

**International Geographical Union
Commission on Geographical Education
2008-2012**

Newsletter #5, August 2010

August 31st, 2010

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1. Introduction from the Honorary Secretary

Welcome to the second *Newsletter* of 2010. This *Newsletter* contains a wealth of information about conferences to be held later in 2010 and during 2011, as well as in 2012, 2013 and beyond. Please check through the IGU CGE Conferences and Symposia to note those you are able to plan ahead to attend. Our Chair, Professor Lex Chalmers provides an overview of recent events and activities, not the least of which has been the revision to the mailing list to which we send the *Newsletter*. Please do let me know if there are colleagues we can add to the mailing list, perhaps new members in your department or others you meet at conferences interested in our activities.

We have several reports of research activities. Please do keep sending these to me. It is vital that we keep each other informed about the research in geographic education that we are engaged in. This is also the case with curriculum developments in geography. It is important that we know what is happening around the world to geography, whether it is the challenges that geographic education has faced in Italy, the developments that are taking place to promote geography in the national curriculum in Australia, or the revisions to the Geography Standards in the USA. A summary of the key points and website addresses will be invaluable to colleagues.

I try to include as much of the information sent to me as I can in the *Newsletter*. Sometimes this is not possible because I am provided with too little detail and there is not time to have a dialogue with the informant to gather that detail. My apologies to anyone whose items I have not been able to include this time. So, do please send me full information. The way items are presented in this *Newsletter* will give you an idea of what it is helpful to receive. If you are in doubt, please email me in good time and ask me what would be most helpful to provide.

The next *Newsletter* is planned for mid-December 2010. Please keep providing items for it. Some come in very good time, and this helps a great deal, but submissions near the deadline are welcome too! We are particularly interested to hear about research in geographical education, curriculum and teaching developments, conferences that are being organized, new publications relevant to the field of geographical education (in any language), and other news and information that you would like to share with us. The section headings and content give you a guide.

An important item in this *Newsletter* is the request by Joop van der Schee that we complete the Questionnaire he has prepared about geography teaching. We are wanting to a brief overview of

each nation involved with the IGU CGE to put on our website. More information is included in section 6.1 and in Appendix A at the end of the *Newsletter*. Please do support his activity of our Commission.

Professor Simon Catling
sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk

2. From the IGU CGE Chair: Professor Lex Chalmers

It has been a busy (northern) summer for the Commission, with the Symposium in Turkey, the IGU regional conference in Israel, and our support for the IGU Task Force Olympiad in Taiwan. I have commented on each of these activities, and I also look at what we do between now and our meetings in Köln, Germany in 2012. I also note the opportunities we have to talk about our research and publications.

2.1 Review of the IGU CGE Newsletter Mailing List.

The Newsletter goes out this time to a good number of new corresponding members. We are pleased to have completed a review of our mailing list, and to have identified so many new colleagues. In alphabetic order, the following countries now have 10 or more corresponding members: Australia, Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States. For information, membership is free (contact Simon Catling at: sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk). We have a website that shows what we do (see: <http://www.igu-cge.org/>). And we publish three Newsletters a year.

2.2 IGU CGE Symposium in Turkey. (8th-10th July, 2010)

The prospect of a Commission meeting in Turkey had been mooted since the IGU Congress in Tunisia in 2008. We were lucky that Professor John Lidstone agreed to act as the Commission liaison person, and that we found a venue and colleague who ensured a successful and productive symposium. Dr Ali Demirci and Fatih University provided the resources and organisation necessary for the symposium. Fatih overlooks Büyükçekmece Lake and the Sea of Marmara in western Istanbul, 30 kilometres from the historic centre of the city. The working sessions of the conference saw more than 50 papers presented in parallel sessions, keynote presentations and workshops over the two days. Our hosts did not overlook our social and cultural needs. There was a tour of Istanbul, a formal dinner and a cruise with dinner on the Bosphorus. Our thanks go to Ali and to the Turkish Geographical Society for hosting the Commission so well.

2.3 IGU Regional Conference in Israel. (12th-16th July, 2010)

The Commission programme was framed within the IGU Regional Conference using the theme 'Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World'. The venue for the Conference was the Dan Panorama Hotel in coastal Tel Aviv. Ken Foote, Janice Monk and Michael Solem organised a panel on post-graduate education to open the programme (see section 5.2). We ran a panel meeting for local teachers to share experiences in teaching and learning geography. There were 30 papers presented in sessions over two days. Michael Solem also organised a workshop featuring international collaboration in the digital age. Our thanks go to Michael Sofer for organising our activities within the Conference, and for connecting us with colleagues in secondary geography and the Ministry of Education.

