



IGU-Commission for Geographic Education

August 2006 Newsletter

Web site: <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/>

CONTENTS

1. Chair's report: Associate Professor Lex Chalmers (Chair)
2. Conferences 2006-2010
3. Olympiad 2006 - update
4. Publications
5. United Nations International Year of Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development
www.homeofgeography.org
6. Other items – news of members and events.
7. Reports from colleagues

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1. CHAIR'S REPORT: LEX CHALMERS (CHAIR)

On behalf of the Commission, the first thing I would like to do in this newsletter item is to thank the Brisbane Organising Committee for their efforts in providing us with a wonderful symposium venue, a great *Proceedings*, and a stimulating programme. John Lidstone and Donna Bennett were the key figures; they were thanked many times during the event, and they must have been very gratified that their hard work paid such rich dividends. I hope life has returned more-or-less to normal for John and Donna, and that they can rest on their laurels for a few more weeks. For those of you unfortunate not able to join us, the weather was great, the food and urban environment was always interesting, and the collegial nature of the discussions was heartening.

In between the 90+ paper presentations there was an Olympiad organised by Kath Berg, and the subsequent meeting of the IGU in the Regional Conference also gave us time to exchange views with our colleagues in other branches of Geography. Those with real fortitude stayed on for the International Network in Learning and Teaching Geography that followed the Regional conference.

The Steering Committee of the Commission met twice during the Symposium. We will be describing the detailed plans we have for the Commission once we have formally approved the record of the meeting, but there are a number of matters I would like to draw to your attention.

1. We propose to hold two regional meetings before the next meeting of the Commission in Tunis in 2008. Professor Sybille Reinfried has offered to host a meeting in Engadin in August 2007. The theme will be Education for Sustainable Development. In the same month Professor Wang Min will be organising an Education for Sustainable Development conference for geography educators in Beijing. Details and contact information will be available before December, 2006. A regional meeting is proposed for Japan in 2009.
2. The British sub-committee of the CGE has three activities underway. The annual research forum will be held on 21 October, 2006 at the IoE in London. "*Changing Geographies: Innovative Curricula*" will run at the same venue on 10-11 April, 2007, and a proposed *Bibliography of Geographic Education Literature* is under discussion. The contact for the subcommittee is Professor Simon Catling (sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk).
3. The Charter of Geographical Education was discussed, and the Commission asked that a small working party prepare a second statement about the Charter for early 2007. During the IGU meeting

there were references to the importance of maintaining the impetus delivered by the initial (Hartwig Haubrich) Charter in 1992.

4. The Commission endorsed the IGU initiative on Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development. Prof. Margaret Robertson is a regional contact, and Professor Adalberto Vallega (President, IGU) leads the project. See www.homeofgeography.org or email m.robertson@latrobe for details.
5. The Steering Group strongly backed the Olympiad, and it was gratifying to hear that the case made by Professor Joop van der Schee for support was subsequently supported by the IGU Executive.
6. Perhaps the most important item on the agenda was the 'shape' of the next full meeting of the Commission in Tunis in 2008. The Tunisian delegates made a presentation, and distributed programme details. The Commission will respond by 6 October, and we will work with Professor Manuela Ferreira. If we can not find a local organiser by May, 2007, we may offer a meeting within the format of the IGU (along with the INLT), and promote some other activities during the Congress year.
7. From the Chair, I was able to thank the many colleagues who work behind the scenes to insure that the Commission events run smoothly. Top among this group are Margaret Robertson (Secretary and Treasurer), John Lidstone (IRGEE) and Sarah Bednarz (see our website at <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/>).
8. If we can get it organised, we may be able to offer a Symposium Proceedings for Library purchase. Watch this space.
Lex Chalmers, July 2006

2 CONFERENCES 2006 - 2010

2.1 Brisbane 2006, June 27 – July 2

Many of our colleagues had the good fortune recently to attend the regional symposium of the Commission in Brisbane. Congratulations to John Lidstone, Donna Bennett and colleagues for all of their much appreciated efforts on our behalf. As many of us have come to expect of our meetings, the camaraderie was magnificent and the quality of the presentations all very exciting and informative. The new generation of geography educators are leading the challenge with innovative ideas and creative research designs. We have lots to learn from the new knowledge they share.

2.2 International conference GeoSciEd5, Bayreuth 18 to 21 September, 2006. For details see www.geosciEd5.de

The International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO) will hold its annual conference titled '**Understanding System Earth**' in Bayreuth, Germany, from September 18th-20th, 2006. Conference language will be English and German. Interesting field trips in the Bayreuth area will be offered. Colleagues from all over the world are welcome.

