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1) REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT YUKIO HIMIYAMA

For the organizers of international meetings in India, where heat is often a great concern, winter months may be a favored choice. This year, the XII IGU India Commission Conference was held from 22-24 February at Govt. P. G. College, Panchkula, Haryana State in northern India, with main themes on climate change, natural disasters and sustainable development. Global environmental problems such as climate change, land degradation or biodiversity loss, and disasters such as those related to extreme weather, tectonic activities or inappropriate use of vulnerable land, are all too familiar to the people of Asia. Geography has a strong regional/local focus as well as global, and this conference was an invaluable opportunity for participants from Haryana, other parts of India and from abroad to exchange their views, ideas and information, and to get to know each other.

The IGU India Commission Conference sequence started in 200, and has been held annually at universities in diverse locations across all parts of the country, including Srinagar Garhwal, Lucknow, Marthandam, Bilaspur, Guwahati, Rohtak, Pune, Delhi, Hyderabad, Guwahati, and Panchkula, in association with selected IGU Commissions. Under the guidance of the present IGU Secretary-General, Professor R.B. Singh of Delhi University, it has been organized successfully for twelve years, playing an important role in linking regional geographic communities in India with the IGU Commissions, strengthening both parties and the IGU as a whole. These meetings in
fact became the model for what we now know as the “IGU Thematic Conference”, formally introduced in 2016. I believe this Indian experience can be of use in many other countries and for many Commissions.

As you may be aware, the concept of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is gaining momentum throughout the world. The International Science Council (ISC) GeoUnions group, to which the IGU is affiliated, is leading an exercise in “mapping” what is being done (or what could be done) in relation to each goal of the SDGs in all the ISC member unions. The IGU has initiated its own ‘mapping’ in order to visualize and promote its multifaceted contributions to the SDGs in asking all Commissions to reflect on their plans to help achieve the SDGs. If indeed geography is truly the science for sustainability, it is expected to make substantial contribution to the SDGs, and IGU Commissions will assume important roles. In this regard, may I draw your attention to the IGU Commission on Global Understanding, which was established at the 2016 IGC (International Geographical Congress) in Beijing to support IYGU (2016 International Year of Global Understanding) and assist it to continue its mission.

Chaired by Professor Benno Werlen, who directed IYGU and is now the “UNESCO-Chair on Global Understanding for Sustainability”, the GU Commission has been working hard towards the realization of the “2020s UN International Decade of Global Understanding (IDGU)”. Recently, it was invited to submit the IDGU proposal to the Executive Board of UNESCO as a draft resolution for UN Decade, in the name of the IGU. IDGU will be based on a global network of “Regional Action Centers”, which initiate and coordinate work with local communities, so that there are “bottom-up” actions to support integrated implementation of the SDGs. Although the road ahead will not be easy, I see it a grand and thoroughly worthwhile challenge and opportunity for us as geographers. I believe there are a number of Commissions which may find IDGU useful in linking their activities with the SDGs.

The IGU Executive Committee is holding its first meeting this year in Dublin and Galway, Ireland, on 13-15 May. EC meetings are usually held in a country where there is an EC member who makes necessary arrangements. There is no EC member from Ireland, but it was chosen in part because Dublin is the city where our 2024 IGC will be held, and because the EUGEO (Association of Geographical Societies in Europe) meeting is scheduled to take place in Galway and most of the EC members were gathering there anyway. The IGU EC is grateful to the local organizers of the 2024 IGC and the EUGEO EC for their generous invitation, which will surely enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between them and the IGU. If you have any issues to be raised in our meetings, kindly contact me directly, or indeed any of the other IGU EC members (see: www.igu-online.org for contact details).

Yukio Himiyama,
President of IGU
2) IN MEMORIAM OF BRUNO MESSERLI

Dear friends and colleagues of Bruno Messerli,

With great sadness, we have to inform you that my husband, our father and grandfather, Bruno Messerli, has passed away during the night of February 4th 2019, followed by a beautiful and sunny winter day.

We miss him terribly, but we take great comfort in remembering his long, committed, and fulfilled life, surrounded by dear friends and colleagues.

We attach to this email the obituary, which is in German only. The funeral will take place in Bern on 15 February 2019, 2 pm at the Pauluskirche, Freiestrasse 8, in Bern (near to the University).

“There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning” (Thornton Wilder, The Bridge of San Luis Rey).

With our best personal regards,

Béatrice Messerli,
Regula, Jann, Peter and Christina Messerli and all the family members.

Message from the HofG
Last Saturday (6th February) I have been among the recipients of the message above, sent by Bèatrice Messerli, announcing the death of her husband, the former IGU President Bruno, and the following day I diffused it in HofG website, promising to diffuse it the official IGU tribute through the April IGU Newsletter.

I post now my personal condolences to Bèatrice, starting from June 2000, when I first knew Bruno in the Italian Geographical Congress, and later in 2006, when I had the honour to host the Messerlis, with other geographers, in my home in Roma. Never appearing authoritative, he was just eminent and respected. In the last years he wrote me some time, thanking for editing the IGU Newsletter: a kindness maybe small but for me surely great and unforgettable. Take care Bèatrice, good bye Bruno, honoured to have been friend to both of you

Giuliano
Official IGU tribute to Professor Bruno Messerli

The passing of a great geographer: former IGU President Bruno Messerli

The IGU records, with great sadness, the passing of one of its former Presidents, Professor Bruno Messerli, who died on February 4th 2019 following a brave battle with illness. Secretary-General RB Singh has compiled an appropriately emotional personal tribute, which is copied below and which captures the essence of one of the IGU’s most distinguished and beloved sons.

