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WELCOME

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

First of all, I am glad to announce the publication of the "Rights to the City" book, to which some of you have contributed. We are very happy to have it finally in hand and I think it is a very important collection of interesting case studies. Furthermore our Commission is busy preparing the next meetings: dates and important information you find in the newsletter. I hope you plan to come to the IGU Regional Conference in Brisbane in July 2006 and I kindly ask you to notice the important deadlines. Hope to see you in Brisbane.

With best regards

Berne, January 2006

Doris Wastl-Walter

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Publication

Rights to the City

The "Rights to the City" book has just come out. The authors will get copies within the next weeks. For everybody else: To obtain a copy, please contact Laura Ayo at the Home of Geography, Rome, at l.ayo@homeofgeography.org.

Wastl-Walter, Doris; Lynn Staeheli and Lorraine Dowler (eds.) (2005): Rights to the City. IGU - Home of Geography Publication Series Volume III. Società Geografica Italiana, Rome.

Dates of the Future Commission Meetings

The planned and confirmed future commission meetings are:

2006

July 3-7. BRISBANE (Australia), IGU Regional Conference "Regional Responses to Global Changes – A view from the Antipodes", 3 Sessions of the Commission. Organiser: Doris Wastl-Walter, University of Berne. E-mail: dwastl@giub.unibe.ch; Willie Smith, University of Auckland. E-mail: w.smith@auckland.ac.nz

IGU Commission on Geography and Public Policy

October 18-22. BRATISLAVA (Slovakia), IGU GAPP Conference “New tasks, approaches and spatial perspectives in public policy”. Organiser: Jan Bucek, Comenius University, Bratislava. bucek@fns.uniba.sk

2007

First week of February. KATHMANDU (Nepal), IGU GAPP Conference, Topic to be defined. Organiser: Pushkar K Pradhan, Tribhuvan University. puba@mail.com.np

June 3-6. BERN (Switzerland), Joint Conference with the IGU Commission on Gender, Topic to be defined. Organiser: Elisabeth Buehler, University of Zuerich and Doris Wastl-Walter, University of Bern. dwastl@giub.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.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Brisbane, AUS, July 3-7, 2006

IGU Regional Conference “Regional Responses to Global Changes – A view from the Antipodes”

As we have already informed you in June 2005, our Commission has planned the following (specialist) sessions at the IGU Regional Conference “Regional Responses to Global Changes – A view from the Antipodes”:

- 1. Local governance and citizenship**
- 2. Public policy and security**
- 3. Public policy and transnational space**

For our Commission, we have invited our distinguished member and long serving Secretary of the Commission, **Rex Honey**, to give the keynote paper on “**Human Rights: A Fundamental Component of Geography and Public Policy**”.

Abstract and Paper Submission:

We kindly ask you to submit your abstract online to the interactive website www.igu2006.org until **February 24, 2006**. This is the deadline for receipt of abstracts that are eligible for consideration in specialist sessions. (*These sessions are being organised by IGU Commissions, IAAG Study Groups and by convenors of other sessions related to the conference theme.*)

28 April 2006 is the deadline for receipt of abstracts for inclusion in general paper sessions. However, where desirable, some papers may be relocated into specialist sessions.

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Papers will not be formally and finally accepted until payment of the registration fee is confirmed.

Details for abstract submission:

- If your abstract is intended for inclusion in a specific session please indicate at the appropriate box on the website. Your abstract will be forwarded to the relevant session convenor.
- Speaker's Guidelines will be available from the Conference website.
- For details relevant to IGU Commissions and Task Forces visit the IGU website at www.igu-net.org then click on the relevant flag for the English or French, then click on Organisations.

Please note the following important deadlines:

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| • Specialist Session Abstracts submission due: | 24 February 2006 |
| • Super Early Bird Registration closes: | 24 February 2006 |
| • Notification of Specialist Session Paper acceptances: | 15 March 2006 |
| • Submission of abstracts for inclusion in general paper sessions: | 28 April 2006 |
| • Early Bird Registration closes: | 28 April 2006 |
| • Reservations for Excursions and Field Trips: | 28 April 2006 |
| • Notification of General Session papers acceptances: | 15 May 2006 |

For further information see: www.igu2006.org

Organising Chairs:

- Professor John Holmes, University of Queensland (Chair Organising Committee, Publications Committee)
- Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick, University of Tasmania (Chair, Budget Committee)
- Associate Professor Brian Lees, Australian National University (Convenor Field Trips)
- Professor Nigel Tapper, Monash University (Chair, Programme Committee)

For enquiries and information contact:

IGU 2006 Brisbane Conference Secretariat, Eventcorp Pty Ltd, PO Box 5718, West End QLD 4101, AUSTRALIA. Ph: 61 7 3846 58 58, Fax: 61 7 3846 58 59.

www.igu2006.org, igu2006@eventcorp.com.au

Bratislava, Slovakia, October 18-22, 2006

IGU GAPP Conference

“New tasks, approaches and spatial perspectives in public policy”

Introductory Announcement

Wide range of papers is expected, but contributions addressing narrow group of topics will be highly appreciated. They should discuss the latest administrative territorial reforms including decentralisation, their limits and consequences. Governments at all level also are changing approaches to delivery of various public goods and services with various outcomes. Communities, cities and regions also face large variety of problems – innovative public policies are adopted, responding on them in different ways and different effects. Rising differences in social and economic situation across localities ask for addressing local economic development issues

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once again, including role of institutions, financial tools, planning and implementation strategies, as well as central state intervention. The relations among levels of government also remain very complicated and ideal for fruitful exchange of ideas. The role, scope and forms of citizens' involvement in managing public affairs also need more attention. We should understand much more how governments perceive and deal with spatiality inherent in many of their policies.