2.4 IGU Future conferences.

As corresponding members will be aware, the IGU has moved to have three rather than one regional conference between the four-yearly IGU Congresses. The Köln Congress in 2012 will be followed by meetings in Kyoto (2013), Krakow (2014), Moscow (2015), and Beijing in 2016. In the

Tel Aviv IGU plenary sessions the organisers of the next two IGU meetings were invited to present their plans to delegates

(a) Santiago Regional Conference meeting, 14th-18th November, 2011. There was a presentation from the Chair of the Organising Committee, Coronel Juan Vidal Huidobro (Director of the Instituto de Geografia Militar, Santiago, Chile). He outlined the activities and facilities of the Institute of Military Geography, which will host the 2011 meeting. He spoke about the conference, details of which are constantly updated, and can be found at: <http://www.igi2011.cl>. The venue for the Conference is the Liberator Bernardo O'Higgins Military School. Plenary sessions are planned, and these will relate to the conference slogan 'United and Integrated with the World'. They will be given by figures of international standing, invited as keynote speakers. Commissions and Task Forces of the IGU are invited to hold conference and coordination meetings. Some discussions have taken place already within the Commission, and we will have some preliminary plans to the local organizers by October 1st, 2010.

(b) Köln International Congress, 26th-30th August, 2012. Frauke Kraas outlined the plans for the IGU Congress to be held in Köln from 26th to 30th August 2012. The Congress will have the theme 'Down to Earth'. The intention is to have a strong scientific programme, but to keep in mind the general theme of being well grounded and practical. For example, the Local Organising Committee decided to go 'back to the University' to reduce fees and encourage young participants and those from developing economies. The choice also maximizes cost efficiency and willingness to transcend boundaries. The website of the Köln Congress is at: www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?folder_id=41&ses_id=4171ddccb9e9ada8e0ca2be517c0bded

2.5 Commission meetings.

The Commission has previously organised Symposia before IGU Conferences and Congresses. This is straightforward where there is a strong national organisation (e.g. Richard's Bay, Durban, 2002, and Jordan Hill, Glasgow, 2004) and a local organising committee that can make the necessary arrangements. One of the key functions of these meetings is for the Commission to meet local teachers. Some information is given in section 3.3 below. We hope to provide more details about a Commission meeting in Germany in our December *Newsletter*.

Outside of the IGU meetings, the Commission has been advised of the XIVth Congress of the Russian Geographical Society. There is a geographical education theme in this Congress, and simultaneous translation services. The Conference is in Saint-Petersburg, between 22 and 26th November 2010. The English version of the Conference website is accessible from <http://int.rgo.ru/>. More details may be available from Kseniya Ivanenko (kseniya.ivanenko@rgo.ru) of the International Relations and Protocol Department in the Russian Geographical Society.

Good progress has also been made with the organisation and promotion of the IGU CGE sponsored UK Geographical Education Conference to be run immediately after the Geographical Association Annual Conference in April, 2011 (see section 3.1).

2.6 IGU Task Force Olympiad. (Taipei, 31st July – 6th August).

The Commission has always been a key supporter of the International Geography Olympiad. This year, the Task Force decided to hold the Olympiad in Taipei, Taiwan, rather than in Tel Aviv, Israel. Professor Su-Min Shen chaired the local Organising Committee and organised an excellent event with participation by 27 countries. There were four first time participants in 2010: Denmark, Croatia, Hong Kong and Singapore. The event was well run, the venue was good, and the social activities and supporting field excursions were excellent.

The examinations (or “events”) were organised in a well-rehearsed format. There was a written response examination in which participants had to answer six questions in three hours on the basis of the resources provided. This was followed by field cartography and a geographical analysis around the issue of nature reserves in areas of intense competition for urban land. The final examination was a multi-media event where each student answered (Powerpoint) questions on an individual computer.

The results demonstrated excellence and also the small margins between our best young geographer scholars. Singapore and Australia led the team scores, with Ion-Alexandru Barbu (Romania) topping the individual standings. Three young women won gold medals despite the significant numerical dominance of young men.

The website created for the iGEO can be viewed at:

<http://promotinggeog.geo.ntnu.edu.tw/iGeo2010taipei/english.htm>

2.7 Promotion of research and scholarship in Geographical Education.

A number of colleagues have spoken about the good value of the meetings organised by the Commission, but have asked for more quality assured evidence of the research that underpins presentations at these meetings. Our primary publication outlet is *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education*. At both July 2010 conferences Professor John Lidstone and Professor Joe Stoltman (editors of IRGEE) made strong cases for us to cite and promote our journal more vigorously, and we should do this, of course. We will also seek to strengthen the links to the journal from our website, and encourage those who have collective research projects to report on the progress of this work through the Journal. Outside the journal, Simon Catling, our Honorary secretary and *Newsletter* Editor (sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk) is always keen to hear about significant publications in Geographical Education, and to list these in our *Newsletter* (see section 8 below).

