

International Geographical Union Commission on Geographical Education 2008-2012

Newsletter #3, December 2009

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1. Introduction from the Honorary Secretary

Welcome to our third Newsletter of 2009. It appears as some colleagues are preparing for the conference in January in Waikato, New Zealand. While some are about to take the mid-winter break between semesters in the northern hemisphere, others have their inter-year break in the southern hemisphere. As I write this introduction we have warnings and slight flurries of snow as well as some heavy snowfalls in various parts of England. Since it is approaching the time of the Christian celebration of Christmas, and the time to move from one year to the next, may I wish you season's greetings and very best wishes for the coming year. I trust that 2010, heralding the second decade of the twenty-first century, will be a good one for you and for your work in geographical and environmental education.

I plan to work on the next Newsletter in March 2010. Please keep me informed about developments in geography education in your part of the World. I am quite happy to receive information for the Newsletter when you can send it to me, rather than have you wait until I ask for material for it.

We are particularly interested in the variety of conferences being planned and to be held, research into all aspects of geographical and environmental education,

curriculum and teaching developments in different countries and states, new publications across the world, not just in English or French, and general news about activities and news in our disciplines.

I look forward to hearing from you.
Simon Catling

2. A Message from the CGE Chair: Lex Chalmers

Greetings from a warm summer in New Zealand.

My contribution to this Newsletter focuses on the core activities of the Commission – the meetings we arrange and the themes we research.

2.1 2009-2010 Meeting Programme

The Commission participated in a very successful conference in Tsukuba (Japan), and is looking forward to two more conferences in 2010 before the meeting at the IGU Regional Conference in Tel Aviv in July, 2010. These meetings, across the globe, continue to form a key part of our function; they are the outreach of our research in geographical education, and they provide a unique interface with local communities engaged in geographical education. Both of these activities are of equal value, and they are invariably complemented with local field trips and other activities that enrich our cultural understandings.

2.1.1 Tsukuba, Japan (hosted by Commission member Yoshiyasu Ida), 6-8 August, 2009. This conference was preceded by the Asia-Pacific Region Olympiad, won by Japan. The conference featured three days of keynote papers and paper presentations, at the International Congress Center in Tsukuba, with a field trip starting in Asakusa, and followed by dinner in Akihabara. In the conference, one notable feature was the keynote presentation by Yukio Himiyama on a distinctive map competition. The presentation highlighted the creative and stimulating cartography produced by young people for local environments and themes. The Commission on Geographical Education sponsored this competition in 2009. Our thanks to Yoshiyasu and his committee for organising an excellent conference in a most attractive venue.

2.1.2 Conferences and symposia during 2010

Information on three conferences or symposia due to take place in 2010 is given below in Section 4.

2.2 Research priorities

The Tsukuba conference discussed three matters of research interest that are now offered for comment by the Commission. Corresponding members are invited to send comments to the Honorary Secretary, Simon Catling at: sjcatling@brookes.ac.uk

2.2.1 Geographical Research statement and the reporting of outputs. The Commission encourages the reporting of research on the Geographical Education on the new website organised by Joop van der Schee at <http://www.igu-cge.org/>. Joop has indicated a wish to up-date our listings under “Publications”. Michael Williams, a long time contributor to research in geographical education, has asked that the

Commission prepare a statement on research in geographical education. This is something we should do and reference through more widely viewed portals such as Wikipedia. If you have views on this matter, please register these with Simon Catling, the Honorary Secretary of the Commission (sicatling@brookes.ac.uk).

While individual or group research work has always been the most respected form of output, collaborative and comparative research in geographical education is also important. At the Tsukuba meeting, Rob van den Vaart and Tine Beneker (Utrecht University) presented a list of 34 questions that could be used to survey young people's attitudes to matters of global concern. An obvious topic for such a survey is stimulated by the UN Copenhagen summit on climate change. A number of colleagues expressed interest in Rob and Tine's proposal at Tsukuba. Interest in this issue may be expressed to Rob at Utrecht. A valuable response from very many attending Tsukuba was support for the Commission carrying out collaborative research in areas like this.

