

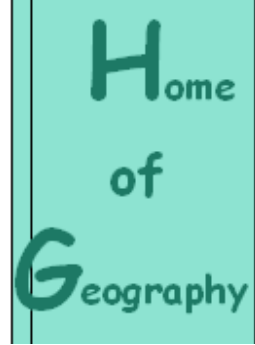


# ***IGU E-Newsletter*** ***From the Rome Home of Geography***

Quarterly

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# 26

October

2011

Editor-in-Chief: *Ronald F. Abler*

Editor: *Giuliano Bellezza*

*This Newsletter is circulated to more than 1500 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome.*

*Please send them to [g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org](mailto:g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org) or [giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it](mailto:giuliano.bellezza@uniroma1.it)*



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6.1) Computer Application and Computational Science, International Congress Bali, 15-17 November

6.2) Managing Alpine Future II, Innsbruck, 21-23 November

6.3) National Conference on Agriculture, Environment and Population Growth in India, Gorakhpur, 26-28 December



## 1) FROM IGU PRESIDENT RON ABLER

### a) English version

Dear Colleagues,

I have been traveling a lot on behalf of IGU the last two months. First Vice President Vladimir Kolossov, Secretary General Mike Meadows, and I were guests of the Turkish Geographical Society in Istanbul in early September in connection with the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society. We greatly enjoyed the excellent meeting and the fine field excursions that followed. Turkish geographers are keen to host the 2020 IGU Congress in Istanbul, and have already done a great deal of preliminary work toward that end.

After leaving Istanbul, I traveled to Tbilisi for a meeting of the Georgian Geographical Society held in honor of the centenary of the birth of Feofan Davitaia (1911-1979), one of the major figures in Georgian geography and an IGU Vice President from 1972 to 1979. Thanks to the hospitality of Professor Revaz Gachechiladze and his colleagues we had, in addition to the conference, two excellent field excursions and a most memorable dinner at the residence of Professor Nodar Elizbarashvili, Chairperson of the IGU Commission on Landscape Analysis and Landscape Planning.

Mike Meadows, Vice President Giuliano Bellezza, and I attended the 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU) in Rome from 25-30 September, a meeting that featured many memorable events including the selection by the general assembly of Professor Gordon McBean as ICSU President-Elect. McBean is a climatologist resident in the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario in Canada. Geographers were much in evidence during the meeting including IGU Vice President Irasema Alcantara-Ayala of UNAM in Mexico City, who serves on the key ICSU Committee on Scientific Planning and Review, and Professor Diana Liverman, who Co-Chairs the Earth System Sustainability Initiative Transition Team.

After a brief return to the USA I represented the IGU at the 22<sup>nd</sup> running of the Festival International de Géographie (FIG) in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges in northeast France. FIG seems to get more exciting every year and the 2011 edition was no exception. Professor Emeritus Antoine Bailly of the University of Geneva was awarded the Prix Vautrin-Lud, the “Geography Nobel.”

Another notable event was the announcement of the founding of an International School of Applied Geography in Saint-Dié-des-Vosges by former Minister, FIG President and Founder, and Mayor of Saint-Dié-des-Vosges Christian Pierret and Member of the Institute Jean-Robert Pitte, The school will be modeled on existing French Grandes Ecoles. The summary of the session at which the School was announced reads:

*The “spirit of the place” of Saint-Dié-des-Vosges will soon be reflected by the creation of an International School of Applied Geography, which will propose various MBAs in order to strengthen the links between geographical research and the entrepreneurs. Nowadays geography is used as an applied science in big firms (such as Nestle, Aventis, or Total), non-profit organizations, NGOs, or local administration. It will tackle the issues of geographical ignorance, “a weapon of mass destruction,” in order to improve the way they apprehend the world we live in. This project offers an incredible opportunity for Saint-Dié-des-Vosges to attract students on a longer basis than the three days of the Festival. It reflects also the dynamism of the town, becoming, in spite of its size, an international capital, the capital of geography.*

The IGU Executive Committee is now busy with preparations for its meeting in Santiago, Chile just prior to the 14-18 November IGU Regional Conference. I hope to see you there.

Best wishes,

Ron

[rabler@aag.org](mailto:rabler@aag.org)



*Prof. Antoine Bailly, University of Geneva*

## **b) Version française**

Chers collègues,

Ces deux derniers mois, j'ai beaucoup voyagé au nom de l'UGI. Le premier vice-président Vladimir Kolossov, le secrétaire général Mike Meadows, et moi-même, étions invités à Istanbul au début septembre par la Société Géographique de Turquie pour son 70ème anniversaire. Nous avons grandement apprécié cette excellente conférence et les intéressantes excursions qui ont suivi. Les géographes turcs sont désireux d'organiser le Congrès UGI de 2020 à Istanbul, et ont déjà fait une bonne partie du travail préliminaire à ces fins.

Après avoir quitté Istanbul, je me suis rendu à Tbilissi pour une réunion de la Société Géographique de Géorgie en l'honneur du centenaire de la naissance de Feofan Davitaia (1911-1979), une des figures majeures de la géographie géorgienne et vice-président de l'UGI de 1972 à 1979. Grâce à l'hospitalité du Professeur Revaz Gachechiladze et de ses collègues, nous avons pu effectuer après la conférence deux excellentes excursions sur le terrain, et nous avons terminé avec un dîner mémorable dans la résidence du Professeur Nodar Elizbarashvili, président de la commission UGI sur l'Analyse des Paysages et l'Aménagement Paysager.