Lex Chalmers
Chair, IGU Commission on Geographical Education
University of Waikato
Hamilton, New Zealand

3. CGE Sponsored Geography Education Conferences

There are a number of IGU and Commission sponsored Conferences planned over the next few years. Information about these is provided below. As more details become available these will be included in future *Newsletters* and on the commission’s website. Please keep me informed. Where you can please provide the detail that is given below about the London 2011 IGU CGE Symposium.

3.1 IGU CGE Symposium, London, United Kingdom, 2011

The British Committee of the IGU CGE are organising a Symposium in the heart of London, UK, to follow on from the Geographical Association’s Annual Conference (April 15th-16th, 2011 at the University of Surrey).

Date: April 18th-20th, 2011.

Venue: Institute Of Education, University of London, London, United Kingdom.

Theme: ‘ Curriculum Making in Geography’.

An outline of the Symposium theme is given on the website.

Website: www.igu-cge-uk.webs.com/londonsymposium2011.htm

Symposium sub-themes: The Symposium covers the full educational age range for geographical and environmental education: early years, primary school, secondary school, further education and high education, and lifelong learning. The sub-themes are:

- Curriculum development in and affecting geography locally and nationally;
- School, college and classroom curriculum planning in geography;
- Professional development for teachers of geography;
- Developing and good practices in areas of geographical pedagogy;
- Key concepts and ideas for school, further and higher education geography;
- How curriculum experiences affect learning in geography;
- Curriculum and assessment in geography.

Papers in different cultural, social and political perspectives on curriculum making are welcome, including how it might be defined, thought about and put into practice.

Papers are also welcome in others aspects of curriculum, teaching and learning in geography related to the main theme of the Symposium. Papers on other topics in geographical education will be considered as well.

Fieldtrip: To the London Olympic site to see the development of the site and consider the nature and benefits of and issues concerning the regeneration of this area of east London. It will be led by Geographical Association President-elect for 2012-13, Bob Digby. Bob Digby is an expert on the London Olympics development and its impact and regularly leads fieldtrips to the site and area.

Symposium fees:

Early Bird Registration: £280.00 (up to January 7th, 2011)

Registration: £300.00 (up to April 10th, 2011)

Key dates and deadlines:

Call for papers: from August 2010, already on the website.

January 7th, 2011: Deadline for the submission of papers for Symposium Programme and Proceedings Book.

January 7th, 2011: Deadline to pay Early Bird Registration fee.

March 15th, 2011: Posting of Programme on website.

April 10th, 2011: Deadline for full-cost Registration.

April 18th, 2011: Opening of Symposium, Conference Paper Presentations and Reception.

April 19th, 2011: Second day of Papers Presentations.

April 20th, 2011: Fieldtrip to the London Olympic site.

Accommodation:

Information on hotel and hostel accommodation is provided on the website.

Submitting Papers:

Papers are to be submitted by January 7th, 2011, using the usual conventions. Guidance on Paper submission is provided on the website.

Please visit the British Committee's website for more details on Registration and payment of fees, the submission of papers, information about accommodation, and other relevant matters.

3.2 IGU Regional Conference, Santiago, Chile, 2011,

A regional IGU Conference is to be held in Santiago, Chile in late 2011.

Date: November 14th-18th, 2011.

Venue: Liberator Bernado O'Higgins Military School, Santiago, Chile.

Theme: 'United and Integrated with the World'.

Further information on the conference, its organization and sub-themes can be found on the website.

Website: www.igi2011.cl

Consideration is being given to a Commission Symposium, possibly prior to the regional conference. More details will be provided as they become available. Please check the Commission's website and future *Newsletters*.

3.3 IGU CGE Symposium, Freiburg Germany, 2012

An IGU CGE Symposium is to be held immediately before the IGU's 32nd Congress in Freiburg, Germany.

Venue: University of Education, Freiburg, Germany.

Date: August 22nd-25th, 2012.

Theme: 'Experience-based learning in geography indoors and outdoors'

Website: This will become available in the near future. Please check the Commission's website and future *Newsletters*.

A group of scholars (Hartwig Haubrich, Sibylle Reinfried, Yvonne Schleicher and Gregor Falk) are engaged in planning a pre-conference of the IGU-CGE prior to the International Congress, from August 22nd-25th, 2010, at the University of Education in Freiburg (Germany). The conference will focus on issues of 'Experience-based learning in geography indoors and outdoors'. The program will include scientific sessions, a rich social programme and field trips in and around Freiburg.

3.4 32nd IGU International Congress, Köln, Germany, 2012

The 32nd IGU Congress will be held in Köln, Germany, at the end of August 2012.

Date: August 26th-30th, 2012.

Venue: University of Cologne, Köln, Germany.

Theme: 'Down to Earth'

The 32nd International Geographical Congress will 'focus scientific attention on the core themes of humanity'. Further information on the conference, its organization and sub-themes will become available on the website.

