

IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN SANTIAGO

A regional conference of the International Geographical Union (IGU) was held on 14–18 of November, 2011, in Santiago. From now on, for at least six years to come, these big events will be held every year by the IGU. The 2012 International Geographical Congress is scheduled to take place in Cologne; the Regional Conference in Kyoto is planned for 2013, in Krakow – for 2014, in Moscow – for 2015, and, finally, the Beijing Congress – for 2016. The IGU thinking is that every regional IGU network should conduct a large conference in its regions, of course, open to all geographers around the world and in cooperation with the IGU commissions.

Indeed, the large geographical conferences in Latin America have not been held in quite some time. Chilean geographers have taken the initiative to conduct in Santiago the International Cartographic Conference, which was successfully accomplished at the end of 2009, and then, the IGU Regional Conference. In this country, there is a significant community of geographers: at universities, there are six geographical departments. Geography is represented in a number of research institutions. In IGU, Chile is represented by the Institute of Military Geography (IMG). As in many other countries in Latin America and Southern Europe, military geographers are mainly engaged in the preparation and production of maps. In Chile, the IMG was created back in 1881. It is working on development of different GIS applications, the study of the national territory, and prevention and mitigation of natural disasters.

The Military School (Academy) of the Chilean army was chosen to be the venue of the conference; it has extensive, austere, and even rather gloomy but comfortable quarters

of pre-war construction and a spacious and a well landscaped campus in one of the most prestigious areas conveniently located near a subway station. The Chilean army provided financial and technical support for the conference.

This choice was sharply criticized by a group of liberal Western geographers, mostly from English-speaking countries, who called to move or to boycott the conference, because during the anti-constitutional coup in September 1973, when the president S. Alende was assassinated, the Military School was a place of confinement, and even torture, for his supporters. However, Chile has long once again become a democratic state, and at the Military School, there are unlikely instructors who have witnessed or participated in the dramatic events of almost forty years ago. This problem was much discussed on a number of geographical sites and at the Executive Committee of the IGU.

The conference was opened with welcoming by Chilean colleagues and the President of the IGU, R. Abler, followed by a colorful show of a professional folklore ensemble. The participants were offered a number of scientific excursions, including visits to the IMG, the center of the Air Force aerial photogrammetry, and the hydrographic and oceanographic naval service in Valparaiso. The guests were present at the show of the riding club of the Military School, whose members often performed at the Olympic Games. Many participants were able to admire the magnificent view of Santiago during the evening gala dinner in the former summer residence of General Pinochet, located on the side of one of the mountains surrounding the city (now the Military Club). Before and after the conference, dozens of



1. Venue of the Conference

participants took the opportunity to get acquainted with the unique landscapes of Chile, including the tours offered by the Organizing Committee.

During the conference, the “commercial” exhibitions, the main exponents of which were software vendors from North and South America, took place, but there were also sections of the national committees, such as Japanese.

The conference went without any disruptions. Financial and commercial aspects of its organization were entrusted to a private firm, well proven in the preparation of the International Cartographic Conference. Since there were many participants from Latin American countries who do not always speak English with confidence, all sessions were provided with simultaneous translation. There was abundant technical staff (may be even excessive, as it felt at times), always ready to help in anything. However, the fee barely exceeded the amount of traditional \$500; this was only possible thanks to sponsorship of a number of GIS-developers.

The Organizing Committee began its work four years prior to the conference. It devoted much attention to the dissemination of information about the conference online, at all possible geographical activities and through brochures, booklets, posters, articles in scientific and general press, e-mail, etc. Particular attention was paid to attracting sponsors.

There were 1124 conference applications. The IGU Executive Committee views it as an absolute success, especially considering the remoteness of Santiago from the European and North American research centers. All abstracts were reviewed and evaluated by the Scientific Committee on a number of parameters. In 38% cases, the applications included not only the usual abstracts, but also full reports! The organizers tirelessly demanded this in the e-mail letters to all participants. The abstracts and the full texts of the presentations were distributed to the participants on CD-ROMs.

The undoubted success of the IGU Organizing and Executive Committees was



2. The Opening Ceremony

the participation of all 36 commissions in a conference. Moreover, three commissions (gender geography, geography of tourism and leisure, and geography of global change), in addition to their sessions in Santiago, had conducted symposiums, prior to the conference, in Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, and Valparaiso, respectively.

