

**International Geographical Union
Commission on Geographical Education
2012-2016**

Newsletter #1, December 2012

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A MESSAGE FROM THE JOINT CHAIRS

A NEW START

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first IGU-CGE Newsletter of the current, 2012-16, Commission on Geographical Education!

As incoming chairs we are excited and grateful to be given this opportunity to work with you to support the further development of quality geography education worldwide. We would like to thank you for your support and trust in us. As Joint Chairs our mission is to build on the good work from the previous Commission, and to work together with you to realize a better future for geography in education.

In this newsletter, we have set out our vision, aims and programme of work for the Commission, as well as details about up-coming conferences and other events of interest to the Commission for Geography Education. In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the announcement about the IGU Congress in Kyoto in 2013. Our colleagues in Kyoto are working with us to organise the Commission’s sessions and a special fieldtrip. We will confirm details with you as soon as possible so that colleagues who wish to come to Kyoto can ensure they plan their visits to make the

most of the Commissions sessions and meetings. However, in the meantime you might like to note that the deadline for abstract submissions is **15th January 2013**.

We are hoping to make more use of our website in coming years and you will see a lighter-newsletter, but with many more links to our website and to those of our friends.

John Lidstone & Joop van der Schee

AIMS OF THE COMMISSION ON GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION

The purpose of the Commission is to promote geographical and environmental education globally. In order to accomplish this goal, the activities of the commission include:

1. The promotion of geography as an essential aspect of education at all levels in all countries.
2. An international programme of educational research and co-ordination of international and regional research projects.
3. Organization of international conferences.
4. Publication of a journal, *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education*, newsletters, conference proceedings, and other publications including (digital) books.
5. The exchange of information on geographical education.
6. The development and promotion of good practices in geography teaching, especially for those countries that need extra support.
7. The promotion of the International Geography Olympiad.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The Steering Committee of the Commission have identified seven projects and invites members of the Commission on Geographical Education to participate in these projects. Details of each of the projects are below:

1. Creating a *Geography Education Doctoral and PhD collection* to enhance our knowledge about geographical and environmental education. How do we want to do this? If we can collate from around the world the authors, titles, publishers and abstracts of successful doctoral theses and PhD studies in geographical and environmental education, from all nations and in national languages, an on-line list can be made available for researchers through the IGU-CGE website. The abstracts should be in English and between 100 and 300 words. This project will start in January 2013. The coordinators of this work are Ivy Tan, Eje Kim and John Lidstone.
2. The preparation of an edited *book containing significant papers on geographical education*. What are the most important and inspiring articles about geographical and environmental education that you advise young geographers to read? In Spring 2013 a questionnaire will be sent to you to get an idea of your top publications in geographical and environmental education. The coordinators of this work are Daniela Schmeinck, Sirpa Tani en Joop van der Schee.
3. The drafting of an edited *book on geography education practice and research*. This idea was proposed by Michael Solem and Simon Catling on "Rethinking Geography Education: International Perspectives on Scholarly Practices" for a series published by

Springer. The coordinators of this work are Michel Solem, Clare Brooks and John Lidstone.

4. The preparation of a *review publication on geospatial practices and lessons learned*. This is a third possible monograph, which focuses particularly on what has been learnt from geospatial projects and research from the past decade or more of implementing GIS in schools and colleges. The coordinators of this work are Ali Demirci, Osvald Muniz and Joop van der Schee.
5. The setting up of geographical education '*Virtual geography communities of practice*'. This proposal would encourage and enable geography educators in various parts of the world to engage and work together, communicating with each other and sharing materials such as curricula, individual lessons, learning objects and assessment items, virtually. This includes also promotion materials for geography as an essential part of education at all levels. It is a proposal which should also include the support and development of the work of the commission members through regular virtual meetings. The coordinators of this work are Daniela Schmeink, Ali Demirci, Clare Brooks and Michael Solem.
6. Support and *connect early career researchers in geography education* internationally. A further proposal associated with (1) above relates to a scholarly analysis of the implementation of the scholarly process itself in the context of international doctoral work in geographical education. Such a study would intend to enhance both quality and quantity of international research in geographical education. The coordinators of this work are Fernando Alexandre, Sirpa Tani, John Lidstone.
7. *Support the International Geography Olympiad* as an important way to promote geography, to stimulate understanding between young people and to help to improve the quality of school geography worldwide. The Steering Committee can help you to get information about participation in and preparation for the International Geography Olympiad. Information is available via Joop van der Schee.