A Tribute to Great Mountain Luminary and Inspirational Geographer, Ex IGU President Professor Bruno Messerli: 17.09.1931 – 04.02.2019

I am deeply pained and saddened to know the unfortunate demise of Ex IGU President and Professor Emeritus, University of Bern, Professor Bruno Messerli. I express my deep condolences to his family, friends and well-wishers. After completing Ph.D. in 1962, he became Full Professor in 1969. Other assignments include 1978 – 1983 Director Institute of Geography, 1986/87 Rector University of Bern and 1996 Professor Emeritus. Important awards include 1988: Global 500 Award of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), 1990: Marcel Benoist Prize, 2002: Gold medal of King Albert I Memorial Foundation, 2002: Gold Medal (Founder’s Medal) of the Royal Geographical Society, 2002: FAO – Medal for the UN – International Year of Mountains, Global Mountain Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

This is my personal loss as I have had a long and close association with him. He visited me at the University of Delhi around 1986 with his student and Co-author of his famous book Dr. Thomas Hofer: Floods in Bangladesh. History, Dynamics and Rethinking the Role of the Himalayas. United Nations University Press, Tokyo / New York 2006. He was working on UNU Project Himalayan Highland-Lowland Interactive Project together with Professor J.D.Ives. They brought before us the concept of Himalayan Uncertainty from macro to micro levels. He has been strongly involved in the foundation of the ICIMOD- “International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development at Kathmandu”. ICIMOD is an integrated centre for eight Himalayan Countries including India. He organised excellent International UNU Meeting at the ICIMOD, Kathmandu in 1987, where I was invited to participate and contribute. There, I was able to meet most of the active mountain experts of the world. A scientific field trip was also organised by him surroundings to Kathmandu Valley. His pioneering work got published in his monumental book: The Himalayan Dilemma. Reconciling Development and Conservation, UNU / Routledge, London / New York 1989. I assisted him in data collection and he acknowledged me in that book. Being a torchbearer of Mountain studies, his love and dedication for Mountains was deep, enormous and humanitarian, particularly Himalayas always fascinated him.

My first assignment as Full Member in the IGU Commissions/Study Groups started under his leadership and Chairmanship of IGU Commission on “Mountain Geo-ecology and Resource Management” (1988-92). This commission was established at IGC Sydney where I actively participated. Same time I got UNEP-UNITAR Fellowship for training at Lausanne and Geneva in Switzerland. I got some valuable opportunities to visit him at the University of Bern. Once he hosted dinner at his house located in the mountain near Bern, where I met his wife and family members. He organised a field visit to Swiss Mountain for me.

He supervised 35 Ph.D. thesis. He was Vice-President-IGU during 1992-96 and President of the International Geographical Union during 1996-2000. In his Foreword for our Springer Book: “Climate Change, Glacier response, and Vegetation Dynamics in the Himalaya”, published in 2016, he said: The “ICIMOD has calculated that around 1.3 billion people are living in the
watersheds of the ten most important rivers from the Himalaya and the Tibet Plateau. What will be the situation at the end of the century! I hope that trans boundary cooperation with this institution will be possible in the future”.

He has devoted his whole life for Mountain Studies. He also contributed to UNCED-Mountain Agenda of the world at Rio Conference and was able to bring before us two group of key worlds: i. Fragile Mountain Ecosystem and ii. Sustainable Mountain Development. His life-long thoughts were published in another famous Book: “Mountains of the World. A Global Priority. Parthenon, Camforth / New York 1997”. He had played a significant role in bringing the mountains of the world to the level of the united Nations that inserted a mountain chapter in the Agenda 21 and with 10 mountain resolution in the UN General Assembly between 1998 and 2014. Through his efforts, since 2002, 11th December is being celebrated as International Mountain Day. Recently, he said: “the FAO as Task Manager of the mountain chapter in Agenda 21 published a report that 718 million people are living in the mountains of the world, of these 625 million in developing countries and of these 250-370 million live with food insecurity”.

He was very friendly to our research group. My two research students, now colleagues visited Bern in 2017 when he hosted dinner for them. We had a meaningful talk over telephone as well. He always used to remind all of us a speech of Ex UN Secretary General Kofi Annan during UN Millennium Declaration: “What is needed is a true partnership among developed and developing countries, a partnership that includes science and technology. No nation can afford to be without science and technology capacity”. While writing Foreword of my book, he wrote: “We hope that exactly this Springer publication will help for a north-south dialogue, but also for a science-policy dialogue and for a trans boundary cooperation, as it was recommended in 2012 in the Rio Plus 20 conference and described in the final document: The Future We Want”.

On the behalf of the world Geography Community, I pay my humble tribute to Prof. Bruno Messerli and thank God for blessing the Geography fraternity in general and IGU in particular with such a beautiful and creative soul, a great and valuable mountain scientist. I pray to God that his soul be Rest in Peace.

R.B. Singh
Secretary General: International Geographical Union (IGU)

3) IGU REPORT 2018

This document is necessarily articulate and quite long. I posted it immediately the website: www.homeofgeography.org/news2019, willing to include it some weeks later in this newsletter
for a maximum diffusion. But, actually, took me but a short time to realise that it would take all
the space of a Newsletter. Therefore, I suggest you utilise the link above to read it all, giving you
here just the index:

1. Highlights of the IGU Executive Committee meetings of 2018 1
2. Report on the IGU Thematic Conference, Moscow 3
3. Report on the IGU Regional Conference, Quebec 6
4. Co-operation with other organisations. 14
5. Forthcoming events 17
6. Communication and outreach 17
7. Financials 18

4) IGU COMMISSIONS’ AND TASK FORCES’ REPORTS 2018

(all the complete Reports can be found in HofG website: www.homeofgeography.org/, where each of
them has particular specific lines in “Commissions e-Archive/after Beijing 2016”. Let me remind to
the Chairs to make use of the Official Acronyms, as appearing here).

