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WELCOME

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

2006 has been an active year of the Commission. We've had three sessions and one keynote session at the IGU Regional Conference in Brisbane in July. For the great conference in Bratislava in October, I would like to thank our member of the steering committee Jan Bucek and his team.

We also congratulate our renowned colleague, Prof. Vladimir Kolosov, former chair of the Commission on Political Geography, who has been elected recently Vice President of the IGU. We are looking forward to cooperate again quite closely with him in this new role.

Unfortunately, we also had to say goodbye to a very distinguished personality, an unforgettable colleague and eminent scholar. The president of the IGU, Prof. Adalberto Vallega, passed away in November; enclosed you will find Guiuliano Bellezzas' announcement as well as a scientific profile of his life and work.

The Conference of the Commission on "Public Policy and Local Development: Opportunities and Challenges", the exciting new year's starting conference, will be organized by Prof. Pushkar K. Pradhan of the Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, taking place from February 23rd to March 1st.

I am looking forward to meet you at this special event and wish you all a joyful holiday and a peaceful, healthy and successful 2007.

Berne, December 2006

Doris Wastl-Walter

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Obituary

Prof. Adalberto Vallega died Wednesday, 22nd November 2006. Find enclosed a concise presentation of Adalberto Vallega's scientific profile and activities. In the name of the commission I dignify his scientific work and efforts and I know that some of you had to say goodbye to a very good friend. We all owe him deep respect.

Donations in memory of Adalberto Vallega may be made to the Trust and Solidarity Fund of the International Geographical Union, in care of the IGU Secretariat in Arlington, Virginia. They will be used to help young geographers and geographers from developing countries.

Academic context

Adalberto Vallega was professor of urban and regional geography. He has developed extended teaching activities in human, urban and regional geography, including coastal management, and cultural geography. In the context of the University, he was nominated Director of the Institute of Geographical Sciences, Director of the Department of Urban, Regional and Landscape Planning, and Head of Faculty of Education of the University of Genoa, Italy. In the context of the Italian Geographical milieu, he was the President of the Association of Italian Geographers (1983-1985), a member of the Executive Committee of the Italian Geographical Society (1985-1997), and a Chairman of the Italian Committee for the International Geographical Union.

IGU context

In the context of IGU, he founded first the Study Group on Marine Geography, and then the Commission on Marine Geography. In 1996 he was elected Vice-president of IGU. Within this role, he promoted the *Oceans 21 - science for sustainable use of ocean and coastal zones*, a co-operation programme convened by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and IGU to implement inter-disciplinary research on deep-ocean and coastal management. He was an IGU representative in the UNESCO World Conference on Science (1999). In 2000 he was elected as First-Vice President of the International Geographical Union and as a member of the Executive Committee of the IGU Home of Geography. In 2004, in the context of the 30th International Geographical Congress, the General Assembly of IGU elected him as President for the 2004-2008 term. In this position, he designed and convened the Mediterranean Renaissance Programme (MRP), and the Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development (CCHD) initiative.

United Nations context

In the context of international organisations, in 1992, A. Vallega was the scientific co-ordinator of the *International Conference on Ocean Management in Global Change*, convened in Italy with the co-operation of the United Nations as a part of the Celebrations for the Discovery of the Americas. In 1998, he served as scientific co-ordinator of the *International Conference on Education and Training in Integrated Coastal Area Management*, convened in Italy with the co-operation of UNESCO, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), United Nations International Development Organisation (UNIDO) and of the United National Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) with the support of the European Commission in order to celebrate the *1998 International Year of the Ocean*. Furthermore, in 1993 he designed and promoted the establishment of the

International Centre for Coastal and Ocean Policy Study (ICCOPS), which was accredited to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, recognised as a non governmental organisation of the UNEP/MAP and given the observer status to the Barcelona Convention.

Awards

Prof. VALlega was member of many scientific institutions, including the Academia Europæa, and he was a scientific consultant to the Italian navy. The University of Nantes, France, and the University of Bucharest, Romania, attributed him the *Laurea Honoris Causa* in October 2001.

