



International Geographical Union / Union Géographique Internationale

Commission on Geography and Public Policy

Newsletter December 2002

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WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

Again, we can present you a newsletter with some information about the past and announcements for the future. The Commission is quite big with about 250 members and geographically it covers 45 countries. It is also a very active Commission: in 2002 we have been (co)organising three conferences: in San Diego, Rome (see the last newsletter www.qiub.unibe.ch/sg/igu.) and at the IGC in Durban with overall about 100 papers. Two books are forthcoming, one in the IGU series at the Home of Geography in Rome and one at Ashgate. Unfortunately, we hardly get any information about important publications of the members. Please communicate the titles of your publications!

As the Chair of the Commission, I have also been invited in December by the OSCE department of democratisation in Kosova to support the process of decentralisation and local government reform. It was a very interesting and challenging experience and I hope the process will advance in a fruitful way.

In 2003, we will have at least three occasions for the Commission to meet: Lisbon, Moscow and Prague (see details below).

Looking forward to see you there, I wish you all a happy and successful New Year.

With best regards

Doris Wastl-Walter

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS: FUTURE CONFERENCES

The planned and confirmed future commission meetings are:

2003	LISBON (Portugal), April 9 – 11
	MOSCOW and BARNAUL/Altai (Russia), July 20 – 29
	PRAGUE (Czech Republic), September 19 – 20
2004	GLASGOW (UK), at the next IGC, August 16 – 20

NEWS FROM IGU

Durban General Assembly Approved Proposed Statute Changes

The Extraordinary General Assembly session held in conjunction with the August 2002 Durban Regional Conference approved the following changes in the IGU Statutes:

- Elimination of the former distinctions between IGU Commissions and Study Groups. Henceforth all working groups except task forces are being recognized as commissions.
- Elimination of the distinction between full and corresponding members of IGU Commissions and Task Forces. Henceforth a Steering Committee, made up by the former 'full members' of the Commission, will lead each commission and task force. The former 'corresponding members' have become members.

IGU Home of Geography in Rome

We want to remind you that the IGU Home of Geography in the **Villa Celimontana** in Rome (Italy) is a meeting point for geographers from around the world. It is also a possible venue for Commission symposia and we have already enjoyed the hospitality and the great place. The Home of Geography publishes also a newsletter, available in English and French on www.homeofgeography.org. In the sixth newsletter, published on October 31 2002, attention is drawn to the new publication series, the first two volumes of which have appeared: 'Human mobility in a borderless world' and 'Food and environment: Geographies of taste'. The next publication will be from our conference there in June 2002. Please use the Home of Geography homepage to keep informed about IGU matters.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Durban, South Africa, August 4 – 7, 2002

"Geographical Renaissance at the Dawn of the Millennium"

The International Geography Union (IGU) Conference was held at the International Convention Centre, Durban, 4-7 August 2002. The theme of the IGU conference was "Geographical Renaissance at the Dawn of the Millennium". Some of the issues addressed at the Conference included the challenges posed by globalisation, the need for sustainable and equitable resource utilization, and environmental changes like global warming and threats to biodiversity.

The Geography and Public Policy commission was extremely well subscribed. There were 47 papers, which were presented in over nine sessions. Some of the themes included impacts of neoliberalism, politics of privatisation, globalisation, urban governance, municipal demarcation, local government restructuring, transformation, and post-apartheid cities. An attempt is being made to publish a selection of these papers. There were also many excursions focusing on different aspects of the socio-spatial transformation in South Africa. Participants could visit the Cato Manor Development Association, which is concerned with integrated development planning, the Valley Trust, a NGO that focuses on health, development and environment, the beachfront of Durban, which serves as a multicultural space of economic and social recreational activity, the Durban's LA21 project, that protects open spaces within the city, the Petrochemical hub of South Africa, and Durban's harbour.

The IGU urged the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development to seek the means to ensure a better quality of life for all now and in the future through the implementation of sustainable development initiatives. It argued that the community of Geographers is uniquely positioned to help develop a more holistic understanding of the interrelationships and complexities that characterise our earth.

The highlight of the IGU conference was undoubtedly the award of International Geographical Union's "Planet and Humanity" award to the former State President of South Africa, **Nelson Mandela**, for his outstanding contribution to peace, stability and human progress.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

1. Lisbon, Portugal, April 9 – 11, 2003

"Public Administration, Public Policy and Governance: challenges & innovations"

The **aim of the conference** is to address contemporary developments in Public Administration and Public Policy in a period of growing convergence in administrative structures and processes, towards new forms of governance.