In the early months of 2013, we will invite you to participate in one or more of these projects. The progress of all these seven projects will be reported at coming conferences, on the IGU-CGE website and in further IGU newsletters.

NEW STEERING COMMITTEE

We want to thank all the members of the Steering Committee that stood down at the Congress of the IGU held in Cologne, Germany, in August 2012: Lex Chalmers (Chair, New Zealand), Simon Catling (Honorary Secretary, UK), Sibylle Reinfried (Switzerland), Yoshiyasu Ida (Japan), Wang Min (PR China). They have done a very good job and we are very grateful to them! We are delighted that they have agreed to continue to support us as advisers to the Commission.

Fernando Alexandre (Portugal), Osvaldo Muniz (Chile), Michael Solem (USA), Ivy Tan (Singapore), and Sirpa Tani (Finland) have served the commission for the past four years and will continue for a further term. We are proud to have Sarah Bednarz, Hartwig Haubrich, Margaret Robertson and Joseph Stoltman as Honorary members of our Commission, and are grateful for their continued support.

In addition, we welcome four new colleagues who have joined the Commission Steering Committee: Clare Brooks (UK), Ali Demirci (Turkey), Eje Kim (South Korea) and Daniela Schmeinck (Germany).

We believe that the new Commission, with its balance of gender, age, experience and geographical distribution will serve the International Geographical Education community well from 2012 – 2016. The new Commission Steering Committee therefore is:

ROLE	NAME	COUNTRY
Joint Chairs	Joop van der Schee John Lidstone	The Netherlands Australia
Secretary	Clare Brooks	UK
Treasurer	Michael Solem	USA
Full member	Fernando Alexandre	Portugal
Full member	Ali Demirci	Turkey
Full member	Eje Kim	S. Korea
Full member	Osvaldo Muniz	Chile
Full member	Daniela Schmeinck	Germany
Full member	Ivy Tan	Singapore
Full member	Sirpa Tani	Finland

IGU-CGE Treasurer's report

As Commission Treasurer, Michael Solem manages a checking account held at Wells Fargo Bank in Washington, D.C. As of November 30, 2012 there is a total of USD 3,789.18 available in the Commission's account. The most recent expenditure was a withdrawal of EUR 500 on November 20, 2012 as reimbursement to Dr Ingrid Hemmer for the Commission's social reception at the 2012 IGC in Cologne.

CONFERENCE NEWS

IGU-CGE 2012 Symposium :Experience-based Geography Learning 22- 25 August 2012

The IGU-Pre-congress of the Commission on Geographical Education 2012 took place in Freiburg in August 2012. Almost 150 experts on Geography Education from all over the world met to discuss their recent findings in the cosy atmosphere of an intense pre-congress. Overall, 50 presentations were discussed and included information on research projects and examples of experience-based learning. In addition, several excursions (Medieval Freiburg, Ecological Freiburg, Black Forest, Kaiserstuhl volcano, World Heritage Upper Middle Rhine Valley) offered the participants time and space for informal talks. Friends met again, new friendships were built. Our thanks go to our German and Swiss colleagues Falk, Haubrich, Schleicher, Reinfried and Mueller who all did such a great job.

All presentations were peer-reviewed during the symposium's planning process. Abstracts of all the contributions are published by the symposium's steering committee and can be purchased.

