 2008 while discussions with UNESCO continue for a new programme in 2009. The 2008 programme will follow the structure of previous years but with an emphasis on partnering with ICSU's Regional Offices

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

The ICSU Regional Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean held a meeting in Mexico City, 27-28 September. The Regional Committee discussed the progress of the four Scientific Planning Groups in the defined priority areas and appointed Chairs for each Planning Group: Carlos Bosch (Mexico), Mathematics Education; *Omar Dario Cardona* (Colombia), *Natural Disasters*; Décio Gazzoni (Brazil), Sustainable Energy; Mary Kalin Arroyo (Chile) and Rodolfo Dirzo (Mexico), Co-Chairs for Biodiversity. The [latest news](#) from the Regional Offices is available online.

The Arab Region

The efforts to establish the ICSU Regional Office for the Arab Region have continued. ICSU Executive Director Thomas Rosswall visited Amman in May and the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan has reiterated its wish to host the Regional Office. The First Regional Consultation for the Arab Region will take place in early 2008 and the Minister of Higher Education in Tunisia has been approached to host the meeting in Tunis. The [latest news](#) from the Regional Offices is available online.

Data and Information

The new [Strategic Committee on Information and Data](#) (SCID), which is charged with guiding the future development of ICSU's existing data structures, met for the first time in July. The possibilities for merging and expanding existing activities were discussed in the light of the increasing need for interoperability between data sets from many different fields of research. The draft report from the Committee is expected for consultation in mid-2008.

CODATA

IUGG was readmitted as a member of the ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA). Prof. Krishan Lal, CODATA President, welcomed IUGG into the CODATA family. The 21st CODATA International Conference and General Assembly will be held in Kyiv, Ukraine from 5 to 10 October 2008. Dr. C. Barton, IAGA President Past, was appointed as the representative of the Union to CODATA.

4. News from IYPE

Australian Coin Sets honor the International Year of Planet Earth

The Royal Australian Mint designed 2008 Year Sets, which incorporate some of the themes identified by Geoscience Australia. The 2008 Six Coin Proof Set recognises the significance of International Year of Planet Earth. The \$1 coin is the showpiece, designed by Vladimir Gottwald, depicting a prevailing image of the fragility of our landscape, and the awareness needed in managing immediate impacts.

IYPE National Committees

Fifty-five countries established IYPE National Committees. Most recently, the Committees were set up in China, Costa Rica, Russian Federation, Egypt, and Thailand.

Chair of the IYPE Board appointed

UNESCO and IUGS appointed Mr. Larry Woodfork as Chair of the IYPE Board. Mr. Woodfork was the acting Chair for 2007.

5. News from IPY and eGY: IPY Data and Information Service Website

The International Polar Year (IPY) is underway. IPY is possibly the largest and most interdisciplinary science project ever conducted. Tens of thousands of investigators from dozens of countries are collecting data in diverse disciplines in physical, life, and social sciences. The data management challenge presented by IPY is huge.

The current approach to the challenge is through an informal global partnership of data centers, archives, and networks working to ensure proper stewardship of IPY and related data. This partnership is called the IPY Data and Information Service (IPYDIS) and a new web site, discussion forum, and help desk has been established at <http://ipydis.org> to help coordinate the effort.

The IPYDIS is an active participant in the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY) and seeks to apply eGY principles to IPY data management. Advice, critique, and support of IPYDIS by eGY is welcome and encouraged (contributed by M. A. Parsons and B. Peterson).

6. Nature Geosciences, a new monthly journal

Nature Geoscience launches in January 2008 and will be a monthly multi-disciplinary journal aimed at bringing together top-quality research across the entire spectrum of the Earth Sciences along with relevant work in related areas. The journal's content will reflect all the disciplines within the geosciences, encompassing field work, modelling and theoretical studies. Nature Geoscience is committed to publishing significant, high-quality research in the Earth Sciences through a fair, rapid and rigorous peer review process that is overseen by a team of full-time professional editors. In addition to publishing primary research, Nature Geoscience will provide an overview of the most important developments in the Earth Sciences. Visit <http://www.nature.com/ngeo/index.html> for more detail.

7. Honors, Awards and Jubilees

Lorenz Lecture at the AGU Fall Meeting

Prof. Vijay Prasad Dimri of the National Geophysical Research Institute in Hyderabad (India) was selected to deliver a prestigious Lorenz Lecture at the 2007 Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union. His lecture is entitled "Role of Fractals in Solid Earth Geophysics". The

Lorenz lectures provide an introduction to the role of nonlinearity, complexity, and scaling in earth science processes. Prof. Dimri is the Chairman of the Indian National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics.

Valeria Troitskaya's 90th Birthday

On behalf of the IUGG, Dr. T. Beer, IUGG President, congratulated Prof. V. A. Troitskaya on the occasion of her 90th Birthday. Valeria Troitskaya celebrated her 90th birthday on 15 November. Her career at the Institute of the Physics of the Earth of the USSR Academy of Science is distinguished by her many pioneering studies of ULF wave pulsations and their use as diagnostics of magnetospheric processes. She made major contributions to international programs, was an IUGG Bureau Member from 1963 to 1967, President of IAGA from 1971 to 1975, and was elected an Honorary Member of IAGA in 1985. In 1989 she moved to La Trobe University in Australia after her marriage to Keith Cole and both now live in retirement in suburban Melbourne (Contributed by P. Dyson).

Aksel Hansen's 60th Birthday

On behalf of IUGG, Dr. T. Beer congratulated Prof. A. Hansen on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Aksel Hansen celebrated his birthday on 18 November. He services to IUGG as the Treasurer, and his work is much appreciated by the Union and also by the Union Associations. His scientific career at the Department of Geophysics of the University of Copenhagen has been distinguished by your studies of climate, North Atlantic and Arctic oscillations related meteorology, and energy in natural cycles, including the contribution from human activities.

8. IUGG-related meetings occurring during December 2007 – February 2008

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]. Specific information about these meetings can be found there. Individual Associations also list more meetings on their web sites appropriate to their disciplines.

- 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

End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 7 Number 12 (December 1, 2007)

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