Website: www.Cologne2012.de

Key dates:

Reduced Congress Registration Fees: up to March 10th, 2012.

Registration for the Congress and the fieldtrips: up to May 15th, 2012.

Last opportunity for Congress Registration: July 31st, 2012.

As at previous IGU Congresses and Regional Conferences, there will be Commission sessions during the Congress.

3.5 IGU Regional Conference, Kyoto, Japan, 2013

The announcement has been made for the IGU Regional Conference will be held at Kyoto, Japan, in 2013.

Date: August 4th-9th, 2013.

Venue: Kyoto International Conference Centre, Kyoto, Japan.

Theme: 'Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth's Future'.

It is planned that the conference will include Commission and task force presentations and papers between August 5th and 9th. There will be Post-Conference Fieldtrips from August 10th.

Please check the IGU website for further information.

4. Other Geography Symposia and Conferences of Interest

A number of conference on subjects related and relevant to geography and geographical education are taking place in the near future.

4.1 Spaces of Difference Conference, Milan, Italy, 2010

Venue: Università di Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy

Dates: October 20th to 21st, 2010

The key themes in the conference are:

- Public spaces and social control
- Wrong bodies: Space and LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer)
- Disrupting the order
- Spaces and marginalisation
- Urban space and difference

For further information on the Conference contact Stefano Malatesta:
stefano.malatesta@unimib.it

4.2 Green Education International Event, Karlsruhe, Germany, 2010

Date: October 27th-29th, 2010.

Venue: Karlsruhe, Germany.

Theme: 'Greening Education'

Website: <http://www.etechgermany.com/IGEE2010.pdf>

A three-day International Event on Greening Education will be held from 27th to 29th of October 2010 in the "green" city of Karlsruhe, Germany. This event will take academia, education and environmental policy makers, senior members of academic institutions, representatives of government and non-governmental organisations and international development agencies, teachers and school administrators, sustainable development and environmental management professionals and other stakeholders through the need for greening education and discuss effective initiatives that can be taken to translate "education for sustainability" in to actions.

The Event involves knowledge sharing on 'greening education' and includes topics such as ecologizing the curriculum (incorporating sustainability), the greening of courses and creating low carbon education institutions. The Event provides an excellent networking opportunity with academia, sustainable development practitioners and other stakeholders in Europe and beyond.

An optional excursion is planned for Saturday October 30th, 2010, which will provide an additional and informal networking opportunity.

You are cordially invited to attend this International Event and/or to nominate the member(s) of your institution to attend. For further information, please see the 'event details' section of the website.

Organizing Committee, International Greening Education Event

4.3 XIV Congress of the Russian Geographical Society, Saint-Petersburg, Russia, 2010

Date: November 22nd-26th, 2010.

Venue: Saint-Petersburg, Russia.

Website: <http://int.rgo.ru/> [English language version of the Congress website.]

Please see the website for more details of the Congress. You may also contact Keeniya Ivanenko at: kсениya.ivanenko@rgo.ru. There is a geographical education theme in the Congress. Simultaneous translation services will be available.

4.4 The Fifth Session of the International Conference, Geotunis, Tunis, Tunisia, 2010

Dates: Tunisia from 29 November to 03 December 2010.

Venue: Elgazada Pole of Communication Technologies, Tunis, Tunisia.

Conference Theme: 'The use of GIS and remote sensing for sustainable development'.

Website: www.geotunis.org

The Tunisian Association of Digital Geographic Information is organising, in cooperation with several scientific institutions and companies in GIS and remote sensing, the Fifth Session of the International Conference Geotunis 2010. A wide range of papers will be presented. A Geotechnology fair will be held. For Registration and Programme information visit the Geotunis website.

Participation is open to all those who are involved in GIS and remote sensing and the related sciences. Please do not delay your registration and participation at this most important international gathering dealing with GIS and remote sensing uses and applications. Your participation will support scientific and technical exchanges amongst experts, scientists and specialists.

Mohamed Ayari,
President of the Association and President of the Conference.

4.5 German Association of University Lecturers in Geography Symposium, Ludwigsburg, Germany, 2011

Date: April 7th-8th, 2011.

Venue: University of Education, Ludwigsburg, Germany.

Theme: 'Spatial orientation, maps and geo-information in education'.

Website: http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/images/content/pdf/Call-for-Papers_HGD-Ludwigsburg-2011.pdf

Please go to the website for further information on the Symposium.

4.6 European Association of Geographers Congress, Athens, Greece, 2011

Date: June 2nd-5th, 2011.

Venue: Titania Hotel, Athens, Greece.

Theme: 'Geography: Your World – A European Perspective'.

