



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS
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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 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. IUGG Statement on Freedom to Conduct Science and Responsibilities of Scientists

The IUGG Bureau adopted the Statement on 28 June 2010

The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) and all of its component bodies adhere to the Principle of the Universality of Science of the International Council for Science (ICSU), which is fundamental to scientific progress. This principle encompasses freedom in relation to (i) expressions of scientific ideas, hypotheses and forecasts, (ii) conduct of research using data, information, experiments and theories, and (iii) communicating scientific results to the public through open publications and scientific conferences. These freedoms are highly valued by the scientific community and generally accepted by governments and policy makers. However, this is not always the case.

For example, recently the L'Aquila (Italy) Prosecutor's office indicted the members of the Abruzzi region's High Risk Committee for unintended murder in L'Aquila¹. The indictment is based on the failure of the Committee to warn the population before the strong earthquake of 6 April 2009 that killed about 300 people. It is shocking and unacceptable to accuse and legally indict scientists and

¹ Caporale, G., Sottovalutarono il pericolo-terremoto. La Repubblica, 4 June 2010.

DeWind, A., Italian seismologists on shaky ground. Geoscientist online, 15 June 2010.

Nosengo, N., Italy puts seismology in the dock. Nature, 465, p. 992, 24 June 2010.

members of a governmental panel because they failed to make a prediction of an extreme natural event in a particular place. No scientist (or official person giving statements based on scientific opinions) should be prosecuted for having expressed a scientific opinion based on the available knowledge, which is always limited. Meanwhile societal stakeholders can use even limited scientific knowledge to benefit society. IUGG condemns unacceptable political and judicial interference into scientific issues.

This case shows how society can misuse science for political or other purposes and reflects the urgent necessity of the Earth science community to improve communication with policy makers and the public to explain the limitations of the present scientific knowledge of the Earth and its environment and the limitations on the predictability of extreme natural hazards.

The ICSU Principle of the Universality of Science focuses on scientific rights and freedoms but also emphasizes a number of responsibilities. Scientists have an individual responsibility to conduct their work with honesty, integrity, openness and respect, and a collective responsibility to maximize the benefit and minimize the misuse of science for society as a whole. The primary obligation of scientists is to conduct research, to discover new phenomena, to develop new knowledge, and based on the new knowledge to improve their forecasting capability so as to benefit society. A secondary, but important, obligation is to inform public and societal stakeholders on scientific findings within a reasonable time.

The Statement can be downloaded from the IUGG website: <http://www.iugg.org/about/special.php>

2. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia a Regular member of IUGG

On 25 March 2010 an application for admission of the F.Y.R. of Macedonia to IUGG as a regular member (Category 1) was received from the Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. The IUGG Executive Committee welcomed this application, and it was placed before the IUGG Adhering Bodies in regular status (dues paid) for a vote by correspondence. The vote is now complete, and the application was accepted (32 affirmative). According to the IUGG Statutes and By-Laws, the membership of F.Y.R. of Macedonia is provisional until the next meeting of the IUGG Council in Melbourne, Australia, 2011, when a final vote will be taken.

Congratulations to the new officers of the National Committee for F.Y.R. of Macedonia! They are M. Jovanovski (President) and Z. Srbinoski (Secretary). Correspondents to the Associations are Z. Srbinoski (IAG), C. Popovska (IAHS), V. Pavlovska (IAMAS), and M. Garevski (IASPEI).

3. Azerbaijan a Regular member of IUGG

On 21 April 2010 an application for admission of Azerbaijan to IUGG as a regular member (Category 1) was received from the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. The IUGG Executive Committee welcomed this application, and it was placed before the IUGG Adhering Bodies in regular status (dues paid) for a vote by correspondence. The vote is now complete, and the application was accepted (31 affirmative and 1 abstaining). According to the IUGG Statutes and By-Laws, the membership of Azerbaijan is provisional until the next meeting of the IUGG Council in Melbourne, Australia, 2011, when a final vote will be taken.

Congratulations to the new officers of the National Committee for Azerbaijan! They are I. Guliev (President) and G. Babayev (Secretary). Correspondents to the Associations are F. Kadirov (IAG), E. Guliyev (IAGA), Y. Israfilov (IAHS), R. Mammedov (IAPSO), G. Yetirmishli (IASPEI), and Arif Ismail-Zadeh (IAVCEI).