G. C. Falk, H. Haubrich, M. Mueller, S. Reinfried & Y. Schleicher ed. (2012): Experience-based Geography Learning – IGU CGE 2012 Symposium Proceedings, MBV Berlin [19,90 Euro]).
<http://www.amazon.de/Experience-based-Geography-Learning-Symposium-Proceedings/dp/3863872029>

IGU 2012 Congress, 26 – 30 August 2012 Cologne, Germany

The 2012 IGU Congress in Cologne was a great experience! Not only was the Congress very well organized but it enabled so many geographers to get together in a fabulous setting with a warm and convivial atmosphere. Our thanks to the many (German) colleagues like Ingrid Hemmer and Daniela Schmeinck who made the experience so unforgettable, as well as to all the contributors for the lectures, workshops and fieldtrips which were so inspiring. The informal meeting at the start of the Congress for geographers in education in Brauerei Gaffel am Dom was a great success.

Thanks to Dorothea Wiktorin and her staff, the International Geography Olympiad in Cologne was extremely successful with an outstanding number of teams from 32 countries. Congratulations to Singapore who won this Olympiad!

During the IGU Congress, at a special Eurogeo meeting, honorary lifetime membership was conferred on Hartwig Haubrich for his outstanding contribution to geography in Europe and the development of the association.

2013 International Geography Olympiad, 30 July – 5 August, Kyoto, Japan

The Organizing Committee of the IGU Kyoto Regional Conference 2013 invites applications from countries to send a team to the 10th International Geography Olympiad (iGeo). This will be held in Kyoto, Japan, from 30 July to 5 August 2013, under the auspices of the International Geographical Union Olympiad Task Force. The venue will be in the heart of the city of Kyoto.

This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the geographical skills and understandings of your country's geography students, as well as a reward for student excellence.

A team is made up of four secondary school students between 16 and 19 years of age (inclusive) on 30 June 2013. Students must be selected through a national geography competition. They are accompanied by two adults who are involved in geographical education in their country, and who are able to speak and write English. Please also refer to the iGeo website for the statutes under which the iGeo operates (www.geoolympiad.org) and click the link 'What is iGeo?').

Countries are responsible for their own travel, visas and insurance. In addition, a contribution of ¥ 30,000 per person (for each student and leader) is payable as a contribution to local expenses.

The iGeo competition contains three elements: a written response test, a multimedia test and a fieldwork test. The official language of the iGeo is English. Questions will be presented in English and students must answer in English. Extra facilities will be provided for non-native English speakers. As well as the tests, the programme includes geographical poster presentations and a cultural function. An excursion will be arranged to the Kyoto region and there will be some free time. An optional post-iGeo tour at your own cost may possibly be arranged if enough countries are interested. In this

tour, you will visit a lake and forest area at the foot of Mt Fuji, and Tokyo. The cost of the optional excursion is ¥ 50,000 per person.

Applications are requested by **19 January 2013**. Countries which took part in the 2010 or 2012 Olympiads will automatically be accepted for the 2013 iGeo if they apply by 19 January 2013. On that date, any remaining places will be allocated to other countries in the order in which their applications were received.

To request an application form, and for any queries about the Kyoto Olympiad, please contact Prof Yoshiyasu Ida, the 2013 iGeo Local Organiser.

For general queries about the Olympiad, for instance about eligibility, please contact Kath Berg, the Task Force Co-Chair.

We look forward to welcoming you to the iGeo in Kyoto in 2013. Japan's world heritage heart welcomes you. Have a historical time in a 1000-year capital city.

Prof Dr Yoshiyasu Ida
Chair, iGeo 2013 Organising Committee
Email: geolympiad@ajg.or.jp
Website: <http://japan-igeo.com>

Ms Kathryn Berg
Co-Chair, International Geographical Union Olympiad Task Force
Email: admin@rgsq.org.au
Website: www.geolympiad.org

2013 IGU Kyoto Regional Conference – Commission Sessions

We are pleased to announce that the Organizing Committee of the IGU Kyoto Regional Conference has started to receive registration and exhibition booth applications, abstract submissions, and reservations for field trips, accommodations, and social programs through our official website (<http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org/>). The deadline for 250 words abstracts is January 15th. The fee is 49,000 yen for the whole conference which is approximately 435 euro and 575 US dollars.

Feel free to circulate this information among geographers in your respective countries. You and your colleagues are quite welcome to participate in our conference. We would also appreciate it if you would encourage young researchers to join us and make presentations for your commission session.

Please note the deadline of abstract submission is 15th January 2013.

