



IGU-Commission for Geographic Education

December 2005 Newsletter

Web site: <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/>

The Newsletter will be sent in parts

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The IGU-CGE Commission 2004-08

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2. CHAIR'S REPORT: LEX CHALMERS (CHAIR)

To the Members of the Commission on Geographical Education:
Seasonal Greetings from a warm and sunny New Zealand.

On behalf of the Steering Committee I would like to extend best wishes to you as the festive season approaches and we prepare to take a break from classes and from our research projects.

At the end of a long year, I would like to extend the thanks of the Commission to the many people who have contributed to our work this year. It is never really fair to single out individuals as in most cases groups of people come together in different places to make the contributions we value. However, there have been some notable efforts in 2005, and I would like to make an exception and nominate a few outstanding contributions.

John Lidstone continues to work as one of the Commission's key contributors. Not only has he managed the IRGEE production team, but he has also established an effective group to plan the 2006 Symposium in Brisbane. Michael Williams has edited the Commission text that will accompany the Symposium. Sarah Bednarz took over the web-site in 2005 and transformed the shop window of the Commission, and Margaret Robertson has fronted our project on sustainability education as well as managing the distribution of our Newsletter. Finally, the people who have worked on our associated Olympiad Task Force just have to have a mention: Joop van der Schee has led the Task Force, and Kathryn Berg has been organising the teams and the activities for the Brisbane Olympiad. Our grateful thanks to all these people.

Apart from the Symposium in Brisbane, we need to think of the other matters we should be working on in 2006. There are three that spring to mind.

- I am personally concerned that we do not yet have a sound financial base, and this is very much affected by the over-all finances on the IGU itself. The Steering Committee will have this matter as a policy issue to discuss when we meet in Brisbane in 2006, and we would welcome any suggestions for generating funds that members of the Commission might wish to offer meanwhile.
- The second item that will appear on both Commission and IGU agenda in Brisbane is the Charter. I have been receiving submissions on the Charter (and a 2005 draft is available from the Commission web-site; <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/cgecharter2005.pdf>). I hope to work on this with several members between now and the Brisbane meetings. I should acknowledge some recent and insightful notes from a European meeting on the Charter organised through Karl Donnert. I expect some robust debate in Brisbane, and I would be happy to have comments from any quarter up until the end of January, 2006. At that point we will start to focus on the text for Brisbane.
- Finally, we need to be thinking about meetings (and publications) that provide other options to those offered through the Brisbane Symposium, IGU Regional Conference and the subsequent INLT meeting. There are some tentative offers from China in 2007, the IGU Congress will be in Tunisia in 2008 and some discussion is also underway with Japanese members that could lead to a regional meeting in 2009. We will continue to work through several strong groups in geographical education in Europe, and we can thank Michael Solem for the continued support from the AAG. Getting all these activities co-ordinated is a major task for the Steering Committee in the next few months, and one imperative will be getting a list of key publications by members of the Commission for our web page.

I am happy to have your comments (lex@waikato.ac.nz) and undertake to communicate these views to the Steering Committee. I hope to prepare a paper addressing a few policy matters for the Steering Committee before the end of the year. There are always things to be done, but the value of taking a break at this time of year also has to be remembered. I hope you all manage to take some time out, and that we will meet in June 2006 in Brisbane with plenty of energy and in the best of spirits.

Lex Chalmers

Chair, CGE Steering Committee 2004-2008.

2 CONFERENCE UPDATES FOR 2006

2.1 Brisbane 2006, June 27 – July 2 (Refer: igu-cge2006@office-logistics.com)

IGU.CGE Symposium - Brisbane 2006

The Symposium of the Commission in 2006 will be held at the Queensland University of Technology in central Brisbane, Australia from June 27 - July 2. The Symposium immediately precedes the Regional Conference of the IGU which will also be in Brisbane. An exciting program of events is planned to make the most of our location in sub-tropical southern Queensland. The QUT Gardens Point Campus is located on the river for easy transport and field trips to the Moreton Bay islands, Rainforest and other areas of natural beauty will be interspersed with studies of the human environment, including the Gold Coast. Further details will be available early in 2005. For details see igu-cge2006@office-logistics.com

We look forward to greeting you in Brisbane in 2006
John Lidstone (Convener) Email: j.lidstone@qut.edu.au

2.2 International conference GeoSciEd5, Bayreuth 18 to 21 September, 2006. For details see www.geosciEd5.de

The representatives of geography education in Germany have been searching a closer relationship to the German geoscience community. As a result a new sector section named "Geodidaktik der GeoUnion Alfred-Wegener-Stiftung" was founded in september 2004. The section is part of the Association of Geographical Education in Germany (HGD) and the German Geological Society (DGG) representing the interface between geographical and geoscience education. The HGD emphasizes that geography is the bridging subject between natural and social sciences and that Geography therefore is predestined to include the subject matter of the geosciences. The contribution of the geosciences to geography education is especially seen in the field of environmental issues, issues of sustainable development, field work and public relations.

As a consequence the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO) decided to hold its annual conference titled '**Understanding System Earth**' in Bayreuth, Germany, from September 18th-20th, 2006. Conference language will be English and German. Interesting field trips in the Bayreuth area will be offered. Colleagues from all over the world are welcome. For further information see: www.geosciEd5.de.

