



IGU-Commission for Geographic Education

July 2003 Newsletter

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Compiled by Dr Margaret Robertson (Executive Secretary/Treasurer)
E-Mail: Margaret.Robertson@utas.edu.au

1. Chair's Report

Dear Members of the International Geographical Union Commission on Geographical Education,

For IGU, the year 2003 is an intermediary year in terms of organising large conferences. Still, the Commission on Geographical Education is hosting two conferences this year. One was held in London in April 2003 and the other is to be held in Moscow and in Barnaul nearby the Altai Mountains in July 2003. The group of participants of both conferences consists of geography educators from around the world. In the Moscow and Barnaul Conference, the Commission will have a chance to expand its contacts especially with colleagues from Eastern Europe and Russia.

During the year 2003, an expansion is taking place in the research projects of the Commission, because the European Union has recently accepted the proposal for *GISAS – Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Applications for Schools*. The co-ordinating organization will be the Department of Geography, University of Helsinki. For the IGU Commission on Geographical Education it will be an important research project, because the research and the external evaluation will be carried out by the GIS education experts of the IGU Commission on Geographical Education.

The high scientific level of the Commission's own publication series *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education* has brought us several commendatory remarks. The series has also gained wider attention among the IGU members. In my opinion, one of the most important of our latest publications is the recently-released *International Handbook on Geographical Education*, edited by Professor Rod Gerber. I wish that all members of the Commission would spread the word about the book in their own countries. The book is an excellent collection of the latest research on developing geographical education.

Globally, the year 2003 has been a difficult year in many ways. One of the functions of geographical education is to prepare the ground for a better future, and also to create positive belief in it. This is a work that we promote in the IGU Commission on Geographical Education.

Lea Houtsonen
Chair, IGU Commission on Geographical Education
e-mail: lea.houtsonen@oph.fi

2 CONFERENCE REPORTS – PAST 2003-2003

2.1 Durban 2002 – conference proceedings on CD:

The CD of papers from the Richards Bay Commission Meeting and the Conference meeting in Durban from August, 2002, is nearly completed. The papers are posted on the web at <http://geog.tamu.edu/sarah/toc.htm>

Production of the final CD will commence once the author list is complete with all addresses and up-to-date contact information. The CD will have an ISBN number and will be mailed to all participants and to those who have expressed an interest.

Many thanks to Professor Hatting for his assistance and to Jeff Given, Texas A&M University, for his technical expertise.

- Copies of CD available: If you wish to receive a copy, please contact Sarah Bednarz at [<s-bednarz@tamu.edu>](mailto:s-bednarz@tamu.edu).

2.2 London Conference 2003: London University Institute of Education April 26-28

Theme: geography and citizenship education: research perspectives

- Forty-one delegates took part in the conference where 20 papers were presented and a one day field excursion took place. Delegates came from the USA, Japan, Lesotho and eight European countries to discuss presentations related to the importance of citizenship education through geographical learning.
- The keynote address was given by Professor Anne Buttimer from University College Dublin, the President of the IGU. Her paper focused on how geography as a discipline has developed since the 1960's and the critical role that geographers have in raising awareness of citizenship and environmental issues in society.
- A Proceedings book was published for the conference and the British Committee plan to produce an edited book of the papers later this year.

If you would like any further information on the conference please contact:

Andrew Powell, Chair IGUCGE British Committee at <a.powell@kingston.ac.uk>

3- CONFERENCES - *NEW******

3.1 Moscow and Barnaul:

The IGU Commission on Geographical Education: Altai Conference in Russia (in Moscow and in Barnaul), 19-25 July, 2003 and the Field trips to Altai, 25-29 July, 2003

Theme: Society and environment interaction under conditions of global and regional changes

Local Organisers for all Queries the Commission on Geographical Education::

Dr Larisa Makrushina, Email: igras@igras.geonet.ru , and

Dr Vladimir Gorbanyov, Email: "Mirec" <mirec@mgimo.ru>

Conference Web site:

<http://igras.geonet.ru/alt.index.htm> or

<http://www.geogr.msu.ru/conference/altay2003/>

IGU-CGE Commission Business items to be considered include:

Revision of the Revision of the Commission Charter: The purpose of the revision is to update it in light of changing trends in geographical education, particularly in subject matter, technology, learning theories, and assessment/accountability issues.