Mike Meadows, le vice-Président Giuliano Bellezza, et moi-même avons participé à la 30ème Assemblée Générale du Conseil International pour les Sciences (ICSU) à Rome du 25 au 30 Septembre, une rencontre riche en événements mémorables, y compris le choix par l'assemblée générale du professeur Gordon McBean comme futur président de l'ICSU. McBean est un climatologue rattaché au Département de Géographie de l'Université de l'Ouest-Ontario au Canada. Les géographes ont été particulièrement visibles lors de cette conférence, en particulier la vice-présidente de l'UGI Irasema Alcantara-Ayala de l'UNAM à Mexico, qui siège au comité essentiel de l'ICSU sur la planification et l'évaluation de la recherche, ainsi que la professeure Diana Liverman, co-présidente de l'équipe de transition pour l'initiative sur la Durabilité du Système Terre.

Après un bref retour aux États-Unis, j'ai représenté l'UGI à la 22ème édition du Festival International de Géographie (FIG) à Saint-Dié-des-Vosges dans le Nord-est de la France. Le FIG me paraît de plus en plus passionnant chaque année et celui de 2011 ne fait pas exception. Le professeur émérite Antoine Bailly de l'Université de Genève a reçu le Prix Vautrin-Lud, "prix Nobel de la Géographie." Un autre événement à noter est la création d'une École internationale de géographie appliquée à Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, annoncée par Christian Pierret, ancien ministre et maire de Saint-Dié-des-Vosges, fondateur et président du FIG, et Jean-Robert Pitte, membre de l'Institut. Cette école sera organisée sur le modèle des Grandes Écoles françaises. Le résumé de la session où cette création a été annoncée est le suivant :

*L'“esprit des lieux” de Saint-Dié-des-Vosges sera bientôt reflété par la création d'une École internationale de géographie appliquée, qui proposera divers mastères MBA de façon à renforcer les liens entre la recherche géographique et les entrepreneurs. De nos jours, la géographie est utilisée comme une science appliquée dans de grandes firmes (comme Nestle, Aventis, ou Total), des organisations à but non-lucratif, des ONG ou des collectivités locales. On s'attachera à combattre les problèmes d'ignorance géographique, “une arme de destruction massive”, de façon à améliorer la compréhension du monde dans lequel nous vivons. Ce projet offre des opportunités incroyables à Saint-Dié-des-Vosges pour attirer des étudiants sur des périodes plus*

*longues que les trois jours du festival. Il reflète aussi le dynamisme de la ville, qui est devenue, malgré sa taille modeste, une capitale internationale, la capitale de la géographie.*

Le Comité Exécutif de l'UGI est maintenant bien occupé à la préparation de sa réunion à Santiago du Chili, juste avant la conférence régionale UGI (14 au 18 novembre).  
J'espère vous y voir,

Ron

[rabler@aag.org](mailto:rabler@aag.org)

Ron Ablar, président



## 2) IGU ELECTIONS 2012: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### **IGU Elections 2012: Call for nominations now open**

The call for nominations for positions on the International Geographical Union Executive Committee is now open. The need for nominations and for the election that will be held at the 2012 IGU General Assembly in Cologne arises as a result of the completion of terms of office by several current members. The status of the incumbent members of the Executive Committee of the IGU is as follows (with terms of office in parentheses):

#### **President:**

Ronald Ablar, United States (2008-2012). Not eligible for re-election but will by Statute remain a member of the Executive Committee as a Vice ("Past") President through the 2016 Beijing Congress.

#### **Secretary-General and Treasurer:**

Mike Meadows, South Africa (2010-2014). Eligible for one additional term in 2014.

#### **Vice Presidents:**

Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Mexico (2008-2012). Eligible for re-election in 2012 as Vice President for one additional term of four years.

Giuliano Bellezza, Italy (2008-2014). Not eligible for re-election as Vice President in 2014.

Ruth Fincher, Australia (2008-2012). Eligible for re-election as Vice President in 2012 for one additional term of four years.

Aharon Kellerman, Israel (2008-2014). Not eligible for re-election as Vice President in 2014.

Vladimir Kolossov, Russia (2008-2012). Not eligible for re-election as Vice President; restricted by Statute to his current term as Vice President after serving the remainder of deceased Nikita Glazovsky's 2004-2008 term.

Dahe Qin, China-Beijing (2008-2014). Not eligible for re-election as Vice President in 2014.

Dietrich Soye, Germany (2008-2012). Eligible for re-election as Vice President in 2012 for one additional term of four years.

Yukio Himiyama, Japan (2010-2012). Eligible for re-election as Vice President in 2014 for one additional term of four years.

Markku Löytönen, Finland (2008-2012). Serving by Statute as a Vice (“Past”) President in place of deceased President Adalberto Vallega. Not eligible for re-election as Vice President.

**Only National Committees may nominate candidates for election to the IGU Executive Committee.** Nominations of candidates for President and Vice President should be submitted by the chairpersons of National Committees and must reach the Cape Town IGU Secretariat no later than 31st December 2011.

A nominee for President need not necessarily be a current member of the Executive Committee but the President “. . . shall normally be chosen from among those who have had experience as elected officers of the Union” (IGU Statute , IV). Please note that the national committees of incumbent members of the IGU Executive Committee who wish to stand for re-election must nominate such candidates in the normal manner.