COMMISSIONS

C08.01 APPLIED GEOGRAPHY
6 pages in in docx. 2 pages for Steering Comm and Members and 2 for Meetings in Brisbane and
Laval (with photos). In page 5 the presentation of the next Conference in L’Aquila (Italy) and the
intention to propose Sessions in the 2020 Congress. Networking and Publications are posted in the
last page.
I found in Internet the URL: https://agcigu.wordpress.com/

C16.02 BIOGEOGRAPHY AND BIODIVERSITY
16 pages in in docx. A detailed membership list arrives to page 6. Some reports of the Meetings 2018
are somehow too detailed: Guwahati report arrives to page 9, Moscow to the end of p. 10. The
forthcoming events (Panchkula (India); Koper (Slovenia); Hamburg; Kampala) leads to page 15, with
flyers). Networking has been active with the LOCS of all the Events quoted. In “Publications” we
find a volume printed by Springer (and available in the Commission website) and many publications
are in the Springer website. In page 16 we can find the continuation of activities and the Objectives
C16.03 CLIMATOLOGY
7 pages in in in docx. 1-2 Members. From 3 to 6 is presented a detailed Report of a conspicuous number of Sessions organized in Laval conference. In pages 6-7 this doesn’t look a report, but more as an invitation to members to co-operate with the writer.

C16.04 COASTAL SYSTEMS
6 pages in in pdf. 5 dedicated to membership), worldwide distribution and URL (http://www.igu-cces.org/). In page 6, Meetings: 2 sessions in 2017 European Geosciences Union (EGU). In 2018 2 Session in EGU, and others in Perth, Tetouan and sponsorships in New Haven, Liverpool and Iceland, plus some projected for 2019. In page 15: Network continued through Newsletter in 2017-18, 3 special issues are in progress, and will be downloadable from the URL. Report ends with the Objectives for 2018-2022.

C16.05 COLD AND HIGH LATITUDE REGIONS
13 pages in in docx. The first 4 pages report an intense activity of participation in the two main International IGU Conferences, in Moscow and Laval. The following page we find the projects: in 2019 Slovenia and USA, and in 2020 in Instanbul and Archangelsk. Networking appears until page 6, then leaves space to about 2 dozen Publications. The final pages (9-13) are dedicated to the Members, with photos of some excursions.

C16.06 CULTURAL APPROACH IN GEOGRAPHY
2 pages in in docx. The report tells about the activity conducted in the Laval Conference, with 22 presentation in 5 Sessions and a meeting where a new Steering Committee has been elected.

C12.07 DYNAMICS OF ECONOMIC.SPACES
8 pages in in pdf. Steering Committee and Commission’s .Members in the first 2 pages. The following 2 about the participation in Meetings and 4 final pages for Publications: one book in 2018 and 4 planned. Some lines for URL and a Facebook group.

C16.08 ENV EVOLUTION
6 pages in docx. 1 for members, and in page 2 we find the presentations of 2 sessions in Moscow 2018, with photos. In page 4, there is a short point: Networking, with other IGU Commissions. The point Publications follows, mainly dedicated to a special issue of “Quaternary International”, with details of many articles, arriving to page 6, with the announce of the next number of the Journal (cfp deadline end 2018).

C16.09 GENDER AND GEOGRAPHY
10 pages in pdf. Members until page 2: why here appear some details about TF 2016.03 ? In page 3 details on the world distribution of the Commissions Members, the URL and the beginning of the point Meetings (until page 8): lot of Feminist communications and photos in several initiatives in New Zealand, Canada, Thailand and Israel, with details; to be stressed the nomination of Chair Longhurst as IGU Laureat d’Honneur. Page 8 follows with the list of co-hosting and co-sponsoring events in 2019, and the wide international Networking. The list of Publications arrives to the very last lines of the Report. This Commission figures among the very best of this Millennium.
C16.10 GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION
9 pages in docx, including parts dedicated to TF. Small elegant childish design opening. Membership takes 3 and a half pages. “Meetings” tell about Session in IGU Congresses and meetings of the Steering Commission (face to face and skype), and with all the local organisers. Pages 5 expose the projects until 2020, and in page 7 more detail are added for 2017-18: participation in Beijing, Rome, Utrecht, Malta and Krakow (co-operating with EUGEO and EUROGEO). Support to the TF Olympiad and other IGU Commission, work on Geography curriculum analysis and Podcast. Pages 7-9 deal with Networking, though all the Report demonstrate how strongly this Commission is in productive contact t with all the IGU activities. Just some examples: the periodical Geographical Education for Global Understanding and the availability of all the newsletter in http://www.igu-cge.org/. On the same level as C16.09

C16.11 GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SCIENCE
6 pages in in pdf. Opening page with name, then Membership until half page 2. Here begin “Meetings”: 3 with photos and brief comments, until half page 5. The points Networking, Publication (they can be found in http://igugis.lreis.ac.cn/), Archival Contribution are very short, arriving to the end of page 5, followed by signatures in page 6. Synthetic but essential.

C16.12 GEOGRAPHY OF GOVERNANCE
14 pages in docx. Membership covers 3 pages. Very active Commission, the Meetings have been a lot, and with some details arrive to the end of page 7, leaving the floor to the Commission’s Annual Conference in Praia (Cabo Verde). In 2019 the Commission will be present in Lecce (Italy), Washington, Poznan (Poland), Pecs (Hungary) and Lisbon. Active Networking with other Commissions and International entities. In page 10 are mentioned 2 Newsletters, and many flyers dedicated to activities, all downloadable, as are the 15 Annexes to the Report. 4 Books, several chapter and articles in peer reviewed and periodicals are a long list until the end of the Report. No URL (but there is one in internet).

C16.13 GEOGRAPHY OF THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SCIENCE
4 pages in docx. General info and Membership take 1 and a half page. Rest of page 2 is dedicate to Meetings: 5 participations in 2017-18. In page 3: Sessions organised in AAG Washington and in a Conference in Venice. Here are also the point Networking, with 3 co-operations, and the beginning of point Publications, mainly telling about the new website, where is possible to find information relative to the former 30 years (page 6).

C16.14 GEO TOURISM LEISURE
7 pages in docx. Mission and Membership to page 3, where, after the URL is the point “Meetings”, beginning with Quebec (Pre-meeting and Conference), AAG, Yogyakarta and Koeln with reports. The “planned meetings” in 2019 lead to half page 5. Networking arrive to page 6, where after the 4 Publications we arrive to page 7, with Archival Contributions (the Newsletter are forwarded to the IGU Archives in Leipzig, Germany The Report closes with 3 pages of Appendix with corresponding Members since 1997.