3.2. Glasgow 2004

The Commission on Geographical Education will have a Pre-Conference August 11-15, 2004 in Glasgow (A) and the Commission will participate also in the 30th World Conference of IGU with the own sessions of the Commission August 15-20, 2004 in Glasgow (B):

A. Pre-Conference of IGU Commission on Geographical Education in Glasgow August 13-15, 2004

Theme: *Expanding horizons in a shrinking world*

The United Kingdom Sub-Committee of the IGU Commission on Geographical Education invites you to attend our Commission meeting from August 13 – 15, 2004 – *Expanding horizons in a shrinking world*. There is an exciting programme of lectures, paper & poster sessions and excursions organised. These will be preceded by two pre-meeting day excursions on August 11th and 12th. One is to the West Highlands, including visits to magnificent

landscapes, a power station inside a mountain, a fish farm and a whisky distillery. The second is to Central and East Central Scotland, including visits to a unique boat lift between two canals, the famous Forth bridges, attractive coastal fishing villages and a major Scottish castle.

Venue: University of Strathclyde in Scotland's largest city, Glasgow.

Dates: August 11-12: Pre-meeting day excursions on August 11th and 12th.

- August 13-15 inclusive: Commission meeting immediately preceding the main IGU Congress.

Papers and Posters: Call for Pre Conference of IGU-CGE in Glasgow 2004 on one of the following themes:

- International issues in geographical education
- Global development and political boundaries post 11/09/2001
- Citizenship education
- Children's perception of place and space (including children and maps in association with the International Cartographic Association).

B. The 30th World Congress of IGU in Glasgow: 15 - 20 August, 2004

Theme: 'One Earth – Many Worlds'

The theme of the main congress is "One Earth – Many Worlds". The congress seeks to be all-inclusive of physical, human and environmental concerns, and to demonstrate the role of modern communications in geographical education. Within the main theme there will be the following sub-themes:

- Geography and Sustainability
- Environmental Innovation
- Global Trends - Local Challenges
- Resource and Hazard Management
- Environmental Sensitivity
- Communication and Diversity
- Implications of the Knowledge Economy

The IGU Commission on Geographical Education will participate in the 30th World Congress programme August 15-20, 2004 in Glasgow with its own sessions. The information about themes of the sessions of the Commission on Geographical Education in the main Congress in Glasgow will be given later. The Commission has requested 14 sessions for the main Congress and will cooperate with International Network for Learning and Teaching (INLT) on the two sessions focused on higher education.

Important Dates: Deadline for abstracts is 31 December 2003.

Full papers by April 30, 2004

For further details of accommodation, costs and programme, etc. contact Alastair Robinson, 23 Cawdor Crescent, BISHOPTON, PA7 5DX, UK or by e-mail - h.a.robinson@strath.ac.uk.

See Web site for details: <http://www.IGU-CGEGGLASGOW2004.ORG>

Details of the full IGU Congress are available from

<http://www.meetingmakers.co.uk/IGC-UK2004>

4. POSTER COMPETITION 2004

(UK contact Alan Doherty alandohertyuk@yahoo.co.uk)

Thousands of pupils and teachers are already involved in the first international poster competition to be organised by the IGU and to coincide with Glasgow. Twenty countries, from five continents are participating and it is hoped that this number will continue to increase. Local organisers are listed below:

Country	Organiser
Argentina	Lic. V.G. Prandi, Coordinator of Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Argentina. ygonpra@me.gov.ar
Beijing, China	C. Hong, Beijing Geographical Association, No.48 Dong Si Xi Da Jie, Beijing Dongcheng Teaching Research Centre, Beijing, China 100010. chenhong@yeah.net Chenanne68@sohu.com
England	Ian Gregg, Geographical Association, 160 Solly Street, Sheffield, S1 4BF. Igregg@geography.org.uk
Finland	A. Sorsa-Vainikka, BMOL ry (The Finnish Association of Biology and Geography Teachers), Mechelininkatu 15 B 48, FIN – 00100 Helsinki, Finland. toimisto@bmol.fi
Germany	Prof. Dr. P. Meusbürger, Geographisches Institut der Universität Heidelberg, Berliner Strasse 48, D-69120 Heidelberg. Peter.meusbuerger@urx.uni-heidelberg.de
Greece	Dr. D. Kalaitzidis, Venizelou 52, 18547 Athens, Greece. ralleios@otenet.gr Kalapotamos@yahoo.gr
Ireland	S.B. Waddington, Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland, Department of Geography, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Eire. Shelagh.waddington@may.ie
Luxembourg	G. Hengesch, Association Luxembourgeoise des Enseignants de Géographie, 29 Rue des Fleurs, L-3468 DUDELANGE, LUXEMBOURG. Georges.hengesch@education.lu
Malawi	Mrs M.G.C. Kayira, Blantyre Schools G.A., Montford Teachers' Training College, PO Box 5452, Limbe, Malawi, Central Africa.
New Zealand	Jill Thomson, New Zealand Geographical Society Inc, c/o Department of Geography, University of Waikato, Private Bag 3105, Hamilton, New Zealand. Nz-ge@waikato.ac.nz
Nigeria	Dr. A.I.Tanko, F.R.G.S., Nigeria Geographical Association, Department of Geography, Bayero University, PMB 3011, Kano, Nigeria. aitanko@buk.edu.ng
N. Ireland	Anne Keville, Northern Ireland Inter Board Geography Forum, CASS Centre, Bann House, Bridge Street, Portadown, Northern Ireland, BT63 5AE. Anne.keville@selb.org
Portugal	E.S. Lemos, Assn de Professores de Geographia, Apartado 40103, 1518 Lisboa Codex, Portugal. apg@apropgeo.pt
Russia	Dr. A. Naumov, Deputy Dean of Geographical Faculty, Moscow State University, Russia. science@geogr.msu.ru
Scotland	G. Lobban, Scottish Association of Geography Teachers, Trinity High School, Edinburgh. lobban@ukonline.co.uk
Slovenia	Ms. P. Kuček-Tomas, Gimnazija Novo mesto, Seidlova 9, 8000 Novo mesto, Slovenia. Polonca.kucec@guest.arnes.si
Spain	F. Rodriguez, Director of CeCodet, University of Oviedo cecodet@correo.uniovi.es
South Africa	Prof. R.C. Fox & Mr K. Winter, Society of Sth African Geographers, Department of Geography, Rhodes University, PO Box 94, Grahamstown, South Africa, 6140. r.fox@ru.ac.za winter@enviro.uct.ac.za
Wales	C/o Ian Gregg
Zimbabwe	Prof. D.S. Tevera, The Geographical Association of Zimbabwe, Department of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Zimbabwe, PO Box MP167, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe. dtevera@arts.uz.ac.zw cumming@arts.uz.ac.zw

5. OLYMPIAD 2004: 5TH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Gdynia, Poland, 5-10 August 2004.

Countries are invited to send a team to participate in the 5th International Geography Competition, the Olympiad in Geography for students in upper secondary education. The 5th edition of the IGC will take place in Gdynia, Poland from August 5 - 10, 2004. It will be organised under the auspices of the International Geographical Union. The IGC competition offers national teams an excellent opportunity to test their geographical knowledge, understanding and skills, to meet young people from all over the world with an interest in geography and to visit an interesting part of Poland.

The rules of the competition as well as expression of intent forms can be found on the website of the IGC: www.geocompetition.org.

Further details are available on the website or alternatively contact Dr. Joop van der Schee, Free University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. E-mail: j.vanderschee@ond.vu.nl

6. RESEARCH REPORTS

6.1 GIS Project (Lea Houtsonen): The European Union has accepted the proposal "GISAS - Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Applications for Schools". The co-ordinating organization will be the Department of Geography, University of Helsinki. For the IGU Commission on Geographical Education it will be an important research project, because in the application for the EU we have mentioned that IGU Commission on Geographical Education will participate in the groupware discussion and will collect data with interviews and questionnaires. The GIS education experts of the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geographical Education will carry out the external evaluation.

6.2 Cross-cultural research – young people, leisure and recreation (Margaret Robertson) This research continues with findings now contributing towards the following book to be available at Glasgow 2002. Robertson, M.E. & Williams, M. (in press) (Eds) *Young People, Leisure and Place: Cross-cultural perspectives*. Nova Scientific, New York.

