



IGU E-NEWSLETTER

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This Newsletter is directly circulated to more than 2000 individuals and bodies. Announcements, information, calls for participation in scientific events, programmes and projects are welcome. Please send them to giuliano.bellezza@gmail.com or g.bellezza@homeofgeography.org



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1) REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT YUKIO HIMIYAMA

English Version

As I write this 'Remarks' column in late July 2020, COVID-19 still prevails throughout the world. No IGU-related meetings have been possible since April this year. The IGU Executive Committee planned to hold its first meeting of this year on 1st and 2nd April in Istanbul, but of course it had to be cancelled. Instead, the EC has had three online virtual meetings using Zoom platform, as follows: first meeting (1st, 2nd, 6th & 9th April), second meeting (20th May & 3rd June) and third meeting (17th June) in 2020; a fourth meeting (20th August) is under preparation. The online EC meetings held so far have been more efficient than expected, but they were quite busy because of the many items to be discussed before the end of the term of the 2016-2020 Executive Committee, especially under the difficult situation caused by the postponement of the IGC Istanbul 2020 to August 2021 due to COVID-19.

Among the many issues discussed in these meetings, may I highlight IGU Honors and Awards. In the past there have been three IGU awards, but one of them, namely *Mattei Dogan Foundation Prize in Human Geography*, has been dormant for a decade, so it has been discontinued. After a long discussion, the guidelines for the IGU Honors and Awards Committee have now been revised. The new Committee set up recently with IGU Past President Ron Abler as its chair is responsible for the nominations of individuals for:

1. *IGU Lauréat d'honneur*, to recognize individuals who have achieved particular distinction or who have rendered outstanding service in the work of the IGU or in international geography.
2. *The IGU Planet and Humanity Medal* to honor individuals (not necessarily geographers) who have made outstanding contributions to peace, welfare or sustainability.

3. Such other awards as the IGU may from time to time establish.

The EC is pleased to award the *IGU Lauréats d'honneur* for the year 2020 to Professors Joos Droogleever Fortuijn and Yoshitaka Ishikawa on the recommendation by the out-going Honors and Awards Committee. The incoming Committee is responsible for the receipt and evaluation of additional nominations for the 2021 awards, as well as nominations for the awards to be presented in 2022 and 2024. The EC also discussed a proposal for new IGU awards forwarded by Professor Ruth Fincher, the out-going Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee. The proposal includes three new IGU awards, and the EC decided to accept two of them, namely: *IGU Early Career Award in Geography* and *IGU Award for Distinguished Geographic Practice*. The new Honors and Awards Committee will be asked to realize them. It is hoped that these Honors and Awards are duly used to promote geography and geography education.

In my last 'Remarks' column written in late April, I mentioned that an EC meeting would be held in Istanbul on 20th - 21st August 2020 to wrap up the mission of the four years' term. The EC decided in its meeting on 17th June 2020 to hold a virtual mini General Assembly on 21st August following the fourth Zoom EC meeting on the previous day, because there are various important issues to be addressed by the IGU community, and because the EC has realized the great advantage of online meetings which can be attended from anywhere free of conference fee. I would therefore like to announce the IGU Virtual General Assembly August 2020, as follows:

Name of meeting:	IGU Virtual General Assembly, August 2020
Date & time:	21 st August 2020, 7:30-11:30 GMT
Registered Participation:	National Committee Chairs or their representatives are asked to participate. Commission/Task Force Chairs or their representatives are encouraged to participate. Any other persons wishing to be registered participants are welcome to participate, on a first-come, first-served basis. (All active participants are requested to send their names, affiliations and e-mail addresses to Dr. Pankaj Kumar (pankajdsedu@gmail.com) for registration by 17 th August).
YouTube Participation	Simultaneous broadcast of the meeting will be available through YouTube.
Agenda (tentative):	Listeners can send questions in writing on YouTube if they wish. 1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 General Assembly 2. Approval of Commissions, Task Forces, and Their Chairpersons 3. Approval of new and renewed National Members 4. Report of the President for the period 2016-2020 5. Report of the Secretaries General and Treasurers for the period 2016- 2020 6. Discussion of IGU Priorities, Commission initiatives etc. 7. Schedule of Future IGU Meetings 8. Comments by the President-Elect

Some of the regular agenda items of the IGU General Assembly, such as the election of President and Vice Presidents, have in fact already been completed by e-ballot. The items that require face-to-face meetings, such as financial matters, will be tabled in the General Assembly in the IGC Istanbul 2021. If you have any questions, comments or proposals regarding this General Assembly, please do not hesitate to contact me, or any of the other EC members. Please do join this General Assembly, and make it a truly vivid, useful and exciting one.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has dealt a devastating blow to both international and domestic meetings. However, the increase in availability of online virtual meetings that has resulted now offers great opportunities to academics and students who have geographic, financial or other kinds of difficulties to attend such meetings in person. I missed several important meetings in the last four months, but at the same time there have been an increasing number of meetings which have become available online. For example, the 6th High Level Forum of UN-GGIM (United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management) in the UK in April, which I was planning to attend, was cancelled due to COVID-19, but was replaced by a series of Virtual High-Level Forum Events which it was possible to attend at no cost. This is only one example of a high-level meeting becoming more open and accessible to the public, which we can take advantage of in our activities.

I understand that the most important task of UN-GGIM is to support developing countries in the field of geospatial data infrastructure. UN-GGIM helps developing countries to prepare standard geospatial data infrastructure projects to obtain support from the World Bank. The International Cartographic Association (ICA) is playing a leading role in this body and IGU submits an activity report to UN-GGIM annually via ICA. Through my participation in the above Virtual High-Level Forum Events, I realized that they included education and science in addition to issues of more practical or industrial concern. This should be encouraged if UN-GGIM intends to contribute to sustainable development in general, and to the SDGs in particular. In order to go deeper into these issues, I believe that UN-GGIM does need subject experts from geography and allied disciplines. Those interested in contributing to UN-GGIM are kindly asked to contact me.