2019 C16.15 GEOHERITAGE
17 pages in docx. 5 pages of membership (with photos). Meetings: EC Members participated in Quebec and organized in Beijing an International Forum on National Parks. The detailed relation on this takes pages, leading to the point “Networking”: connection with International Organisations and IGU Commissions. “Publications” begins in page 11 and focuses on the International Journal of Geoheritage published by the Commission, (available in the Commission’s URL), with cover photos of the published issues and names of collaborators. In page 17 only remains some space for Continuation and Work Plan 2019-2020. In the URL result all the Activities, really very much: this is one of the most active Commissions.

C16.16 GEOMORPHOLOGY AND SOCIETY

C16.17 GLOBAL CHANGE AND HUMAN MOBILITY
14 pages in in pdf. 3.5 pages on Membership. Meetings: 6.5 pages, with brief reports on the presentation of Session in 4 Congresses with photos. In page 9 we find Networking and a long list of publications arriving to page 14, where little space is dedicated to the new URL and a new Mission statement.

C16.18 GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING
11 pages in in pdf. 2 pages of Benno’s communication. Page 3 on Steering Comm. Page 4 on Members in various countries. Pages 5-7 on Meetings and Events. Pages 8-9 on Networking. Pages 10-11 on Publications and Website. Naïve trying to give a judgement: Benno passed through tears to prepare difficult presentations of this important project.
IYGU-SDGU 2018: Report by Benno Werlen on the development of the planned 2020’s Science Decade for Global Understanding. 4 docx pages about the growing of the International Year of Global Understanding project to a Decade dedicated to the same mission.

C16.19 HAZARD AND RISKS
5 pages in docx. 10 members of Steering Committee, and 60 Corresponding. 1 Session in Laval and 1 in the Institute of Geography, Hanoi (both with photos). Some lines dedicated to Networking. Last lines: no Publications, and URL:
http://oguchaylab.csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/IGU_Hazard/index.html

C16.20 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
9 pages in docx. 3 and a half for St.Comm and Honorary members. From half page 4 the Activities since 2017 (June GeoHealth in Brasil; June Angers, France;) and the organization in 2019 of the next Annual Symposium in Dublin University College School of Geography. Page 5 is for the Countries with members of the Commission. Page 6 tells about 2018 Conference in Tulcea (Romania), twice in Coimbra (Portugal), Perugia (Italy), Lyon (France, in Moscow, in Quebec (pre and during IGU Congress), in Brazilia, in France and in Lisbon. Page 8 ends with projects for 2019 and the remaining pages deal with Network, dissemination of publications and URL:
C16.21 HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY
5 pages in in pdf. Membership takes the first 3.5 pages. Page 4 follows with activities since 2017, and in page 5 is launched a Symposium to be held on 10-12 July 2019 in the University College of Dublin.

C16.22 ISLANDS
8 pages in docx. Page 1: brief history. Pages 2-3 Membership. Meetings with report and photos until page 7, beginning with meetings planned for 2019-20120 and closing with the Networking with other IGU Commissions. Page 8 is dedicated to Publications, mentioning that some members are Editors in specialized periodicals. Archival Contributions is still not in complete operations due to the organizing of a new website.

C16.23 KARST: no activities in IGU-online since 2015

C16.24 LAND DEGRADATION AND DESERTIFICATION.
8 pages in pdf. They use quite always the name COMLAND. First 6 pages for Steering Comm. and Comland Membership. 1 page of Activities and 2 for Contacts with IGU Commissions and other Organisations, Publications and Awards to Members. In contact with Organisers of the IGU Thematic Conference 2019 in Slovenia, while difficulties and integration with various academic calendars have been encountered with AGLE (officially C16.39)

C16.25 LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS AND PLANNING
7 pages in docx. 2 and a half pages for Steering Comm. and corresponding members. The volume “Sustainable development of Mountain Regions and Resource Management” has been published. Participation in Conferences, contacts with other IGU Coom. and International organisations. Lead to page 5. Beginning with 5 main Publications and participations in field expeditions (mainly concerned with mountain regions). The following page deals with further works of the Comm. and participation in 6 Meetings (4 in Caucasus, 2 in Germany).

C16.26 LAND USE COVER CHANGE.
9 pages in pdf. 2 pages of presentation, Membership fills pages 3 and 4. Meetings in Moscow, Guwahati and Quebec, with details and photos, and Slovenia planned in 2019, take pages 5-6. Networking with LOC and IGU Commission on Mediterranean Basin takes page 7, while page 8 is dedicated to 2 volumes recently published and the URL.

2019 16.27 LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
11 pages in pdf. Pages 3-4: Chairs’s Presentation Page 5-6 Members. 6-7 Several Meetings in various countries and the creation of a journal named Espiral. Page 8-9 relates to a dense Networking and the publications of books. The web page suffered hakers’ attack, so they are now designing a new website with own server. Work is still going on for an e-Bulletin. Activity of publishing and organizing events is reported in final pages.

C16.28 LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
7 pages in pdf, the first 2.5 for the steering Comm. and the members (with a map of world

C16.29 MARGINALISATION, GLOBALISATION, REGIONAL AND LOCAL RESPONSES
6 pages in docx. Begins with Steering Committee and members until half page 3, where Meeting begins: 5 Sessions organised for Laval, 2 in 2019 Conferences (Galway and Nepal), and more in 2020 (Romania, Turkey). Networking with other Commissions and entities such as ISSC and ICS. Publications and books arrive to the end of page 6, with the indication of the new URL address.

C16.30 MEDITERRANEAN BASIN
8 pages in docx. First 4 pages list of Steering Comm and Members with all e-mails and the URL. In page 5 reports of Meeting in Laval and Beograd. Page 5-7 deal with Networking (Geographical Communities and journals), Publications (book with Springer Editor). From the final part of page 7 to the end are presented the participation to Istanbul Congress 2020 and the Charter of the Commission.

C16.31 MODELLING GEOGR SYSTEMS not appearing in IGU-online.