Website: www.eurogeography.eu

We have the pleasure to announce that the European Association of Geographers – EUROGEO – in collaboration with the Laboratory of Geography of the National Technical University of Athens, Greece (NTUA), is organizing its annual meeting for 2011 in Athens, Greece. The scope of the Congress is for original and innovative papers to be presented which will substantially improve, in a theoretical, conceptual or empirical way, the quality of research, learning, teaching and application in geography, as well as in promoting the significance of geography as a discipline.

The deadline for abstract submission is: January 31st, 2011.

Further details will be published soon on the website, or email congress organizers at: eurogeomail@yahoo.co.uk

4.7 Conference Learning with Geoinformation VI, Salzburg, Austria, 2011

Date: July 5th-8th, 2011.

Venue: Salzburg, Austria.

Theme: "Geoinformation in Education"

Website: www.gi-forum.org/learning

Within the framework of AGIT 2011 and the international GI-Forum – being held at the same venue – and in cooperation with the *digital:earth:eu* network, we are offering a fully fledged track, themed around 'geoinformation in education'. The programme includes paper presentations, workshops, panel discussions and a poster exhibition. All submissions will be reviewed by an international panel, with accepted full papers being published in hard-copy conference proceedings. We invite contributions dealing with GI in education from primary to postsecondary education. Please find more information and a detailed CfP at the website shortly.

Stipends will be available for young researchers into the topic.

Key dates:

Online submission: December 1st, 2010 - February 1st, 2011.

Authors notification: March 15th, 2011.

Revised Papers: April 15th, 2011.

Thomas Jekel/Alfons Koller/Karl Donert/Robert Vogler, Organisers.

4.7 ESRI Users Conference, San Diego, USA, 2011

Date: July 9th-12th, 2011.

Venue: Hilton Hotel, San Diego Bayfront, California, USA

Theme: 'Putting Critical Thinking on the Map'.

Website: www.esri.com/educ

Please visit the website to view information on the 2011 conference.

4.8 National Conference on Geographic Education, Portland, USA, 2011

Date: August 1st-7th, 2011.

Venue: Portland, Oregon, USA.

Theme: 'Geographical education'

Website: <http://www.ncge.org>

For information about the Conference please go to the website.

4.9 Spatial Thinking and Geographic Information Sciences Conference, Tokyo, Japan, 2011

Date: September 14th-16th, 2011.

Venue: University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan.

Theme: 'Spatial Thinking and Geographic Information Sciences'.

Website: <http://curricula.csis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/stgis2011/>

This international conference is being organized by a team that is involved in a research project on GISc education and spatial thinking (GIScEST Project). The project deals with education curricula focused on Geographic Information Sciences and the development of spatial thinking through GISc education. This will be a joint conference with Spatial Simulation for the Social Sciences (S4). We hope to share our findings and world-leading research from our contributors with participants from all over the world.

The call for papers deadline is December 15, 2010. Please find additional information available on the website.

Professor Sarah Witham Bednarz
Texas A&M University

5. Conference Reports

5.1 IGU Regional Conference Panel Session on 'Rethinking Postgraduate Research In Geography', Tel Aviv, Israel, 2010

At the International Geographical Union Regional Congress held in Tel Aviv, Israel, in July, 2010, a well-attended panel session addressed 'Rethinking Postgraduate Education in Geography: International Perspectives on Improving Practice'. Organised by Ken Foote, Michael Solem and Jan Monk (USA), panelists included Sarah Bednarz (USA), Ruth Fincher (Australia), Joos Droogleever Fortuijn (Netherlands), Michael Meadows (South Africa), Joe Stoltman (USA) and

Doris Wastl-Walter (Switzerland). Each panelist holds a leadership position within their institution (Fincher and Meadows are also IGU Vice-Presidents). They brought their experiences to bear on contemporary challenges and opportunities for the discipline that are arising nationally and internationally in higher education. Among the themes considered were the implications of the Bologna Process in Europe, changing financial support for higher education, challenges of strengthening racial and ethnic diversity in the preparation of future professionals in geography, and working with international students. It is planned to develop a synopsis of the discussions for publication.

6. Research Developments Internationally

6.1 IGU CGE Geography Education Questionnaire

On behalf of the IGU CGE Joop van der Schee, Webmaster for our website, is undertaking a Questionnaire on the Teaching of Geography among our member countries. In **Appendix A**, at the end of this *Newsletter*, he writes an introductory letter about the purpose of the Questionnaire and asks you to complete it. The Questionnaire follows immediately after his letter. He has, very helpfully, included an example of how to complete the Questionnaire.

Lex Chalmers and I ask that you complete the Questionnaire for your country. Where there are several geography educators it would help if you can identify an individual or a group who can do this.

Please return the completed Questionnaire to Joop by December 1st, 2010. The intention is to put the information on our website.