2.2.2 Cartography and Geography. It was noted that the Geography Olympiad required both map making and map use skills, and that there was considerable variation in the work returned for assessment. Discussion focused on whether it would be possible to generate IGEO guidelines on map making and map use skills that could be used in the 2010 Olympiad in Taipei. Given that the IGEO has contact details for the 24 countries that participated in the 2008 event, it may be possible to survey and report on links between senior secondary curricula and the principles and practices of cartography. More broadly, this discussion could provide a research link to the International Cartographic Association (ICA). This option could be discussed in the virtual meeting of the Waikato conference in 2010.

2.2.3 Virtual meetings. Face to face meetings between all members of the Commission are rare, and open meetings that promote collaboration with the wider corresponding membership of the Commission are few and far between. These are often restricted to the IGU Congresses and Regional Conferences. During the past three years we have looked at ways we might have virtual meetings. Nationally we have good video conferences using the internet, but internationally time zones and technical compatibility are still unproven. Earlier this year we tried a virtual conference between San Marcos and Hamilton, and, while there were some issues, the experience was promising. Before Christmas, the details of a virtual meeting at the Waikato Conference on January 20, 2010 (local time) will be announced on the conference website. If you are interested in participating, please send an email with "Virtual meeting" in the subject line to Positiongeography@waikato.ac.nz.

3. A Message from Honorary Treasurer: Dr Michael Solem

3.1 Introduction of an Honorary Treasurer for the CGE

Traditionally the duties of Treasurer of the CGE have been within the role of the Honorary Secretary. In exploring how to manage the finances during later 2008 and into 2009 it became apparent that transferring funds to the UK was unhelpfully expensive, potentially costing the CGE around one-quarter of its annual income. Discussions between the Chair and the Honorary Secretary led to Dr Solem being invited to take on the role of Honorary Treasurer, so that funds remained based in the USA, where the IGU (our funding source) is based, until transfer to support conferences and any other agreed activities in other nations is required. This development was discussed and agreed at the meeting of the CGE Executive in

Tsukuba. It was felt to be a positive move, separating the roles of Honorary Secretary and treasurer. Dr Michael Solem was welcomed into the role.

3.2 IGU Commission on Geographical Education: Transfer of CGE Finances

The CGE's finances have been successfully transferred from an account in Australia to a checking account in the United States managed by CGE Honorary Treasurer Dr Michael Solem. As of 9 December 2009, the value of the account is USD \$6,782.54.

The CGE account is held at Wachovia Bank in Washington, D.C. As a "free checking" account, there is no minimum balance, no monthly service fee, and no Direct Deposit required for account maintenance. CGE will have unlimited check-writing privileges and free online banking under this account. Now that the account is in US \$, CGE can avoid currency conversion losses when processing checks in US dollars.

4. CGE Sponsored Geography Education Conferences

4.1. IGU CGE Regional Conference: Waikato, New Zealand: January 19-22, 2010

This Conference is hosted by Colin McLeay and Lex Chalmers (Commission member), and is titled: ***Positioning Geography: Strategic Issues in Geographical Education***. (<http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/PositioningGeography/>).

The focus is on strengthening links with local geographers, local commission meetings (Gender and Geography and Tourism), and professional contacts. There will be an on-line Commission meeting on 20 January (see Section 2.2.3 above) with an open agenda. The agenda will be complemented with topics documented on the Conference website, including cross-national comparative research in areas such as cartography and student views of global issues.

4.2 IGU CGE Regional Symposium: Fatih, Istanbul, Turkey, c.July 7-9 2010

This Conference is to be held at Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey. It is hosted by Ali Demirci, with John Lidstone (Commission member). The likely dates are 7-8 July, with a field trip on 9 July. The details of the meeting will be confirmed (before Christmas) and will be advised on the Commission website.

The primary purpose is for the Commission to engage for the first time with scholars in Geographical Education in Turkey. Registration according to the provisional organising committee (Demirci, Lidstone, Yilmaz and Donert) is likely to be between \$100 and \$150US.