C16.32 POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY
6 pages in docx. 3.5 pages for Steering Comm. and Advisory Board and Corresponding Members. Meetings: Sessions in Moscow and Laval, and co-sponsored in Brasil, Poland, China and Benin, with brief reports. In the second half of page 5 some lines on Networking and the Publications, arriving to page 6 with URL and a new Facebook group.

C16.33 POPULATION GEOGRAPHY
8 pages in docx. In page 2 Steering Comm, from 3 to 6 reports on the Sessions organized in IGU international events (Moscow, Laval), and planned meetings in 2019. Page 7 begins with Networking and the first part of Publications, mentioning only 2 selected books and a yearly newsletter (always sent to the Secretary General). Members publish articles in many important periodicals.

C16.34 SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL SYSTEMS
9 pages in pdf. Members until half page 2. Meetings with report and photos until full page 4. Dozens of Publications fill page 5-8 and the Collaborative Projects take the remaining space until the last 3 lines dedicated to the Website and the Archival Contributions.

C16.35 TOPONYMY
22 pages in docx. Report is very detailed but, as signalled in the title, ends with 2017. This IGU-ICA joint Commission has been, beyond any doubt, very active in meeting, conferences and discussions and published article in various countries. No News for 2018.
C16.36 TRANSPORT AND GEOGRAPHY
5 pages in docx. 2 pages for Members in different countries and Steering Committee. Meetings in page 3: 5 Sessions of Presentation and 1 of Poster in Laval. In 2019 1 Session in AAG 2019 and planned in Finland (June) and London (August). Commission will also be active in Istanbul 2020. Networking with several groups leads in page 4 to Publications: a book in press for May while many papers presented in Conferences in 2017-18 have been submitted for peer-review. The Archival Contributions in page 6 close the Report.

C16.37 URBAN CHALLENGES IN A COMPLEX WORLD

2019 C16.38 WATER SUSTAINABILITY
10 pages in pdf. 2 opening pages, and Membership takes pages 3 and half 4. Here begins “Meetings” with photos and reports: Laval, Moscow, Johannesburg, Chong Chin, followed by the Planned ones in Bucharest and Istanbul, arriving to half page 7. In Networking we find projects for two books and relations with several international entities. Publications, in page 8-9, quotes Newsletters, books, 6 joint papers and the growing activity of the website, where a new section is dedicated to archive news. Page 10 is a tribute to the recently retired Chair. Olga Scarpati. Very active Commission.

C16.39 AGRICULTURAL GEOGRAPHY AND LAND ENGINEERING
4 pages in docx. Membership one page. Meetings with photos and brief reports until half page 3. About 10 publications until page 5, with 5 lines dedicated to Archival Contributions

C16.40 AFRICAN STUDIES
13 pages in in docx. 6 with names, photos and details about the Steering Committee and 4 with names and emails of the 81 corresponding members (but only 1 is mentioned in Namibia and Ivory Coast, where many more are surely present). Nearly 4 pages with many photos report about the Inaugural Conference in Namibia (some have been posted in January IGU Newsletter). A Conference to be held is now organized for June 2019 in Zululand.

C17.41 GEOGRAPHY OF FUTURE EARTH
8 pages in in docx. First 2.5 pages for Steering Committee and Members. Report with photos of the inaugural Conference and participation in Laval. In pages 3-4. Meetings held in 2017-18 in USA, Laval and Beijing. Publications, upcoming meetings in 2019 in Africa and IALE World Congress in Milan. The point 3 Publications spans from page 6 to 8, divided in: Special Issue on System dynamics and Sustainability; Special issue on Pattern, Process, Service and Sustainability; Geography and Sustainability is the official journal of IGU-GFE. In the last part of page, “Other Information” includes the election of Prof. Bojie Fu as IGU VP, the URL website, and the Commission Logo. Very new Commission, looking to be very performing.
TASK FORCES

Nothing figures in IGU-online about T16.01 Olympiad and T16.02 Centennial and Sesquicentennial.

T16.03 YOUNG EARLY CAREER GEOGRAPHERS
9 pages in docx. Opening page, in page 2 begins the report on Meetings, each one with details and photos. In pages 6-7 the Planned Meetings in India, Australia, South Africa and Italy. Second half of page 7 with the Networking and the Publications, arriving to the final page 9.

5) REPORTS OF RECENT GEOGRAPHIC INITIATIVES

5 a) CULTURAL LANDSCAPES AND SACRED PLACES, SEOUL UNIVERSITY, 28-19 FEBRUARY

Landscape plays a powerful role in the imaginative construction of national identity. Although there are a number of ways of looking at it, Ingold (1993: 154) tells us that “through living in it, the landscape becomes part of us, just as we are part of it”. Such an acquired landscape fosters a sense of sameness and it seems natural and inevitable that it has an impact on whom we are. This is because the landscape carries numerous signs – embedded ideological messages which, over time, come to define how a specific national community has its place within it and how those outside that community have no place there.” “Cultural Landscapes vis-à-vis Sacred Places” are powerful symbols of national culture and society, thus involved to frame the “National Identity”, which itself be considered as ‘Geographical entity’ and attribute for understanding the geography of cultural landscapes.

National identities are commonly defined by ‘portrait, poetics, and perspectives of the images created through the interfacing and reciprocal interaction within Nature-Culture trajectory’. These are inherently shaped and maintained in ‘Cultural Landscapes’ together with ‘Sacred Places’, by stories of golden ages, continuing enduring traditions, heroic deeds and dramatic destinies located in ancient or promised home-lands with hallowed mystical and empowered sites and scenery, many times perceived and maintained as sacredscapes. The symbolic activation of time and space within the process of sacrality (spatiality of time, and temporality of space), often drawing on the religious sentiment and attachments, gives shape to the ‘imagined community’ of the nation.
18 February 2019: The thirteen ACLA Members, including Prof. Sung-Kyun Kim (the founding President ACLA, 7th from right), Prof. Rana P.B. Singh (the present President ACLA, 6th from right), and special Guest of honour Prof. Bharat Dahiya (Thailand, 3rd from right).