Enquiries to Margaret.Robertson@utas.edu.au

6.3 YoungNet Project is funded by the European Union. The aim of the YoungNet project is to create an internet-based learning community for the students in the 8-14 age group. The project has produced an on-line learning platform, where teachers and students can share work and participate in discussion with other members of the community. The community also offers students the ability to develop their own avatars and virtual homes, where they can meet and "chat" (using audio and text chat) and play games. In 2003 as part of their participation in the YoungNet Project students were encouraged to participate in the YoungNet topic "Our Locality". These presentations and the subsequent discussion in the Discussion Forum has been analysed for the research into how the young people represent their local area. The pedagogical partners of the project (Katrine Arbøl-Lilleberg, Clare Brooks, Lea Houtsonen, Ilta-Kanerva Kankaanrinta, Ashley Kent and Antti Rehunen) have presented papers concerning the YoungNet project and its development in the IGU-CGE Conference *Geography and Citizenship Education: Research Perspectives* in London in April 2003 and in the UNESCO Conference *Teaching and Learning for Intercultural Understanding, Human Rights and a Culture of Peace* in Jyväskylä in June 2003. For more details please email: lea.houtsonen@oph.fi. website: www.youngnet.at

6.4 TETSDAIS Project: The project intends to foster active citizenship through the development of the concepts of citizenship, sustainable development, intercultural and environmental education and social exclusion. It also intends to understand what kinds of difficulties are felt at school level in order to promote processes of active citizenship and participatory practices. In 2003 the project has disseminated the idea and findings of the project in partner and other countries and fostered trans national collaboration. The project participated and had an own paper session in the UNESCO Conference *Teaching and Learning for Intercultural Understanding, Human Rights and Culture of Peace* in June 2003 in Jyväskylä, Finland. The last partner meeting was held in July in Helsinki. The second teacher in-service training course will be organized in Palma de Mallorca in October 2003. The co-ordinator of the project is professor Manuela Ferreira, Portugal. Other participants of the project are Fernando Alexander, Sophie Cabral, Ana Calvo, Antonio Casero, Margalida Castells, Lea Houtsonen, Taina Kaivola, Branca Miranda, Miquel Oliver, Frances Slater and Jaume Sureda. Enquiries to Manuela Ferreira: manuelaf@univ-ab.pt website: <http://www.igu-net.org/cge/TETSDAIS/>

6.5 Oceans 21 project (J. Lidstone): At the Commission meeting in South Africa last year, I undertook to co-ordinate an educational project in support of the whole IGU project on Oceans 21. However, for both personal and professional reasons, I have been unable to give this project the attention it (perhaps) deserves. My perception is that Oceans are not a great priority for many other colleagues as well, and so it was a lonely row to hoe and I have not been able to devote the time needed to make it work on my own. Reluctantly therefore, I have to resign from this task. I know that our current Chair; Lea Houtsonen would still like the Commission to produce something by next year on this issue, and I am sure that the whole Commission would be grateful to anyone who wishes to step into my shoes and create a web site to assist teachers who wish to embrace Oceans as a major part of their teaching.

7. PUBLICATIONS

7.1 John Lidstone (Co-Editor of IRGEE reports)

Personal message from John: Thank you to all the people who sent their condolences on the death of my father. I know that many colleagues around the world had been wondering why I have been so quiet on the project front for the past year and more. My parents moved from England to Australia to be closer to us two years ago and since then there has been a lot of work to do to close down their affairs in England and re-establish them here. Dad's health started to deteriorate and he needed a lot of help. It has been wonderful that I have had my father as friend, mentor and guide for so many years, and I miss him hugely. The best tribute I think was that even though no-one in Australia knew him before his 74th birthday, the Chapel at his funeral was full and the average age of the people there was less than half his age.

International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education : Colleagues will have noticed that IRGEE is running behind its publication schedule. Despite attempts to catch up, we have yet to succeed. The reviewers of papers and those who submit papers do a wonderful job, and Donna Bennett is wonderful as our Editorial assistant. However, every issue is delayed by problems of receiving the last few contributions to FORUM sections. We receive many positive comments about the usefulness of the FORUM sections, but they are difficult to sustain without more help. Anyone who would like to propose and sub-edit a

FORUM on any aspect of Geographical and / or Environmental Education is most warmly invited to contact the Editors with a proposal. We will help all we can to make it happen.