Each nomination should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae, a photograph of the nominee, and a statement of intent (no more than 500 words in length) written by the nominee, describing her or his priorities for the IGU if elected. I have attached the statement prepared by Professor Meadows for his 2008 nomination as Vice President as an example.

**Please send your nomination by 31st December 2011 to:**

Professor Michael Meadows, Secretary General and Treasurer  
IGU Secretariat  
University of Cape Town, Private Bag X3  
Department of Environmental and Geographical Science  
South Lane, Upper Campus  
Rondebosch 7701 South Africa  
Vox: +27 21 650 2873  
Fax: +27 21 650 3456  
E-Mail: mmeadows@mweb.co.za

Please address any questions regarding nominations to me. Only those members (i.e. national committees) in good financial standing and who are represented at the IGU General Assembly at the 2012 Congress in Cologne, Germany will be eligible to vote in the 2012 election.

*Mike Meadows*

Secretary-General and Treasurer



### 3) NEXT IGU OFFICIAL INITIATIVES

#### 3.1) SANTIAGO DE CHILE, IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2011

ACTIVIDADES PROGRAMADAS	MÁS INFORMACIÓN	
SALIDAS A TERRENO	VALLE ANDINO DEL RÍO MAIPO, DINÁMICA ACTUAL DEL MEDIO NATURAL Y USO DEL TERRITORIO	<a href="#">INGRESE AQUÍ</a>
	RECONOCIMIENTO EXPLORATORIO REGIÓN MEDITERRÁNEA ACONCAGUA – MAIPO	
	BIOGEOGRAFÍA Y BIODIVERSIDAD: RESERVA DE LA BIOSFERA LA CAMPANA	
	VALDIVIA, HISTORIA DE TERREMOTOS - CIUDAD DE HUMEDALES	
	EFFECTOS DEL TERREMOTO Y TSUNAMI DE FEBRERO DE 2010 EN LAS COSTAS CHILENAS	
	CONOCIENDO EL CENTRO HISTÓRICO Y PATRIMONIAL DE SANTIAGO	
	VALPARAISO CIUDAD PATRIMONIAL	
VISITAS TÉCNICAS	INSTITUTO GEOGRÁFICO MILITAR (IGM)	<a href="#">INGRESE AQUÍ</a>
	SERVICIO AEROFOTOGRAMÉTRICO DE LA FUERZA AÉREA DE CHILE (SAF)	
	SERVICIO HIDROGRÁFICO Y OCEANOGRÁFICO DE LA ARMADA DE CHILE (SHOA)	
EVENTOS SOCIALES	CEREMONIA DE INAUGURACIÓN	<a href="#">INGRESE AQUÍ</a>
	GALA ECUESTRE	<a href="#">INGRESE AQUÍ</a>
	CENA DE GALA	<a href="#">INGRESE AQUÍ</a>
Más información: <a href="mailto:info@ugi2011.cl">info@ugi2011.cl</a>		

*Links are not active: to see the Programs go to [www.ugi2011.cl](http://www.ugi2011.cl)*

## **3.2) COLOGNE 2012, IGC INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS**

### **LAST MINUTE NEWS**

#### **Online registration**

Registration for the Congress will be possible from 2th November 2011. Early registration has several advantages. Early registration is possible up to 10 April at the special rate of 295 EUR (postgraduates 175 EUR / undergraduates 100 EUR). Some events have a limited number of places and should be booked early (e.g. field trips over several days). To register for the congress please use our homepage ([www.igc2012.org](http://www.igc2012.org)). To register you need a valid credit card.

#### **Royal opening**

Her Royal Highness the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand will address the congress participants at the official opening of the IGC in Cologne on 26 August 2012. The Princess is a geographer and had as her teachers among others the two German Professors Hohnholz and Freitag. She lectures at the Chulachomkiao Royal Military Academy in Bangkok and is very committed to supporting science. We are very pleased that Her Royal Highness will honour the congress with her presence.

#### **iGeo**

Sylvia Löhrmann (Minister of Schools and Further Education in North Rhine-Westphalia) is the patron of the International Schools Olympiad which will take place in Cologne in the week before the IGC. Minister Löhrmann will officiate at the iGeo prize-giving at the official opening of the IGC 2012. We are pleased to announce that iGeo has been recognized by UNESCO as an event in the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

#### **YRF Programme**

The workshops for young scientists can be booked from today, at no further cost apart from the regular congress fee. The following workshops will take place on the first day of the congress: “Managing a PhD thesis”, “Project management”, “Publishing in English: Why, where, and how“, “Academic writing for young researchers”, “Funding opportunities in Germany”, “Funding opportunities in the EU”, “Strategic decisions: the path to professorship an academic career ” and “Careers in science”. These workshops can be booked at no extra cost when registering for the congress. For further information please see the congress homepage.

#### **Science Slam and student poster competition**

The University of Cologne geography students’ council will provide an opportunity for undergraduates and postgraduates to present their projects in an unusual format. They will have five minutes to convince the audience – with no limits to creativity with regards to the form of the presentation.

The students’ council is also organizing a poster competition. For further information please see the homepage of the geography students’ council:

([www.fs-geographie.uni-koeln.de/joom/index.php/igc2012/scienceslam.html](http://www.fs-geographie.uni-koeln.de/joom/index.php/igc2012/scienceslam.html)).