The above perspectives were presented the fifteen papers, illustrating specific case studies from different parts of Asia, and a case study of Nigeria. This WS was organized with the collaboration of IGU Commission c16:07 “Cultural Approach in Geography”. At the outset Prof. Sung-Kyun Kim has welcomed the participants with deep sense of appreciation, and hoped for a wonderful intensive and brainstorming Workshop represented with presentations from Korea, India, Philippines, Japan, China, Bali-Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, P.R. China, Malaysia, Iran), and interfacing dialogue and discourses. This was followed up next day excursion to the places of religion and rituals (sacredscapes and ritualscapes) and sacred garden of Bongyudongcheon, where all of us envisioned the Spirit of Place.

In his keynote address Prof. Rana P.B. Singh (President ACLA, Asian Cultural Landscape Association), has exposed the concept of Indian Cultural Landscape, ICL, which refers to a complex cultural mosaic and network of spatiality of time, temporality of space, sacrality of nature and overall the encompassing manifestation of transcendence of man who since time immemorial is trying to make a strong bridge between conscious mind and super-conscious divine. On the line of critical appraisal of history of Indian Cultural Landscape, and its selected manifestive representations, e.g. cosmic rhythm and mandala, he has presented scenario of 37 Cultural properties in India under Unesco WHS, and examined their cross-cultural imperatives and the repository of National Identity. This is further detailed out in another paper by Pravin S. Rana (India).
The other papers and themes included are: Pung-su as a Sustainable Sacred Landscape: Identity of Korean Cultural Landscape (by Sung-Kyun Kim), Cultural Landscapes in Russia (by Alessio Russo), Cultural Landscapes’ Change, Conservation and Revitalization in Taiwan (by Monica Kuo), The Co-existence of Sacred Places in Cultural Landscape Portraying National Identity of Thailand (Siriwan Silapacharanan), Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape: Cradle of Mongolian People, Identity and Nationhood (by Bharat Dahiya), Role of Religion in the Conservation of Mt. Banahaw de Dolores (by Zenaida Dela Cruz Galingan, et al.), Cultural Landscapes of Japan: Locality and National Identity (by Matteo Dario Paolucci), Variety of Cultural Landscapes as the Identity of Indonesia (by Anita Arif), Fishermen Village as Cultural Landscape Influencing Children Play (by Ismail bin Said), Tomorrow’s Cultural Landscapes in China (by Matteo Dario Paolucci), Landscape Interpretation of Historical & Cultural Resources in Nanjing, China (by Chun Hyun-jin), Cultural Landscapes of Japan: Locality and National Identity (by Tomoko Mori), Reading the Korean Cultural Landscapes: Sacrality to Sustainability (by Je-Hun RYU), and Cultural Landscape of Nupe Community in Central Nigeria (by Ismail bin Said, et al.).

As followed up field study, the three members of ACLA (Sung-Kyun Kim, Rana P.B. Singh, and Rana P.B. Singh), by car went to Gimhae (20-22 February 2018), in the souther part of Korea on the line of newly started NRF Project (Korea) on “Cultural Links and Ritual Landscapes between Gaya (Korea) and Ayodhya (India)”, tracing link of the myth than an Indian princess Hoe (Sariratna, from Ayodhya, India) went to Gimhae in the year CE 48 and got married with the king Kim Suro, whose descendants predominate the Korean population by recording ca 6 million people of that clan. The study has opened a new ground to understand ‘Mythmaking’ and ‘Placemaking’ for the development of cross-cultural interaction and promotion of cultural tourism.

Prof. Bharat Dahiya (Thailand) assured to get the proceedings and the thematically invited papers be published in the Springer Series on ‘Advances in 21st Century Human Settlements’ (ISSN: 2198-2546), to which he is the Series editor; this will be co-edited with Prof. Rana P.B. Singh. He called upon the presentators and participating colleagues to be in touch and collaborate in this project.

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5 b) AAG CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON 3-7 APRIL
Highlights from the 2019 AAG Annual Meeting

While the 2019 AAG Annual Meeting is already more than a week in the past, we hope the memories and motivation from your experience are still holding strong. Before we shift gears to look towards Denver, we want to take another quick look back at the week that was.

- Over 8,500 in attendance
- Almost 30% of attendees came from outside the US hailing from 77 different countries
- 1700+ official sessions, meetings, and events
- 120+ awards announced/bestowed
- 2019 World Geography Bowl Champions: Middle Atlantic Regional Division team

An online gallery of photos from the week is now available. Videos from the Opening Session and Presidential Plenary, Eric Holder's Keynote Address, Carla Hayden's Atlas Award Presentation, Derek Alderman's Past President's Address, Recalling Gilbert White, and a special retirement tribute session for AAG Executive Director Doug Richardson will appear on our YouTube channel soon.
Sharing Your Annual Meeting Experiences

Don't just take our word for how the meeting went, check out others' experiences shared via social media using #aagDC and/or share your own! While the AAG Annual Meeting allows us to convene and converse in person for a week, we want to encourage everyone to continue conversations and collaborations throughout the year. Below are just a few #aagDC posts from Twitter.

*The #aagdc conference has been invaluable in how people have made connections and have been springboard careers in this field!*

*Back from #aagDC, with too many layers of feelings to process! Best part was planning our new research with Anna Zalik & Gabriela Valdivia around the notion of "reserves" in making hydrocarbon futures. Can't believe my luck to join such leading scholars, and mothers! @UNCgeografa*

*Can't overstate how enjoyable #AAG2018 #aagDC was, some great presenters doing critical work on data methods and the data age - important and extremely fast moving topics - hats off to all and keep up the good work - excited to see where we stand next year in Denver! @theAAG*

*Congrats to Dr. Madhuri Sharma, who received the Ethnic Geography Special Group's Award of Distinguished Service 2019 at #AAGdc.*
We had a great time representing @OhioWesleyan at #aagdc! Proud of all our wonderful students!

from sessions in black geographies, digital geographies, and feminist political geography, to joining the board for sexuality & space + running sessions for latinx geographies, to meeting new and connecting w old friends & colleagues, it was a pretty reinvigorating #aagDC