4.3 IGU Regional Conference: Tel Aviv, Israel, July 12-16, 2010

It is to be held in Tel Aviv, Israel (Arnon Medzini and Lex Chalmers for the Commission). The IGU Regional Conference is organised by the Israeli National Commission for Geography. The Commission will be part of the Conference that will take place in Tel Aviv, July 12 – 16, 2010.

The central theme of the conference is ***Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World***. 300 word abstracts should be submitted to geography@targetconf.com, and are due

by 1 February, 2010. Please be sure to note that your paper is offered in "Geographical Education" sessions.

4.4 IGU conference in Cologne 2012

In 2012 the IGU conference will be held in Cologne. Sibylle Reinfried, Hartwig Haubrich and Yvonne Schleicher suggested to our colleagues Gregor Falk and Gurdrun Ringel from the Freiburg University of Teacher Education to hold a pre-conference Symposium there. A team consisting of these 5 scholars is now starting to make plans concerning the conference and a field trip. At the IGU conference in Cologne sessions in geography education and fieldtrips for geography educators are also planned. Our colleague Karl-Heinz Otto from the University of Münster has agreed to attend the meetings of the planning committee in Cologne.

5 The 8th International Geography Olympiad

The 8th International Geography Olympiad will be held in Taipei from 29 July to 4 August 2010. The invitation to participate (see below) has been sent to our past contacts.

If you are from a country that has not participated in the last couple of Olympiads, we hope that you will give consideration to this invitation and/or forward it to a suitable person in your country, especially if you already have a national geography competition.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information.

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8th International Geography Olympiad – Letter of invitation to participate

Dear Colleague

On behalf of the Geographical Society of China located in Taipei and the Department of Geography of the National Taiwan Normal University, it is my pleasure to invite your country to send a team to the 8th International Geography Olympiad (IGEO). This will be held in Taipei, Taiwan, from 29 July to 4 August 2010, under the auspices of the International Geographical Union Olympiad Task Force. The venue will be the Sacred Heart High School beside the Tanshui River.

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.

A country's team will be made up of four secondary school students between the ages of 16 and 19 years of age (inclusive) on 30 June 2010. Students must be selected through a national geography competition. They will be accompanied by two

adults who are involved in geographical education in their country, and who can speak and write English. Please also refer to the IGEO website for the updated statutes under which the IGEO operates (<http://www.geoolympiad.org/> look under 'What is GeoOlympiad?').

Countries are responsible for their own travel, visas and insurance. In addition, a contribution of TWD 12000 per person (c.a., 250 Euro per person at current exchange rates) is payable as a contribution to local expenses. (TWD = Taiwan New Dollars, currency converter <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>)

As well as the tests, the programme includes geographical poster presentations and a cultural function. Details of these will be sent to participating countries. Excursions will be arranged, including visiting the active fault sites of Chichi Earthquake, Palace Museum, Taipei 101 and night markets. An optional post-IGEO tour at your own cost will be arranged if enough countries are interested.

An outline of the draft programme and an application form can be downloaded from the website <http://www.geoolympiad.org/>. Scroll down the home page till you see the invitation to Taipei and there are links to these documents within the text.

Please return the application form by 4 January 2010 at the latest. Countries which took part in the 2006 or 2008 Olympiads will be automatically accepted for the 2010 IGEO if they apply by 4 January. Other countries will be allocated available places in order of the date of receipt of their application. The maximum number of teams that will be accepted for 2010 IGEO is 30.

If you need a formal written invitation to the IGEO, please email me the name, position and address of the person to whom the letter should be sent.

Please send the application form, and any queries about the Taipei Olympiad, to me. If you have general queries about the Olympiad, for instance about eligibility, those should go to the Secretariat. Please email them to Kath Berg at admin@rgsq.org.au.

We look forward to welcoming you to Taipei in 2010. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the geographical skills and understandings of your country's geography students, as well a reward for student excellence.