Local Contact

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Obermaier Email: Gabriele.Obermaier@uni-bayreuth.de

2.3 SEAGA, the Southeast Asian Geography Association 8th conference – Singapore, November 28-30, 2006

For details see <http://www.hsse.nie.edu.sg/staff/changch/seaga/seaga2006.htm>.

2. 4 1st INTERNATIONAL INDIAN GEOGRAPHY CONGRESS October 5 - 7, 2006 Focal Theme: DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND GEOINFORMATICS

Department of Geography, (UGC-ASIST & DST-FIST Sponsored Department)
Osmania University, Hyderabad, India. For details contact Prof. Kalpana Markandey
hyd1_kalpanam@sancharnet.in or kalpanamarkandey@yahoo.com

2.5 British Sub-Committee of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geographical Education.

Annual Research Forum "Conceptualising Geography": 1.30pm – 4.30pm Saturday 21 October 2006 at The Institute of Education, University of London.

For further information please contact
Professor Simon Catling (Chair) sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk
John Halocha (Secretary) j.w.halocha@bgc.ac.uk.
website <http://hopelive.ac.uk/international/karld/IGU/>

2.6 International Geographical Union Commission for geographical Education British Sub-Committee with HERODOT, 10-11 April 2007, LONDON

Invitation and call for papers - *Changing Geographies: Innovative Curricula*

At the Institute of Education, University of London, England.

With an optional London field excursion on 12 April included in the conference fee of £240.

Abstracts of papers to organisers by 1 December 2006.

Full papers to be submitted by 31 January 2007.

Delegates will book their own accommodation, but information about this will be available in future publicity. For information on booking for the conference contact:

Glenda Wall (Administration) WALLG@hope.ac.uk

For further information:

Professor Simon Catling (Chair) sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk

John Halocha (Secretary) j.w.halocha@bgc.ac.uk

Karl Donert (HERODOT) donertk@hope.ac.uk

A website for the British Sub Committee is under development: look out for

<http://hopelive.ac.uk/international/karld/IGU/>

2.7 GEOGRAPHY IN THE AMERICAS: Collaboration on Research and Education 4th Annual Conference on Research in Geographic Education, 21-25, MAY, 2007, CHILE

Hosted by the Area of Geographical Sciences, Universidad de la Serena, Chile

Sponsored by the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education and the Association of American Geographers

Conference Themes and Activities:

Building geographical collaborations and networks across the Americas (and other continents)

Research papers in geographic education Research and education on sustainable development and

natural hazards Exhibits of "My Community, Our Earth" youth projects for sustainable development

AAG Center for Global Geography Education Workshop: Educational Materials for Online International

Collaborations Research findings and products of AAG's Advancing Academe: A Multidimensional

Investigation of Geography in the Americas (AMIGA) project AAG-PAIGH panels on collaboration in

natural hazards research Pre and post conference excursions and local field trips

For further information, please contact Judy Behrens (jb42@txstate.edu); Michael Solem

(msolem@aag.org) or visit the web site at <http://www.geografia-uls.cl> Congresos – Meetings

2.8 National Conference of German Geographers in Bayreuth – August. Information to follow.

Refer <http://www1.ku-eichstaett.de/hp/> or Email Sibylle Reinfried for details.

s.reinfried@bluewin.ch

2.9 7th Moravian Geographical Conference August 27-31st July. 'Regions, Localities and Landscapes in New Europe, Brno, Czech Republic. See http://www.geonika.cz/congeo_07.html

2. 10 The 31st IGC, Tunisie, 2008

http://www.agt.org.tn/Cong2008_fr.htm

2. 11 IGU regional conference in Tel-Aviv, 2010

3. International Geography Olympiad 2006 – and 2007 – help needed

The 6th International Geography Olympiad was stunning. More teams participated than ever and they covered a greater part of the globe. Again this year Poland dominated. Bringing together young people from around the world for the Olympiad is a magnificent way to spread the word on the value of geography. For this hard work we are indebted to a very small group of dedicated people. For 2006 the competition was led by Joop van der Schee and Henk Ankone (co-chairs of the IGU Task Force for the

International Geography Olympiad) and local organiser Ms Kathryn Berg, Administrator The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc. Congratulations Joop, Henk and Kath for the mammoth effort. Call for help: To date the financial effort to maintain the Olympiad has largely come from the Royal Dutch Geographical Society. There is need of a new sponsor or many sponsors to carry this important activity forward to the next Olympiad in Tunisia 2008. Please forward ideas for financial and organisational support to Joop van der Schee j.vanderschee@ond.vu.nl