6.2 'Strengthening the bonds between scientific literacy and human understanding' Australasian regional Project

Professor Margaret Robertson is the Project Leader for the IGU sponsored project, funded by the International Council of Science (ICSU, 2010) in conjunction with the Australian Academy of Science, entitled '*Strengthening the bonds between scientific literacy and human understanding: Local area networks help build cross-border solutions for disaster management*' (2010-11). This Project attracted funding to bring together a team of people in the Australasian region to produce a set of locally-based case study materials to use in schools and for professional development programmes. Outcomes will be reported at the IGU Regional Conference in Chile, November, 2011.

6.3 International Project on Young People Interacting within Online and Everyday Spaces

This cross-cultural project (2008-11) investigates the values and beliefs, views and visions of young people interacting within online and everyday spaces. Using a common methodology this Project brings together contributions from many IGU CGE colleagues, including from the following countries: Finland (Taina Kaivola and Hannele Rikkinen, University of Helsinki), United Kingdom (Molly Warrington and Sarah Shucksmith, Cambridge University), The Netherlands (Tine Beneker, Utrecht University), Singapore (Ivy Tan, NIE), Taiwan (Jeremy Chen, National Taiwan Normal University), Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City University), United States of America (Osvaldo Muniz, Texas State University). The findings will be reported in a book publication due early 2011:

Robertson, M. & Tani, S. (eds) (2011), *Young People: Views and Visions*, ACER Press

For details please email Professor Margaret Robertson at m.robertson@latrobe.edu.au or Professor Sirpa Tani at Sirpa.Tani@helsinki.fi

6.4 GI in Schools Project: digitalearth.eu, Austria

A Center for Teaching and Learning Geography and Geoinformatics has recently been established in Salzburg, Austria, entitled digital.earth.at. It is a cooperation between Salzburg University's Centre for Geoinformatics, Salzburg University of Education and the GIScience Institute, Austrian Academy of Sciences.

digital.earth.at aims at exploring new pedagogies for the use of geospatial media in Geography teaching, creating spatial awareness and spatial literacy, and to stimulate spatial thinking. School events like the GIS Day and media creation projects, teacher trainings and scientific conferences are organized in order to research and exchange experiences in innovative geography teaching.

For further information see: <http://www.digitalearth.at>

As a new teacher network, digitalearth.eu will be supported by the European Commission. The project aims to connect schools and teacher educators who are using GeoInformation and GeoMedia in the classroom, to examine the 'state-of-the-art' and to share information, ideas and resources. The project will start in early 2011, and its first major event will take place in Salzburg, Austria in early July 2011 (see section 4.6 above). If you would like to be involved further details are available at: <http://www.eurogeography.eu/digital-earth.html>

To join the mailing list for further information, please contact Michaela Lindner-Fally at: michaela.lindner@sbq.ac.at

6.5 News from the University of Teacher Education Central Switzerland, Lucerne, Switzerland

Armin Rempfler has received funding for conducting a study (including 18 teachers and 600 students) concerning system competence in geography education. Research questions concern the development of effective teaching materials that foster system competence.

Sibylle Reinfried and a team of hydrologists started a research project that concerns 'Springs and high mountain hydrology in education'. The project relates to the fact that many Swiss mountain cantons depend majorly on spring water as drinking water, while spring water is coming more and more under pressure from pollution or hydro-energy generation. The project is funded by the Swiss consortium 'Netzwerk Wasser im Berggebiet' (www.netzwerkwasser.ch), which includes energy companies, the tourist industry and cantonal administrations.

6.6 Research news from ESRI

Joseph Kerski of ESRI reports that they are maintaining a GIS and Spatial Thinking Bibliography, which currently contains over 1,300 entries. It can be viewed on the ESRI website under 'communities, education researchers' at: <http://edcommunity.esri.com>.

7. Curriculum and Teaching Developments

7.1 Interdisciplinary Centre for Outdoor Education, Switzerland

Professor Sibylle Reinfried reports that the departments of Geography, History and Science at the University of Teacher Education, Central Switzerland, Lucerne, are building up an interdisciplinary centre for outdoor education that will be concerned with research, education and development. The relevant website is: (<http://www.luzern.phz.ch/ausserschulischeslernen/>).

7.2 GEOCOM Project, Switzerland

Professor Reinfried reports that about 20 colleagues from Germany and one from Switzerland have been working for two years on a project named GEOCOM. The project aims at in-depth research of competences stated in the German national educational standards in Geography. Major foci of the research concern, for example, 'working with maps' and 'system thinking/system competence'. The group wants to develop models of competence structure and development and evaluate them empirically. First results have recently been published in the German journal *Geographie und ihre Didaktik - Journal of Geography Education*, 2010, issue 3.

7.3 ViaStoria-Centre of Transport History

Professor Reinfried reports that The School of Teacher Education at the University of Applied Sciences in Bern (PH Bern), Switzerland, is engaged as a partner of the 'ViaStoria – Centre of Transport History' (www.viastoria.ch) in developing of lecturing materials for schools on the topic of historical traffic routes. Historical traffic routes in Switzerland have been renovated and are now employed as tourist hiking routes (www.cultural-routes.ch). The materials will be published soon by the Swiss publisher h.e.p.

