List of Contents

1. Chair’s message - Dr Lea Houtsonen  
2. Conferences Report  
4. Olympiad 2004 - 5th International Geography Competition, Gdynia, Poland, 5-10 August 2004. See<www.geocompetition.or>  
5. Project Reports  
   * GIS Project (Lea Houtsonen):  
   * YoungNet Project (Lea Houtsonen):  
   * TETSDAIS Project (Lea Houtsonen):  
   * Cross-cultural research (Margaret Robertson)  
6. Publications  
   * IRGEE - J. Lidstone  
   * New Publications  
7. Other items - news of members and events  
   * News from North America- Sarah Bednarz  
   * News from Russia - Vladimir Gorbanyov  

Compiled by Dr Margaret Robertson (Executive Secretary/Treasurer)  
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1. CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The term 2000-2004 has been busy for the Commission. The Commission organised Symposia in Helsinki (Finland), Richards Bay (South Africa), London and Moscow. The Commission also participated in the Conferences of IGU in Durban (South Africa), and in Barnaul (Russia). In 2004 the Commission will organise a Symposium in Glasgow and will also participate in the 30th International Geographical Congress in Glasgow. During 2000-2004 certain projects of the Commission were completed but at the same time new projects were launched. The Commission has been especially active in producing publications of which a short summary can be seen in this Newsletter. The Members of the Commission's Steering Committee were Lea Houtsonen (Chair), John Lidstone (Vice-Chair), Margaret Robertson (Executive Secretary), Sarah Bednarz, Manuela Ferreira, Vladimir Gorbanyov, Ashley Kent, Tammy Kwan, Christine Kim-Eng Lee, William Mngoma, Yasuyuki Nishiwaki and Josefina Ostuni.

At present we are preparing for the 30th Congress of the International Geographical Union "One Earth - Many Worlds". But before the main Congress in Glasgow the Commission will also arrange a Symposium entitled "Expanding horizons in a shrinking world" which is also very exciting. I would like to thank here Alastair Robinson and the British Sub-Committee for carrying the overall responsibility for the arrangements of the Symposium. It is obvious that organising a Symposium always requires a lot of preparation and hard work. However, the programme of the Glasgow Symposium will undoubtedly be rewarding to us all. A number of geography educators from around the globe have signed up for the Symposium as well as the main Congress.

The Sessions of the Commission on Geographical Education in the main Congress will be as follows (Convenor: Dr. Lea Houtsonen):
1. Curriculum Development in Geography
2. Maps and Map Use: Theory, Practice, and Public Understanding
3. Geography and Education for Future
4. Round Table: Training European Teachers for Sustainable Development and Intercultural Sensitivity
5. Environmental Education, Sustainability and National Curricula
6. International Collaboration, Global Citizenship and the Geographical Imagination
7. Children's Worlds - Geographer Catching up with Contemporary Thinking
8. Sustainability and Geographical Education
9. Using Multimedia in Geographical and Cartographic Education
10. Teaching and Learning with Cartography in the Field and Classroom
11. Teaching and Learning with Geographic Information Science
12. Teachers' Conceptions and Knowledge: Implications for Teacher Training in Geography
13. Teaching Geography in Higher Education
14. Research into Pedagogical Methods and Learning Styles in Geography
15. Using IT to Support Geographic Learning

Joint Sessions by INLT / IGU-CGE / RGS-IBG HERG (Convenor: Professor Mick Healey):
Pedagogic Research in Geography in Higher Education.
The 5th International Geography Competition, the Olympiad in geography for students in upper secondary education, will take place in Gdynia, Poland from August 5-10, 2004. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved in the arrangements. The Commission on Geographical Education has made a proposal to the Executive Committee of IGU to establish an IGU Task Force for International Geography Olympiads. The proposal has been accepted and the Chair of the new Task Force will be Dr. Joop van der Schee (Netherlands). I wish the very best of success to the work of the Task Force. The Commission's forthcoming term 2004-2008 should aim at expanding activities in cooperation with geography educators in the developing countries.

The new Chair of the Commission will be elected in the Glasgow Congress. I sincerely wish the new Chair and the new Steering Committee the best of luck. Finally, I would like to thank all the Members of the Commission for your excellent cooperation.