Last week at #aagDC Great panel with Niki, Brian, Janet and Wilbert about the political artisanal and small-scale mining in Madagascar, Indonesia, Ghana, Zimbabwe and Colombia #ASM #ASGM
Pour la troisième année consécutive, les géographes se sont rassemblés le 5 avril 2019 à l’occasion de la Nuit de la géographie. Partie de France en 2017 et avec le soutien de EUGEO depuis l’édition 2018, la proposition d’organiser un événement en rapport avec la géographie a séduit un grand nombre d’étudiants, d’enseignants et de chercheurs à travers l’Europe et l’Afrique. Le principe de départ est de se réunir dans un lieu pour promouvoir la géographie de manière ludique et ouverte sur le monde. Tournés vers le grand public, les programmes sont gratuits dans la majorité des cas, ils combinent des conférences scientifiques, des débats, des promenades mais aussi beaucoup de jeux pour montrer une géographie récréative. Des spectacles ou des performances sont aussi organisés à l’université, dans des bâtiments culturels ou dans des restaurants ou des bistrots. En 2019, nombre de nouveaux pays et villes ont rejoint l’événement. Cette année, l’Italie a été la plus présente avec 51 événements grâce à toutes les associations de géographes italiens [https://www.ageiweb.it/notedellageografia2019/]. La Nuit de la géographie s’est aussi déroulée en France ([http://www.cnfg.fr/actualites/nuits-de-la-geographie/]), en Espagne, au Portugal, en Bulgarie, en Grèce, en Lituanie, en Croatie ou en Irlande... Dans chacun de ces pays, de nombreuses opérations ont été menées attirant à chaque fois un public varié. Partout, les événements ont rencontré un public dépassant les spécialistes : « In Italy it has been a great experience (51 events, 31 cities): the public loves this event and it is now becoming a... tradition! ;-) », la Hongrie s’est aussi ainsi fortement mobilisée avec près de 20 événements.

Nous avons bénéficié aussi cette année 2019 du soutien de l’association CartONG qui est une association basée à Chambéry (France), spécialisée dans le domaine de la cartographie humanitaire. L’opération Missing Map a été couplée cette année à la Nuit de la géographie ce qui a donné une ouverture mondiale. Il s’agit d’un projet international qui se met à la disposition de grandes associations humanitaires ou d’associations locales pour cartographier des données extraites d’images satellites sur un calque qui est OpenStreetMap, elle-même base de données collaborative et gratuite. On appelle mapathons ces opérations locales qui permettent de cartographier des zones...

La 4ème nuit de la géographie aura lieu le 3 avril 2020, et nous espérons qu’encore plus de pays, de villes, d’associations nationales, d’associations d’étudiants participeront à la promotion de la géographie. Ce réseau permettra de mobiliser tous les partenaires pour le centenaire de l’Union Géographique Internationale en 2022.

Anne Peggy Hellequin, Antoine Le Blanc, Alexis Alamel, Massimiliano Tabusi
For the third consecutive year, geographers gathered on April 5th, 2019, for the Night of Geography (also called GeoNight). Stemming from France in 2017 and with support from EUGEO since the 2018 edition, the proposition of celebrating the geography discipline has drawn large crowds of students, teachers and researchers throughout Europe and Africa. The original plan remains the same, simply consisting in gathering people in one place in order to promote the geographical discipline in a recreational and open fashion. Targeted towards a wide audience, the events are, in most cases, free of charge. They combine scientific presentations, debates, walks as well as plenty of games aiming to show the playful side of geography. Shows and live performances are also organised at universities, in cultural buildings, in restaurants or even bars. In 2019, many countries and cities joined the GeoNight.

This year, Italy has been the country organising the most events (51), thanks to the Associazione Geografi Italiani (https://www.ageiweb.it/nottedellageografia2019/), and many Italian Universities. The events also took place in many countries including France (http://www.cnfg.fr/actualites/nuits-de-la-geographie/), Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania, Croatia, and Ireland. In these countries, numerous events were carried out and attracted diverse crowds. Where organised, the events have become hugely popular: «In Italy it has been a great experience (51 events, 31 cities): the public loves this event and it is now becoming a... tradition!». Hungary was also largely present with about 20 events organised throughout the country.

This year, we have also benefited of the support of the association “CartONG”, based in Chambéry (France). This association is specialised in the humanitarian mapping/cartography. In addition, the “Missing Map” event was paired with the GeoNight events, allowing a worldwide exposure. This is an international project that partners up well-established NGOs and local associations with the goal of mapping data coming from satellite images onto OpenStreetMap, a free and collaborative spatial database. This is called “mapathons”. These local initiatives allow to map areas that are not well-represented. On April 5th 2019, 17 mapathons were organised simultaneously at the Université de Saint-Louis (Dakar, Senegal), in Bamako (Mali), in Calavi (Benin), in Lomé (Togo), in Antananarivo (Madagascar), in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo), in Paris, Lyon, Grenoble, Chambéry, Beauvais, Brest, Besançon, Pau, Perpignan (France), in Heidlberg (Germany), and in Milan (Italy) (http://www.cartong.org/fr/news/retrouvez-nous-3e-edition-nuit-de-la-geo). The coordination was jointly managed by the CNFG and EUGEO (http://www.eugeo.eu/nuitgeo-geonight.html). Marion Lacroix (Master géomatique, Université de Cergy-Pontoise, France) has also created a collaborative map, showing most of the events organised worldwide (http://umap.openstreetmap.fr/fr/map/world-map-of-the-geonights-2019_294736#3/20.47/-3.69).

The 4th edition of the GeoNight will take place on April 3rd 2020. We hope that more countries, cities, national societies, and local and student associations will join us to the promotion of the geography discipline. This network will contribute to enlist all stakeholders and partners for the centenary of the International Geographical Union in 2022.