7.4 Geography in the education system in England

Professor Simon Catling reports that the outcome of the May 2010 General Election in England was a new Coalition Government of the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrat Party. One of the first acts of the new Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, was to confirm that the proposed new Primary School Curriculum would not go ahead (as indicated in Newsletter #4, April 2010). He announced that there will be a full review of the National Curriculum in England (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own education departments and curriculum structures). This will include geography. It has not yet been set up. It remains unclear what will happen to geography and all the other subjects in future. However, for at least the next two years, the 2000 National Curriculum requirements still apply to all state primary schools, and the 2008 National Curriculum for younger secondary school students, including geography, will remain in place and apply to those school which are not exempted from it.

7.5 Future publication on GIS in secondary education

Joseph Kerski of ESRI is preparing with two colleagues a book on GIS in secondary Education.

8. New Publications

8.1 English language Book publications

- Anthony, D. (2009), *The State of the World's Children: Special Edition Celebrating 20 Years of the Convention of the Rights of the Child*, New York: UNICEF.
- Bilton, H. (2010), *Outdoor Learning in the Early Years* (3rd edition), London: David Fulton.
- Corcoran, P. & Osano, P. (eds.) (2009), *Young People, Education and Sustainable Development*, Wageningen: Wageningen Academic Publishers.
- Davies, J. (ed.) (2010), *Young Children and the Environment: Early Education for Sustainability*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- de Block, E. & Buckingham, D. (2007), *Global Children, Global Media: Migration, Media and Childhood*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Dolins, F. & Mitchell, R. (eds.) (2010), *Spatial Cognition, Spatial Perception*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gaylie, V. (2009), *The Learning Garden: Ecology, Teaching and Transformation*, New York: Peter Lang.
- Hopkins, P. (2010), *Young People, Place and Identity*, London: Routledge.
- Khan, R. (2010), *Critical Pedagogy, Ec literacy and Planetary Crisis*, New York: Peter Lang.

- Knight, S. (2009), *Forest Schools and Outdoor Learning in the Early Years*, London: Sage.
- Lieten, G. (2008), *Children, Structure and Agency: Realities across the Developing World*, London: Routledge.
- Nikopolou, A., Abraham, T. & Mirbagheri, F. (eds.) (2010), *Education for Sustainable Development: Challenges, Strategies and Practices in a Globalising World*, New Delhi: Sage.
- Schmeinck, D. (ed.) (2010), *Teaching Geography in and for Europe*, Berlin: mbvberlin.
- Schmeinck, D., Knecht, P., Kosack, W., Lambrinos, N., Musumeci, M. & Gatt, S. (2010), *Through the Eyes of Children: The implementation of a European Dimension by Peer Learning in Primary School*, Berlin: mbvberlin.
- Scoffham, S. (ed.) (2010), *Primary Geography Handbook* (revised edition), Sheffield: Geographical Association.
- Wilson, R. (2008), *Nature and Young Children: Encouraging Creative play AND Learning in Natural Environments*, London: David Fulton.
- Wolley, R. (2010), *Tackling Controversial Issues in the Primary School*, London: Routledge.

8.2 Non-English language Book publications

Reinfried, S. (ed.) (2010), *Schülervorstellungen und geographisches Lernen. Aktuelle Conceptual-Change-Forschung und Stand der theoretischen Diskussion* [Students' Conceptions and Learning in Geography: Recent conceptual change-research and the state of the theoretical discussion], Berlin: Logos Verlag.

I plan to list more publications concerning and related to geographical education in the December Newsletter. Please send details of publications to me.

9. Journals

9.1 European Journal of Geography Call for Papers

The European Journal of Geography is seeking unpublished manuscripts for its 2011 issues. The Author Guidelines can be found at: <http://www.eurogeography.eu/journal/journal-author-guidelines.doc>

For further information please contact the Editor in Chief: Professor Kostis Koutsopoulos at koutsop@survey.ntua.gr

Karl Donert, President of EUROGEO

10. Other News

10.1 Access to the German Association of University lecturers in Geography website in English

The German Association of University Lecturers in Geography translated their website into English. It is available at: <http://compute.ku-eichstaett.de/hgd/news>

Professor Sibylle Reinfried

10.2 2011 Barbara Petchenik Children's World Map Competition

The ICA Commission on Cartography and Children is organizing the Barbara Petchenik 2011 World Map Competition. The rules for the Competition will be circulated in September 2010, included in the Commission on Cartography and Children's *Newsletter*.

If you do not see this and want to know more about it please email the Commission's Co-Chair Jesus Reyes at: jesus@map.elte.hu.

