

THE XXV INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC CONFERENCE AND THE XV GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

"An enlightened look on Cartography and GIS" was the name of the XXV International Cartographic Conference and the XV General Assembly of the International Cartographic Association (ICA) in Paris that took place July 3–8, 2011. About 1,300 participants from 83 world's countries gathered for six days at the Palace of Congresses located in the 17th arrondissement, near a new business district La Défense. The XV General Assembly of the ICA began July 3. Agenda covered 36 issues, including progress reports for 2007–2011 by the ICA President (William Cartwright), the Secretary General and Treasurer (D. Fairbairn), and Auditors (H. Moelring and N. Komedchikov), reports on the ICA publications, national reports from the ICA members, reports on the activities of the ICA committees and working groups, the presentation of the new ICA Executive Committee, and the elections of President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Vice-Presidents, Auditors, and Chairpersons of the committees for the new 2011–2015 period. There were also presentations on the next XXVI International Cartographic Conference, the election of the venue of the XVI General Assembly and of the XXVII International Cartographic Conference, as well as other ICA organizational and strategic issues. All elections were held on July 8, the last day of the conference. Georg Gartner (Austria) and László Zentai (Hungary) were elected unopposed as the new President of ICA and the new General Secretary and Treasurer, respectively; all Vice-Presidents were elected as well. Auditors Moelring H. (USA) and N. Komedchikov (Russia) retained their posts. Among the ICA commissions, only one commission, specifically "Geoinformatics for Sustainability",

was left chaired by a representative from Russia (V.S. Tikunov (Moscow State University)). Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) was elected (with one vote over Washington, D.C. (USA)) as the venue of the XVI General Assembly and the XXVII International Cartographic Conference.

The XXV International Cartographic Conference solemnly started on July 4. The ICA President W. Cartwright delivered a report on the activities and history of the ICA. The conference participants were welcomed by Executive Director of the National Geographical Institute of France, Patrice Parisé. J.-Ch. Victor, Director of a private, independent research laboratory Lépac (Rambouillet, France) specializing in international politics, delivered a presentation "Maps as educational, civic, and political tool". The speaker, with the help of maps and anamorphosis, clearly highlighted the major challenges of the modern world, with greater emphasis on the geopolitical situation in the Middle East, South Asia, and the Arab countries. But he has not bypassed environmental problems in the countries of the Schengen Agreement. Anne Ruas, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, spoke on the forthcoming conference and organization of meetings, exhibitions, and other events. She indicated that the conference be held in 131 parallel session, with 480 oral presentations from 53 countries, including 322 reports from European countries, 48 from Asia, 87 from America, 10 from Africa, and 13 from Australia and Oceania.

The conference proceedings published in electronic format, as well as online on the

ICA site, http://icaci.org/documents/ICC_proceedings/ICC2011/, include 605 reports. The greatest number of reports was submitted by France (122), USA (52), and Brazil (48). More than 20 reports were received from Germany, Russia, Switzerland, Poland, and China (Table 1). The number of presentations by the countries more or less reflects the general situation with the development of cartography in different countries around the world. With regard to Russia, there were 10 reports of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), 10 reports by the faculty members of Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography, 4 reports by the faculty members of M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, and one report by the PCS "Cartography" and the Center ScanEx.

The International Cartographic Exhibition is one of the central events of any cartographic conference, which presents the most important cartographic works around the world, published over the last two-three years. In accordance with the rules of the exhibition, each country – the ICA member may present no more than three atlases, three globes, five digital mapping products, and several maps that can be placed on eight panels measuring 96 x 190 cm. However, these rules were observed by far from all countries. Some countries significantly exceeded these limits, putting more maps or atlases; for example, China showed 12 atlases, Hungary – six atlases, etc. Russia, this time, presented only three atlases, namely, "The Big Atlas of Kazakhstan" (2011), "Russian Federation. The

Table 1. The number of reports submitted to the conference by the world's countries (selection)

Nº	Countries	Oral presentations	Poster presentations	Total presentations
1.	France	101	21	122
2.	USA	38	14	52
3.	Brazil	29	19	48
4.	Germany	28	4	32
5.	Russian Federation	18	8	26
6.	Switzerland	24	–	24
7.	Poland	19	4	23
8.	China	15	6	21
9.	Canada	15	3	18
10.	Japan	13	5	18
11.	Austria	13	3	16
12.	Great Britain	16	–	16
13.	Spain	10	6	16
14.	Czech Republic	15	–	15
15.	Greece	11	3	14
16.	Australia	11	1	12
17.	Croatia	10	1	11
18.	Sweden	10	1	11
19.	Hungary	9	1	10