Anne Peggy Hellequin, Antoine Le Blanc, Alexis Alamel, Massimiliano Tabusi
5 d) GEOGRAPHIES OF LOCATION AND CULTURAL EVOLUTION IN INDIA, DELHI, 13-14 APRIL - DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, DELHI, INDIA

This conference was organized with the collaboration of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Anthropological Survey of India (ASI), Association of Geographical Studies (AGS), and academically patronized by the IGU – all under the aegis of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College (DU), Delhi. Welcoming the delegates, being Patron and Principal of the college Dr. Anil Sardana explained the complex wholes of space and cultural evolution of different geographies in India, which were exposed in the discourses taking into diversity and inter-disciplinary changes that shaped Bharat-India. Being President of the AGS and Secretary-General IGU, in his address Prof. R.B. Singh, provoked that “Coping with modernization and change, protecting cultural landscape and maintaining cultural security, need collective initiatives from all the Asian countries, religions and societies. In this context, shared initiative is a necessary requirement for embracing a new era of composite culture, and a fundamental requirement for the achievement of both sustainable development goals and cultural understanding”. In his special address, Prof. K.K. Sharma said “For building a holistic image of India, it is essential to understand the role of history and geography throughout as there has been a harmonious amalgamation natural and cultural environment. It can be established that history and development of any nation and physical environment are mutually complementary”; he further added ‘the integral interdependency of history and geography in Bharat-India since the ancient past’.
13 April 2019: The Inaugural ceremony – the dignitaries on the dais: Prof. V.A. Raman, Prof. R.B. Singh, Prof. K.K. Sharma, Prof. Rana P.B. Singh, Prof. V.K. Srivastava, Dr. Anil Sardana, and Dr. Amrita Bajaj.

In his keynote address Prof. Rana P.B. Singh (President ACLA, Asian Cultural Landscape Association), has explained intricacies of the spatiality of time, temporality of space, and sacrality of place – that altogether make the lifeworld of human being a continuous process on the scale of history represented in the purview of geography and landscape, and ultimately exposed into in the variety of cultural landscapes. Also, the diversities, distinctions and desperateness, and at the other end unifying forces of traditions made Bharat-India a web of cultural whole, which maintained its continuity in history.

Within the above purview, the following ten themes were taken into consideration for the Conference: (A) Historical Geographies of Location, (B) Cultural relevance of Geography: India & Global perspective, (C) India - Asian cultural landscape, (D) Historical analysis of complexity in cultural diversity, (E) Emerging trends in Indian Geography, (F) Assessment of gaps in Geographical Research, (G) Importance of places and cultural unity, (H) Human ecology and Systems approach in Geography, (I) Emergence of new location and complexities of cultural identities in 21st identities, and (J) Sustaining Indian culture issues and challenges in 21st century. On these themes ten sessions were organized into two parallel lecture theaters, recording presentation of 60 papers, mostly in English and by your graduate and researchers.

Additionally two panel sessions were also organized to have discourses on the inter-disciplinary approaches to re-consider the historical outline of cultural ensembles. One of the panelists, an urban planner Prof. Bharat Dahiya (a special invitee from Thailand), has presented his talk on “Musing the message from Invisible: Bharatiya (Indian) Symbolism and Environmental Ethics vis-à-vis Mother Earth”, and called upon: What is the place of the Mother Earth in the Indian Culture (Bhāratiya Samskriti)? In which ways, the Indian Thought could contribute to the global consciousness on the Mother Earth in general and to the protection and conservation activities that are aimed at supporting the Earth System in particular?

Prof. P.C. Joshi presented the classical links and interconnection between anthropology and geography, which ultimately produced anthropogeography and made a path for deeper understanding of “place”. Prof. Rana P.B. Singh has presented the ACLA vision and cosmological perspectives of cultural landscapes. Prof. Heeraman Tiwari, a noted historian of classics and Sanskritist explained the parallels, transition and superimposition perspective of Bharatiya history and culture. Dr Amrita Bajaj, has finally presented the summaries of the proceedings and further called the young scholars for continuity of such discourses where location, processes, ensembles and all related aspects make the cultural landscape unique and to be served as ‘laboratory’ for analyzing our vision and creativity.

Prof. R.B. Singh (Secretary-General IGU) assured to get the proceedings and the thematically invited papers will be published in the Springer Series on ‘Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences’ (ISSN: 2198-3542), to which he is the Series editor. He called upon the presentators and participating colleagues to be in touch and collaborate in this project.

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Every time I receive a Newsletter from ISC, Future Earth, UN University or CODATA and I post it in www.homeofgeography.org. In any event, I think very useful for the readers adding in the Newsletter a direct link to the official websites of these important scientific entities.

6) INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENCE (ICSU)

DIRECT LINK: HTTPS://COUNCIL.SCIENCE/
7) FUTURE EARTH

DIRECT LINK:
HTTP://WWW.FUTUREEARTH.ORG/

8) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

UNUNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
DIRECT LINK TO THE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT: HTTPS://UNU.EDU/
9) COMMITTEE ON DATA FOR SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY (CODATA)

DIRECT LINK: HTTP://WWW.CODATA.ORG/

10) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(more information in the Home of Geography website, Events 2019)

10.1) 17th Meeting of Latin American Geographers, Quito, April 2019
10.2) EGU, Geoethics General Assembly, Wien Conference, 10-12 April 2019, CFP
10.3) Understanding Problems of Inland Waters, Baku, 12-14 May
10.4) New Challenges of Decentralisation, Pecs (Hungary), 9-10 May 2019
10.5) EUGEO Conference, Galway, 16-18 May 2019
10.6) Internationale des Géographes Anarchistes, Rabestens (Tarn), 12-16 June
10.7) CNFG, Journée Doctorale, 191 Rue St Jacques, Paris 14 Juin 2019
10.8) IGU C.16.38 Conference, Bucharest 11-14 June 2019
10.9) International Baltic Symposium on Science and Technology Education, 11-14 June 2019
10.10) Summer School on European and Transnational Rulemaking, Amsterdam, 8-12 July 2019
10.11) IAG Conference 2019, Hobart, Tasmania, 9-13 July 2019
10.12) Young and Early Career Geographers Taskforce, Session in IAG Conference
10.13) Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences, Incheon (South Korea), 12-16 July 2019
10.14) International Cartographic Conference, Tokyo, 15-20 July 2019
10.15) Oregon and South China Universities: Rethinking Border Security in Asia, Guangzhou, 28-29 July 2019