Last but not least, I would like to draw your attention to another online event entitled "Engaging with Science: Building partnerships for a sustainable future", which obviously corresponds to SDG 17 (Partnerships). It is a panel discussion held in the "International Schools Debates" forum organized annually by Trust for Sustainable Living (TSL), a global education trust centred in the UK (<https://trustforsustainableliving.org/about-us>). The whole event was held online for the first time because of COVID-19, but allowing more schools to participate by eliminating barriers such as high travel costs and visa restrictions, as well as reducing the carbon footprint of the event. It is notable that it is the International Science Council (ISC) that nominated the IGU President to represent the science community as a panellist for this discussion on education, science and partnership. You can see the discussion at <https://trustforsustainableliving.org/take-part/the-debates>.

This is the last 'Remarks' column that I will write. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for giving me such an invaluable opportunity to serve the IGU as its 25th President. It is my great pleasure to continue my service to the IGU as Past President for another four years. Let's continue

working together for our common interests as geographers and live our ways through this world full of diversity, unpredictability, disasters and fascination!

Yukio Himiyama,
President of IGU

French Version
(Traduction par Nathalie Lemarchand)

Remarques du Président Yukio Himiyama

Au moment où j'écris cette rubrique " Remarques ", fin juillet 2020, il y a toujours la COVID-19 qui sévit dans le monde entier. Aucune réunion liée à l'UGI n'a été possible depuis le mois d'avril de cette année. Le Comité exécutif de l'UGI avait prévu de tenir sa première réunion de l'année les 1er et 2 avril à Istanbul, mais elle a bien sûr dû être annulée. Au lieu de cela, la CE a eu trois réunions virtuelles en ligne en utilisant la plate-forme Zoom, comme suit : première réunion (1er, 2, 6 et 9 avril), deuxième réunion (20 mai et 3 juin) et troisième réunion (17 juin) en 2020 ; une quatrième réunion (20 août) est en préparation. Les réunions en ligne du CE tenues jusqu'à présent ont été plus efficaces que prévu, mais elles ont été assez chargées en raison des nombreux points à discuter avant la fin du mandat du Comité exécutif 2016-2020, surtout dans la situation difficile causée par le report du CIG Istanbul 2020 à août 2021 en raison de la COVID-19.

Parmi les nombreuses questions abordées lors de ces réunions, je voudrais souligner les distinctions et prix de l'UGI. Dans le passé, il y a eu trois prix de l'UGI, mais l'un d'entre eux, le prix de la Fondation Mattei Dogan en géographie humaine, est resté en sommeil pendant une décennie et a donc été supprimé. Après une longue discussion, les lignes directrices de la commission des prix et distinctions de l'UGI ont été révisées. Le nouveau comité, créé récemment et présidé par Ron Abler, ancien président de l'UGI, est responsable des nominations individuelles pour les prix :

1. *Le Lauréat d'honneur de l'UGI*, pour récompenser les personnes qui ont obtenu une distinction particulière ou qui ont rendu des services exceptionnels par leur travail au sein de l'UGI ou dans le domaine de la géographie internationale.
2. *La Médaille de l'UGI pour la Planète et l'Humanité*, pour honorer les personnes (pas nécessairement des géographes) qui ont apporté une contribution exceptionnelle à la paix, au bien-être ou à la durabilité.
3. D'autres récompenses que l'UGI peut décerner de temps en temps.

Le CE a le plaisir de décerner les Lauréats d'honneur de l'UGI pour l'année 2020 aux Professeurs Joos Droogleever Fortuijn et Yoshitaka Ishikawa sur recommandation du Comité des prix et distinctions sortant. Le Comité entrant est responsable de la réception et de l'évaluation des nominations supplémentaires pour les prix de 2021, ainsi que des nominations pour les prix qui seront décernés en 2022 et 2024. Le CE a également discuté d'une proposition de nouveaux prix de l'UGI, transmise par le professeur Ruth Fincher, Présidente sortante du Comité des prix et distinctions honorifiques. La proposition comprend trois nouveaux prix de l'UGI, et le CE a décidé d'accepter deux d'entre eux, nommés : le Prix UGI *Early Career Award* et le Prix UGI de la Meilleure Pratique Géographique. Le nouveau comité des prix et récompenses sera chargé de les

préparer. Il est à espérer que ces prix et récompenses seront dûment utilisés pour promouvoir la géographie et l'enseignement de la géographie.

Dans ma dernière rubrique " Remarques " écrite fin avril, j'ai mentionné qu'une réunion du CE se tiendrait à Istanbul les 20 et 21 août 2020 pour conclure la mission du mandat de quatre ans. Le CE a décidé lors de sa réunion du 17 juin 2020 d'organiser une mini assemblée générale virtuelle le 21 août, après la quatrième réunion du CE Zoom de la veille, parce qu'il y a plusieurs questions importantes à traiter par la communauté de l'UGI, et parce que le CE a constaté le grand avantage des réunions en ligne qui peuvent être suivies de n'importe où sans frais de conférence. Je voudrais donc annoncer l'Assemblée générale virtuelle de l'UGI d'août 2020, comme suit :

Nom de la réunion : **Assemblée générale virtuelle de l'UGI, août 2020**

Date et heure : 21 août 2020, 7h30-11h30 TU

Participation enregistrée : Les Président.e.s des comités nationaux ou leurs représentant.e.s sont invités à participer.

Les Président.e.s des commissions et groupes de travail ou leurs représentant.e.s sont encouragés à participer.

Toute autre personne souhaitant être inscrite comme participant.e est bienvenue de participer, selon le principe du premier arrivé, premier servi.

(Tous les participantes actives sont priés d'envoyer leurs noms, affiliations et les adresses électroniques du Dr Pankaj Kumar (pankajdsedu@gmail.com) pour enregistrement avant le 17 août T TU YouTube La réunion sera diffusée simultanément sur YouTube.

Les auditeurs peuvent envoyer leurs questions par écrit sur YouTube s'ils le souhaitent.

- Ordre du jour (provisoire)
1. Approbation du procès-verbal de l'Assemblée générale de 2016
 2. Approbation des commissions, des groupes de travail et de leurs Présidentes
 3. Approbation des nouveaux membres et des membres renouvelés
 4. Rapport du Président pour la période 2016-2020
 5. Rapport des Secrétaires généraux et des Trésoriers pour la période 2016-2020
 6. Discussion des priorités de l'UGI, des initiatives des Commissions
 7. Calendrier des futures rencontres de l'UGI
 8. Propos du Président élu

Certains des points réguliers de l'ordre du jour de l'Assemblée générale de l'UGI, tels que l'élection du Président et des Vice-président.e.s, ont en fait déjà été complétés par le vote électronique. Les points qui nécessitent des réunions en face à face, tels que les questions financières, seront présentés à l'Assemblée générale lors du CIG Istanbul 2021. Si vous avez des questions, des commentaires ou des propositions concernant cette Assemblée générale, n'hésitez pas à me contacter, ou à contacter l'un des autres membres du CE. N'hésitez pas à vous joindre à cette Assemblée générale, et à la rendre vraiment vivante, utile et passionnante.