Lea Houtsonen  
Chair, Commission on Geographical Education of IGU; e-mail: lea.houtsonen@oph.fi
2 CONFERENCES OF THE COMMISSION OF GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION OF IGU

2.1 GLASGOW - TWO Forthcoming conferences

- Commission on Geographical Education meets AUGUST 11 - 15 at Strathclyde University. For information see www.igu-cgeglasgow2004.org. Email: Elspeth Donaldson at: elspeth.donaldson@strath.ac.uk or the Convener Alastair Robinson at h.a.robinson@strath.ac.uk
- 30TH IGU congress meets AUGUST 15-20. For details of the program see www.meetingmakers.co.uk/IGU-UK2004

The British Committee of the IGU-CGE 2003/4 reports

The British committee meets 3 times a year at the University of London Institute Of Education and continues to be active in promoting geographical education and the IGUCGE. Our main activities during 2003/4 were:

1. Research Forum 2003 presented 3 papers on the theme of "researching practice in geographical education". The 2004 Forum in September will be on "E-learning in geographical education".
2. IGU Congress and IGUCGE Symposium Glasgow 2004. The committee together with colleagues in Scotland has been actively involved in organising the IGUCGE symposium in Glasgow that predates the main Congress. A full programme of papers and visits have been arranged. We shall also be making contributions to the main congress programme.
   - A commissioned book to mark the IGUCGE symposium on current issues in geographical education. Edited by Ashley Kent, Eleanor Rawling and Alastair Robinson.
   - "Geography and Citizenship Education". Book of the IGUCGE London Conference April 2003. Edited by Ashley Kent and Andrew Powell
   - Research Forums 3,4,5,6 of the IGUCGE British Committee: collected papers. Edited by Ashley Kent and Andrew Powell

Andrew Powell
Chair IGUCGE British Committee

If you would like any further information on the conference please contact: Andrew Powell, Chair IGUCGE British Committee at <a.powell@kingston.ac.uk>

Additional Symposium Opportunity in Glasgow:

Tuesday 17 August: The Online Centre for Global Geography Education Project.

13.00 - 17.00 hours: A Workshop (computer-based) led by Michael Solem on Jordanhill Campus of Strathclyde University.

The Online Centre for Global Geography Education, a project based at the Association of American Geographers and funded by the National Science Foundation, is inviting applications from geography instructors to participate in the evaluation of three prototype instructional modules:
Population, Nationalism, and Global Economy. This is an excellent opportunity for geography faculty and lecturers to join a growing community dedicated to collaborative international teaching and research. Participants will receive a USD 500 honorarium, training in the use of innovative teaching materials, and may contribute to articles for peer-review.

For details, please visit the project website: [http://www.aag.org/education/center/](http://www.aag.org/education/center/)

Michael Solem, Educational Affairs Director; Association of American Geographers
1710 Sixteenth Street NW; Washington, DC 20009
Tel: 202-234-1450; Fax: 202-234-2744; Email: msolem@aag.org

2.2 IGU Regional Congress Brisbane, Australia, 3-7.7.2006.

2.3 IGU Tunisia 2008:

2.4 OTHER CONFERENCES - ***NEW****

2.4.1 SEAGA

SOUTH EAST ASIA GEOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION (SEAGA) 7TH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF KHON KAEN - KHON KAEN, THAILAND:
MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER - THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER 2004

THEME - SOUTHEAST ASIA: DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGE IN AN ERA OF GLOBALISATION

Since the last financial crisis with its ramifications on the region, Southeast Asia has experienced other challenges that tend to thwart its economic recovery - impacts of 9/11, Iraq War, SARS epidemic, bird-flu virus and other sub-regional tensions. Despite these setbacks, as a region it is making great strides in various areas of economic development as it responds to the opportunities as well as problems of globalization.

This conference adopts a theme that takes a geographical perspective in the analysis of current development and change in each of the Southeast Asian nations as well as the region generally.

This conference will be jointly organized by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Centre for Research on Pluralism in the Mekong Region, Research Centre for Mekong Regional Tourism at the University of Khon Kaen, Khon Kaen, Thailand, the Geographical Association of Thailand and the Southeast Asian Geography Association.

This conference will be held in the exotic northeast of Thailand in the historic city of Khon Kaen and it falls within the cooler period of the year.
REGISTRATION FEE:
US$150: Participants from Developed Countries
US$50: Local Participants

PAPERS: Participants can present any number of papers. All papers
should be written in word document with an abstract, 7-8 key words,
author name, affiliation and address, and must follow the standard norms
in bibliographic listing and citation.

