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CHAIR'S REPORT

Seasonal greetings from a New Zealand summer.

Sometimes I think that the Southern hemisphere way of organizing workloads is preferable; the end of the year and the longer teaching recess come together, and breaks from work can be celebrated in the height of summer. To those of you who are in the midst of teaching with a short Christmas recess and then a new semester, my commiserations, and the comment that by the time you are reading this your shortest day will have arrived and you, in turn, can look forward to summer.

The Commission on Geographical Education has a big year: the last Newsletter paid tribute to the very successful Symposium in Brisbane and the great work done by John Lidstone and his team. We have a very polished and substantial set of proceedings to lodge in the IGU archives, and the prospect that the Symposium will return a small balance to the Commission. I think our association with the International Network in Learning and teaching Geography at the IGU Regional Conference at Brisbane was also a good move, and that we should look forward to continuing this association in Tunisia.

Most of you will know that the IGU Congress will be held in Tunisia, with the dates of August 25-29 2008. The theme of the Congress is "Collaboratively Building our Territories". One of the key decisions we need to make in the next three months is whether the Commission on holds a pre-Congress Symposium, or whether we participate in the Congress with both paper sessions and business meetings. My personal preference is for a symposium in association with the Congress, but this does not necessarily have to be in Tunisia. We are awaiting a response from the Congress organizers, and I anticipate the Steering Committee will have a clear recommendation

for the next newsletter.

In the interim, the Commission is promoting three regional meetings in 2007, and I encourage those of you who can attend to contact the organizers as soon as possible.

- The UK Sub-Committee Conference will be held at the Institute of Education, London- 10-12 April 2007, in association with the HERODOT Thematic Network for Geography in higher education. The theme is *Changing Geographies: innovative curricula*. Those interested should visit <http://hopelive.hope.ac.uk/international/karld/IGU/events.html>
- A Regional Symposium on *Geographical views on Education for Sustainable Development* will be held in Lucerne, Switzerland from 29 July - 3 August 2007. The contact person is Franziska Müller, e-mail: info@igu-cge.luzern.phz.ch or fax: +41-41-228 79 18. Postal Address: Pädagogische Hochschule Zentralschweiz-Luzern, Museggstrasse 22, CH-6004 Luzern.
- An *International Forum on Regional Centers of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development* will be held in Beijing, China on 15-18 August, 2007. It is sponsored by the Commission for Geographical Education, the United Nations University, Beijing Normal University and Changing Education Committee. For further information: Professor Wang Min wangmin@bnu.edu.cn

Three other matters are worth mentioning: the work on the Charter of Geographical Education has been delayed by my inability to fit the chairing of the working group into my schedule ahead of the summer recess; the Steering Group of the Commission expects to report a strengthened financial position in January, 2007; and to report on recognition of service to the Commission.

Lex Chalmers
Chair of the Steering Group

2. CONFERENCES

2.1 *UK Sub-Committee Conference* held with the [HERODOT](#) Thematic Network, Institute of Education, London- 10-12 April 2007

The conference theme is "*Changing Geographies: innovative curricula*".

Full papers by January 18th 2007 . Please send to wallg@hope.ac.uk
See <http://hopelive.hope.ac.uk/international/karld/IGU/events.html>

2.2 Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

April 17-21, 2007

San Francisco, California

<http://www.aag.org/>

2.3 Geography in the Americas Conference: Collaboration on Research and Education

May 21-26, 2007

La Serena, Chile

<http://www.geographyintheamericas.com/>

2.4 IGU CGE 2007 Symposium in Lucerne/Switzerland - UPDATE

Many delegates have submitted an abstract for a presentation at the IGU CGE 2007 Symposium in Lucerne/Switzerland. We are looking forward to an interesting conference in July 2007. The date due for those who want present a paper is December 22nd. All other participants are invited to benefit from the Early Bird Registration until February 18th 2007.

Further details are available on the conference website: <http://www.igu-cge.luzern.phz.ch/content.php?link=start.htm>

Hope to see you in Switzerland

Sibylle Reinfried and Yvonne Schleicher

2.5 INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON REGIONAL CENTRES OF EXPERTISE ON EDUCATION (RCE) for Sustainable Development Beijing - 15-18 August

For detail please contact Professor Wang Min. Email: wangmin@bnu.edu.cn

Objectives

- To share information and experiences on RCEs and their activities among acknowledged and candidate RCEs;
- To identify major challenges that RCEs are facing and ways to overcome such challenges;
- To facilitate communication and networking among RCEs;
- To raise public awareness on ESD, DESD and RCEs.
- To discuss some collaborative activities among acknowledged and candidate RCEs

Co-organized by: United Nations University (Institute of Advanced Studies);

Commission of Geography Education of International Geographical Union Beijing

Normal University Changping Education Committee

Supported by: UNESCO, Ministry of Education, China

Approximately 400 audiences are expected mainly from Beijing City. Simultaneous interpretation will be available.