Yours sincerely,
Su-Min Shen

Local Organiser, International Geography Olympiad, Taipei 2010
Fax: 886-2-23691770; Email: tngc@deps.ntnu.edu.tw; Phone: 886-2-77341634

6. Other Geography Symposia and Conferences of Interest

6.1 The 2nd International Geography Symposium – Mediterranean Environment: Antalya, Turkey, June 2-5, 2010

The meeting is hosted by the Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir – Turkey from June 2nd to 5th, 2010. The purpose of this symposium is to share your, experiences, knowledge and research results about all aspects of geography, ecology, and environment in general. All papers presented at the symposium will be published in an abstract book and Symposium Proceeding Book. Selected papers will be published in a book/or journal by international publisher.

The call for abstracts and papers is now open. Abstracts will be accepted until 20 December 2009. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted to: geomed2010@deu.edu.tr

Be sure to register your details so that we can keep you informed of any developments and announcements as they are released. The language of the symposium will be English, no translations will be provided. For further information and updates about the symposium, please visit the Symposium website at: <http://web.deu.edu.tr/geomed2010>.

We look forward to welcoming you in Antalya, Turkey in June 2010.

Prof. Dr. H. C. Ibrahim Atalay
Chair of the Symposium-GEOMED2010

Topics/Themes of the Symposium

- Anthropocene
- Biogeography
- Biodiversity
- Climate and Climate Change
- Coastal Zone Management
- Cultural Ecology
- Desertification
- Ecosystems
- Environmental Geography
- Environmental History
- Geographical Information Science
- Geography&Environmental Education
- Geomorphology (all aspects)
- Hazards
- History and Philosophy of Geography
- Historical Geography
- Human-Environment Interactions
- Human Geography (all aspects)
- Integrated Basin Management (River,Lake)
- Land Degradation
- Land Use, Land Cover Change
- Mediterranean Ecosystems
- Mountain Environments
- Paleoenvironments
- Political Geography
- Protected Areas
- Remote Sensing
- Soils (Distribution, Landform-Vegetation Relations)
- Sustainability
- Tourism, Ecotourism, Geotourism
- Urban Geography
- Vegetation
- Waters (River, Lake, Sea)
- Wetlands

Key Dates

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Abstract Submission Deadline | December 20, 2009 |
| • Author Notification | January 10, 2010 |
| • Early Registration | March 31, 2010 |
| • Accommodation Reservation | March 31, 2010 |
| • Field trip fee Deadline | April 15, 2010 |
| • Submission of Full Articles | May 30, 2010 |
| • Geomed2010 Symposium | June 2-5, 2010 |

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6.2 ESD for English Language Teachers

There are opportunities to develop English language skills and understanding of Education for Sustainable Development.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY IN THE UK
Intensive English Language courses in the UK
Content and Language Integrated Learning and Education for Sustainability
13th-19th June 2010
Education for Sustainability for English Language Teachers
20th-26th June 2010

The need! The planet is facing a huge challenge of survival. To help people understand the key issues UNESCO has declared 2005-2014 the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) with the goal of integrating ESD throughout the whole of lifelong learning.

- For **English Language teachers**, ESD provides a **huge opportunity** to give an exciting and relevant context for language teaching.
- For those teaching **other subjects through English** (CLIL) sustainable development is probably already part of your subject content.

The purpose of the courses. Both courses aim to:

- give an understanding of how unsustainable our planet is – causes and solutions,
- provide training on how to teach sustainable development through English both during language and specific subject classes,
- give a greater experience of the English language in teaching and in everyday context.

Who are the courses for? Any teachers at **school, vocational, and adult education** levels. There will be a maximum of 15 people on each course

Where are the courses held? Both courses will be held in the attractive, historic medieval market town of Shrewsbury in England, the birthplace of Charles Darwin, close to the world heritage site of Ironbridge.

Who is running the courses? The two experienced course leaders are James Hindson and Aleksandra Zaparucha. James has a background in ESD and has written a number of publications on the subject and trained teachers in over twenty countries. Aleksandra is an English Language teacher from Poland and has written extensively on CLIL.

How much are the courses? The courses cost 1350 EURO each. This includes all accommodation and meals together with five full days teaching, two free books on ESD and CLIL and a training file. **Discounts** are available in the following situations: if you pay before the 31st December 2009, if you are a second person from the same school or college, if you are a member of a national English language teaching association.