For information please email:
PROFESSOR DR SEKSON YONGVANIT, Director, Research
Centre for Mekong Regional Tourism, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen,
Thailand sekyon@kku.ac.th <mailto:sekyon@kku.ac.th>
AND
PROFESSOR GOH KIM CHUAN, National Institute of Education, 1, Nanyang
Walk, Singapore 637616 kcgoh@nie.edu.sg <mailto:kcgoh@nie.edu.sg>

3. POSTER COMPETITION 2004
(UK contact Alan Doherty alandohertyuk@yahoo.co.uk)

The Poster competition for Glasgow 2004 has been decided. Judges
(Vanessa Collingridge, Jim Hansom and David Munro) scored the entries,
choosing their top six in order. Six points were awarded to each first
choice, five to the second and so on. The judges did not confer in their
evaluation. The standard was incredibly high and only four points
separated the top four entries.

First: Bulgaria; the Western Rhodope Mountains
Second: New Zealand
Third equal: China; Hong Kong; Victoria Harbour Bangladesh; My
Bengal of Gold

Also Highly Commended were:
China; Beijing; England; Slovenia; Wales

Our thanks are due to the judges and their execution of a most difficult
task. Several requests for sponsorship are still outstanding but we have
£1000 (courtesy of the GA International Relations Fund) to offer the
winners which will go towards their travel and accommodation costs in
August. We do hope that the winning team will be able to travel to
Scotland and participate in the IGU celebrations.

Alan Doherty
Barbara Lee
(Scottish Association of Geography Teachers)

4. OLYMPIAD 2004: 5TH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Gdynia, Poland, 5-10 August 2004.

Sixteen countries will send a team to participate in the 5th
International Geography Competition, the olympiad in geography for
students in upper secondary education. The 5th edition of the IGC will
take place in Gdynia, Poland from August 5 - 10, 2004. It will be
organised under the auspices of the International Geographical Union. The IGC competition offers national teams an excellent opportunity to test their geographical knowledge, understanding and skills, to meet young people from all over the world with an interest in geography and to visit an interesting part of Poland. The rules of the competition can be found on the website of the IGC: www.geocompetition.org. Further details are available on the website or alternatively contact Dr. Joop van der Schee, Free University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. E-mail: j.vanderschee@ond.vu.nl

5. PROJECT REPORTS

5.1 GIS Project (Lea Houtsonen): GISAS Project
GISAS (Geographical Information Systems Applications for Schools) is a three-year education and research project funded by the European Union SOCRATES / MINERVA Action. The project involves seven partner schools, which will introduce Geographical Information Systems (GIS) into geography and environmental education. The partner schoolteachers will receive virtual and hands on training on GIS during the project. They will collect a GIS database with their students on local environment, which will be used to analyse and visualise the factors affecting on the quality of water on nearby rivers. The local databases and maps will be shared with other partner schools through the web-based learning environment. In addition, the teachers and students interact in groupware environment, which is used as a tool for collaborative learning. Digital photographs taken from the water analysis sites will be hyperlinked on digital maps providing landscape images for educational purposes.

Professor Petri Pellikka of the Department of Geography, University of Helsinki, Finland, coordinates the project. Project manager Mr. Tino Johansson is responsible of in-service teacher training and other educational aspects of the project, as well as, organisational management. He will also carry out pedagogical research with Mrs. Ilta-Kanerva Kankaanrinta, who works as a researcher in the project. Jozef Stefan Institute from Ljubljana, Slovenia produces the web-based learning environment for the project. Dr. Lea Houtsonen from the Finnish National Board of Education and the Chair of the IGU-CGE (Commission on Geographical Education) is in charge of the dissemination of project outputs and participates in pedagogical research in GISAS project. The project involves two external evaluators, Dr. Joop van der Schee from the Netherlands and Dr. Gergely Horváth from Hungary. Dr. van der Schee also works as a consultant for the project. They are both members of the IGU-CGE.

The aim of the GISAS project is to develop ways in which GIS are applied to secondary school education. The project also focuses on pre- and in-service teacher training. The purpose of this pilot project is to create a model on how to introduce GIS into the secondary schools and teacher education in Europe. The use of web-based learning environment and virtual GIS training are in the core of the GISAS project. The learners will construct their knowledge on GIS and water quality through socio-cultural interactions and real world experiences. Problem-based and inquiry-based learning are highlighted in the project. The exercises and educational materials are produced in collaboration with the partner
schoolteachers and tested in real classroom situations. New networking partner schools will be accepted during the next stage of the project and all interesting institutions should contact the project manager for further information.
Contact address: Tino Johansson, GISAS Project manager: Department of Geography, P.O. Box 64, FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland
Tel. +358 9 191 51045
Fax. +358 9 191 50760
e-mail: Tino.Johansson@helsinki.fi