4. IUGG Visioning Committee

IUGG President Tom Beer has announced the members of the new Union Visioning Committee:

Chair: Eigil Friis-Christensen (Denmark)

Members: Tom Beer (Australia, *ex-officio*), Alexei Gvishiani (Russia), Zhengfu Guo (China)

The Committee was formed by the decision of the IUGG Executive Committee meeting held on 9-11 October 2009 in Melbourne (Australia) to

- manage a visioning process and prepare a vision plan placing particular emphasis on (i) grand challenges in geophysics and geodesy, (ii) involvements of young scientists and women in the Union activity, and (iii) relationships with external organizations, media and industry;
- study the ways in which IUGG operates and formulate ideas on improvement of IUGG activities and structures and on new ways of operations;
- examine (i) how IUGG science interacts with other geoscience disciplines, (ii) how IUGG science is relevant to societal needs, (iii) how to present IUGG to the rest of the world; and (iv) how IUGG can be involved in international and national decision-making processes without losing its scientific rigour;
- develop an IUGG strategic plan based on inputs from the Union Associations and National Members;
- examine the content of existing IUGG policy statements and revise if necessary;
- determine the need for new IUGG policy statements;
- prepare IUGG major statements (e.g. vision, mission, goals, objectives, values etc.) and IUGG special statements on scientific topics related to society (e.g. natural hazards, climate change, geoscience & geotechnology , etc).

The Committee will form an Advisory Group of Young Scientists, comprising of at least one from each of the eight associations in IUGG, to advise on ideas and visions, preferably not too constrained by traditions and main stream thinking.

5. XXV IUGG General Assembly Scientific Program available

The Scientific Program for the XXV IUGG General Assembly, Melbourne (27 June – 8 July 2011) is now available on the Internet <http://www.iugg2011.com/program.asp>

The Scientific Program includes symposia and workshops on a wide range of themes. These include:

- *Union Symposia* which cover a wide range of themes of concern to the eight Associations. Invited speakers feature in these Symposia, supported by poster presentations selected by

the convenors from those submitted. Several of the Union Symposia are expanded or followed in greater depth in Joint Symposia or in Association Symposia

- *Joint Symposia* with keynote speakers and scientists whose presentations (which consist of oral and poster presentations) are accepted by the session convenors. The themes have been devised by at least two Associations, one of which is the lead Association. Some Joint Symposia are developed further separately in Association Symposia and Workshops.
- *Association Symposia* with keynote speakers and scientists whose presentations (which consist of oral and poster presentations) are accepted by the session convenors.

The Scientific Program will run from **Tuesday 28 June until Thursday 7 July**. Each day will consist of four 90-minute sessions and one poster session (excluding the first Tuesday and the second Thursday). The Tuesday afternoon session of the first week will be the opening ceremony, the Thursday afternoon session of the second week is the closing ceremony, and three morning sessions will have plenary presentations.

6. News from the International Council for Science

Executive Director of new disaster research programme appointed



Dr. Jane Rovins (USA) has been appointed as Executive Director of the new Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) programme. The programme's co-sponsors—ICSU, the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR) – made the appointment following an extensive international search. One of her first tasks will be to establish the International Programme Office for IRDR, which will be located in Beijing at the Center for Earth Observation and Digital Earth (CEODE) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

ICSU releases statement on Universality of Science in the Polar Regions

ICSU has released a statement calling for actions to reinforce and build on the international collaborative spirit witnessed during the International Polar Year 2007-2008 (IPY). With the polar-related issues now confronting humanity, the open conduct of polar science and accessibility of scientific data and results will be the cornerstone of scientific progress and informed dialogue and decision making. The full statement on Universality of Science in the Polar Regions can be found at the ICSU web page:

http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/3251_DD_FILE_Polar_Universality_statement.pdf

Call for applications: ICSU Grants Programme 2011

Applications are invited for the 2011 ICSU Grants Programme. Please note the Grants Programme is strictly reserved for ICSU Members and bodies. Lead Applicants must be ICSU Scientific Unions, Interdisciplinary Bodies or Joint Initiatives. The deadline for receipt of applications is **1 December 2010**.

If an IUGG scientist would like to prepare a grant application, (s)he should contact a relevant Association of IUGG (sending a proposal to the Association's Secretary General). The proposal must be innovative, international, multi-disciplinary and highly relevant for societal needs. If the IUGG Association endorses the proposal, a special ICSU application form should be filled in, and the application should be sent to the IUGG Secretariat. The IUGG Bureau will consider the application, and after Bureau endorsement, the application will be sent to relevant ICSU bodies inviting them to contribute to the project. The IUGG Secretariat will forward the grant application supported by ICSU Scientific Unions or Interdisciplinary Bodies to the ICSU Secretariat by 1 December 2010.

Source: ICSU Newsletter, March 2010, vol. 8, no. 1

7. Open Access Journal "History of Geo- and Space Sciences"

A new open access journal for contributions to the history of geo- and space sciences has been recently established: "History of Geo- and Space Sciences" (HGSS). For more details, please visit: <http://www.history-of-geo-and-space-sciences.net/>. The journal is published by Copernicus Publications (<http://publications.copernicus.org>), is free of page and service charges, and offers free online access to all articles. As with all Copernicus journals a rigorous peer-review is applied and the authors keep the copyright. HGSS should be a platform for original science history research articles, review papers and short notices, as well as book reviews and conference reports.