Il ne fait aucun doute que la COVID-19 a porté un coup dévastateur aux réunions internationales et nationales. Cependant, l'augmentation de la disponibilité des réunions virtuelles en ligne qui en a résulté offre maintenant de grandes possibilités aux universitaires et aux étudiants qui ont des difficultés géographiques, financières ou autres de participer en personne à de telles réunions. J'ai manqué plusieurs réunions importantes au cours des quatre derniers mois, mais en même temps, un nombre croissant de réunions sont devenues disponibles en ligne. Par exemple, le 6e Forum de haut niveau de l'UN-GGIM (Gestion mondiale de l'information géospatiale des Nations unies), qui s'est tenu au Royaume-Uni en avril et auquel je devais assister, a été annulé en raison de la COVID-19, mais a été remplacé par une série de forums virtuels de haut niveau auxquels il a été possible de participer gratuitement. Ce n'est là qu'un exemple de réunion de grande envergure devenue plus ouverte et plus accessible au public, dont nous pouvons tirer parti dans le cadre de nos activités.

Je comprends que la tâche la plus importante de l'UN-GGIM est de soutenir les pays en développement dans le domaine de l'infrastructure des données géospatiales. L'UN-GGIM aide les pays en développement à préparer des projets d'infrastructure de données géospatiales standard pour obtenir le soutien de la Banque mondiale. L'Association cartographique internationale (ACI) joue un rôle de premier plan au sein de cet organisme et l'UGI soumet chaque année un rapport d'activité à l'UN-GGIM par l'intermédiaire de l'ACI. En participant aux forums virtuels de haut niveau susmentionnés, je me suis rendu compte qu'ils incluaient l'éducation et la science en plus des questions d'ordre plus pratique ou industriel. Cela devrait être encouragé si l'UN-GGIM entend contribuer au développement durable en général, et aux SDG en particulier. Afin d'approfondir ces questions, je pense que l'UN-GGIM a besoin d'experts en géographie et dans les disciplines connexes. Les personnes intéressées par une contribution à l'UN-GGIM sont priées de me contacter.

Enfin, j'aimerais attirer votre attention sur un autre événement en ligne intitulé " Engagement avec la science " : Construire des partenariats pour un avenir durable", qui correspond évidemment au SDG 17 (Partenariats). Il s'agit d'une table ronde organisée dans le cadre du forum "International Schools Debates" organisé chaque année par le Trust for Sustainable Living (TSL), un trust mondial de l'éducation dont le siège est au Royaume-Uni (<https://trustforsustainableliving.org/about-us>). L'ensemble de l'événement s'est déroulé en ligne pour la première fois grâce à la COVID-19, mais a permis à un plus grand nombre d'écoles de participer en éliminant des obstacles tels que les frais de voyage élevés et les restrictions de visa, ainsi qu'en réduisant l'empreinte carbone de l'événement. Il est à noter que c'est l'International Science Council (ISC) qui a nommé le président de l'UGI pour représenter la communauté scientifique en tant que panéliste pour cette discussion sur l'éducation, la science et le partenariat. Vous pouvez voir la discussion à l'adresse suivante: <https://trustforsustainableliving.org/take-part/the-debates>.

C'est la dernière chronique "Remarques" que je rédige. Je vous remercie toutes et tous du fond du cœur de m'avoir donné une occasion si précieuse de servir l'UGI en tant que 25e Président. C'est un grand plaisir pour moi de continuer à servir l'UGI en tant que Président-sortant pendant quatre années supplémentaires. Continuons à travailler ensemble pour nos intérêts communs en tant que

géographes, et vivons notre chemin à travers ce monde plein de diversité, d'imprévisibilité, de désastres et de fascination !

Yukio Himiyama,

Président de l'UGI.



2) MINUTES OF THE IGU EC ZOOM MEETING: 20TH MAY-3RD JUNE

2.1) English Version

1. Welcome, Meeting Logistics and Introductions

The meeting was chaired by President Yukio Himiyama, who welcomed Secretary-General RB Singh, Past-President Vladimir Kolosov, First Vice-President Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Vice-Presidents Barbaros Gönençgil, Iain Hay, Nathalie Lemarchand, Elena dell'Agnese, Bojie Fu, Ruben Lois-González and Assistant Secretary-General Mike Meadows along with Dr Pankaj Kumar as special invitee to take care of minutes. The Executive Committee meeting started sharp at 7.30 GMT on 20th May, 2020.

2. Adoption of the Schedule and Agenda

The President welcomed all the EC members to the meeting. The leftover agenda of Zoom meeting 1st, 2nd, 6th and 9th April 2020 was duly adopted; Gönençgil shared his screen to show the agenda and supporting documents during the meeting.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the IGU Executive Committee Meeting, Zoom Meeting held on 1st, 2nd, 6th and 9th April 2020, previously circulated via email, were approved.

4. Organization and Operations

4.01 IGU Commissions and Task Forces

Singh informed EC members that he has sent a request mail to IGU Commission and Task Force Chairs to submit a two to three pages activities plan for 2020-24 before 31st May 2020 for discussion by IGU EC in order to determine continuation for 2020-24. The plan should incorporate: i) composition of the current and proposed committee for 2020-24, ii) present objectives of the commission and proposed objectives for 2020-24, iii) list of five major achievements for 2016-20 and five major activities to be undertaken during 2020-24. Singh

mentioned that six Commissions had already submitted their plans. Droogleever-Fortuijn agreed to review the plans, especially with regard to the proposed chairs and steering committee members in light of the IGU Statutes. It was recognized that the report deadline may need to be extended in some cases.