Commission sessions include:

1. *Traditional wisdom and modern knowledge in geography teaching for the earth's future*

John Lidstone, Queensland Univ. of Technology <j.lidstone@qut.edu.au>

2. *Maintaining indigenous perspectives in school curricula*

Koji Ohnishi, Univ. of Toyama <ohnishik@hmt.u-toyama.ac.jp>

3. *Didactics and pedagogy in geographical education*

Joop van der Schee, Vrije Univ. Amsterdam <j.a.vander.schee@vu.nl>

4. *Perspectives in geographical education*

Clare Brooks, Institute of Education, London <C.Brooks@ioe.ac.uk>

We are looking forward to meeting you next summer in Kyoto.

Prof.Dr.Shigeko Haruyama

Dates for your diary for future conferences include:

Krakow (Poland) August 18/22, 2014

Moscow 2015

Beijing 2016

Details will be published on the IGU-CGE website as they become available.

Other conference announcements

Esri GIS Education Conference: Join 1,000 colleagues from around the world who are using GIS in their teaching, educational administration, and research. <http://www.esri.com/educ>, San Diego, California, USA July 2013.

National Conference on Geographic Education (www.ncge.org). Join colleagues in geography education at all levels, Denver, Colorado, USA 31 July-3 August 2013. Future conference dates also include Memphis, Tennessee - July 31 - August 3, 2014

The 5th Nordic Geographers Meeting will be organized in Reykjavík, Iceland 11-14 June 2013. This international geography conference is held in one of the Nordic countries every other year, and has proved to be an important and inspiring arena for geographers to meet and exchange their views. We are now accepting submissions of abstracts for paper presentations, workshops and posters at the upcoming conference. The conference theme is Responsible Geographies. Under this broad heading, a number of sessions are listed on the conference website, covering most aspects of geographic enquiry. There will be special sessions for example on geographical education; geographies of children and young people; and GIS and education. The deadline for submitting an abstract is 31 January 2013. For further information and practical details, please visit the conference website: <https://conference.hi.is/ngm2013/>

In particular, Commission members may be interested in the following sessions:

Geography and Education: <http://conference.hi.is/ngm2013/geography-and-education/>

Contemporary Geographies of Children and Young People:

<http://conference.hi.is/ngm2013/contemporary-geographies-of-children-and-young-people/>

GIS and Education: <http://conference.hi.is/ngm2013/gis-and-education/>

Annual Meeting of the Turkish Association of Geographers, June 19-21, 2013

Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey <http://tcdyk.org/>

The first Annual Meeting of the Turkish Association of Geographers will be held on June 19-21, 2013 at Fatih University in Istanbul, Turkey. The Turkish Association of Geographers (TAG) is a new geographical association established in June 2012 as one of the objectives of the Piri Reis Project which is a LEONARDO DA VINCI Transfer of Innovation Project, aimed at creating a network of geographers and related disciplines, encourage collaboration, and development among geographers, particularly in Turkey. For the important dates and all the other details about the annual meeting see the conference website at <http://www.tcdyk.org/>

LGEG is organizing a workshop (January 22, 2013, the fifth workshop) on the Czech geographical education with the contribution of the Dept. of Geography in Liberec and invited specialists on geographical education from the Czech Republic. The focus will be on geography for 10 years old, 14

years old and 18 years old student: What might they ought to know after leaving the grades. For further details contact: **Jaroslav Vávra, Ph.D.** e-mail: jaroslav.vavra@tul.cz

Uppsala Transdisciplinary Seminar in Sustainable Development

We are honoured to invite you to take part at the inaugural meeting of the open transdisciplinary seminar in sustainable development on November 21 at 3-5 pm at Uppsala University, initiated by The Department of Education at the Faculty of Education, and Uppsala Centre for Sustainable Development/Cemus at the Faculty of Science and Technology.