Is funding available? We are currently placing the courses on the EU Comenius Grundtvig database. They should be listed there by the beginning of October. The deadline for applications for funding to attend under this scheme is the middle of January 2010. You can apply for the EU funding even though the courses are not yet listed. You can find addresses for your EU national Agency here -

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc1208_en.htm

How do you book? If you need more details on the courses then email us at senseandsustainability@googlemail.com or go the web site

<http://www.senseandsustainabilitytraining.co.uk/> where you can also download the booking form!

Aleksandra Zaparucha, Poland

6.3 SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

University of Cuenca, Cuenca, Ecuador

5-7 January 2010

<http://www.SustainabilityConference.com>

The International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability aims to develop a holistic view of sustainability, in which environmental, cultural and economic issues are inseparably interlinked. It works in a multi-disciplinary way, across diverse fields and taking varied perspectives in order to address the fundamentals of sustainability.

The Sustainability Conference is held annually in different locations around the world. The Conference was inaugurated in 2005 at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, USA. We are pleased to hold the 2010 Conference at the University of Cuenca, Cuenca, Ecuador. In 2011, the Sustainability Conference will be held 5-7 January at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand.

The 2010 Conference features the following Plenary Speakers:

- * Natarajan Ishwaran, UNESCO/University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
- * Lucía Astudillo Llor, ICOM/University of Cuenca, Cuenca, Ecuador
- * Katya Gonzalez Ripoll, Ministry of Culture, Bogota, Colombia
- * John M. Whiteley, University of California, Irvine, USA
- * Douglas Worts, Worldviews Consulting, Toronto, Canada

For more information about these Speakers, please visit the Conference website: <http://onsustainability.com/conference-2010/plenary-speakers>.

In addition to Plenary Presentations, the Conference includes Parallel Presentations by practitioners, teachers and researchers. We invite you to respond to the Conference Call-for-Papers. Presenters submit their written papers for publication in the refereed International Journal of Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability. If you are unable to attend the Conference in person, virtual registrations are also available which allow you to submit a paper for refereeing and possible publication in the Journal.

The deadline for the final round in the call for papers (a title and short abstract) is 15 December 2010. Proposals are reviewed within two weeks of submission. Full details of the Conference, including an online proposal submission form, may be found at the Conference website: <http://www.SustainabilityConference.com/>.

In 2011, the Sustainability Conference will be held 5-7 January at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand. Located on New Zealand's north Island, the city of Hamilton is an important centre for manufacturing, research and education. The University of Waikato includes the internationally recognized School of Maori and Pacific Development, which plays an important role in sustaining Maori culture. For more details on the 2011 Conference, please visit the Conference website: <http://onsustainability.com/conference-2011/>.

Lucia Astidillo
University of Cuenca, Cuenca, Ecuador
For the Advisory Board, International Conference and Journal on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability

7. Research Developments Internationally

7.1 Conceptual change research in the geosciences

Sibylle Reinfried (University of Teacher Education Central Switzerland) and Stephan Schuler (Ludwigsburg University of Teacher Education) built up a comprehensive

collection of international research papers on conceptual change research in the geosciences. The bibliography consists now of 317 references concerning empirical investigations and theoretical considerations in the field . The publications were categorized using appropriate keywords that help to find research papers relevant for the major sub-domains in the geosciences. Reinfried & Schuler analyzed the number of publications in each geoscience domain and could thus identify research deficits. The bibliography can be downloaded from www.ph-ludwigsburg.de/geographie

The results of the project are published under:

REINFRIED, S. & SCHULER S. (2009): Die Ludwigsburg-Luzerner Bibliographie zur Alltagsvorstellungsforschung in den Geowissenschaften – ein Projekt zur Erfassung der internationalen Forschungsliteratur. *Geographie und ihre Didaktik*, Vol. 37, 3, 120-135.