#### **IGC 2012 at the FIG and RGS**

Valerie Viehoff took part in the conference of the Royal Geographical Society in September and the Festival international de géographie in Saint-Dié-des Vosges in October on behalf of the

Local Organizing Committee of the IGC 2012. There she presented information about the IGC 2012 concept and about participation in the IGC 2012.



#### **4) REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

##### **4.1) SECOND INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GEOPARKS, TAINING, CHINA**

The Second International Forum on Geoparks, with the theme of Capacity Building and Sustainable Development, was successfully held in Taining World Geopark, Fujian Province in China from May 27 to 29th, 2011.



*Group photo of the participants*

The Commission on Geoparks of the International Geographical Union co-organized the event with Taining World Geopark, and more than 50 well-known scholars and managers in the field of park management from five countries participated in the forum.



*Left, Ron Abler gives the opening address during the Opening Ceremony(right)*

In 1989, UNESCO initiated what is now called the Global Geoparks Network (GGN). This programme has the dual objective of enhancing the value of sites which act as key witnesses to the Earth's history while creating employment and promoting regional economic development. The International Geographical Union (IGU) has been cooperating with UNESCO on the program and in 2008 established a Commission on Geoparks. The IGU-COG's mission is to promote the development of Geoparks from a geographical perspective. A very successful First International Forum on Geoparks: Interpretation and Sustainable Development was held at Yuntaishan World Geopark in 2007. After four years, the second forum brought the theme, capacity building and sustainable development.



*James Wilson, Dongyin Wei and James Levitte*

Commission on Geoparks of International Geographical Union co-organized the event with Taining World Geopark and more than 50 well-known scholars and managers in the field of park management from 5 countries participated in the forum.

At the opening ceremony, Ronald Abler, President of IGU, Prof. Qin Dahe and Prof. Yukio Himiyama spoke, Vice Presidents of IGU and the director of Taining World Geopark Management Bureau gave the address and highly evaluated the work by commission on Geoparks.

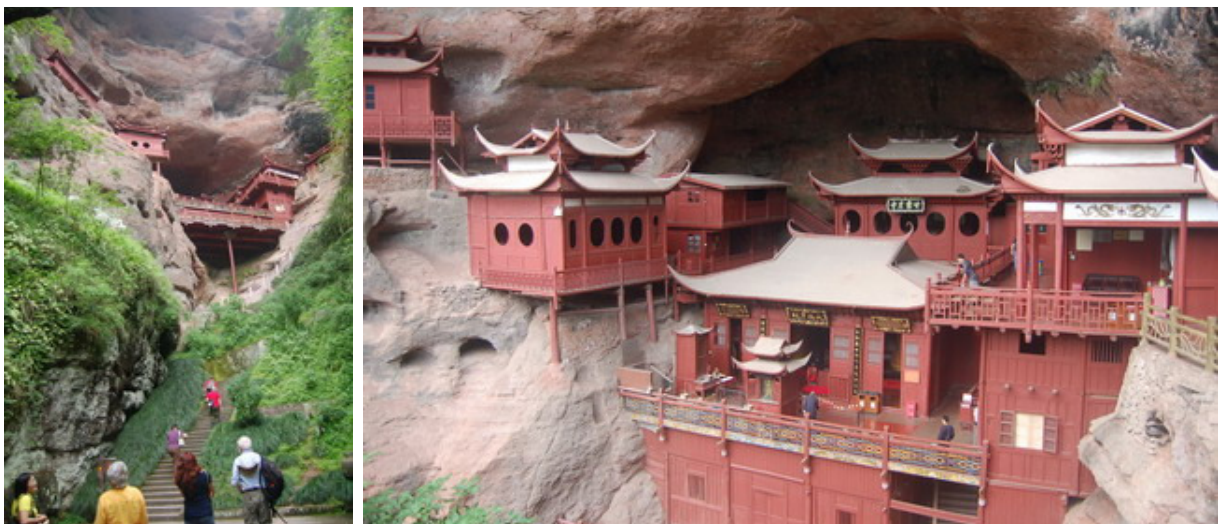
Keynote speeches were given by Dr. Dongying Wei, Chair of Commission on Geoparks of International Geographical Union (IGU-CoG), Prof. Lloyd Richardson, Vice Chair of IGU-CoG, Prof. James Wilson, advisor of IGU-CoG and Prof. James Levitte, Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University.

Mr. Pete Peterson and Mr. Jacob Fillion from Grand Canyon National Park in the United States discussed the Interpretive Development Program of the United States National Park Service and environmental education programs in the Grand Canyon, Rudy D'Alessandro from the International Office of the National Park Service introduced a successful cooperation model for park managers.



*Excursion in the Geopark: towering bamboos, wind erosion, difficult paths*

Prof. Carole Murphy, Prof. Ted Cable and Prof. Giuliano Bellezza and managers from Yuntaishan Geopark etc. gave their presentations and the participants discussed the Recommendation of Actions for Geoparks during the forum and, on May 29th, the document *Towards Sustainable Development - Recommendation of Actions for Geoparks* was approved by all the participants. It is an important file for promoting the development of Geoparks.



*Culture in the Geopark: a visit to the rock Temple of Gan Lu needs climbing a very long, hard stair*

## **Towards Sustainable Development - Recommendation of Actions for Geoparks**

From 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, May, 2011, the participants of the Second International Forum on Geoparks from five countries gathered in Taining, Fujian Province, China. The participants discussed developing and preserving our Geoparks and Geo-heritage in sustainable ways. The forum recognized that the Geopark Program initiated by UNESCO is an efficient tool for geo-heritage protection, recreation, education and economic development. The role of capacity building in achieving sustainable development of Geoparks is significant and the potential for capacity building has not been fully realized.