There were 878 people at the conference. The IGU Executive Committee found the possibility to provide several dozen grants to attend the conference, mainly for young geographers and experts from countries with low income. In addition, several grants were issued to its members by the Association of American Geographers. More than 20 geographers came to Chile from Russia, among whom were Academicians P.Ya. Baklanov and N.S. Kasimov, Prof. A.A. Velichko, Corresponding Member of RAS S.A. Dobrolyubov, Vice President of the RGS K.V. Chistyakov, etc. The Russian participants were warmly received by Russian Ambassador M.I. Orlovets at his residence. Of course, the fact that Consul General in Santiago is a graduate of the Faculty of Geography of Moscow State University played a role.

The conference format was familiar: the predominant part of the reports was made at sessions organized by the IGU commissions. Besides the opening and closing ceremonies, there were three plenary sessions with brief presentations of M. Lagos (Chile), J. Zeiss (Canada), and N. Clifford (UK). In addition, 216 reports were presented as posters. The greatest number of reports was made at a session of the commissions on geography and the transformation of Cities (35), geography of tourism and leisure (31), land use and land cover change (30), natural disasters and risk (29), and cultural approach to geography (26). Twenty one commissions convened their organizational meeting at the conference.

Several events were timed to the conference: the scheduled session of the IGU Executive Committee, the traditional meeting of the Executive Committee with the chairmen of commissions, as well as several workshops, including the seminar by the IGU President R. Abler and a special meeting on the IGU-initiated program "International Year of Global Mutual Understanding".

Vladimir A. Kolosov

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS CONTRIBUTING TO “GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY”

AIMS AND SCOPE OF THE JOURNAL

The scientific English language journal “GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY” aims at informing and covering the results of research and global achievements in the sphere of geography, environmental conservation and sustainable development in the changing world. Publications of the journal are aimed at foreign and Russian scientists – geographers, ecologists, specialists in environmental conservation, natural resource use, education for sustainable development, GIS technology, cartography, social and political geography etc. Publications that are interdisciplinary, theoretical and methodological are particularly welcome, as well as those dealing with field studies in the sphere of environmental science.

Among the main thematic sections of the journal there are basics of geography and environmental science; fundamentals of sustainable development; environmental management; environment and natural resources; human (economic and social) geography; global and regional environmental and climate change; environmental regional planning; sustainable regional development; applied geographical and environmental studies; geoinformatics and environmental mapping; oil and gas exploration and environmental problems; nature conservation and biodiversity; environment and health; education for sustainable development.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Authors are encouraged to submit high-quality, original work: scientific papers according to the scope of the Journal, reviews (only solicited) and brief articles. Earlier published materials are accepted under the decision of the Editorial Board.
2. Papers are accepted in English. Either British or American English spelling and punctuation may be used. Papers in French are accepted under the decision of the Editorial Board.
3. All authors of an article are asked to indicate their **names** (with one forename in full for each author, other forenames being given as initials followed by the surname) and the name and full postal address (including postal code) of the **establishment(s)** where the work was done. If there is more than one institution involved in the work, authors' names should be linked to the appropriate institutions by the use of 1, 2, 3 etc superscript. **Telephone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses** of the authors could be published as well. One author should be identified as a **Corresponding Author**. The e-mail address of the corresponding author will be published, unless requested otherwise.
4. The GES Journal style is to include information about the author(s) of an article. Therefore we encourage the authors to submit their photos and short CVs.

5. The optimum size of a manuscript is about 3 000–5 000 words. Under the decision (or request) of the Editorial Board methodological and problem articles or reviews up to 8 000–10 000 words long can be accepted.
6. To facilitate the editorial assessment and reviewing process authors should submit “full” electronic version of their manuscript with embedded figures of “screen” quality as a **.pdf file**.
7. We encourage authors to list three potential expert reviewers in their field. The Editorial Board will view these names as suggestions only. All papers are reviewed by at least two reviewers selected from names suggested by authors, a list of reviewers maintained by GES, and other experts identified by the associate editors. Names of the selected reviewers are not disclosed to authors. The reviewers’ comments are sent to authors for consideration.