Atlas of Natural and Technological Hazards and Risks of Emergency Situations" (2010), and "The Atlas of the Kuril Islands" (2009). All of them were prepared for publication by the Publishing and Production Center "Design. Information. Mapping" ("Feoria" Press) in collaboration with the institutes of the RAS, the Ministry for Emergency Situations of Russian Federation, universities, and other institutions. With their scientific content, complexity, scope, originality, design, and printed presentation, these atlases attracted attention of many visitors. This year, large volume of atlases were the general school atlases, or the world atlases, or atlases of automobile routes, or tourist atlases, or very specialized atlases (for example, "The Atlas of Groundwater Sustainable Utilization in the North China Plain" (2009)). Few atlases represented an exception: "The Landscape Atlas of the Czech Republic" (2009), published, however, in excessively large format (60 ½ 50 cm), and the "The National Atlas of Korea".

Wall maps and relief models had greater variety. Specifically, these were the new geological maps: of France (1 : 50 000 000 scale, France, 2010); of the Southern African Development Community Countries (SADC) (1 : 2 500 000 scale, South Africa, 2009); of Mauritania (scale 1 : 1 000 000, France, 2010); of the Republic of Croatia (scale 1 : 300 000, Croatia, 2009); and of Poland (scale 1 : 1 000 000, Poland, 2010). Several thematic maps, such as linguistic genealogy map of Irish surnames (1 : 500 000) (Great Britain, 2009), the map of the lookout towers (1 : 500 000) (the Czech Republic, 2010), the maps of breweries of the Czech Republic (1 : 500 000) (Czech Republic, 2010), the maps "The Beautiful Game: a World of Football" (Great Britain, 2010), were undoubtedly fascinating. A topographic map of Chicago (USA) was unusual in its content and the legend consisting of only geographic names in different colors and different sizes. Chile traditionally presented new maps and charts for the blind; and Poland presented a new world atlas for the blind (2011). Terrain models were displayed at the posters of France ("The

Vineyards of Beaujolais", scale 1 : 100 000 (2010) and "The Mont Blanc Massif", scale 1 : 56 000), Ukraine ("The Relief Map of Ukraine", scale 1 : 1 650 000 (2010)), Italy ("The Alps", scale 1 : 1 000 000, (2011)), and Algeria ("The Relief Map of Africa", scale 1 : 9 500 000 (2008)).

Professional technical exhibition included displays and demonstrations of leading companies in the field of cartography, geoinformatics, remote sensing, navigation, as well as of publishing houses and research institutes. There were materials from the world's leading companies Astrium, ESRI, ERDAS, Intergraph, GIM International, EastView Cartographic, and Michelin, publishing houses Springer and GiziMap, the National Library of France, the French National Geographical Institute, the Korean Cartographic Association, The Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of France, and many others. In addition, there was an exhibition "The Art and Cartography" in the town hall of Saint-Mandé (eastern suburb of Paris).

The International Children's Painting Competition "Living in a Globalized World", held during the conference, hosted 186 children's drawings from 31 countries, including 6 drawings from Russia, selected by the results of the V All-Russian Children's Painting Competition organized by the National Committee of the Cartographers of the Russian Federation and the Russian Geographical Society with the informational support of the weekly "Geography" (the national coordinator of the competition is N.N. Komedchikov). In each age group, i.e., up to 9 years, 9–12 years, and 13–15 years, two of the best pictures were selected by the international judges. The drawing of Alisa Yurchenko (Omsk) and a drawing from Lithuania won the completion in the first age-group. In the second age-group, the best drawings were from the ZAR and Indonesia. In the last age-group, drawings from Estonia and the New Zealand won the competition.

The scientific component of the conference consisted of presentations (oral and poster)

in 80 subjects that were the focus of the conference and usually gathered full audience. Some meetings were accompanied by simultaneous translation from French into English. The death of one of the classics of modern cartography, Jacques Bertin, in 2010, caused some adjustments to the agenda of the scientific sessions. As a sign of respect and recognition of his contribution to the development of cartography, four special sessions were held, namely, "Jacques Bertin and Graphical Semiology" (two sessions), "Graphical Semiology, the Visual Variables", and "Graphical Semiology, Mental Maps", as well as two round table discussions on Jacques Bertin works' influence on the development of cartography.