Through exchanging theoretical ideas and practical experience relevant to Geoparks, the participants in the International Forum have attained a common understanding as follows:

- Building educational capacity implies an essential change in educational ideas and the implementation of innovative educational programs and activities in Geoparks.
- Building conservation capacity will require a significant planning effort focused on research and adaptive management innovation to insure sustainability within Geoparks.

Based on this common understanding, the following goals were proposed to guide the development of specific recommendations.

- To formulate a strategic framework and implementation processes and integrate implementation of the plan of Geopark Sustainable Development by Geopark managers, and to encourage the public to participate in decision-making;
- To cooperate with local schools and develop educational programs for the school students in Geoparks to help them better to know their homelands;
- To encourage higher educational and research institutions to provide support for Geoparks, such as educational resources, intellectual attention and technology;
- To develop all kinds of learning materials based on local conditions so as to cultivate peoples' understanding of Geoparks;
- To orient recreation programs towards the demands of sustainable development;
- To enhance communication and cooperation among countries and regions in order to strengthen Ecologically Sustainable Development, including establishment of networking and provision of communication; to develop cooperative programs between countries; to build communication mechanisms and regularly hold forums on Geoparks.

### **Specific Recommendations**

#### **Planning**

A master plan should be developed for Geoparks that identifies a flexible set of park standards that support the mission of Geoparks. It should include conservation and restoration, education, recreation, and economic development for sustainability.

#### **Conservation**

Planning for conservation should include detailed systematic surveys of geologic, biological and cultural features unique to the park. University based research on geology, flora, fauna and water

resources of geoparks should be encouraged to insure resources needing protection are identified. Quantitative targets should be established for improving conservation outcomes including water quality, biodiversity, sustainable forest products, local community involvement and outdoor recreational resources. This should involve more than a listing of fauna and flora. It must include asset mapping to document the cultural uniqueness of the park and surrounding environments. If possible, this inventory should be done before the park is established or relatively early in park operation to establish a baseline upon which to gauge future operations. Planning documents for each park should be specific to each park, taking advantage of and building upon the unique resources of each geopark.

### **Facilities**

The Master Plan should include a detailed comprehensive plan for visitor facilities, road and trail development within each geopark. These should include prominent entrance signs on major roadways and intersections leading to the parks and clear directions to visitor orientation facilities. Visitor facilities should provide information on the unique attractions of each park, detailed information about access including trail length and difficulty, and “family friendly” bathrooms with accommodations for handicapped visitors and changing tables for families with babies. Appropriate facilities for local artisans and vendors should be planned and provided, as these are an important cultural component of the park experience. Safety issues, including trail design and development, provision for emergency evacuation, first aid training for employees and volunteers, etc., should be considered.

### **Education and Interpretation**

A subset of the plan should be tied to educational activities involving project based geography, science, mathematics, communication, arts, culture, and history. These should be tied closely to school standards and curricula. Local and regional knowledge expectations for schools, especially in geography and environmental education, should be addressed within the plan. Consideration of programs should include day trips, overnight camps, geo/eco camps, etc.

Educational planning should include:

Anticipation and planning for the visit to the geopark

Travel to the geopark

Experience at the geopark

Travel from the geopark

Remembering (reminiscing, constructing meaning, reflecting)

Planning for heritage interpretation (non-formal education, information, provocation not directly associated with schools) should be conducted separately from environmental education planning. Specific themes for each park should be developed to guide marketing, interpretation and economic development. Current interpretation methods and programs should be evaluated to determine their effectiveness in meeting mission-oriented goals for each park. Based on this evaluation, high quality, consistent interpretive training should be designed and provided for park guides and others who interact with the public. Interpretation should be related to park management where appropriate in order to build support for management and sustainability for the park. Local cultural traditions with respect to recycling, conservation, gender roles, and family and community needs should be included where possible. Studies to identify natural resource and cultural features appropriate for thematic interpretation should be conducted.

## **Tourism and Community Involvement**

Visitor studies should be initiated to identify what types of people come to the park, what they want from the experience, where they come from, what their needs are and what their level of expenditure and influence is likely to be. This will be useful in identifying successful themes to guide marketing, interpretation and economic development.

Community-wide planning discussions should be held to identify opportunities for economic development in support of identified themes within each park. An asset based community development map should be prepared. Stakeholders should be identified and their contributions, concerns, and investments should be acknowledged and documented. Local ecotourism opportunities should be developed. Local artisans, crafts, and food vendors should be encouraged. Local culture, history and folkways should be made available to visitors (e.g., dance, tea, rural life) to make the visitor experience more personal and to enhance the local economy.

The development of local recreational opportunities that are compatible with, and supportive of, identified themes for each park should be encouraged. Attention should be given to the total recreational experience which might include the geopark as well as other community assets.