7.2 The Geoconcepts Research Project

Sibylle Reinfried, Benno Rottermann, Urs Aeschbacher and Erich Huber (all University of Teacher Education Central Switzerland) finished an empirical research project named GeoConcepts. The project examined the effects of a constructivist learning environment on lower secondary students' conceptual understanding of the greenhouse effect and global warming. The constructivist learning environment was developed according to principles of instructional psychology. Compared to a conventional instructional setting the constructivist learning environment cause a lasting conceptual change. The team received a grant to continue the project which will examine the individual learning processes underlying the observed conceptual change. The results of the pilot study preceding the project GeoConcepts are in press:

REINFRIED, S., ROTTERMANN, B., AESCHBACHER U. & HUBER, E. (2010, in press): Wirksamkeit einer lernpsychologisch optimierten Lernumgebung auf die Veränderungen von Schülervorstellungen über den Treibhauseffekt und die globale Erwärmung – *eine Pilotstudie Geographie und ihre Didaktik*, Vol. 38 (3).

7.3 Learning through the Environment Research Group

A new research group has been initiated at Stirling University, called LITE (Learning through the Environment). It has already received a small UK ESRC festival of science grant. The group's page can be reached via a link at: www.ioe.stir.ac.uk/research/projects/FestivalOfSocialScience/

Claire Whewell
Director of Learning and Teaching
The Stirling Institute of Education
The University of Stirling, UK

7.4 The Global Partnerships Research Project

Dr Fran Martin, University of Exeter, has secured ESRC funding in the UK for a 3-year research project titled: *Global Partnerships as sites for mutual learning: teachers' professional development through study visits'*. If anyone is interested in hearing more about the project, please contact Fran at: Fran.Martin@exeter.ac.uk

Project summary: Since 2000 schools in England have been actively encouraged by the government to establish a Global School Partnership. Some small-scale studies have shown that the impact of such partnerships on pupils' learning can be counterproductive to that which is intended. In particular, how pupils are supported in their responses to difference and to poverty is causing concern. A contributing factor is that many teachers lack the knowledge and experience required to adequately address issues of an intercultural and global nature that are integral to partnership

learning. One of the strategies for developing teachers' knowledge is North-South study visit programmes. No study to date has systematically investigated what and how professionals from both countries learn from North-South study visits or the relationship between this learning and their practice over time. The study aims to investigate what teachers learn from these study visits, and how they make use of what has been learnt back in their own educational settings, giving equal weight to the learning of both northern and southern partners. The research has been devised within an interpretive paradigm and the collaborative, participatory approaches aims to mirror the mutual learning processes that are central to the two courses being investigated.

7.5 Comparing Geographical Curricula Across Europe

Stefano Malatesta and colleagues in the Dipartimento di Scienze Umane per la Formazione "Riccardo Massa", Università Bicocca-Milano are planning a research program for 2010-11. The general aim is to develop a comparative reading among different geographical curricula in Europe, focusing on the role played by books, programs, texts and didactic materials in the construction and reproduction of the geographical common sense building. We have developed some preliminary contacts with the Department of Geography - Universitat autonoma de Barcelona, and with the University of Paris-4. We have involved Margaret Roberts in the UK, and she has expressed interest in our project. This initiative has also been raised with Professor Sibylle Reinfried. If anyone is interested in this research proposal, please contact Stefano Malatesta at: stefano.malatesta@unimib.it.

7.6 Cross-Cultural Research Project : Views and Visions 2020

Colleagues located on all continents are currently interviewing young people to find out their views and visions of for the future. First findings will be presented at the IGU-CGE meeting(s) in Turkey and /or Tel Aviv and the AAG in the USA.

Project Description:

Reflecting the global complexity of our world, the voices of young people are seldom made centre stage. They have lived all their lives with personal global connectivity made possible through digital mobile devices. This means they can offer a unique perspective on global issues. As adults trying to decide on how to manage the future education of the next generation we can learn from the lens on the future of young people themselves. This project seeks to legitimise their voice and capture their views at local, national and global levels. Using a common set of research questions the outcomes will provide a genuinely fascinating, grounded and authentic perspective. If you are interested in joining the group please email the project contacts below.

Contacts: Margaret Robertson at m.robertson@latrobe or Sirpa Tani at sirpa.tani@helsinki.fi

8. The Lucerne Declaration

The *Lucerne Declaration on Geographical Education for Sustainable Development* has been translated into Arabic and is now available in 14 languages, including all world languages. The different versions can be downloaded from: <http://www.igu-cge.org/>.