Joop van der Schee j.vanderschee@ond.vu.nl (co-chair IGU Task Force for the International Geography Olympiad)

4. NEW PUBLICATIONS

Journal: *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education (IRGEE)* (Editors: John Lidstone and Jo Stoltman) For details of issues see <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/publications.htm>
There is always room for Forum sections and Book Reviews, and we warmly invite all members of the Commission (as defined by the readership of its Newsletter) to offer their services to the Editors. See <http://www.multilingual-matters.net/irgee/>
For Book Reviews, please contact the Editor, Prof. Sarah Bednarz. s-bednarz@tamu.edu

Lidstone, J. & M. Williams, M. (Eds) (2006) Geography in Australasia. *International Changes in Geographical Education: Past, Present and Future*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Lee, J. & Williams, M. (Eds) (2006) *Environmental and Geographical Education for Sustainability: Cultural Contexts*. Nova Scientific Series: Education- emerging goals in a new millennium. New York: Nova Science Publishers Inc. see <https://www.novapublishers.com/>

Purnell, K; Lidstone, J. & Hodgson, S (Eds) *Changes in Geographical Education: Past, Present and Future*.

Patrick W. (2006) *Learning and Teaching with Maps*. Routledge: London and New York.
ISBN 0-415-31210-8 (pbk) ISBN 0-415-31209-4 (hbk)

Robertson, M. (Ed) (late 2006) *Geographical perspectives on sustainable development: Networking local area partnerships with teachers and young scientists – a case study approach*. Camberwell: ACER Press.

5. United Nations International Year of Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development

Check the Home of Geography website for updates <http://www.homeofgeography.org/>

6. OTHER NEWS FROM MEMBERS

6.1 News from Germany

6.1.1 The German national geography standards are available now (in German) for download on the homepage of the Association for Geographical Education in Germany (www1.ku-eichstaett.de/hp/) and will soon be published by the Germany Society for Geography in a brochure (in German) for further distribution. A team of experts is currently working on a collection of worked examples that illustrate how to achieve the competences intended by the standards.

6.1.2 The journal of the Association for Geographical Education in Germany, the *Journal of Geography Education* has undergone several changes. The editor has changed. It is now Prof. Dr. J.-B. Haversath from the Department of Geography at the University of Giessen. To secure the high quality of the papers to be published in the journal an editorial board consisting of international experts has been established. All papers submitted for publication will be refereed on their value and suitability for publication. Abstracts of each paper will be published in English in the journal. The English abstracts will also be accessible on the Association's

homepage. High quality papers concerning geography education in European countries written in English are welcome.

6.1 News from Sweden

Margit Werner reports from Sweden that the higher secondary schools in Sweden will have a new national curriculum from 2007. Of course there had to be a new curriculum also in geography. But suddenly The Swedish National Agency for Education decided that a new subject "Sustainable development" was to replace geography. However, Hard work from geographers at all levels, including the IGU and Anne Buttimer, managed to stop the idea. So geography is still there, on the social science programme and also, which is new, on the natural science programme.

6.2 A challenge: TOWARDS BETTER WORLD MAPS.

David R Wright, UK reports:

The logic is simple: world maps which are not equal-area are unfair to major parts of the world. No teacher WANTS to be unfair – yet world maps with undersized tropical lands and oversized arctic lands are still the most common maps worldwide [see guest editorial in IRGEE, Vol 12 No1, 2003]. Teachers, authors and publishers need help to understand and to act on the need for good equal-area world maps.

In the UK, 2007 will mark 100 years since a Geographical Association committee recommended the use of equal-area world maps: perhaps the centenary year will be an opportunity to highlight the issue, and perhaps even to make firm recommendations?

Would other countries like to join in these discussions, and hence move towards recommending good equal-area world maps worldwide? This should be a topic of major interest to UNESCO. Could the whole world take a fresh look at what the world's children learn about our globe?

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6.3 UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD),

IUCN CEC, UNESCO Bangkok and Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia) are working in partnership on an Asia-Pacific project that aims to produce and pilot a set of Guidelines to assist national governments in developing ESD indicators. Motivated by the importance of monitoring and assessment of progress during the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD), the Guidelines seek to provide a practical resource to UNESCO National Commissions and Governments in the Asia-Pacific. For more information about this project please visit <http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=4241> and <http://www.gse.mq.edu.au/news.shtml>.