2.6 IGU TUNISIA 12-15 AUGUST, 2008

The 31st Congress of the International Geographical Union. See

<http://www.agt.org.tn/>

See <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/> for directions to current published information.

3. PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE AAG CENTER FOR GLOBAL GEOGRAPHY EDUCATION

The Association of American Geographers (AAG) is submitting a proposal for the National Science Foundation to continue its support of the Center for Global Geography Education (CGGE), an online collection of geography resources for international collaborative learning. With funding from the National Science Foundation (2003-2005), the AAG embarked upon a pilot program to develop and test three Web-based course modules: Nationalism, Global Economy, and Population. The modules are used by students in different countries to investigate geographic issues

and share perspectives in a collaborative, online learning environment.

A major objective of the Phase 2 project will be developing a multi-year database for assessing the influence of international collaboration on student learning of geography content and attitudes toward world issues. In practical terms, the project will provide faculty with a “one-stop” resource for planning and implementing an international teaching collaboration.

CGGE fundamentally supports the AAG’s programs to foster research and education collaborations internationally and will supply models of collaboration for new initiatives across Latin America, the Middle East, and other regions. Geography undergraduates will therefore gain opportunities to interact with students in countries engaged, often contentiously, with the United States over issues related to immigration, nationalism, environmental pollution, and economic globalization. The project design includes an extensive outreach and dissemination plan via partnerships with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, HERODOT Network, International Geographical Union (IGU), International Network for Learning and Teaching (INLT), National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE), and Pan American Institute for Geography and History.

AAG invites IGU-CGE members who wish to become involved in CGGE activities to contact Michael Solem (msolem@aag.org).

4. PUBLICATIONS

4.1 IRGEE - John Lidstone (Co-Editor)

see <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/>

Irgree continues to attract high quality articles and thanks are due to the many reviewers who devote so much time both to providing the Editors with advice and to making suggestions to authors, many of whom do not have English as their first language, on how to make their papers even better.

We are always interested in receiving books for review - Please contact Prof Sarah Bednarz (Email: s-bednarz@tamu.edu) who is our Reviews Editor- and book reviews - particularly of books that are published in languages other than English and of which the Angloworld may never otherwise become aware.

Similarly, we are always seeking people willing to co- ordinate Forum sections on aspects of Geographical and Environmental education about which they are particularly passionate or about which they feel others should or could be interested.

4.2 Book release at the 2006 CGE conference:

Williams, M. and Lidstone, J. (eds.) "Geographical Education in a Changing World: Past Experience, Current Trends and Future Challenges?" GeoJournal Series. Springer: Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

4.3 GIS for schools - a very useful new publication

T. Johansson (ed.) (2006). Geographical Information Systems Applications for Schools - GISAS. Publicationes Instituti Geographici Universitatis Helsingiensis A 141. University

of Helsinki. Dark Oy, Vantaa, Finland. ISBN 952-10-3524-2.

5. OTHER ITEMS:

5.1 HOME OF GEOGRAPHY - for updates including newsletters please see

<http://www.homeofgeography.org/>

5.1 GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOLS -

European Commission Socrates / Minerva project 2003 - 2006 see

<http://www.edu.fi/gisas>

IN multiple languages this project web site is a valuable resource. For details and comment please contact Tino Johansson (Tino.Johansson2Helsinki.fi)

5.3 THE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMME IN GEOINFORMATICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI (Email for details: Tino.Johansson2Helsinki.fi) in Finland has now opened a call for applications for the academic year of 2007/2008. The call will be closed on the 31st of January 2007. You can find more information from the web site

<http://www.helsinki.fi/geography/gimp/>

In case you are looking for grants or scholarships for studying in Finland, you can find more information from the CIMO web site

<http://www.cimo.fi/Resource.phx/cimo/services/scholarships.htx>

and from the web site of the University of Helsinki

http://www.helsinki.fi/studying/grants_and_scholarships.shtml

Best wishes

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