Received from Kristian Schlegel, HGSS Executive Editor

8. Bruno Martinelli Travel Fellowship: Call for Applications

The American Geophysical Union is accepting applications for the Bruno Martinelli Travel Fellowship. This fellowship provides funding for Latin American and Caribbean science graduate students or early career scientists to attend and present a paper on volcanic processes at the 2010 Workshop "Earthquakes and Volcanoes" of the European Seismological Commission (ESC), a commission of IASPEI, to be held in Clermont-Ferrand, France, 18-25 September 2010. Application Deadline: **7 July 2010**.

Eligibility: (i) Involvement in volcano research or monitoring; (ii) currently a full-time graduate student or have received a Ph.D. within the last seven years; (iii) science graduate student or early career scientist born and currently working in Latin America or Caribbean. Requirements: (i) Recipients are required to submit receipts for claimed expenses up to the amount of the award by 31 October 2010; and (ii) recipients are required to submit a brief (<300 words) report on the benefits of attending this meeting by 31 October 2010. Travel grant information and application available online at the AGU web page: <http://www.agu.org/meetings/stg/martinelli.php>

Received from Jaime Urrutia Fucugauchi, AGU International Secretary

9. Awards and Honours



The General Assembly of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS) elected **Tom Beer**, Transport Biofuels Stream Leader at CSIRO in Aspendale (Australia) and IUGG President, as an Honorary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. T. Beer is invited to Budapest to deliver an inaugural lecture at the Academy in October 2010.



The McGill University (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) awarded **Lawrence Mysak**, Canada Steamship Lines Emeritus Professor of Meteorology at the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences of the McGill University and the IAPSO President, a *McGill Medal for Exceptional Academic Achievement*. The McGill Medal was created to recognize retired members of the academic staff who have made extraordinary contributions to their discipline, to McGill or to scholarship, over the course of their academic careers.

Congratulations to Lawrence and Tom!

10. IUGG-related meetings occurring during July – September 2010

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 according to their disciplines.

- July 2-3, IAHS, Paris, France, Xth Kovacs Colloquium.
- July 2-7, GeoRisk Commission, IUGG, Torino, Italy, symposium “Breaking Seismo-ill-Logical Circulus Vitiosus” (ESOF 2010).
- July 5-9, AOGS, Hyderabad, India, 7th Annual Meeting and Geosciences World Community Exhibition.
- July 11-16, IAMAS, IUGG, Halifax, Canada, CACGP/IGAC Joint Conference “Atmospheric Chemistry: Challenging the Future”.
- July 12-16, SCOSTEP, IAGA, Berlin, Germany, SCOSTEP Symposium.
- July 12-16, IAMAS, Berlin, Germany, Solar-Terrestrial Physics Symposium (STP-12).
- July 15-16, IAMAS, IUGG, Columbus, Ohio, USA, Workshop on Antarctic Clouds.
- July 18-25, COSPAR, IUGG, Bremen, Germany, 38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly.
- July 19-23, SEDI, IUGG, Santa Barbara, California, USA, 12th SEDI Symposium.
- August 8-13, AGU, IASPEI, Iguassu Falls, Brazil, Meeting of the Americas.
- August 9-10, IUGG, AGU, and ROLAC, Iguassu Falls, Brazil, Symposium “Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk in Latin America and Caribbean”.

- August 12-14, IACS, IUGG, Lijiang, China, Cryospheric Changes and Influences – Cryospheric Issues in Regional Sustainable Development.
- August 13-19, IASPEI, IUGG, Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, Managing Waveform Data and Related Metadata for Seismic Networks.
- September 5-9, IASPEI, Montpellier, France, ESC2010 (European Seismological Commission 2010).
- September 6-9, IAHS, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 11th International Symposium on River Sedimentation (ISRS).
- September 7-11, IAHS, Tianjin, China, 9th International Conference on Hydroinformatics HIC2010.
- September 12-16, IAHS, Krakow, Poland, XXXVIIIth IAH Congress.
- September 13-22, IAGA, Changchun, China, XIVth IAGA Workshop on Geomagnetic Observatory Instruments, Data Acquisition and Processing.
- September 14-17, IAG, Istanbul, Turkey, 15th General Assembly of WEGENER 2010.
- September 18-24, IAGA, IUGG, Porto Sokhna, Egypt, 20th Electromagnetic Induction Workshop.
- September 20-23, IAHS, Prague, Czech Republic, HydroPredict' 2010: 2nd International Interdisciplinary Conference on Predictions for Hydrology, Ecology, and Water Resources Management: Changes and Hazards caused by Direct Human Interventions and Climate Change.
- September 27-30, IAHS, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA. Remote Sensing in Hydrology 2010 Symposium.

End of IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 10 Number 7 (1 July 2010)

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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.