5.01 IGU Honors and Awards

Himiyama presented detailed historical documents on IGU Honors and Awards. Among the three eminent IGU awards, Mattei Dogan Foundation Prize in Human Geography, which has been dormant for over a decade, has been formally discontinued. Following a lengthy discussion and considering past recipients of the IGU awards, it was decided to revise the guidelines by Honors and Awards Committee as detailed below:

Guidelines for the International Geographical Union Honors and Awards Committee (revised on 3rd June 2020)

The IGU Honors and Awards Committee shall be responsible for receiving and evaluating the nominations of individuals for:

- 1 The IGU Lauréat d'honneur,***
- 2. The IGU Planet and Humanity Medal, and***
- 3. Such other awards as the IGU may from time to time establish.***

The committee shall consist of six internationally prominent individuals drawn from countries that are members in good standing of the IGU, one of whom shall chair the committee. The members of the committee will be appointed by the IGU Executive Committee, which shall also designate the committee's chairperson. Committee member terms shall be four years in length, with the possibility of renewal for one additional term only. When possible, three members of the committee shall be former recipients of the Lauréat, or the Planet and Humanity Medal. The Honors and Awards Committee will normally conduct its business via e-mail and internet conference calls but may meet in person at IGU Conferences and Congresses at the discretion of its chairperson. The deliberations of the committee shall be confidential. Committee records shall be lodged in the IGU Archives under seal for 25 years from the conclusion of each round of the committee's deliberations. The committee shall conduct its deliberations independent of the IGU Executive Committee, which shall decline a recommendation of the Honors and Awards Committee only for compelling reasons.

The committee shall transmit its recommendations to the IGU Executive Committee well in advance of each International Geographical Congress and each International Geographical Union Regional Conference. The number of Lauréats awarded shall not exceed three in each two-year period. The number of Planet and Humanity Medals awarded shall not exceed two in each four-year period. No IGU Honor or Award shall be conferred posthumously, with the exception of nominees who decease between the date of their selection by the Honors and Awards Committee and the event at which the Honor or Award is to be formally conferred.

The IGU Secretary-General shall work closely with the Chair of the Committee, assist and guide him/her, and issue calls for nominations for IGU Honors and Awards in a timely manner that allows adequate time for response from nominators and for deliberate evaluation by the

committee. Nominations should be solicited by email circular, on the IGU website, in IGU print media, and/or via other appropriate means. The committee should develop and use standardized nomination forms and clear evaluation criteria to ensure equitable assessment of all nominations. In evaluating nominations, the committee shall use procedures and criteria consistent with those that have heretofore guided the selection of honorees, to wit:

- *The IGU Lauréat d'honneur was established to recognize individuals who have achieved particular distinction or who have rendered outstanding service in the work of the IGU or in international geography.*
- *The IGU Planet and Humanity Medal was created to honor individuals (not necessarily geographers) who have made outstanding contributions to peace, welfare or sustainability.*

The EC agreed to award the IGU *Lauréats d'honneur* for the year 2020 to Professor Joos Droogleever Fortuijn and Professor Yoshitaka Ishikawa. The EC approved names of the chair and members of the new Honors and Awards Committee proposed by EC members and compiled by Singh who was asked to propose the chair and the other members of the committee, taking into consideration global representation. These members were approached between sessions of our extended Zoom meeting and have agreed to serve on the Committee. The committee for the period 2020 to 2024 is as follows:

Honors and Awards Committee-6 members

- Prof. Ronald F. Abler, North America, Chair of the Committee

Members:

- Prof. Richard Le Heron, Oceania
- Prof. Yoshitaka Ishikawa, Asia
- Prof. Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn, Europe
- Prof. Irasema Alcántara-Ayala, Latin America
- Prof. Brij Maharaj, Africa

The new committee shall be asked to receive and evaluate additional nominations for the 2021 awards as well as nominations for the 2022 awards and the 2024 awards. The EC also discussed the proposal for the new IGU awards suggested by Professor Ruth Fincher, the out-going Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee. The proposal included three new IGU awards, and the EC decided to accept two of them, namely (A) *IGU Early Career Award in Geography* and (B) *IGU Award for Distinguished Geographic Practice*. The new committee will be asked to work at realizing them. The EC will request the new committee to review the criteria for both new awards, paying attention to the following points:

- Are gender and geographical quotas for young awardees appropriate?
- Should the right of nomination be afforded to both National Committees and Commissions/Task Forces?
- IGU financial commitment may be limited.
- What period of time post-PhD in (A) is appropriate?
- Is emphasis on 'collaborative' work in (A) necessary?
- Is emphasis on 'international' in (A) necessary?
- Is 'Geographic' in (B) necessary?

5.2 IGU PowerPoint

Gönençgil tabled the IGU ppt and highlighted some of the most important slides. EC members expressed their appreciation for the work in compiling the standard presentation which can be used and amended as needed. Himiyama suggested that the ppt be updated on an ongoing basis. Lemarchand noted her willingness to translate the ppt into French, and suggested that Lois-González could prepare a Spanish version.

6) Cooperation and Outreach

6. 01 Night of Geography

Lemarchand tabled a document on GeoNight that comprises general information and guidelines to assist organisers of GeoNight events. This has been distributed to all IGU National Committees and is available in French, English and Spanish. She noted that some 20 countries had planned to participate in GeoNight events before the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic, many had to cancel events, but a few held events online. UNESCO is very much interested in supporting future GeoNight.

6. 02 ISC, incl. ISC President letter, Action Plan

Himiyama tabled a recent letter from the International Science Council (ISC), which had already been shared with the EC, and noted that ISC frequently sends information, proposals, requests etc. He encouraged EC members to send information to him to facilitate timely replies to the ISC. ISC requested that IGU nominate a candidate for a small group of experts that will represent the Council on an international alliance around COVID-19 education entitled COVID-Education Alliance of partners (COVIDEA), and in response, IGU has nominated Professor Eyüp Artvinli, Eskisehir Osmangazi University Faculty of Education, Turkey, who was recommended by Gönençgil. Meadows suggested that the growing number of IGU initiatives in relation to the coronavirus pandemic should be submitted on the ISC web portal established in relation to COVID-19 (<https://council.science/covid19/>). Himiyama noted that IGU recently supported new applications for membership of the ISC from three organizations, and that this has been appreciated by the ISC.