### **4.2) 19TH ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM OF THE IGU COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL SYSTEMS, 1-7 AUGUST 2011, NUI GALWAY**

The 19th Annual Colloquium of the IGU Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems (CSRS) was held at the National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway, from 1-7 August 2011. Some 70 delegates and accompanying persons attended from 17 countries (Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, the UK, and the USA), providing many opportunities for the exchange of international research experience relating to the theme of the Commission. Mary Cawley, who is a member of the Steering Committee of the CSRS, chaired the local organising group. The proceedings were opened officially by the Registrar and Deputy President of NUI Galway, Nollaig Mac Congáil, on the morning of Tuesday 2 August. The delegates were then addressed briefly by Ulf Strohmayer, Head of the School of Geography and Archaeology, Patrick Duffy, NUI Maynooth, Chair of the Irish National Committee for the Geographical Sciences, and the Co-Chairs of the CSRS, Ana Maria Bicalho, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and Lucette Laurens, University of Montpellier 3.



*From left to right: Ana Mara Bicalho (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), Lucette Laurens (University of Montpellier 3), Co-Chairs of the CSRS, Patrick Duffy (Chair of the Irish National Committee for the Geographical Sciences), Nollaig Mac Congáil (Registrar and Deputy President, NUI Galway), Mary Cawley (local organiser of the Colloquium, NUI Galway)*

The overarching theme selected for the colloquium was *The Sustainability of Rural Systems: Local and Global Challenges and Opportunities*. Six Keynote Lectures which addressed the theme were delivered by: Guy Robinson, University of South Australia on ‘Agricultural Sustainability: Local Challenges in a Global Context’; Ana Maria Bicalho, Federal University of Brazil on ‘Forestry Management in Inhabited Conservation Units: the Tapajós National Forest as a Model of Community Governance’; Lucette Laurens, University of Montpellier 3 on ‘Ceasing Agriculture and Territorial Orientated Changes: Which Developmental Models? Uncertainties Pertaining to the Uprooting of Vines in Languedoc-Roussillon’; Michael Woods, University of Wales, Aberystwyth on ‘Grounding Global Challenges and the Relational Politics of the Rural’; Michael Cuddy, NUI Galway on ‘Irish Agricultural and Rural Development Policy’; and Tony Sorensen, University of New England, NSW on ‘Quantum Dreaming: the Relevance of Quantum Mechanics to Regional Science’. Professor Robinson’s lecture was sponsored by the Millennium Fund, NUI Galway. The lectures by the other four overseas speakers were sponsored by the Irish Social Sciences Platform through the Centre for Innovation and Social Change in Galway.

Forty-four papers and six posters were presented over two full days and one morning in plenary and parallel sessions on six broad sub themes relating to: *Land Use, Agriculture and Food; Heritage, Tourism and Environment; Rural Society, Population and Settlement; Governance and Rural Development; Innovative Approaches to Rural and Regional Employment Creation; Rural Society and Sustainable Energy*. Eleven overseas and Irish postgraduate students, who presented papers or posters, received bursaries in partial support of their registration fees from the Dean of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies at NUI Galway. Support for the colloquium was also provided by the NUI Galway School of Geography and Archaeology and the Departments of Geography at University College Dublin, Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, and St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Dublin.



*Some of the delegates who attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium of the CSRS at NUI Galway are pictured on Saturday 6 August. Lucette Laurens and Ana Maria Bicalho are in the centre of the second row from the front and immediately behind them, keynote speakers, Tony Sorenson, Michael Woods and Guy Robinson*

Field based learning activities were organised on two full days and one afternoon and evening, as is customary for this Commission, with discussion being led by local colleagues and external specialists. On the afternoon of Wednesday 3 August, the group visited the ‘creative’ film and television related cluster at Indreabhán, west of Galway, learned about residential pressure in the urban fringe in Bearna and had a post dinner guided walk along the waterways in the city. Field visits on Thursday 4 August, to south County Galway and County Clare, were devoted to Brazilian labour immigration, the work of a Local Development Company and Wood Energy Project, conservation in the karstic landscape of the Burren, and tourism development in the context of the Cliffs of Moher. The issues discussed on Friday included language and development in the Gaeltacht (Ireland’s officially designated areas where the majority of the population speak the Irish language as well as English), farm diversification, 19<sup>th</sup> century famine landscapes, contemporary tourism, and risk and challenges for planning in the coastal zone.



*Discussing farm diversification during a visit to a sheep farm at Loughnafoey, County Galway*

As is usual in the case of the CSRS, it is planned to publish the peer-reviewed edited proceeding of the Colloquium in due course.

*Mary Cawley*  
NUI Galway

#### **4.3) 17<sup>TH</sup> EUROPEAN COLLOQUIUM ON QUANTITATIVE AND THEORETICAL GEOGRAPHY, ATHENS**

The 17th European Colloquium on Quantitative and Theoretical Geography (ECQTG2011) took place in Athens, Greece from the 2nd to the 5th of September 2011. The conference has formally organized by the Greek Society for Demographic Studies and hosted by Harokopio University, Department of Geography. During the conference, more than 150 researchers from around the world had the opportunity to present their work and exchange ideas.

The participation of established and young researchers in this Colloquium and the presentation of very interesting papers indicates the research dynamism in the areas of Quantitative and Theoretical Geography. We hope that this opportunity of interaction between established and young researchers from around the world will contribute to the evolution of Quantitative and Theoretical Geography.



*Harokopio University Athens, main building*

The organising committee would like to express its sincere thanks to the authors and participants of this Colloquium. We would also like to thank all the people involved in the organisation. Special thanks go to Harokopio University, Department of Geography for hosting of the ECQTG 2011.

The next ECTQG will be held in Paris, France, in September 2013.