Publications

Main books

- 1976 Regione e territorio, Milano, Mursia;
- 1980 Per una geografia del mare. Trasporti marittimi e rivoluzioni economiche, Milano, Mursia.; nuova edizione ampliata;
- 1982 Compendio di geografia regionale, Milano, Mursia;
- 1985 L'Australia e l'Oceania, Torino, UTET;
- 1985 Dai porti al sistema portuale. Teoria generale e caso ligure, Savona, Camera di Commercio;
- 1989 Geografia umana, Milano, Mursia;
- 1990 Esistenza, società, ecosistema. Pensiero geografico e questione ambientale, Milano, Mursia;
- 1992 Changing waterfront in coastal area management. "Ocean Change Publications", 1, Milano, Franco Angeli;
- 1992 Sea management. Theoretical Framework, Londra, Elsevier Applied Science;
- 1993 Il governo del mare. Conoscenze di base, Mursia, Milano,.400 pp., 308 pp.
- 1994 Geopolitica e sviluppo sostenibile. Il sistema mondo del secolo XXI, Mursia, Milano;
- 1996 La regione, sistema territoriale sostenibile. Compendio di geografia regionale sistematica, Milano, Mursia.
- 1997 Geografia delle strategie marittime. Dal mondo dei mercanti alla società transindustriale. Milano, Mursia;
- 1999 Geografia umana. Milano, Mursia;
- 1999 Fundamentals of integrated coastal management, Kluwer, Dordrecht;
- 2001 Ocean governance: A geographical Perspective, Francis & Taylor, Londra
- 2003 Geografia culturale. Luoghi, spazi, simboli. UTET-Libreria
- 2004 Geografia umana. Teoria e prassi, Firenze, Le Monnier
- 2004 Le grammatiche della geografia, Patron, Bologna
- 2005 La geografia del tempo. Saggio di geografia culturale, UTET, Torino

Last articles published in 2005

- Natura e cultura: risorse sostenibili*, in S. Conti ed., «L'Italia nel Mediterraneo», Roma, Società Geografica Italiana, pp. 17-64;
- Gestione integrata dell'area costiera. La raison d'être di una categoria speciale di piano*, «Urbanistica Dossier», «Le coste italiane tra politiche di settore e necessità di integrazione», 8, 77, pp. 26-28;
- From Rio to Johannesburg: The role of coastal GIS*, in «Ocean & Coastal Management », 48, pp. 588-618.
- Sviluppo sostenibile e diversità, tra cambiamento climatico e globalizzazione*, in F. Ferlaino ed., *La sostenibilità ambientale del territorio. Teorie e metodi*, Torino, UTET-Libreria, pp. 38-67.

[\(http://www.homeofgeography.org/\)](http://www.homeofgeography.org/)

Conference Reporting

At this year's IGU Regional Conference in Brisbane (July 3-7, 2006) we had successfully organized three special sessions covering local government, citizenship, public policy, security and transnational spaces. The first session on "Local government citizenship" focused on Korea, the Czech Republic and Israel. In the second session on "Public policy and security" social security as well as life after catastrophes were discussed and exemplified on homelessness and New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Session three on "Public Policy and transnational spaces" sought to examine issues relevant for states and state policy with respect to migration and integration. We have also organized a keynote session with a keynote lecture by Rex Honey on "Human Rights: Fundamental component of Geography and Public Policy" with Damian Collins and Doris Wastl-Walter as discussants. We thank the presenters for their contributions and very interesting insights and we thank all colleagues who participated for their interest and comments.

I also want to thank Jan Bucek from the Comenius University, Slovakia, and his local organizing team for an excellent conference on "Public Policy and Local Government: Opportunities and Challenges", Bratislava (October 18th-22nd, 2006) and an exciting field trip as well as city walk in this most interesting capital in transition. We all very much enjoyed the inputs and discussions covering a wide field, giving insights into state and community policies as well as participation in decision-making in selected European states on various policy levels. This conference in particular offered PhD. students an occasion to participate in an international conference and to present their research results to a new audience. We all enjoyed the hospitality and the perfect organization at the Comenius University.

Dates of the Future Commission Meetings

The planned and confirmed future commission meetings are:

2007

February 23 - March 1. KATHMANDU (Nepal), IGU GAPP Conference, "Public Policy and Local Development: Opportunities and Challenges". Organiser: Pushkar K Pradhan, Tribhuvan University. puba@mail.com.np or pushkar.pr@gmail.com.

June 3 - 6. BERN (Switzerland), Conference on "Local Governance & Citizenships". Organiser: Doris Wastl-Walter, University of Bern, dwastl@qiub.unibe.ch.

2008

August 25 - 29. TUNIS (Tunisia), IGC International Geographical Congress "Collaboratively Building our Territories". Organiser: Habib Dlala (Habib.Dlala@fshst.rnu.tn) and Ali Toumi (alitoumi2003@yahoo.fr), Université de Tunis.