<http://www.csduppsala.uu.se/2012/uppsala-transdisciplinary-seminar-in-sustainable-development/>

The 4th National Conference on Geography and Environment organized by

Department of Geography and Environment, Faculty of Human Sciences, Sultan Idris Education University (in collaboration with National Geography Society of Malaysia and Geography Society, Sultan Idris Education University) will take place at Sultan Abdul Jalil Campus, Tanjung Malim, Perak, Malaysia on 5 – 6 March 2013. The conference theme is **Geography and Environment in National Development and Transformation** and more information can be found at

<http://www.upsi.edu.my/ms/halaman-utama/berita/1046-persidangan-kebangsaan-geografi-dan-alam-sekitar-kali-ke-4>

The next EUGEO congress will be held in Rome, Italy, 5-7 September 2013. EUGEO is the Association of Geographical Associations in Europe. The title of the congress is **“Europe, what’s next? Changing geographies and geographies of change”**. See www.eugeo2013.com.

Further announcements on Geographical Education

An **important statement** was made in the IGU newsletter of December 2012 by the new IGU president, prof. dr. Vladimir Kolosov:

“Geographical education is one of the major *raison d’être* of the geographical community. IGU has to continuously show the value of geographical education in various international and national academic and policy contexts. We will pay more attention to the role of geography at school and to geographical education, trying to cooperate with UNESCO and other international organizations in keeping and modernizing geographical curricula. The final objective may be an IGU Manual on Curriculum Development which will include recommendations on a regular curriculum revision incorporating fundamental and modern techniques and contemporary paradigms such as climate change and millennium development goals.”

OURSUS: a sustainable cities IGU Project. www.oursus.org

Cities are growing everywhere. As complex organisms, they are all different, yet face similar challenges in terms of sustainable features, such as green R&D, environment-friendly consumption, green campaigns, challenges, and education, etc. Initiated by Prof. Ton Dietz in 2010, the International Geography Union organized a group of volunteers to develop a global sustainable information network, GSCIN to tackle such challenges. Read more at www.oursus.org about the 15 cities all over the world that already participate and join with your colleagues and students more thinking about sustainable cities.

Spatial Thinking Course for Educators: Join Joseph Kerski as he teaches a 5-week long asynchronous online course designed to better enable educators to teach spatial concepts and skills. Course will begin in April 2013 and will be offered through www.enetcolorado.org

Challenges of Geographical Education for Sustainability in Geographic Education Program, University of La Serena, Chile.

For details of this programme see IGU-CGE website: <http://www.igu-cge.org/newsletters/annex/NewsletterFabi%C3%A1nChile.pdf>

New Research Project: **Preconditions of environmental moral learning within education for sustainable development: A multidisciplinary study of young Swedes attitudes, commitments and actions.** For details contact : Lena Molin, Senior lecturer, Department of Education, Uppsala University. lena.molin@edu.uu.se Or see website: <http://forskning.edu.uu.se/iresd/english/research.html>

The All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) is based at the National Institute of Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at NUI Maynooth and provides free tools to support evidence-based planning and schools. More details here: http://www.igu-cge.org/newsletters/annex/AIROSchools_images.pdf

Publications

RIGEO (Research in Geographical Education Online) journal is published online at : <http://www.rigeo.org/>

The Italian Association of Geographers has produced a new English-language journal for geography and geography education. The **Journal of Research and Didactics in Geography** is an open-access publication available at <http://www.j-reading.org/index.php/geography>. At this time the journal is welcoming contributions for future issues and is seeking nominations for its Scientific Committee. For further information, please contact Gino De Vicchis, Editor in Chief for J-Reading (Gino.Devicchis@uniroma1.it).

New book and blog: The GIS Guide to Public Domain Data, by Jill Clark and Joseph Kerski, explores issues of crowdsourcing, data quality, data formats, copyright, fee vs. free, open data, portals, data sources, and more, via a book and via an ongoing blog and dialogue, on <http://spatialreserves.wordpress.com>. A series of 10 activities invites students to dig into real problems using real-world public domain spatial data and GIS tools.