Local Contacts

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3. International Geography Olympiad 2006

We are happy to let you know that the preparations for the 6th International Geography Olympiad are well under way. The next International Geography Olympiad will be held in Brisbane, Australia, from 28 June to 3 July 2006 in conjunction with the IGU Regional Conference. The Olympiad will be hosted by the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association. On www.geolympiad.org you find a lot of information about the 2006 International Geography Olympiad.

Queries, or expressions of interest, may be sent to

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A maximum of 20 countries will be accepted. Many countries have already told us that they like to participate. Please apply by email to Kathryn Berg as soon as possible, but no later than **3 January 2006**. Countries which did not participate in the 2002 or 2004 IGEOs will be allocated available places based on the date of receipt of their application. Participating countries will pay all travel costs for the students and the team leaders that make up their country's team. Each participating country will make a contribution to cover the local costs. For IGEO 2006 this is A\$350 per person (currency converter <http://www.xe.com/ucc>), that is A\$2100 for a team of four students and two leaders, payable in advance. The local organiser will cover the other costs in providing accommodation, meals, awards and scheduled functions and excursions during the time of IGEO 2006.

Each participating country will send a team of a maximum of four students. Their ages should be between 16 and 19 years old (inclusive) on 30 June 2006. Students must be able to answer test questions in English. Non-native English speakers will get extra facilities. Students should be selected through a national competition. Countries may apply for an exemption to this rule for IGEO 2006. In addition to the students, two adult team leaders are invited. The competition will consist of three parts: a written response test (40% of total marks), a substantial fieldwork exercise (40%), and a multimedia quiz (20%).

Looking forward to see you in Brisbane during a nice and exciting International Geography Olympiad 2006,

Joop van der Schee j.vanderschee@ond.vu.nl (co-chair IGU Task Force for the International Geography Olympiad)

4. PROJECT REPORTS

4.1 IGU-ICSU funded project 2005 – a collaborative project with the CGE supported by our IGU representative Vice President Tannabe

Geographical perspectives on sustainable development: Networking local area partnerships with teachers and young scientists. See project website <http://celio-igu.educ.utas.edu.au/> and Home of Geography at <http://www.homeofgeography.org/>

Margaret Robertson Project Director November, 2005

This project aims to engage teachers and young scientists in developing countries in Science projects aimed at three major contemporary sustainable development issues: biodiversity, forestry and water resources. Working from the principle that sustained outcomes are linked with community ownership, this project relies on negotiation, community partnerships and recognition of project outcomes through existing and newly created structures. Related to sustainable development the project is working towards the following outcomes:

- Local area networks with commitment to sustainable futures for biodiversity and natural protected areas, the use of forest resources and the issue of our water supplies
- Expanded networks for communication of project results with local, national and global communities
- Expanded intercultural learning and understanding of related local issues
- Scope to identify future leaders in our scientific community and encourage their quest for knowledge and skills.
- A global mechanism for ongoing collaboration with partners in developing countries with the potential for expansion to other countries and new partners.

There are nine countries engaged with the project. The representation brings together a team of people from eight different linguistic backgrounds. Although the team members are currently sharing their work in English it is planned to translate the final publication into other languages.

Operating within their respective countries the nine members of the international project team who represent these countries are each currently supervising three local projects. A total of twenty-seven

local case-studies are the expected outcome of this project. Information on the case studies will be published in print and online formats. Located at <http://celio-igu.educ.utas.edu.au/> the project web site will become an expanding site for information on these and other planned future projects. All participating countries have their own web page link to the main web site. Locally translated materials will be linked to these web pages.

2006 targets:

- Currently the project team is working towards a symposium presentation for the Brisbane 2006 IGU conference.
- At this conference the team is planning to release the project book. Currently contracted to ACER Press, Camberwell information regarding advance purchase will be available via the Home of Geography web site www.homeofgeography.org

5. PUBLICATIONS

5.1 *International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education (IRGEE)* (Editors: John Lidstone and Jo Stoltman

IRGEE: International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education continues to publish quality fully refereed papers in its areas of interest. The range of countries from which papers are received continues to expand, but we are always keen to receive more papers. Those who are a little shy of submitting papers to an international audience (especially those for whom English is a foreign language) may be reassured to know that the Editors rarely reject a paper. Where a paper does not quite reach the standards expected for international scholarship, writers may usually expect to receive detailed and helpful comments from the reviewers and constructive suggestions from the Editors on how the paper can be raised to a publishable standard.

There is always room for Forum sections and Book Reviews, and we warmly invite all members of the Commission (as defined by the readership of its Newsletter) to offer their services to the Editors. (For Book Reviews, please contact the Reviews Editor, Prof. Sarah Bednarz)

John Lidstone
Joe Stoltman
December 2005.

5.2 "Children Map the World" includes 100 selected maps from the last 10 years of the Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition and is now available in bookstores. Published by ESRI

6. OTHER NEWS ITEMS

2006 - United Nations International Year of Cultures and Civilizations for Human Development

The International Geographical Union conducted an international workshop on the this theme at the Home of Geography, December 10-13 2005. For a full report including the signed recommendations can be accessed on the Home of Geography web site at <http://www.homeofgeography.org/>