6. 03 GeoUnions incl. SDG mapping project; Deep-time Digital Earth, IUGG, IUGS

Himiyama noted the invitation from Prof. Orhan Altan, Honorary Member of ISPRS, to nominate two people from IGU to the ISC GeoUnions ad hoc Committee on Risk and Disaster Management. After discussion and exchange of ideas, it was agreed to nominate Dr. Peijun Shi, President, Qinghai Normal University, China, and Prof. R.B. Singh, Secretary-General and Treasurer of IGU (IGU EC representative). Singh apprised EC that it is his specialized area and he had been in contact with this committee and had organised its meeting in India in December 2020. Himiyama highlighted a letter written eight years ago by the then IGU President Prof. Ronald F. Abler to Prof. Yuan Tseh Lee, the then President of the International Council for Science (ICSU), which indicates the roles and power of the GeoUnions and its relation with the IGU. Himiyama noted that, because of COVID-19, almost all international meetings planned in April or beyond in this year have been cancelled, postponed, or changed to virtual online meetings, and that the IGU can take advantage of the increase of online meetings as it enables the IGU to participate in the meetings which are otherwise too costly to participate. Meadows stated that online platforms are

opportunities to join these meetings, but we need to ascertain what specific roles IGU can or should play in those organisations. Lemarchand agreed that it is very important and necessary to maintain such external relationships but that we need to work with GeoUnions strategically. Singh shared this view, mentioning that IGU is participating in UN-GGIM, that UN-GGIM publishes our report and circulates to several UN agencies and globally and therefore it is a great opportunity for IGU to continue working with them.

Hay apprised EC regarding the strategic outreach and timetabling document that he prepared and outlined its two parts. The first part lists details of meetings of the organisations with which IGU EC has indicated its wish to maintain/develop strong connections. The second part is a draft timetable of upcoming meetings of these organisations for 2020-2022, indicating EC member attendance as appropriate. This was circulated to EC members for their input. Himiyama suggested that the timetable be updated keeping in mind cancellation and rescheduling in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Himiyama further noted that articles I B3 and I B6 of the IGU Statutes clearly note that the purposes of the IGU are to provide for the participation of geographers in the work of relevant international organizations and to participate in any other appropriate form of international cooperation with the object of advancing the study and application of geography. Article I C of the Statutes states that IGU adheres to the ISC and recognizes it as providing a co-ordinating and representative body for the international organization of natural and social sciences. Himiyama affirmed that these provisions of IGU Statutes should be the basis of our action and engagement with GeoUnions, ISC and UNESCO activities. Gönençgil expressed the view that IGU has to be more visible in the activities of GeoUnions. Himiyama asked Hay to update the strategic outreach and timetabling document in light of recent EC discussions and to return to EC for action.

6. 04 UN-GGIM, UN-GGIM Geospatial Societies, High Level Forum on UN-GGIM

Himiyama informed EC that he had been able to attend an online meeting of top officials of UN-GGIM a week ago. The most important work of UN-GGIM is to support developing countries in the field of geospatial data infrastructure. UN-GGIM helps developing countries to prepare standard geospatial data infrastructure projects to obtain support from the World Bank. The International Cartographic Association (ICA) is playing a leading role in this body and IGU is requested annually to send a report to UN-GGIM. It is expected that this year the report for UN-GGIM will be required in August. Himiyama further mentioned that discussion in recent UN-GGIM online meetings included education and science in addition to issues of more practical or industrial concern. In order to go deeper into these issues, UN-GGIM needs subject experts from geography and allied disciplines.

6.05 CODATA

Singh reported that the CODATA virtual General Assembly is scheduled for 25th June 2020; Singh has already registered and voted in favor of the postponement of the physical General Assembly to 2021. CODATA now also have a committee based at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) where geographers are also contributing. CODATA is holding a meeting where restructuring of the committee will take place and it is hoped that many geographers from different parts of the world will join CODATA. Together with Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Singh and colleagues organized a CODATA International Training Programme for young geographers at the IGU India conference in Hyderabad. Many participants from South Asian countries participated

in the training programme. More recently, a training webinar on Google Earth Engine (GEE) was conducted and many people participated in it. CODATA maintain good contact with different academies of sciences.

6.06 CIPSH

Kolosov tabled a letter from the Secretary-General of CIPSH regarding the CIPSH_SDU Conference Announcement. A CIPSH virtual EC meeting will take place within a few days and the physical General Assembly, in Odense, Denmark, is scheduled for 14th and 15th December 2020 if the situation allows. The ‘European Humanities and Beyond’ conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, during 5th to 7th May 2021 and has several sessions on multidisciplinary humanity and society topics of interest to geographers. The organisers have accepted an IGU request to hold a special session on Sustainability and this information should be circulated to appropriate IGU commissions.

6.07 EUROGEO, EUGEO

There is nothing to report regarding EUROGEO as all conferences are cancelled for 2020. EUROGEO Conference 2021 will be held in Madrid, April 22nd to 23rd 2021. The EUGEO Seminar and General Assembly planned in Vilnius, Lithuania, for 23rd to 25th April 2020 have been postponed because of the COVID-19 emergency in Europe. Himiyama asked Kolosov to nominate an IGU liaison officer. Himiyama noted that IGU and EUGEO do not have a formal agreement and Kolosov replied that it will be good to formalize our relations in a form of Special Memorandum that could be signed at the Istanbul 2021 Congress. Kolosov suggested preparing and circulating a draft memorandum among EC members of each organization for comment with a view to formal ratification.

6.08 Relations with other organizations (incl. AAG, AGA, RGS, ICA, UNESCO, AIGF)

Lois-González reported that the Latin American Conference of Geographers (EGAL) is delayed because of the very serious coronavirus situation in Latin American countries. This may now only be held as late as 2022. Meadows noted that the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) has conferred a prestigious Honorary Fellowship on IGU Vice-President Bojie Fu.

6.09 Day of Geography

Himiyama reminded the fact that the first ever International Geographical Congress was held in 1871 at Antwerp and 2021 is therefore the 150th anniversary (sesquicentennial) and therefore a very special year for IGU. It is appropriate that the proposed new awards will be established in 2021 in commemoration. Since the IGU ‘birthday’ is 27th July, this is an incentive to do something special on 27th July 2021. Lemarchand raised concerns that we have to be careful as the ‘Day of Geography’ should not be confused with the existing Night of Geography. Gönençgil remarked that the Day of Geography could be like the International Environment Day. Singh noted that it could be entitled ‘International Geography Day’. Himiyama has been asked to elaborate on the matter.