Competence development in outdoor science education a new publication (in German) resulting from an annual symposium held in at Lucerne (Switzerland) with the idea of discussions about outdoor learning from the perspective of different subjects (particularly geography, history and sciences). For more details, see flyer on IGU-CGE website: http://www.igu-cge.org/newsletters/annex/80135-7_UG.pdf and for more details of contents see: http://www.igu-cge.org/newsletters/annex/TagungsbandAL2_PHZLuzern_4_klein.pdf

'geo@web' is an interdisciplinary book analyzing the consequences of the omnipresence of current web technologies on everyday spatial action, geographical experiencing, and learning. Gryl, I., Nehrlich, T. & Vogler, R. (eds.) (2013): **geo@web**. Medium, Räumlichkeit und geographische Bildung. Wiesbaden: Springer VS. (German language only) <http://www.springer.com/springer+vs/soziologie/book/978-3-531-18698-6>

J, Monk, K.Foote and M.B. Schlemper "Graduate Education in U.S. Geography: Students' Career Aspirations and Faculty Perspectives." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 102 (6), 2012, 1432-1449. An article drawing on the work of the AAG's EDGE project:

The Department of Geography at Technical University of Liberec, its Geographical Education Group (LGEG, J. Vávra and A. Hynek) has issued a monograph named **Decoding key to contemporary geographies for geographical education** summarizing up-to date general state, situation and status of the Czech geography and geographical education with respect to geographies abroad.

Debates in Geography Education, edited by David Lambert and Mark Jones. Expert editors and contributors provide a balance of experience and perspectives and offer international, historical and policy contexts, evidence informed classroom debates and a glimpse of the subject's expanding horizons. Published by Routledge: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415687799/>

Other recent publications that may be of interest:

- Catling, S, Willy, T with Butler, J (2013) *Teaching Primary Geography for Australian Schools*. Cheltenham: Hawker Brownlow.
- de Blij, H (2012) *Why Geography Matters More Than Ever*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Dorling, D (2012) *The Visualisation of Spatial Social Structure*. Chichester: Wiley
- Favier, T. & Schee, J. van der (2012) Exploring the characteristics of an optimal design for inquiry-based geography education with Geographic Information Systems. *Computers and Education*, 58, pp. 666-677.
- Garfield, S (2012) *On the Map: Why The World Looks The Way It Does*. London: Profile Books.
- Gilbert, R & Hoepfer, B (eds) (2011) *Teaching Society and Environment*. Sydney: Cengage Learning Australia.
- Grigg, R & Hughes, S (2013) *Teaching Primary Humanities*. Harlow: Pearson.
- Hansson, Petra, Kronlid, David O., Östman, Leif, "Encountering Nature on the Move. A Transactional Reading of Jenny Diski's Travelogue" (accepted) *Proceedings Counter Nature(s): An Interdisciplinary Research Symposium on Revising Nature in an Era of Environmental Crisis*, The Nordic Network for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies
- Kaplan, R (2012) *The Revenge of Geography*. New York: Random House.
- Kronlid, D. O. and Öhman, J. 2012. An environmental ethical conceptual framework for research on sustainability and environmental education. *Environmental Education Research*. Version of record first published 14 Jun 2012, on www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13504622.2012.687043
- Kronlid, David (2008), "What Modes of Moving Do to Me - Reflections on Technogenic Processes of Identification" in Bergmann, Sigurd, Hoff, Thomas, and Sager, Tore (eds.) (2008), *Spaces of Mobility. Essays on the Planning, Ethics, Engineering and Religion of Human Motion*, Equinox, s 125-154.
- Kronlid, David (2008), "Mobility as Capability" i Cresswell, T. & Priya Uteng, T. (Eds.), *Gendered Mobilities*, Ashgate.
- Kronlid, David (2009) "Ecologic approaches to Mobile Machines and Environmental Ethics" i Bergmann, Sigurd & Sager, Tore (eds.) (2009), *The Ethics of Mobilities. Rethinking Place, Exclusion, Freedom and Environment*, Ashgate, 255-268.
- Kronlid, David O. (2010) 'Mapping a Moral Landscape of the IPCC' in S. Bergmann & D. Gerten (Reds.) *Religion & Environmental Change, Studies in Religion and the Environment/Studien zur Religion und Umwelt*, LIT Publishing, Munich.
- Marsh, C (ed) (2011) *Teaching the Social Sciences and Humanities in the Australian Curriculum*. Melbourne: Pearson.
- Nielsen, L & Webb, W (2011) *Teaching Generation Text*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Öhman, Johan & Östman, Leif (2007). Continuity and change in moral meaning-making - a transactional approach. *Journal of Moral Education*, 36(2), 151-168.