MANUSCRIPT PREPARATION

Before preparing papers, authors should consult a current issue of the journal at <http://www.geogr.msu.ru/GESJournal/index.php> to make themselves familiar with the general format, layout of tables, citation of references etc.

1. Manuscript should be compiled in the following **order**: authors names; authors affiliations and contacts; title; abstract; key words; main text; acknowledgments; appendices (as appropriate); references; authors (brief CV and photo)
2. The **title** should be concise but informative to the general reader. The **abstract** should briefly summarize, in one paragraph (up to 1,500 characters), the general problem and objectives, the results obtained, and the implications. Up to six **keywords**, of which at least three do not appear in the title, should be provided.
3. The **main body** of the paper should be divided into: (a) **introduction**; (b) **materials and methods**; (c) **results**; (d) **discussion**; (e) **conclusion**; (f) **acknowledgements**; (g) **numbered references**. It is often an advantage to combine (c) and (d) with gains of conciseness and clarity. The next-level subdivisions are possible for (c) and (d) sections or their combination.
4. All **figures** (including photos of the authors) are required to be submitted as separate files in original formats (CorelDraw, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator). Resolution of raster images should be not less than 300 dpi. Please number all figures (graphs, charts, photographs, and illustrations) in the order of their citation in the text. **Composite figures** should be labeled A, B, C, etc. Figure captions should be submitted as a separate file.
5. **Tables** should be numbered consecutively and include a brief title followed by up to several lines of explanation (if necessary). Parameters being measured, with units if appropriate, should be clearly indicated in the column headings. Each table should be submitted as a separate file in original format (MS Word, Excel, etc.).
6. Whenever possible, total number of **references** should not exceed 25–30. Each entry must have at least one corresponding reference in the text. In the text the surname of the author and the year of publication of the reference should be given in square brackets, i.e. [Author1, Author2, 2008]. Two or more references by the same author(s) published in the same year should be differentiated by letters a, b, c etc. For references with more than two authors, text citations should be shortened to the first name followed by et al.

7. **References** must be listed in alphabetical order at the end of the paper and numbered with Arabic numbers. References to the same author(s) should be in chronological order. Original languages other than English should be indicated in the end of the reference, e.g. (in Russian) etc.

Journal references should include: author(s) surname(s) and initials; year of publication (in brackets); article title; journal title; volume number and page numbers.

References to books should include: author(s) surname(s) and initials; year of publication (in brackets); book title; name of the publisher and place of publication.

References to multi-author works should include after the year of publication: chapter title; "In:" followed by book title; initials and name(s) of editor(s) in brackets; volume number and pages; name of the publisher and place of publication.

8. Authors must adhere to SI units. Units are not italicised.

9. When using a word which is or is asserted to be a proprietary term or trade mark, authors must use the symbol ® or TM.

10. As Instructions for Authors are subjected to changes, please see the latest "Example of manuscript style" at <http://www.geogr.msu.ru/GESJournal/author.php>

MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSION

Authors are encouraged to submit their manuscripts electronically. Electronic submissions should be sent as e-mail attachments to GESJournal@yandex.ru

ISSN 2071-9388

SOCIALLY SCIENTIFIC MAGAZINE "GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY"

No. 02(v. 05) 2012

FOUNDERS OF THE MAGAZINE: Faculty of Geography, M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University and Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences

The magazine is published with financial support of the Russian Geographical Society.

The magazine is registered in Federal service on supervision of observance of the legislation in sphere of mass communications and protection of a cultural heritage. The certificate of registration: ПИ МФС77-29285, 2007, August 30.

EDITORIAL OFFICE

M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University
Moscow 119991 Russia
Leninskie Gory,
Faculty of Geography, 2108a
Phone 7-495-9392923
Fax 7-495-9328836
E-mail: GESJournal@yandex.ru

DESIGN & PRINTING

Advertising and Publishing Agency "Advanced Solutions"
Moscow 105120 Russia
Nizhnyaya Syromyatnicheskaya, 5/7, 2
Phone 7-495-9167574
Fax 7-495-9167673
E-mail: om@aov.ru

Sent into print 05.06.2012
Order N gi212

Format 32 × 46 cm/2
55 p. sh.
Digital print
Circulation 500 ex.