*Dr. Stamatis Kalogirou*

Lecturer in Applied Spatial Analysis, Organising Committee Chair

#### **4.4a) SYMPOSIUM INTERNATIONALE SUR LA GESTION DES GEOSITES, SAVOIE ET MONT BLANC, 5-10 SEPTEMBRE**

Le Symposium International sur la Gestion des Géosites a été organisé par le laboratoire EDYTEM de l'Université de Savoie, dans la région Savoie-Mont-Blanc (France) du 5 au 10 septembre 2010, sous les auspices du *Working Group on Geomorphosites* de l'IAG. L'équipe d'organisation était encadrée par Fabien Hobléa et Nathalie Cayla, qui tous deux travaillent depuis plus de quinze ans sur la thématique de l'inventaire, de l'évaluation, de la gestion et de la promotion des géopatrimoines dans les territoires montagnards.

Reconnus comme des ressources territoriales, il est désormais possible de construire des projets de développement locaux s'appuyant sur ces géopatrimoines. Ils peuvent être à l'origine de diverses labellisations et mesures de protection devenant ainsi la source d'un développement durable pour ces territoires.

Ce symposium avait pour ambition de réaliser un état des lieux des recherches récentes ainsi que des expérimentations conduites dans ce champ disciplinaire mais également de développer les réseaux d'acteurs impliqués dans ces thèmes.

Deux principaux événements le composaient:

Le premier était un cours intensif de deux jours à destination de doctorants mais également de techniciens de géoparc ou d'espaces protégés. Il s'est tenu dans la ville d'Evian, sur la rive française du lac Léman avec une phase de terrain dans le Chablais, territoire partenaire de l'événement. Placé sous la responsabilité scientifique de Nathalie Cayla, il portait sur l'usage des techniques numériques dans l'évaluation et la valorisation des géosites.

Il poursuivait trois objectifs :

- Faire un bilan des techniques numériques qui, des plus simples aux plus sophistiquées peuvent être utilisées dans l'inventaire, l'exploration, la connaissance et la valorisation des géopatrimoines.
- Réaliser des ateliers pratiques permettant de manipuler des outils simples (web-mapping avec l'API de Google Maps/Earth et de Géoportail), de la 3D basique (Arc 3D et Photofly), créer des pages web proposant des visites virtuelles, construire des contenus de réalités enrichies (Qr Code et application).
- Réfléchir aux avantages et aux limites de l'usage des nouvelles technologies dans les pratiques géotouristiques.

Après d'autres éditions organisées à Lausanne, à Lesbos et Braga, cette nouvelle édition du cours intensif a connu un succès certain avec 35 participants.

Le second événement du Symposium était la conférence internationale sur la "Gestion des géosites dans les aires protégés". Il s'est tenu du 7 au 9 septembre 2011 à l'Université de Savoie (Chambéry) ainsi que dans le Parc Naturel régional du massif des Bauges (Lui aussi partenaire du symposium). Organisé par Fabien Hobléa et son équipe, il a permis à 79 participants, venant de 18 pays, de partager leur travail sur les géosites ainsi que sur le management du patrimoine géomorphologique dans les aires protégés.

Quatre sessions comportant à la fois des présentations et des posters se sont déroulées :

- Les géosites dans les aires protégés : quels développements pour quels publics ?
- Outils numériques pour l'inventaire, la protection et la valorisation des géosites.
- Les géopatrimoines une ressource pour l'économie locale.
- Les géosites entre patrimoines naturels et culturels.

Deux sorties de terrain ont permis aux participants de découvrir des réalisations pratiques ayant permis la mise en valeur de la géomorphologie à l'intérieur du parc naturel régional.

Au cours du dernier jour du Symposium, le 10 Septembre une excursion additionnelle a conduit trente participants à la découverte des géosites de la vallée de Chamonix Mont-Blanc.

Le Prof. Mario Panizza ancien président de l'IAG et "père" du concept de géomorphosite, a ouvert la conférence suivi du Prof. Piotr Migon et du Prof. Eric Fouache, tous deux vice-présidents de l'IAG et représentants l'Association Internationale des Géomorphologistes. Madame le Prof. Monique Fort ancienne vice-présidente de l'IAG et actuellement présidente du Groupe Français de Géomorphologie, qui supportait également le Symposium, a ensuite pris la parole. Le cours intensif et la conférence ont donc constitué un important événement pour le groupe de travail sur les géomorphosites de l'IAG. Les actes seront publiés en partie dans *Geoheritage* et *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie* (in English), mais aussi en français dans la série *Collection Edytem*, éditée par l'Université de Savoie.

*Nathalie CAYLA, Fabien HOBLEA – EDYTEM UMR CNRS 5204*

*Sur le sentier des tannes et des glaciers de Margeriaz*



*Karst and caves geotrail in Margeriaz (tannes is the local denomination of karst caves where people used to gather snow in winter, then taking down to villages when needed)*

**4.4b) INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GEOSITES MANAGEMENT, SAVOIE ET MONT BLANC REGION, 5-10 SEPTEMBRE (English version)**

The *International Symposium on Geosite Management*, was organized by the Laboratory EDYTEM, University of Savoie, in Savoie – Mont Blanc region (France) from 5 to 10 September 2011, under the aegis of the Working Group on Geomorphosites of the IAG. The organizing team was managed by Fabien Hobléa and Nathalie Cayla, who work for more than 15 years on the inventory, the evaluation, the management and the promotion of the geoheritage in mountain areas.