In the meantime, any feedback colleagues would like to give us on IRGEE, whether on the content, how the articles are used in various parts of the world, ways in which it should change to meet changing needs of the Geographical Education community, or quality of the Editorials will be gratefully received.

JGHE Biennial Award for Promoting Excellence in Teaching and Learning: The Editors have been invited to nominate papers from IRGEE for this annual competition. Please will you all look back over your issues of IRGEE and identify the paper you believe best reflects the requirement for the award that it:

- a. ***should promote excellence in teaching and learning geography or closely allied subjects;***
- b. ***focuses on teaching and learning at higher education level***

If you would like to nominate a paper, please let the Editors of IRGEE know as soon as possible, and include a brief statement of why you believe that the paper deserves the award. The Editors of IRGEE would particularly appreciate nominations from those whose first language is not English.

Cultural Issues of Our Time: Many colleagues will remember and still use *Global Issues of Our Time* – which was published by Cambridge University Press in 1995 and based on contributions of twenty colleagues around the world. For several years I have been trying to persuade them to accept a further book of the same style on ***Cultural Issues of Our Time*** – which pose major issues for all of us across the world to discuss with our students. In April of this year, Cambridge University Press at long last approved such a publication.

I am now inviting any colleagues who wish to propose a chapter for this book to contact me immediately. Cambridge would like to have a completed manuscript by November 2003 for publication in August 2004. The book will be for international publication and there will be a (small) amount of money paid by the publisher for each chapter. I will prepare more detailed specifications for people who contact me, but briefly:

- a) The chapter should be written for school students of about 15-16 years of age (Upper secondary)
- b) Should be of about 4000 words plus half a dozen photographs plus maps (for which the author is responsible)
- c) Consider a cultural issue based in the home area of the writer, but which has international relevance, from an overtly geographical perspective; and
- d) Actively promote positive messages of hope for a peaceful resolution of cultural conflict.

Chapters suggested so far include conflicts within the Islamic world and the west, cultural issues in Papua New Guinea, relationships between Aborigines and immigrants in Australia, the situation of the Sammi peoples of northern Scandinavia and the Gypsy (Romani) peoples of Europe. However, please feel free to propose any other cultural issues with a geographical focus.

7.2 New Publications of IGU-CGE:

- **International Handbook on Geographical Education**
Rod Gerber (2003) (Ed). The GeoJournal Library Volume 73. Kluwer Academic Publishers. ISBN 1-4020-1019-2.

List of Contributors. *R. Gerber, J. Lidstone, L. Houtsonen M.M. Ferreira, J. Ostuni, M. Robertson, S. Bednarz, R. Bednarz, J.P. Stoltman, L. DeChano; W. Marsden; D. Lambert; J. Okpala, R. Tabulawa; T. Kaivola. J. van der Schee, S. Catling, D. Lanegran, P. Stimpson, M. Williams, G. Butt, F. Slater, H. Cantell, H. Rikkinin, T. Kwan. H. Allahwerdi, H. Rikkinen, W.A. Kent.*

- Simon Catling (2003). **Curriculum Contested: Primary Geography and Social Justice**. Oxford Brookes University. Westminster Institute of Education.

8. OTHER ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

8.1 News from Argentina.

Josefina Ostini provides the Spanish IGU-CGE reports to the Latin American net. Her paper titled "Panorama sobre la situación de la Geografía en el mundo" (Overview of Geographic state in the world) was published by the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo. This paper includes references to the International Charter on Geographical Education and the International Declaration on Geographical Education for intercultural understanding. As many people in Latin America are not able to read English this way they can know some of the main documents of our Commission. Thank you Josefina for helping to promote the work of the Commission.

8.2 National Educational Initiatives (US) Sarah Bednarz reports that for those interested in national educational initiatives and their effects on geography education, an interesting set of papers has been posted on the GENIP (Geography Education National Implementation Project) web site at <http://genip.tamu.edu>.

The new US educational policy, named "No Child Left Behind" threatens to leave some subjects behind, namely geography.