



IGU-Commission for Geographic Education

July 2007 Newsletter

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

For IGU updates check the Home of Geography website
<http://www.homeofgeography.org/>

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

Greetings from New Zealand.

A while ago I wrote some notes to corresponding members of the Commission in the warmth of December, these are written in the depth of a New Zealand winter. Being geographers, most of you will know that we don't see snow during winter in Waikato, but it is cool and wet and we have the much shortened days of winter. The option of meeting colleagues in the northern hemisphere in the next month or so is really very attractive.

Developments around the Tunis IGU Congress.

In the December Newsletter I reminded corresponding members about the IGU Congress in Tunis on August 25-29 2008. As I write, we are expecting to see the second circular from the Organising Committee, and we should be able to make some firm recommendations after we see what is proposed. I think we have some advantages in our planning as I took the opportunity to visit Tunis in April, and I can provide some guidance to the Commission's decision making. I will prepare an outline proposal to take to Commission members when we see the second circular, and I hope to have the opportunity to talk through some of the issues when we come together in the two remaining regional conferences (Lucerne and Beijing) that we have this year.

During my April visit, I spoke to the Congress education spokesperson from the Ministry of Education, Mdme Naziha Ferchichi. We hope to attract geography educators from the Maghreb to the meeting. However, I don't think there is the desire or capacity to run a local Commission meeting independent of the Congress. The Commission will be considering the following points:

- Some of us will be involved with the International Olympiad, but other Congress attendees will be offered a range of pre-conference field trips that we may be able attend as a collective group. We will look for a Commission member available to manage this option. I think we can book events specifically for Commission members from the Congress list during the Congress (for example, we should do at least a half day Carthage Trip, visit the Medina and the Bardo Museum is wonderful).
- I will recommend that we run a programme within the Congress format, offering to organise sessions, perhaps in association with Herodot, the AAG and INLT. We will offer to produce a refereed publication for all those who present papers in Commission sessions, and we have prospective editors.
- I think the Commission will have an independent space within Le Kram, with facilities to seat and present papers to up 60 people. I think this will accommodate all but the largest Commission sessions and we will ask for the normal conference presentation facilities as well as pin-boards, secure storage and an administrative space.

- I can advise attendees on hotel selection, having seen rooms in seven potential Congress options. I think there would be benefits if those participating in the Commission activities stayed at a small number of hotels, and I would propose that we organise an ice-breaker drinks session before the Congress opens at a hotel, and a Commission Dinner during the Congress.

Putting these activities in place may take some effort, but we are fortunate to have had such a successful meeting in Brisbane, that we are carried forward a surplus of more than \$A2,500. This was really great news, and the Commission is very grateful to John Lidstone and Donna Bennett for their most effective efforts on our behalf.

2. Charter

This discussion is ongoing. There are 2 pertinent documents.

- The proposed Declaration on Geography Education for Sustainable Development is on the web at Web site: <http://igu-cge.tamu.edu/>
- The British sub-committee's call for a new charter (see email to members dated July 24). For more information please contact Simon Catling on SJCATLING@BROOKES.AC.UK.

3. International Geography Olympiad Tunis 2008

The preparations for the Tunis 2008 Olympiad started. As co-chair of the IGU Task Force for the Olympiad I visited our Tunisian colleagues for a couple of days last February. Their hospitality was great. Apart from that Tunis is a very interesting city. I was surprised about the work Zouhaier Hladoui and this colleagues had already done to prepare the Olympiad. Of course there are still some points to talk about but I think the 2008 Olympiad will be a success. We hope that we can welcome teams from many countries in Tunis in 2008, especially from different African countries.

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

Check the Home of Geography website for updates <http://www.homeofgeography.org/>

4. Regional Meetings – current 2007

Lucerne, Switzerland 29 July - 3 August 2007

Beijing, China on 15-18 August, 2007: *International Forum on Regional Centers of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development* that will be held in Beijing, China on 15-18 August, 2007. This meeting is sponsored by the Commission for Geographical Education, the United Nations University, Beijing Normal University and Changing Education Committee.

5. Conferences

The 31st IGC, Tunisie, 2008

For details see http://www.agt.org.tn/Cong2008_fr.htm

United Kingdom

<http://www.geography.org.uk/events/#10>

August 2007

[European Science Education Research Association \(ESERA\)](#)

21 - 25 August 2007 Malmo University, Malmo, Sweden

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: **1 January 2007**

Closing date for registration: **to be announced**

[Association for Teacher Education in Europe \(ATEE\)](#)

25 - 29 August 2007 University of Wolverhampton, England

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: **15 March 2007**

Closing date for registration: **6 May 2007 (early birds) and 20 July 2007**

RGS-IBG Annual International Conference

Wednesday 29 August to Friday 31st August RGS-IBG Kensington Gore

Theme 'Sustainability and Quality of Life' Details can be found at

<http://www.rgs.org/WhatsOn/ConferencesAndSeminars/Annual+International+Conference/Annual+International+Conference+2007.htm>

[European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction \(EARLI\)](#)

28 August - 1 September 2007 University of Szeged, Budapest, Hungary

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: **30 November 2006**

Closing date for registration: **15 April 2007**

September 2007

Society of Cartographers Annual Summer School

3 - 6 September University of Portsmouth

See the Summer School website <http://www.port.ac.uk/special/soc/> for further information.

See <http://www.esci.keele.ac.uk/soc/> for papers at 2006 conference

[British Educational Research Association \(BERA\)](#)

5 - 8 September 2007 Institute of Education, University of London, England

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: **12 and 19 January 2007**

Closing date for registration: **20 April 2007(early birds) and 1 June 2007**

[European Educational Research Association \(EERA\)](#)

17 - 21 September 2007 Ghent University, Belgium

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: **1 February 2007**

Closing date for registration: **10 May 2007 (early birds) and 29 June 2007 (standard)**

Earth Science Teachers' Association Annual Course and Conference

14 - 16 September Stranmillis University College

For detailed information and booking forms visit the ESTA website. <http://www.esta-uk.org/main.html>

The meeting will include workshops for Primary and Secondary teachers, keynote lectures by leading Earth scientists and field excursions.

AGI2006 (Association for Geographic Information Annual Conference)

19 - 20 September Stratford upon Avon

Find out more on their website

http://www.agi.org.uk/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_287724