Up to now, 30 participants have announced the presentation of their paper, dealing with diverse changes in public administration, public policies and governance at different scales, ranging from the cities of London, Brussels, Lisbon, The Hague and Luliang (China), to regions in England, Northern Ireland, Central and Eastern Europe, to the countries of Turkey, Italy, Greece, and Denmark. Some contributions will also address theoretical and methodological issues of public policy.

The **working language** will be English.

Deadlines

31 January 2003 – Registration

1 March 2003 – Papers (sent in digital form by e-mail). Each participant must take copies of his/her paper to be distributed at the conference.

Program

April 9 (Wednesday)

Arrival / Accommodation

14.00-18.00 Walking tour in the old part of Lisbon

April 10 (Thursday)

9.00 Reception / Registration

9.30-12.30 Panel 1: Institutional innovation and new forms of governance I

14.00-16.00 Panel 2: Institutional innovation and new forms of governance II

16.30-17.30 IGU Commission Meeting

April 11 (Friday)

9.30-12.30 Panel 3: Governing Cities and Regions I

14.00-17.30 Panel 4: Governing Cities and Regions II

Conference fee: 50 Euros

Contact:

Carlos Nunes Silva, Department of Geography, University of Lisbon

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2. Moscow and Barnaul (Altai), Russia, July 20 - 29, 2003

"Society and Environment Interaction under Conditions of Global and Regional Changes"

International Geographical Union and National Committee of Geographers of Russia with participation of the leading geographical institutions of Russia, IGU Commissions and Working Groups announce a Special International Conference "Society and Environment Interaction under Conditions of Global and Regional Changes" to be held in summer of 2003 in Russia.

Scientific Program of the Conference

The following problems are planned to be discussed at the Conference:

- Biosphere stability under conditions of the anthropogenic effects and transformations of geographic environment
- Regional geographic consequences of global climatic changes
- Transformations of society and world economy as a result of global changes of climate and anthropogenic effect
- Integration and disintegration in modern world
- Change of the part of geography in modern society.
- Geographic problems of Inner Asia

Program of meetings of sections, IGU Commissions and Working Groups will be compiled on the basis of proposals made by Commissions and Working Groups.

Excursions

Depending on the number of participants and membership 2-4 thematic excursions to the Altai will be organized for 3-4 days each.

Preliminary cost of excursions (including transport, hotels, meals, excursion service and reference materials) is about \$ 250-300 .

Preliminary Conference Schedule

July 21	meetings and excursions in Moscow
July 22	transfer to Barnaul
July 23	plenary meeting
July 24	meetings of IGU Commissions and Working Groups
July 25-27	field excursions

Organizing Committee

Academician V. M. Kotlyakov

Chairman, National Committee of Geographers of Russia

Honored President , Russian Geographical Society

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3. Prague, Czech Republic, September 19 - 20, 2003

"Territorial Administration and Public Policy: restructuring of big governments, welfare state aspirations and local economies"

The **aim of the conference** is to address issues of current territorial administration and public policy at a wider context of societal organization at local, regional, national and supranational levels. Changes in structure and functioning of territorial self-government and administration are necessary, but they are only a partial component of societal development and are thus influenced by a wide range of other processes. In this sense, necessary

reforms and restructuring of territorial self-government and administration tend to lag behind economic changes. Economic actors operating at intra-national and supranational levels tend to form a large plurality of subjects by articulation of partial interests. They confront territorial self-governments with important pressures for change. Democratic local and regional governments represent more integral aspirations and interests formations. Democracy and also territorialized democracy provide integral frameworks for economic and other corporate actors and citizens. By examining the relations between, on the one hand, basic principles of territorial self-government, administration and governance and, on the other hand, geographical structuration and the role of public authorities, civil society and economy, the conference can contribute to our better understanding of current issues of territorial administration and public policy and continuing need for restructuring of big governments, welfare state aspirations and local economies.

The **working language** will be English.

Deadlines

28 February 2003 Pre-registration form and abstracts (sent by e-mail)
31 March 2003 Registration, payment (conference fee) and Hotel reservation
15 August 2003 Papers (sent in digital form by e-mail). Each participant is asked to take copies of his/her paper to be distributed at the conference.

Conference fee: 60 USD

To register, submit the following application form to:

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Charles University, Faculty of Science, Department of Social Geography and Regional Development
12843 Prague 2
Albertov 6.
Czech Republic
e.mail: dostal@natur.cuni.cz or kuzelova@natur.cuni.cz

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM	
Name	_____
Institution	_____
Address	_____ _____ _____
Telephone	_____
Fax:	_____
e-mail	_____
Title of Paper	_____
Abstract: (attach annex)	

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COMMISSION

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