2010

Summer. TEL AVIV (Israel), IGU Regional Conference.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Kathmandu, Nepal, February 23rd – March 1st, 2007

IGU GAPP Conference

“Public Policy and Local Development: Opportunities and Challenges”

Detailed Topical Issues

1. Policy strategies/measures in local development: development models, concepts, and policy measures
2. Opportunities:
 - (a) Indigenous knowledge and traditional practices of resources use
 - (b) Local resources based livelihood systems
 - (c) Production potentials and geographical niche
 - (d) Technologies in local development – appropriate, information and tools
 - (e) Planning process and measurements of local development
 - (f) Spatial linkages – intra- and inter- regions and transboundary
 - (g) Structure and functions of local organisations in sustainable development
 - (h) Urban rural linkages and rural development
3. Challenges:
 - (a) Issues and problems in local development
 - (b) Failures of policy strategies
 - (c) Planning practices – weaknesses and challenges
 - (d) Problems of local governance and development
 - (e) Infrastructure, organisations and development
 - (f) Internally displaced peoples, and their development and environmental implications
 - (g) Public policies and resources conflicts
 - (h) Environmental degradations, geographical approach and development

Programme

Friday 23 February

Registration, Inauguration of the Conference, Welcome and Introducing Session

Saturday 24 – Monday 26 February

Oral paper sessions and poster presentation, local excursions and closing

Tuesday 27 – Thursday 1 March

Excursion: Early morning start from Kathmandu to Pokhara city, 200km west, and further on to Sirubari, located in the hills at 1700 masl. Sirubari, where we'll be staying for one and a half days is an unspoiled village of the Gurung indigenous ethnic group and a unique example of a new form of eco-cultural tourism in Nepal - originated by the local people. Folk cultural programmes like vibrant traditional dancing and singing rituals stay in the home of one of the village families and the enchanting view of the panoramic Himalayan snow peaks will build the framework of this experience. Second overnight stop in Pokhara before driving back to Kathmandu. For cost effectiveness, the group should consist of 30 persons. The conference venue will be the Park Village Hotel, located to the north of Kathmandu.

IGU Commission on Geography and Public Policy

Pre-Registration

Participants should submit their pre-registration forms and abstracts (≈200 words - paper or poster) on or before the **31st of December 2006**. The final registration is due on the **31st January 2007**. Please use the enclosed application form for registration that can be made by an airmail or electronic mail. The form is available at website: www.igu-gapp.org. Participants will be selected on a first come first served basis, as well as according to the relevance of their abstract to any issue of the conference theme, if the number exceeds 50 participants.

Young scholars are encouraged to participate in the conference through submitting their posters. The size of poster is 90 x 65 cm with a maximum of **four** sheets (posters) describing title, objective(s), methods and interpretation with illustrations. Text must be in concise form with grey colour and illustrations (graphs, diagrams, photos, maps) may be in different colours. The candidate should write his/her full name, affiliated institute and full address (including email) at the last poster. Few best poster-participants will be awarded (certificate and token prize) during the closing ceremony of the conference. Participants should bring their posters with them.

Selected papers and posters with only black and white illustrations will be published in the conference proceeding journal. The editor(s) will edit the papers and posters professionally. All the papers and posters of the proceeding journal will be converted into pdf format and send it to each participant. Interested participants can get its hardcopy (ies) upon paying the postal charge.

Registration Fee

The provisional registration fee is US\$ 200. It includes lunches, tea/coffee and snacks, reception dinner, conference bags and other materials, transportation cost of local city tours, transfer to and from Kathmandu airport, entrance to cultural heritage sites in Kathmandu and the costs of relevant documentation, proceeding and the hirings of venues.

This fee excludes the cost of the fieldtrip, which is approximately US\$ ≈200 per person, depending on the number of participants in the fieldtrip.

Organiser and contact

Prof. Dr. Pushkar K Pradhan, PhD
Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University (CDGTU)
GPO Box 5488, Kathmandu, Nepal.
Tel: 977 1 4410 268 & 4443 230 (R) 977 1 4330 329 (O)
Fax: 977 1 4331 319
Email: puba@mail.com.np or pushkar.pr@gmail.com

The Programme Committee [members consists](#) of all Faculty Members of CDGTU, and Dr. Bishow Shrestha, Geography Department, Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara.

IGU Commission on Geography and Public Policy

Bern, Switzerland, June 3-6, 2007
IGU International Conference
“Local Governance & Citizenships”

The Commission on Geography and Public Policy in cooperation with the Swiss National IGU Committee organizes a conference on “Local Governance and Citizenship” in Bern, Switzerland, June 3rd – 6th 2007.

The focus will lie on mechanism and strategies in local governance. We will discuss possibilities of various population groups to participate in decision making as well as to have access to public spaces. We consider the production of space as a constant issue of public affairs; the exercise of power determines who would benefit, who is excluded and who is allowed or able to participate.

We kindly invite you to send us your contact details, a title and abstract reflecting on one of the following research fields:

- Local-self government and mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion
- Governance and civil society
- Public Policy and strengthening of political rights

It is planned to have 25-30 presentations, giving enough space for discussions and the exchange of ideas. Besides, we especially encourage Ph.D. students to register.