7. IGU Extraordinary Congress in Paris (2022)

Lemarchand and Kolosov presented a list of potential events to be organized at the IGU Extraordinary Congress in Paris (2022). She mentioned the local organizing committee will meet in a few days to discuss congress activities, including launching the congress website and the matter of sponsorship. One of the main objectives of the Extraordinary Congress is to disseminate geographical knowledge and to increase the international visibility of geography and IGU. Therefore, the programme should include more public events profiting from the fact that the venue is one of the most famous global cities and that Paris plays host to a large number of international organizations. Lemarchand suggested inviting high profile political or cultural personalities to the opening ceremony (e.g. Secretary-General of UNESCO) and to organize special sessions on themes such as “Geography and Global Climate Change”, “Geography and Diplomacy in the XXI Century”, “Geography and Emergencies”, “Geography and Business”, etc. It is intended that these can take a variety of formats, such as keynote lectures, workshops etc., but panels are likely to be more attractive. It is important to invite not only scholars but interesting public figures engaged in a wide range of activities (leaders or experts from international organizations such as FAO or WHO, diplomats, heads of state and private companies, etc.). Past President Kolosov supported the idea of a special session on “Geography and Diplomacy in the XXI Century” citing that COVID-19 is going to remain a major issue in the year 2021 and suggested that an important task is to find an appropriate panel of speakers to lead the session. Droogleever-Fortuijn suggested also inviting important leaders and people from youth organizations and major social organizations. In response to the suggestion by Singh that the IGU archives could form the basis of an exhibition, Lemarchand noted that there may be constraints relating to transfer of materials between nations and that there are also technical and logistical issues given the nature of the venues. Libraries, including those at the Sorbonne and the National Library of France are available to host exhibitions. Lemarchand raised the idea of a gallery of portraits of IGU past Presidents with some materials about their life and contribution to the development of the discipline. Himiyama suggested approaching IGU national committees for additional exhibition materials. Gönençgil introduced the possibility of producing a video documentary highlighting 100 years of IGU activities and dell’Agnese offered to assist with technical and logistic support for this idea. IGU sister organisations, including ICA, CIPSH and representatives of the GeoUnions, will be invited to attend although the nature of their respective roles needs to be defined. One possibility would be a brief video message. Himiyama concluded that these matters lie in the purview of the local organizing committee and Lemarchand agreed to present them at their upcoming meeting.

In order to encourage greater participation from young scholars, IGU should consider increasing the financial allocation for travel grants beyond the usual US\$20,000, especially given that Paris 2022 is such a special event.

8. Other Business

A survey of gender equality in science, coordinated by GenderInSITE (Gender in Science, Innovation, Technology and Engineering) on behalf of the ISC, has a deadline on 6th June 2020 and Himiyama agreed to respond. Kolosov reported that Sebastian Lenz, Director of the Institute of Regional Studies in Leipzig, is prepared to host a session of the EC in Leipzig in May 2021 and that there is a need to inform him of suitable dates.

Kolosov tabled the list of chapters with the individuals' assigned responsibility for the forthcoming Centennial Book and noted the need to remind the authors regularly about their commitment to ensure the volumes are published on time. The Centennial Task Force has suggested one of its face to face meetings at the time of an IGU EC meeting in 2021. Kolosov agreed to send an updated version of the tabled document to EC members. Singh shared a letter from Catherine Phillips, representing the local organizing committee of IGC Melbourne 2028, outlining the plans to launch the congress website with a summary of the bid proposal.

Droogleever-Fortuijn inquired about the bid process for the IGU Regional Conference in 2026. Meadows noted that the call should be made sometime after the IGU General Assembly in August 2020.

Adjourn

The Zoom meeting adjourned at 12:00 GMT on 3rd June, 2020



3) PERSONAL VISIONS ON COVID 19

3.1) Giuliano Bellezza

I was writing some memories about my months in quarantine, and I asked several friends geographers to send me their personal impressions; I liked the idea to diffuse a series of personal sensations during these months of COVID 19 Pandemic. Unfortunately, nobody answered: still, I hope someone will like my diary on COVID 19 in Italy since 30 January.

The first ascertained cases in Italy were two Chinese people, recently arrived in a roman Hotel. Shortly the national air company, Alitalia, blocked flights to and from China, but contacts rapidly resumed. The Health National System began to organize a reaction until some weeks later a real focus of infection burst in Lombardia, by far the wealthiest Region of Italy, and famous for hosting many of the best clinics: alas, private and rather expensive. Ironically, the health organization in the territory was not adequate for the Lombard population of 10 million people. More provinces of Lombardia saw infection focuses, and shortly happened in Veneto and Emilia-Romagna: all wealthy Regions. Ironically again, the badly famed Mezzogiorno, south of Roma, was only weakly affected.

Explanation, of course, shall consider national and local governances: LEGA administrates all northern Regions, but Veneto and Friuli care of the territory more than Piedmont and much more of Lombardia and Liguria. The Democratic Party administrates Emilia-Romagna, and the focus is due to a hauling Co., whose trucks are working a lot with Countries severely affected in the Balcanic area. Roma (Lazio) and Torino (Piedmont) appear full of cases: the two cities governance is the care of the very criticized *5 Stars Party* (*Democratic Party* governs Lazio, and the regional situation is better by far).



In March, the Govern decided to impose a general lockdown and the forced use of facial masks when in the streets. Moreover, going out of the house was admitted only for medical visits to Farmacy or to buy food.

The population reacted quite well, and the possibility of *smart working* at home was welcome. Just some days after, the total school closure made clear the challenge of working with kids going around freely in the house. And that it is no smart at all when a family doesn't have a PC or a laptop. Moreover, until now, just a small part of Italy, is served with high-speed electronic connections.