- Öhman, Johan & Östman, Leif (2008). Clarifying the ethical tendency in education for sustainable development practice: A Wittgenstein-inspired approach. *Canadian Journal of Environmental Education*, 13(1), 57-72.
- Öhman, Johan (2006). Pluralism and criticism in environmental and sustainable education. *Environmental Education Research*, 12(2), 149-163.
- Sack, R (2010) *Geography as a Tool for Developing the Mind*. Lewiston: Edwin Mellen Press.
- Sedgewick, F (2012) *Learning Outside the Primary Classroom*. London: David Fulton.
- Smawfield, D (ed) (2013) *Education and Natural Disasters*. London: Bloomsbury
- Torbjörnsson, Tomas, Molin, Lena, Karlberg, Martin (2011): "Measuring three values that underlie sustainable development". *Utbildning och Demokrati*. Vol 20, No 1, pp 97-121.
- Vascellaro, S (2011) *Out of the Classroom and into the World*. New York: The New Press.

Curriculum news

Australia – final version of the National Curriculum for Geography for Australia will be published on December 13th on the ACARA website. <http://www.acara.edu.au/default.asp>

Germany - "Educational Standards in Geography for the Intermediate School Certificate - with sample assignments" is now online available in German and in English. The document can be downloaded for free by following this link: http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/media/archive2/pdf_englisch/german_educational_standards_geography_ed2.pdf

Sweden - From autumn 2011, a new curriculum (Lgr 11) was adopted by Swedish compulsory schools, including new course syllabi with clearer learning goals in terms of knowledge requirements, together with a new grading scale and mandatory grading starting in year six. The Government has also introduced national tests in **social studies** (geography, history, religion and civics) for years six and nine (from spring 2013). CURRICULUM FOR THE COMPULSORY SCHOOL: <http://www.igu-cge.org/newsletters/annex/GEOGRAPHY%20CURRICULUM%20FOR%20THE%20COMPULSORY%20SCHOOL.pdf>

Other links: http://www.skolverket.se/om-skolverket/publicerat/visa-enskid-publikation?_xurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww5.skolverket.se%2Fwtpub%2Fws%2Fskolbok%2Fwpubext%2Ftrycksak%2FRecord%3Fk%3D2687

UK – see the Geographical Association website (www.geography.org.uk) for details of the new English Geography Curriculum Proposals.

USA - The Geography Education National Implementation Project (GENIP) has recently released the 2nd edition of National Geography Standards. GENIP is a steering committee of representatives from the four major U.S. geography organizations: the American Geographical Society; the Association of American Geographers; the National Council for Geographic Education, and the National Geographic Society. The document represents U.S. geography education community consensus around what it means to be a geographically informed person in the 21st century, the essential content knowledge students should acquire by grade band, and the skills required to “do geography”. *Geography for Life: National Geography Standards*, 2nd Edition (2012) is available from the National Council for Geographic Education [online store](#).

Concluding comments from the Hon Sec and Joint Chairs

We hope that you have enjoyed the first Newsletter of the new Commission. We are keen for the newsletter to act as a catalyst for sharing news about geography education around the world and for the newsletter to work in tandem with the IGU-CGE website to spread news about the great work going on in geography education. Therefore we would really value your comments, suggestions and feedback. In particular, please feel free to email us about:

- your reactions to the new format of the newsletter and its contents,
- any information you may have about new initiatives in the field of geography education from around the world,
- any colleagues who you think would appreciate being involved in the IGU-CGE network (or would like to receive the newsletter and other updates)

Finally, as the Gregorian calendar year of 2012 draws to an end, we wish all of you the very best for the year ahead!

*Clare Brooks - Hon Sec
John Lidstone & Joop van der Schee – Joint Chairs*

Contact us directly: igucge@gmail.com
IGU-CGE Website: <http://www.igu-cge.org/>