Our colleague, Ingrid Hemmer, chair of the German HGD, attended the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Bonn in spring 2009

and presented the Declaration there. As a result of her efforts the Declaration is now online on the site of the German UNESCO Commission for Education for Sustainable Development: www.bne-portal.de -> Akteure -> Akteure von A bis Z -> DGfG.
Professor Sibylle Reinfried

9 Curriculum and Teaching Developments

9.1 The Multi-Sensory Instruction on Climate Change Project

Geographer and geologist Lennox Adams of the Royal National College for the Blind, Hereford, UK is involved with an EU Leonardo funded project: MUSICC (Multi Sensory Instruction on Climate Change). He is co-ordinating Bulgarians, Italians, Romanians and Spanish in the project. So far a film, which will be made available in Braille and sound, with signing for those who are deaf, has been made and is nearly complete; and booklets have been produced to accompany the film. Contributions to fund the project have come from The Royal Geographical Society with IBG, UK, and via Catherine Souch, the President of the Royal Meteorological Society, and the UK Meteorological Office, whilst the Geological Survey has provided printed material. Similar contributions have been made by other project countries. The film is now at the final editing stage, it was made by a team from Devon for us. The project is due to be completed in November 2010, but there is interest in developing other teaching from it. Geologists appreciate that theirs can be a tactile subject, and meteorologists that their language needs to be more accessible, particularly to educationally disadvantaged. David Cooper, a governor at the school, who is involved with the project, anticipates that further developments may emerge.

9.2 Developments in geography in primary schooling in England

During 2008 and 2009 there has been work on revising the primary school curriculum in England, sponsored by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The result of this review is that there will now be six 'Areas of Learning', one of which is 'Historical, geographical and social understanding'. This curriculum will come into effect from September 2011, giving time for schools to develop their curriculum and for teacher education departments in universities to prepare new teachers. More information on this development can be found on the appropriate website: www.dcsf.gov.uk.

10. New Publications

The following publications have come to my notice over the past few months.

10.1 Doctorates published

Two interesting PhD theses of young German scholars in geography education were published this year:

Müller, Martin (2009): Meteoriteneinschläge auf der Erde - Fachliche Konzepte, Schülerperspektiven und didaktische Umsetzung. Geographiedidaktische Forschung Bd. 43

Schockemöhle, Johanna (2009): Ausserschulisches regionales Lernen als Bildungsstrategie für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung. Entwicklung und Evaluierung des Konzeptes „Regionales Lernen 21“. Geographiedidaktische Forschung Bd. 44. This PhD-thesis won the prestigious HGD-award in 2009.

10.2 Geographic Videoencyclopedia

The non-profit organization "Ethnogeographic Research Foundation" (est. 2000, in Moscow) has published the "Geographic Videoencyclopedia" - a documentary series on different regions of Russian Federation. We film geographical, ethnographical and historical/cultural issues of every region. To date we have produced six series: The Republic of Karelia, Altay, The Republic of North Osetia - Alania, The Pskov region, The Republic of Tatarstan and The Republic of Bashkortostan. In our short list are 33 regions that represent different parts of Russian Federation. Russia is enormously rich with geography and ethnography, and very vast. We have about one hundred administrative unions, and we try to work with most typical, representative ones. Each series is 26 minutes long, enabling it to be shown during geography lesson in school or in University. The series is broadcasted on several Russian TV channels, including educational channel "Scholar" and Federal channel "Culture". If you require further information, please contact: Vlad Ketkovich through the Russian website at www.ethnofund.ru or at ethnofund@mail.ru

10.3 Books

A number of books have come to my notice during the past few months. I am always happy to include other new books in the Newsletter.

10.3.1 Published in 2009

Even though they may bear a 2010 date, the following have been become available during 2009!