Some investigative report says that during periods of smart work the economic productivity has been losing about 25 million euro monthly. General data on the National pandemic are gathered from different sources and in Italy, as everywhere in the world, and experts are still

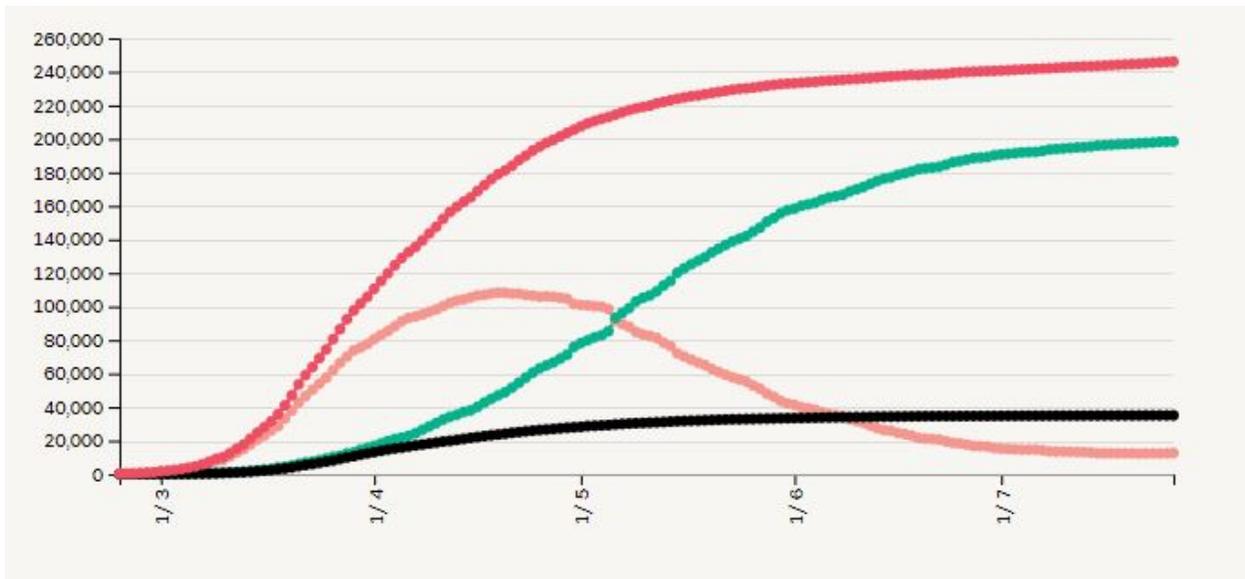
questioning. Someone esteems data as too high, but for others they are too low; in any event, there is good general international agreement.

In the following diagram, relative to the Regional situation in Italy, data are arranged by a weekly total. It shows a remarkable worsening after the first weeks of February, such as Govern imposed the general Lockdown in the following March.

The impact of the virus in April appears evident, as is the later good effect obtained with the strict Lockdown, generally respected by the population majority: an effect really more positive than expected. At the end of April there were more possibilities to go back to public gardens and Parks, and to move between Regions. On May 4th, the Government officially declared the end of the first phase of the anti-COVID 19 actions and started studying plans for economic recovery. Meanwhile, a lot of populations took the opportunity to gather in parks and (much more) in beaches, and this provoked more virus diffusion, given that many asymptomatic can still be contagious.

In the following diagram are reported the weekly data from 28 February to the end of July. Total positive, in red: 246,118. Total recovered, in green: 198,446. Positive cases today, in orange: 12,565. Total deads, in black: 35,107.

The following diagram has been published by *Il Sole 24 ore*, official daily or the Confederazione Italiana dell'Industria.



To a better comprehension of the diagram, we must add the following data: hospitalized persons 2732, but only 41 of them are in intensive care (in April all possible beds were occupied). 11.760 are in home-quarantine, and Daily swabs grew now to about 52.000.

At the end of July, the situation appeared so better that the Ministry of Health started thinking about announcing the end of Phase 2. But Virologists are still admitting that the disease is demonstrating more resistance than expected, so they suggest caution. The use of face masks in public is still strongly recommended, and the Govern studies the possibility to continue restriction for some more months, if not to the end of the year. The new cases are mostly due to the home helpers coming back from Balkanic Countries and of world tourists, these mainly in Roma. Nobody was prepared to the long duration of the second phase: in some Regions there are no new cases since weeks, but on the whole Italy their numbers are a quite straight line, approaching but never reaching zero.

In any case world geographers are still active: in the HofG website, since February I posted about 80 News.

Elections will take place in Autumn, and the Political campaign is very robust, and the right-wing, full of statalism and nationalist, know well how to use social media. They are now accusing the Government to anti-democratic when asking to use masks: strange accuse, from the right-wing Parties, well known for using mainly undemocratic methods. In external Politics, they want now to impede the Government to accept 36 million Euros from the EU, saying that doing so Italy will be tied by hard clauses. But today the clause is only one: this money must be used only for health, a real necessity when recovering from COVID. Their only answer that new clauses will appear once Italy accepts the money. European rules just forbid this, but LEGA and part of 5 Stars always refuse to accept reality when inconvenient. Anyway, I must sadly admit that an Italian foreign Politic whatsoever has always been lacking. And I have many doubts also about the interior affairs one, given that the President of Senate gave a hall for a right wing press conference of *negationists*, refusing to use masks in the hall, with the Secretary of LEGA ostentatiously uncovering the face when speaking at the microphone (masks are compulsory in all the Parliament).

Given that Italy has been the first State hit by COVID 19 after China, I want now to make some confrontation with the anti-COVID 19 policies adopted by other States, all directed by very pretentious persons. UK, USA, and Brazil said that they would not repeat the Italian mistakes, and we are still waiting to be informed by them where and when we made mistakes. Two of these are the most hit in the world, and the third is the most caught in Europe. The best wish I can make to their population is to be more careful in the next national elections. All of their Presidents, after some days in clinics, are sometimes wearing the masks, but always opposing lockdowns. When they held electoral speeches, they want to have an audience as large as possible, with no care of masks.

By the way, the same European Community has a too weak policy in the Mediterranean, not only leaving alone Italy and Greece to face thousands of impoverished boat people, but leaving the governance of the area to Turkey and Egypt (not to mention Russia). Social media are full of fake news, saying that many boat people are carriers of COVID or terrorists. Only Pope Francis expressed bitterness about the decision of Turkey to convert in a Mosque the Aya Sophia Museum, recognized as UNESCO world heritage. Moreover, once upon a time, it has been for centuries an Orthodox, not Catholic basilica.