5.2 YoungNet Project:
YoungNet Project was funded by the European Union. The aim of the YoungNet project was to create an internet-based learning community for the students in the 8-14 age group. The project has produced an on-line learning platform, where teachers and students can share work and participate in discussion with other members of the community. The community also offers students the ability to develop their own avatars and virtual homes, where they can meet and "chat" (using audio and text chat) and play games. In 2003 as part of their participation in the YoungNet Project students were encouraged to participate in the YoungNet topic "Our Locality". These presentations and the subsequent discussion in the Discussion Forum has been analysed for the research into how the young people represent their local area. The pedagogical partners of the project (Katrine Arbøl-Lilleberg, Clare Brooks, Lea Houtsonen, Ilta-Kanerva Kankaanrinta, Ashley Kent and Antti Rehunen) have presented papers concerning the YoungNet project and its development in the IGU-CGE Conference Geography and Citizenship Education: Research Perspectives in London in April 2003 and in the UNESCO Conference Teaching and Learning for Intercultural Understanding, Human Rights and a Culture of Peace in Jyväskylä in June 2003. For more details please email: lea.houtsonen@oph.fi. website: www.youngnet.at

5.3 TETSDAIS (Training European Teachers for Sustainable Development and Intercultural Sensitivity). Coordinator: Professor Manuela Malheiro Ferreira (Portugal)

A European Project was developed by researchers of four European countries: Finland, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom. The project lasted 3 years and ended 30th April, 2004. Two teacher training courses were organised in 2002 and 2003 in Lisbon (Portugal) and in Palma de Mallorca (Balearic Islands - Spain), respectively. Teachers from many European Union countries as well as from East Europe participated in these courses. The course curricula and teachers’ response to issues concerning sustainable development, environmental education and cultural diversity will be presented in the Round Table of the IGU Congress in Glasgow, 18th August, 2004 (Manuela Malheiro Ferreira, Lea Houtsonen, Frances Slater, Sophie Cabral, Taina Kaivola, Fernando Alexandre, Branca Miranda and Margalida Castells).

Moreover, a questionnaire addressed to 14-15-year-old students from the four participating countries was elaborated and administered during the project. The principles guiding the elaboration of the project as well as the main results will also be presented in Glasgow. The questionnaire addresses the attitudes of students concerning environmental, developmental and cultural issues. The results point out some
differences relating to countries' environmental aspects and educational systems, including geographical and environmental education.

5.4 Cross-Cultural Research developments

5.4.1 A number of colleagues have participated in cross-cultural research related to leisure and recreation activities of young people. Their research has been published in a new book edited by Margaret Robertson and Michael Williams. For publication details see http://www.novapublishers.com/detailed_search.asp?id=1-59454-029-2

5.4.2 Title: Children's lifeworlds: Locating Indigenous Voices. A new book edited by Rod Gerber and Margaret Robertson brings together colleagues from all over the globe.

Key concepts: place, society, environment, culture, indigenous, their world and the future.

To be published by Nova Science Publishers, New York, in the series: Education: Emerging Goals in a New Millennium (series editor is Bryan Peck, University of Strathclyde, Scotland), this project is concerns children's understanding of their life-worlds. To be used as a guide to diverse cultural perspectives contributors search for variations in children's views on key concepts of place, society, environment, their world and the future. The editors seek knowledge of the views of indigenous and non-indigenous children, as well as children of first generation arrivals in countries, and minority groups who live on the fringes of major global communities. Cross-cultural variation is an important feature in this book. It is accentuated on the basis that children from different cultural backgrounds may possess varying experiences and understandings of these basic concepts. In so doing we seek authentic knowledge of the everyday experiences of children who we maintain will provide the key to a better and more tolerant peaceful world.

Queries and interest in involvement please email Rod Gerber at zzrgerbe@fox.uq.net.au or Margaret Robertson at Margaret.Robertson@utas.edu.au

6. PUBLICATIONS

6.1 IRGEE John Lidstone (Co-Editor of IRGEE reports)

International Research in Geographical and Environmental Education continued to be published in four issues per annum. The flow of papers has slowed somewhat and we are still not fully back to our publishing schedule, but it is hoped that four issues will appear during the current year and that 2005 volume will be out on time.