Deadline for the registration is end of January 2007. Registration fee is 120 Euro to be paid on arrival in cash. The fee includes coffee break, 3 lunches and 2 dinners. For those arriving Saturday (May 30th 2007) we offer a one-day field trip to the Swiss mountains (Sunday, June 1st 2007); additional costs approximately 60 Euros. The field trip included in the conference is free of charge. After registration we will send you information on accommodation and travel fares.

Organizer

Prof. Doris Wastl-Walter, University of Bern, dwastl@giub.unibe.ch

Contact

Dr. Andrea Ch. Kofler, kofler@giub.unibe.ch

Important Information

The IGU-Commission on Gender and Geography organizes a conference on “Sustainable Public Places. Feminist perspectives on appropriation, representations and planning of public spaces” from June 1st – 3rd, 2007, in Zurich.

For further information please contact

Dr. Elisabeth Buehler, University of Zurich, buehler@geo.unizh.ch (organizer & contact).

IGU Commission on Geography and Public Policy

Tunis, Tunisia, August 12-15, 2008
2008 International Geographical Congress
“Building together our territories!”

Dear Friends

The Tunisian Association of Geographers has the great honour to announce that it is organizing, in collaboration with the International Geographic Union, the 31st International Congress of Geography. Being of the highest importance for the international community of geographers, this event will enable geographers all over the world to present the results of their research and to compare their ideas. It will also be an opportunity to debate current issues, which show the place of geography in knowledge production, and its contribution to the improvement of humans' life conditions and their environment. Thus we have the immense pleasure of inviting you to take part in the activities of this event, which, we hope, will mark a milestone in IGU history.

Aware of the importance of the event, Tunisian geographers have spared no effort to ensure that it will be a success. We are keen to remind you that this congress is in fact yours. Its success will also depend on your participation. Thus, we hope a great number of you will attend from all continents and all specializations. Your friends and companions will also be welcome.

We are looking forward to seeing you soon among us.

On behalf of the IGU 31st Congress Organizing Committee

The President
Adnane Hayder

All the relevant material, constantly updated, can be found on the website of the Home of Geography: <http://www.homeofgeography.org>.

Tel-Aviv, Israel, Summer 2010
2010 IGU Regional Conference

The Israeli National Commission for Geography is delighted to invite you to attend the IGU Regional Conference in the summer of 2010 in Tel-Aviv, Israel.

The region provides visitors with an opportunity to explore the dynamism of a growing Mediterranean economy, trying to accommodate both lifestyle-driven development and ecological challenges in an arid region. An engagement with the region combines a first-hand encounter of the factors driving wider economic, political and social change coupled with the role played by local actors or institutions. Israel presents you with a most diversified geographical experience:

- Varied Mediterranean coasts, shaped by sand and rocks, as well as the beautiful Red Sea, Dead Sea and Lake of Galilee coastlines.
- Natural landscapes ranging from high, snowy and Rocky Mountains in the north to deserts in the south.
- A stimulating contemporary and critical political geography.
- Sacred and historical monuments and holy sites.
- A wide mix of cultural, ethnic, and gendered landscapes.
- A unique rural environment well known for its social innovation.
- Leading high-tech parks blended into globalizing cities.
- Diversity of planned and unplanned towns and cities.
- Varied Mediterranean coasts, shaped by sand and rocks, as well as the beautiful Red Sea, Dead Sea and Lake of Galilee coastlines.

Numerous exciting field trips before, during and after the conference will permit exposure to these unique places.

The Israeli academic geographical community is prominent in all Israeli universities as well as in several colleges. Israeli geographers are active in the various sub-areas of the discipline, as well as in teaching, planning, administration, etc. Tel-Aviv is a bustling metropolitan area of close to 3 million inhabitants. It stretches along the Mediterranean coastline, enjoying a beautiful promenade along which most hotels are located. With no rain in the summer, average temperatures range between 25-33 degrees Celsius. Tel-Aviv and its surrounding area offer an abundance of accommodation facilities ranging from youth hostels to five-star hotels.

Conference steering committee

- Prof. Daniel Felsenstein, Co-program organizer, Department of Geography, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. E-mail: msdfels@mscc.huji.ac.il.
- Prof. Tovi Fenster, Co-program organizer, Department of Geography, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv. E-mail: tobiws@post.tau.ac.il.
- Prof. Aharon Kellerman, Chair, Department of Geography, University of Haifa, Haifa. E-mail: akeller@univ.haifa.ac.il.
- Prof. Itzhak Schnell, Co-local organizer, Department of Geography, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv. E-mail: schnell@post.tau.ac.il.
- Dr. Michael Sofer, Co-local organizer, Department of Geography, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan. E-mail: soferm1@mail.biu.ac.il.

Sponsored by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.