- Catling, S. & Willy, T. (2009) *Teaching Primary Geography*. Exeter: Learning Matters
- Chalkley, B., Haigh, M. & Higgitt, D. (eds) (2009) *Education for Sustainable Development: Papers in Honour of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)*. London: Routledge
- Hoodless, P., McCreery, E., Bowen, P. & Bermingham, S. (2009) *Teaching Humanities in Primary Schools*. Exeter: Learning Matters [This book focuses on the teaching of geography, history and religious education, and covers matter such as citizenship.]
- Kagawa, F. & Selby, D. (eds) (2010) *Education and Climate Change: Living and Learning in Interesting Times*. London: Routledge
- Lambert, D. (2009) *Geography in Education: Lost in the Post?* [An inaugural professorial lecture]. London: Institute of Education
- Lambert, D. & Balderstone, D. (2010) *Learning to Teach Geography in the Secondary School* (2nd edition). London: Routledge
- Lee, J.C.-K. & Williams, M. (eds) (2009) *Schooling for Sustainable development in Chinese Communities: Experience with Younger Children*. New York: Springer
- Parker, W.C. (ed) (2010) *Social Studies Today: Research and Practice*. New York: Routledge
- Rickinson, M., Lundholm, C. & Hopwood, N. (2010) *Environmental Learning: Insights from research into the student experience*. London: Springer
- Robertson, M.E. & Gerber, R. (2008) (Eds) *Children's Lifeworlds: Locating Indigenous Voices*. New York: Nova Scientific. ISBN: 9781604560640
- Robertson, M. (Ed) (2008) *Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Development: Networking Local Area Partnerships with Teachers and Young Scientists - a case study approach*. Camberwell: ACER Press. 238 pages. ISBN 9780 864314383.
- Rowley, C. & Cooper, H. (eds) (2009) *Cross-curricular Approaches to teaching and Learning*. London: Sage [This book focuses on the teaching and learning of geography and history.]

Squarcina E. (ed) (2009) *Didattica Critica della Geografia*. Milano: Unicopli [This is a collected volume focused on the re-thinking of a critical school geography through a critical discourse analysis of books, maps and texts, with several Italian contributors, and a paper by Alexandra Budke, member of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geographie* (in French) and a paper by Margaret Roberts (in English).
Stibbe, A. (2009) *The Handbook of Sustainable Literacy: Skills for a Changing World*. Dartington: Green Books

10.3.2 published in 2008

These are books published in 2008 which have been drawn to my attention.

DICE (2008) *Global Dimensions: A guide to Good Practice in Development Education and Intercultural Education for Teacher Educators*. Dublin: DICE [See: www.diceproject.org]

Wilson, R. (2008) *Nature and Young Children*. London: David Fulton

11. Other News

11.1 Award for EduGIS

EduGIS (www.edugis.nl) won the Dutch Geo Award 2009. It is a free and open source internet platform to promote the use of digital maps and GIS in primary and secondary education in the Netherlands. EduGIS is an R&D project and an initiative of the VU University Amsterdam, the Dutch Ordnance Survey, ESRI, Anaximander, Digischool, Geodan and several secondary schools in Amsterdam. In the near future EduGIS will be linked to other GIS sites in Europe and the rest of the world.
Joop van der Schee (Commission member)

11.2 David Wright

It is with much sadness that we have to report that geographer David Wright died just short of his 70th birthday in November 2009 after a long illness. He will be remembered as a leading atlas and map specialist, as well as a stimulating geography teacher educator. His Philip's atlas (co-authored with his wife Jill), the *Philip's Children's Atlas*, is now in its twenty-second year and has been through many editions. He has published many books and papers for children, teachers and teacher educators. He was among the first to write for schools about climate change, as early as the mid-1970s. His most recent publications have been the *Philip's Early Years Atlas* and the *Philip's Infant Atlas*, published in 2008 and reflecting his belief that young children can learn a great deal and gain much enjoyment from good quality atlases. David had a wide range of interests, was an inveterate traveller (to help illustrate his atlases) and a passionate promoter of geography for children and young people. In 2008 he was given the Ness Award for the 'popularisation of geography among young people' by the Royal Geographical Society with the IBG of the UK. He will be missed as a familiar figure at the annual Geographical Association, UK, Conferences and as a strong debater of direction and quality in geography education and map and atlas development and study.
Professor Simon Catling