6.2 Publications of IGU-CGE, 2000-2004:

* Lidstone, J. (Ed) (2004) Cultural Issues of Our Time: to be published by Cambridge University Press. The purpose of the book is to enhance intercultural understanding at a time when international relations seem to be deteriorating at an unprecedented rate. It was hoped that this book would be published in time to be launched at the Glasgow meeting, but this will not now be possible. The book should be available early in 2005. John Lidstone reports on the networking time involved in sustaining this and other projects with which he is involved. The email list for the book is: Lea Houtsonen Lea.Houtsonen at oph.fi; Nora Chiang nora at ccms.ntu.edu.tw; Nahid Fallahian fafallahian at chamran.ut.ac.ir; falahmah at yahoo.com; Rob O'Donoghue greenbike at futurenet.co.za; Tammy Yim Lin Kwan tyikwan at hkucc.hku.hk; Ey=FCp ARTVINLI eyupartvinli at hotmail.com; Gergely Horvath horvath.gergely at freemail.hu; Savita Sinha savitasinha at hotmail.com; Nereda White n.white at mcauley.acu.edu.au; Lex Chalmers geog7061 at waikato.ac.nz; Malgorzata Grodzinska-Jurczak grodz at eko.uj.edu.pl; Yoram Barghal bargal at geo.haifa.ac.il; David Rutherford David_Rutherford at swt.edu; Bernard Minol minolbs at upng.ac.pg; Linda Clarke LM.Clarke at ulster.ac.uk; Ivy Tan gcitan@nie.edu.sg; Fivos Papa Dimitrious fivos at in.gr; Angela Ragusa aragusa at une.edu.au; OOI Giok Ling glooi at nie.edu.sg; Pi Yun pc112 at mail.npust.edu.tw
7. OTHER ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

7.1 News from North America (Report prepared by Sarah Bednarz)

The CD of papers from the Richards Bay Commission Meeting and the Conference meeting in Durban from August, 2002, was completed and copies mailed to contributors in August 2003. It is available in limited numbers by contacting Sarah Bednarz at <s-bednarz@tamu.edu>. Versions of the papers are also posted on the web at http://geog.tamu.edu/sarah/toc.htm The CD-ROM has the ISBN 0-9729283-0-8.

There are several active listservs in the United States and Canada to disseminate information about geography education:

- Texas Alliance for Geographic Education (tage (at) listserv.tamu.edu)
- Geography Education (geoged@lsv.uke.edu)
- Alliance Coordinators Listserv (send messages to Helen Huang (Hhuang(at)ngs.org) to request inclusion

A shell web site has been developed at Texas A&M to contribute to Commission efforts on behalf of the Oceans 21 initiative. Geography educators are invited to visit the site (http://geocoastal.tamu.edu/) and suggest web resources to link to.

As many of you are aware, there has been a concerted effort to develop and improve geography education in the United States since 1985. The visionary leader of the National Geographic Society, Gilbert Grosvenor, contributed much to this campaign, founding and funding the national Alliance network so key in this campaign. In recognition of his work on behalf of geography, Mr Grosvenor, now Chairman of the Board of the National Geographic Society, was presented the United States Medal of Freedom in a ceremony at the White House on Wednesday, June 23, 2004. The Medal is the highest honor granted to civilians in the US and
recognizes service in different areas. He was cited for his excellent service in geography education, among other achievements in support of research and exploration.

8.2: News from Russia (Vladimir Gorbanyov, Member of the Steering Committee of CGE reports):

The Russian Sub-Committee of the CGE met two times this year. We discussed different projects, including questions concerning the Regional Symposium. The Symposium on the theme Geographical Education under Conditions of Global and Regional Changes was held in Barnaul. In addition to Altay mountains field trips two educational field trips were held in the Moscow region.

Contact information of Russian colleagues:

- Prof. Victor Dronov, Head, Geography Dep., Moscow State Pedagogical University. Email: geoDro(at)narod.ru
- Dr. Victor Mosin, head, Geography Dep., A.Hertsen St.-Petersburg State Pedagogical University. Email: geo(at)geo.herzen.spb.ru
- Prof. Irina Barinova, head, Editorial Board, Journal "Geography and Ecology at School of XXI-st Century". Email: I.Barinova(at)rambler.ru
- Prof. Yury Gladky, lecturer, Geography Dep., St.-Petersburg State Pedagogical University. Email: Gladky43(at)rambler.ru
- Academician Vladimir Maxakovsky, lecturer, Geographic Dep., Moscow State Pedagogical University. Email: Maxakovskiy(at)mtu-net.ru
- Prof. Valentina Dmitrieva, Head, Geographic Dep., Moscow City Pedagogical University. Email: Dvtmgpu(at)yandex.ru
- Ass. Prof. Vladimir Gorbanyov, lecturer, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University). Email: Gorbanyov(at)is-net.ru

NB: A new International Journal was issued in Russia in 2004: Geografiya e ekologiya v Shkole XXI veka (Geography and Ecology at School of XXI Century). Prof. A.Kent and Prof. J. Stoltman kindly agreed to be members of the Editorial Board. Prof. Irina Barinova is a Head of the Editorial Board. Abstracts of main papers are in English. It is possible to subscribe to it: post index: 82425.