What about my family? Everything is good, though my son and his family, living in Boston, will not come to Italy this summer. The most realistic eventuality now is a quarantine arriving to Italy, and a second one when going back. I sadly approved that, with just half of the money, they will spend two weeks snorkeling in Aruba. The first daughter, teaching in Columbia, came to Italy one month ago, and possibly she could afford a quarantine when back to NY. But she lives not far from her working place, and Columbia will furnish her with all the necessary equipment. Nothing to worry for the second daughter, a lawyer in Milan. Her sons are now spending vacancies in the HofG, with the grand-parents: clearly, your editor and wife. Later, after the Newsletter, all the Italian part of the family will go to our second home, on the sea, where we will wait some days to celebrate my 84th birthday.



5) 30TH ASAHIKAWA CHILDRENS ENVIRONMENTAL MAP CONTEST

Dr. Kim Hyunjin of the Hokkaido University of Education (kim.hyunjin@hokkyodai.ac.jp) announced that the even in 2020 would take place the yearly Contest, aimed at soliciting School children to improve skills for out-door observation, map-making, and map-use. Specialists of geography and map education will, as usual, evaluate the works, in co-ordination with experienced teachers. Application is open for all school children of primary and secondary school levels (6 to 18 years old) throughout the world.

Organiser: The society for Environmental Map Education
 Co-Organiser: Asahikawa Science Center



The maps must be based on the applicant observations of their environment. The Applicant can choose between “free theme” or “specified theme”, and in 2020 this is: “Culture in one’s Environment”.

Map Dimension: 1091 mm x 788 mm

On a separate sheet should be clearly stated: student’s name and age, teacher’s name, school name and address, tel. & fax numbers, e-mail address (if any), title of work, short note about work.

The works should be received by the organizers no later than **18 September 2020**.

On October-1 November: exhibition of Distinguished works at Asahikawa Science Center



5) IGU TASK FORCE FOR YOUNG AND EARLY CAREER GEOGRAPHERS

Dear Colleagues

Hope this mail finds you well.

I am writing to invite you to contribute a paper for upcoming special issue of IGU Taskforce for Young and Early Career Geographers (IGU-YECG) with *Geography, Environment, Sustainability* (Official journal of Russian Geographical Society, Scopus Indexed) with an **extended deadline of 1 November 2020**. Please find the details of the issue as follows:

IGU-YECG Special Issue "Geospatiality and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

Guest Editor (s):

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3. **Prof. R.B. Singh**

Secretary-General and Treasurer, IGU

Professor, Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

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4. **Prof. Vladimir Tikunov**

The head of Complex Mapping laboratory, Faculty of Geography, Moscow State University

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Short description

The rapid human development and the contradiction between human and society, and economy and environment has greatly hindered the implementation of sustainable development strategy (Zhao and Wu, 2019). In order to draw more attention on sustainable development from governments, the United Nations adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 sub-goals and 232 targets at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in 2015. Ever since then, many experts and researchers have been making great efforts to monitor, assess and realise SDGs. For example, while some researchers analysed the application of SDGs to ecology and environment (Salleh, 2016; Yenneti et al., 2016), others applied SDGs to humanities and education (Chowdhury and Koya, 2017; Sterling, 2014). Yet there are many difficulties. The

sheer volume of geospatial data and the different understanding of the SDG indicators make this task more difficult. Further, there are relatively limited studies that attempt to more holistically capture the varieties of geospatial factors and contexts behind the articulation of SDGs.

In order to develop a vision for ensuring sustainable development, a discussion of the SDGs needs careful examination through new concepts, approaches and solutions to the problems. This special issue will include, but not limited to, studies on SDGs, monitoring and evaluation of SDGs, the use of geospatial technologies in assessing challenges in implementation of SDGs, the geospatiality of social and gender dimensions in SDG research and other development-related themes. The issue will promote integrated transdisciplinary approaches in SDGs research.

While this issue invites papers from all parts of the world, we keenly encourage and see this as an opportunity for young scholars in the developing world. This special issue will provide a publication platform for papers presented by outstanding young and early career geographers at the sessions organised by the IGU-Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers (IGU-YECG) since from its establishment (Beijing, 2016) to the upcoming 34th IGC at Istanbul (2020). There is a cutting-edge research by young and early career scholars which deserves to be recognised and popularised.

We also invite submissions which can help enhance the understandings and conceptualisations of the SDGs. In particular, we are interested in submissions that explore ‘new geographies of theory’ and ‘new conceptual vectors’. The submissions may be concerned with addressing SDGs at the local, regional, and global scales, in various geographical contexts and at multiple dimensions (economic, social, political, developmental, and environmental). The contributions may be generic in nature or specific to a particular geographical region, with regard to regional diversity in climate, development, economic structure, and socioeconomic characteristics, among other factors. Original work that adopts a relational perspective and showcase how to address theoretical, methodological, and empirical issues in implementation of SDGs is particularly welcome.

Potential topics include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- New concepts and approaches to SDG implementation (across the global South and the global North, and bridging the gap between them).
- Innovative techniques and methodologies to measure and to differentiate the goals and indicators of SDGs.
- History, evolution and discourses of SDGs in different scalar/geographical dimensions.
- Smart and ground-breaking technologies, strategies and real-time applications in achieving or implementation of SDGs in different geo-spatial and social contexts (global/local; everyday life with an emphasis on urban scale, for developing and developed world).
- Role of institutions, macro and micro level actors, action agents, policy options and effects, laws and regulations, governance and planning and other policy, industry and action initiatives in SDGs.
- Best practice initiatives (individual, behavioural and community-led) and successful examples.

Submission of full papers: 1 November 2020

[Submit paper to this Special Issue](#)

Looking forward to your kind contribution.

Regards

Dr. Gaurav Sikka

Secretary-General and Treasurer, IGU Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers
Assistant Professor, University Department of Geography, L.N. Mithila University, Bihar



5) INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL



International Science Council

FOR DIRECT LINK: council.science



6) FUTURE EARTH

futureearth

TO SEE LAST NEWS, CLICK:

<https://futureearth.org/latest/news/>



7) UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY



LINK TO THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE IS JUST: <https://unu.edu/>



8) COMMITTEE ON DATA FOR SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY (CODATA)



DIRECT LINK, JUST TYPE: <https://codata.org/>



9) FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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

9.1) 5th International Conference Water resources and wetlands, which will be held on 9-13 September 2020 in Tulcea (Romania)

9.2) COASTGIS 2020, Novia University, Raseborg (Finland), 17-19 September

Of course, many more forthcoming Events one will find at the links to ISC, Future Earth, UN University and CODATA.