APPENDIX A

IGU CGE Geography Education Questionnaire

Amsterdam, August 31th, 2010.

Dear colleagues,

Would it not be nice to have information about geography teaching in different countries in the world available on the web? It will not only give an overview but it can also inspire us. The IGU Commission on Geographical Education supports the idea to collect this information on its website.

As webmaster of www.igu-cge.org I invite you to fill in the questionnaire below and email it to me before December 1th, 2010. To help you a bit I have attached the answers for The Netherlands.

Perhaps you cannot answer the questions. Please ask a colleague in your country to help you.

Together we can build a very interesting new part of our website.

On behalf of many colleagues involved in geography teaching thanks in advance!

Yours,
Joop van der Schee
Webmaster IGU-CGE
VU University Amsterdam
Tel. +31 20 5989213
j.vanderschee@ond.vu.nl

IGU CGE Geography Education Questionnaire

Country:

Name respondent:

Email address respondent:

1. What is the aim of geography in primary education in your country?
2. What is the aim of geography in secondary education in your country?
3. What is the average number of hours of geography teaching in primary education in your country?
4. What is the average number of hours of geography teaching in secondary education in your country?
5. What are the most important themes in primary geography teaching in your country?
6. What are the most important themes in secondary geography teaching in your country?
7. What is the position of geography in the upper levels of secondary education in your country?
8. What is the biggest problem for geography teaching in your country?
9. Mention one or more good practices or very successful projects of geography teaching in your country.
10. Mention research projects in the field of geography teaching in your country.
11. Mention publications or websites with information in English about geography teaching in your country.
12. Mention contact addresses for information about geography teaching in your country.

IGU CGE Geography Education Questionnaire

An example of the completed Questionnaire for The Netherlands

Country: The Netherlands

Name respondent: Joop van der Schee

Email address respondent: j.vanderschee@ond.vu.nl

1. What is the aim of geography in primary education in your country?

Enhancing to develop a view at the world nearby and far away

2. What is the aim of geography in secondary education in your country?

Enhancing global understanding and citizenship by a study of man-nature relationships nearby and far away

3. What is the average number of hours of geography teaching in primary education in your country?

10 years old: one hour every week

11 years old: one hour every week

12 years old: one hour every week

In 90% of the schools geography is a separate subject

4. What is the average number of hours of geography teaching in secondary education in your country?

13. years old: two hours every week

14. years old: two hour every week

15. years old: half an hour every week

In 70% of the schools geography is a separate subject. At vocational schools geography is often part of an integrated civics curriculum

5. What are the most important themes in primary geography teaching in your country?

topography, maps and atlases

water

different place and different life

world distribution of climate, landscapes, population and culture

6. What are the most important themes in secondary geography teaching in your country?

water

climate

energy

population and space

rich and poor

frontiers and identity

sustainability

geographical skills

7. What is the position of geography in the upper levels of secondary education in your country?

Geography is optional for 75% of the students in the upper levels of secondary education. The number of students with geography in the upper levels of secondary education is decreasing.

8. What is the biggest problem for geography teaching in your country?
- *Since 2007 geography is not compulsory anymore in the upper levels of secondary education.*
 - *Media and politics give more attention to history than to geography.*
 - *Level of geography of teachers in primary education is too low.*
9. Mention one or more good practices or very successful projects of geography teaching in your country.
- *Leren denken met aardrijkskunde (Dutch version of David Leat's Thinking Through Geography)*
 - *EduGIS (www.edugis.nl), a national portal for primary and secondary education (in Dutch only)*
 - *Digischool geography, a national digital platform for teachers to exchange geography materials (in Dutch only)*
10. Mention research projects in the field of geography teaching in your country.
- *Tim Favier – a design research project to help to introduce GIS in the upper level of secondary education*
 - *Katie Oost – how to organise fieldwork for vocational schools successfully?*
 - *Henk Notté – developing an adaptive test for geography*
 - *Marian Blankman- improving the quality of geography teacher training courses for primary education*
 - *Adwin Bosschaart – how to improve water education and risk perception of secondary school students?*
11. Mention publications or websites with information in English about geography teaching in your country.
- WILDSCHUT, H. & J. VAN DER SCHEE (2007) Searching for Strategies to Help Students to Structure Their Geographical Research Papers in a Domain Specific Way. *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education* 16 (4), pp. 351-366.
 - SCHEE, J. VAN DER & S. LANGIUS (2008) Dutch Children's Understanding of Place, Society, Environment, their World and the Future. In R. Gerber & M. Robertson (eds.) *Children's Lifeworlds: Locating Indigenous*.
 - FAVIER, T. & J. VAN DER SCHEE (2009) Learning geography by combining fieldwork with GIS. *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education* 18 (4) (in press)
12. Mention contact addresses for with information about geography teaching in your country.

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