Place:

Department of Human Geography and Demogeography, Comenius University Bratislava, Slovakia.

Preliminary programme:

(Working language will be English)

Wednesday October 18 - arrival

Thursday October 19 – pre-conference one-day excursion “Bratislava and Western Slovakia”, or walking-tour (about 3 hours) through “Old and future Bratislava” (depending on interest of participants)

Friday October 20 - conference meeting plus conference dinner

Saturday October 21 – conference meeting

Sunday October 22 – departure

Deadlines:

31 March 2006 – pre-registration, title of presentation, abstract

31 May 2006 – registration, payment (conference fees), hotel reservation, other

Costs:

Conference fee: 100 EUR

“Bratislava and Western Slovakia” excursion: 50 EUR

Organisers and contact

Jan Bucek (bucek@fns.uniba.sk), Pavol Korec and Vladimir Slavik, Department of Human Geography and Demogeography, Comenius University, Mlynska dolina, 842 15 Bratislava, Slovak Republic (for more details and **registration form** see web: www.fns.uniba.sk/~khg/indexeng.htm)

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

E-Newsletter of the IGU

A message by Adalberto Vallega: Participating to the IGU efforts and improvement

Last months have been marked by some IGU events, which will be presented in the E-Newsletter # 3, January 2006 (see on www.homeofgeography.org). They are not only important in themselves but also because of the role that they may play in the evolving strategy and operational fields of the Union.

The International Workshop on Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development (Rome, December 2005) has shown how geography may help to deal with crucial

concerns of the today's world, catalyse attention from extra-geographical milieus, and design long term, and socially-relevant strategies.

The collaboration with the Saint-Dié-des-Vosges Festival International de Géographie and with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization has shown how ample could become the IGU role in promoting geography in the international arena and visibility of the world's scientific community.

The Collaboration memorandum, agreed with the Chinese Geographical Society, representing the Chinese geographical bodies as a whole, has followed a similar agreement, established in 2004 with China-Taiwan. These initiatives show that collaboration between the Union's Executive Committee and the local geographical bodies may go beyond the ritual discussions of the General Assemblies.

Finally, the unprecedented implementation and qualitative improvement of the initiatives carried out in the educational framework, together with the geographical participation in the Tunis UN Conference on Information Society, show that the frontiers of the social involvement of geography are widening remarkably.

To support these pathways IGU is triggered to improve its strategy and its organisation uninterruptedly in order to tailor its mission to a changing world. The more this process follows inputs from the local geographical bodies and individuals, therefore benefiting from effective bottom-up approaches, the more it will be successful. Please help the IGU by filling in the opinion pool Then Theses, that was included in the E-Newsletter # 2 and lodged in the Home of Geography website (www.homeofgeography.org), and return it.

Essentially, this collaboration would be very useful to IGU for meeting the needs and prospects that have arisen from the Strategic Plan 2006-2011 adopted by the General Assembly of ICSO and which will be widely presented in this issue of IGU E-Newsletter.

I thank all the colleagues that, around the world, are collaborating with IGU and send them my friendly greetings.

Adalberto Vallega

Report on the International Workshop on Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development – CCHD

Home of Geography, Rome, December 12-14, 2005

The International Workshop on *Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development* was designed as a follow up of a three-days brain storming of the Cultures and Civilizations Steering Committee, held in Rome, October 5-7, and was attended by 98 individuals (out of 126 inscribed) from 26 countries.

1. How might concepts of culture shared within the individual human communities of the world play a cardinal role in pursuing human development, as defined by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)?
2. How could the understanding and respect of cultural and civilizational peculiarities help the pursuit of human development, and the pursuit of goals defined in the 2000 UN Millennium Declaration and the Plan of Implementation adopted by the WSSD?
3. How may a better understanding of ways in which nature is understood and valued in some cultures and civilizations, confront the challenges of global change, natural disasters and extreme events?
4. How are individual cultures perceived, imagined and represented in cultural contexts, and what are the geopolitical implications?

5. How are cultural identities reproduced and transmitted in the media, especially e-media and Internet?
6. How do the concepts of culture and civilization shared by individual human communities relate to those produced in the scientific milieus, and what are the implications for education? How may such reflections trigger mutual understanding and inter-cultural dialogue?
7. Should cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, be safeguarded, and, if yes, how and why?
8. Following the goals defined in the Pitte-Vallega proposal, what fresh insights could be derived from geographical approaches to these questions?
9. How might more effective partnership be achieved between IGU and other scientific non-governmental and governmental organizations in the implementation of the CCHD initiative?

The major outcome of this event was the adoption of the *Action Plan on Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development* (AP CCHD) consisting of an integrated set of actions concerning research, education, the media and communication with the public, with the proposal for a proclamation of a UN international year as its chief component.

Both the Action Plan and the Proposal for a UN *International Year on Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development*, together with the whole materials concerning this initiative may be found in the Home of Geography website. Information on implementation will be posted in this website, also.

Those bodies and scientists, even from extra-geographical contexts, who are inclined to collaborate with this initiative, should contact the IGU President Adalberto Vallega (e-mail a.vallega@iol.it or a.vallega@homeofgeography.org).

The workshop scientific materials, together with the list of participants may be downloaded from: www.homeofgeography.org