Geoheritage is now recognized as a territorial resource onto which to build local development. It can be used to leverage protected and labelled areas by turning environmental value into sources of sustainable development.

This symposium aimed at providing a state-of-the-art view of recent researches and experiments conducted in the field of geosites management. It also allowed the development of actors' net working on this theme.

Two principal events composed this symposium.

The first one was a 2-day intensive course for master and PhD students, as well as geopark and nature park managers. It was held in the town of Evian in the French side of the Lake of Geneva lake, with field work in the Chablais territory which was a partner of the event. Placed under the scientific responsibility of Nathalie Cayla, it focused on the use of numerical technologies for the assessment and the promotion of geosites. This Intensive Course had three main objectives:

- To review digital technologies which, from the simplest to the most sophisticated, can be used in the inventory, exploration, knowledge, and valorization of the geoheritage.
- To offer a hands-on workshop allowing the manipulation of simple tools (web-mapping with the API Google Maps/Earth and Géoportail), basic 3D, Web page with virtual tour, video editing, and basic augmented reality...
- To start a reflexion about the advantages and the limits of new technologies used in geotouristic practices.

After other editions organised in Lausanne, Lesbos and Braga, this new edition of the intensive course had again a great success with 35 participants.

The second event of the Symposium was the international conference « Managing geosites in protected areas ». It was held from 7 to 9 September 2011 at the University of Savoie (Chambéry) and in the Massif des Bauges Natural Park (also partner of the Symposium). Organised by Fabien Hobléa and his team, it allowed the 79 participants, coming from 18 countries, to share their work on geosites and management of geomorphological heritage in protected areas.

Four sessions of both oral presentations and posters were held:

- Geosites in protected areas: Which development and for which public?
- Digital tools for the inventory, protection, and valorization of the geosites.
- Geoheritage as a resource for local economic development.
- Geoheritage as a resource for local economic development.

Two field trips allowed the participants to discover practical experiences of promotion of geomorphology within the park.

During the last day of the Symposium (10 September), an additional excursion gathered 30 participants to discover some geosites in the area of Chamonix – Mont Blanc.

The conference was open by Prof. Mario Panizza, former president of IAG and “father” of the concept of geomorphosites, and Prof. Piotr Migon and Prof. Eric Fouache, both vice-presidents of the IAG, representing the International Association of Geomorphologists, as well as Prof. Monique Fort, former vice-president and current president of the French Group of Geomorphology, which also supported the symposium. The intensive course and the conference constituted an important event for the IAG working group on geomorphosites, and the proceedings will be published partly in the journals *Geoheritage* and *Zeitschrift für Geomorphologie* (in English), and also in French in the series *Collection Edytem*, edited by the University of Savoie.

*Nathalie CAYLA and Fabien HOBLEA*



## 5) IN MEMORIAM

### GIACOMO CORNA PELLEGRINI

Professor Giacomo Corna Pellegrini, one of Italy's greatest geographers, has died the last 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2011 in Milan, aged 80. He was a popular teacher at the Faculty of Geography at the University of Milan for many years, and in 1978 was elected as the first President of the Italian Geographers Association; he held positions at many universities in the United States, France and Spain.

A Member of the famous *Academia Europae* in London, Honorary Member of the Italian Geographical Society, Honorary President of the Italian Geography Teachers Association at the Lombardy Region section, Member of the famous Brescia's *Ateneo* and co-founder of the Interbranches and Psychology of Tourism Research Association, Giacomo Corna Pellegrini won the "Galileo Galilei International Prize for the natural sciences", dedicated to geography, in 2008 given by the Italian Rotary Club.

He dedicated his daily efforts to both scientific research and to his much liked students, fulfilling this engagement always with great responsibility and satisfaction .

He wrote, published and edited, about 60 books and hundreds of articles about geography and science covering a wide range of topics, notably: economical development, urban life, the influence of politics over the territories, culture and quality of life in East Asia, Latin America and Italy. During the 70s in Italy he proposed new issues about the Geography of Perceptions giving several important contributions to the cultural geography; in a period of quick changes, this underlined his ability to depict the future of the discipline and probably represented the most important challenge of geographical research.

His scientific production interlinked with different humanistic and philosophical disciplines, as well as with the media. Moreover, he pursued the objective of understanding the different and various realities of human life on the planet. He loved thinking and pondering about the different cultures of the world, the cultural exchanges and how the economic processes, together with new technologies, deeply modified the behaviour and values influencing social relationships and living styles worldwide.

Giacomo Corna Pellegrini was not only a passionate studios of the geographical literature but also a fond traveller who toured cities and continents trying to personally understand People and Countries. Intense pages of geography tell of his travels, describing his personal meetings with people and landscapes all over the world. These images and "pictures of the environment", always animated with historical figures of the past as well as of the present, readily portray the several ways people meet with their own different physical realities and cultural/historical heritages and cultural background.

Giacomo Corna Pellegrini's geography has never been, and I daresay still isn't, a conventional one but a sort of a geography in progress, looking at the future, following the endless changing of human life and able to contemplate the complexity of the world and of the human being.

*Monica Morazzoni*



## **6) FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

*(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2011)*

- 6.1) COMPUTER APPLICATION AND COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE, INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS BALI, 15-17 NOVEMBER**
- 6.2) MANAGING ALPINE FUTURE II, INNSBRUCK, 21-23 NOVEMBER**
- 6.3) NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND POPULATION GROWTH IN INDIA, GORAKHPUR, 26-28 DECEMBER**