The largest number of sessions, i.e., seven, was conducted on the topic "Digital Technology and Cartographic Heritage". Conservation of cartographic heritage and its conversion into digital forms is one of the most important and urgent problems of our time. The largest libraries in the world, museums, and archives are converting into digital form (usually by scanning or digital photography) the most important cartographic documents: maps, atlases, and even relief models and globes. Many of them place the electronic copies of the cartographic documents for public use on the Internet. The instrument base and technology are constantly improving. The report examines the technology of conversion of cartographic materials into digital formats; a variety of software tools used for this purpose; the issues of archiving, data formats, meta-description, and bibliographic standards for digital cartographic heritage; the creation of historical and archaeological GIS containing digital copies of old maps; as well as experience in the use of digital cartographic heritage for various historical, geographical, urban studies, analysis of the dimensions on landscape maps of old maps, and their vectorization and georeferencing.

The theme "The History of Cartography and Geoinformatics" also received increased attention of the conference. Five meetings were devoted to this issue. The presentations

included the classification of maps in the XX century, quality assessment of old maps of Rio de Janeiro, the history of surveying of the Dalmatian coast by the French in Napoleon's time, the evidence of a French survey of Greece 1820 - 1830, cartography of the British Africa in 1800–1960, a map of Africa in the colonial period, the history of cartography in South Africa of 1 : 250 000 scale, the first relief map of the Grand Canyon, the history of mapping of the Florida coast, a career of cartographer Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville (1697–1782), the history of cartography in Albania and Japan, and other reports on the history of cartography. In addition, prior to the conference, on July 2, the ICA meeting on the history of cartography was held at the National Library of France. The meeting heard reports on the capability and potential of the software package "MapAnalyst" to analyze old maps (Alastair Pearson, Great Britain), on the Internet resources for cartobibliographic research (Paul van den Brink, The Netherlands), and on studies of African cartography by the Afriterria Foundation (Lucia Lovison-Golob, USA). The meeting participants visited the Map Department of the National Library and got acquainted with maps and atlases of Africa of the colonial period from the Library collections, as well as saw the exhibition "The Study and Mapping of Africa" at François Mitterrand French National Library.

Five meetings were held on the subject "Maps, GIS, Hazards, and Disasters". The reports covered various topics: the content of the "Atlas of Natural, Technological, and Social Hazards and Risks of Emergencies in Ukraine", the risk of strategic management in Japan, examples of analysis of natural risk with the use of spatial data, mapping of the mental representation of the industrial risk in the Seine estuary case, automated localization of forest fires, aero-monitoring of desertification in the Sahel, mapping the risk of schistosomiasis with the use of GIS and satellite imagery, the use of computer games as tools for management and disaster assessment, the risk of tsunamis on Wallis and Futuna Islands, US data and maps of military chemical pollution of the South Vietnam, the risk of forest fires in Andalusia, etc.

Traditionally, a large number of reports, during four sessions, were devoted to the use of satellite imagery for topographic and thematic mapping. Particular attention was paid to the creation of topographic maps of 1 : 25 000 and 1 : 50 000 scales on the basis of data from different satellite systems (TerraSAR-X, Cartosat-1, CBERS-2B, LISS IV, etc.), as well as to mapping of the dynamics of change in land use and biodiversity with satellite imagery.

In three sessions on "National and Regional Atlases", there were reports on the "The Atlas of the Russian Geographical Explorations and Discoveries of the Earth", "The National Atlas of Russia", "The Atlas of the Biota of East Africa", "The Tourist Atlas of North Sulawesi Province from Space", "The Atlas of New Caledonia", "The Electronic Atlas of the Greek Monachism", "The National Atlas of Spain" (on the Internet), "The Phenological Atlas of the Czech Republic", and "The National Atlas of Germany". In the poster presentations, there was also a report on "The National Atlas of Soils of the Russian Federation".

Three meetings were held on each of the themes "Education, Children, Training", "Education and Training", "Map Projections", "Maritime, Military, and Topographic Mapping", "Place-Names on Maps and in GeoDataBases", "Voluntary Geographic Information", and "Mountain Cartography". The remaining subjects of the conference were represented by one or two sessions: "Internet and Interactive Maps", "Internet, Web Services, and Web-Mapping", "Map and Internet", "Data Quality", "Data Integration", "Standards, SDI, and Data Quality", "SDI, Data Access, and User Requests", "Generalization", "Generalization – GeoVisualization", "Generalization: Global Processes and Assessment", "Spatial Analysis and Decision Making", "Web Services and Mapping Requests for Geoportals", "The Efficiency of Visualization", etc.

A distinctive feature of this conference was the participation of a large number of young

scientists and specialists from around the world. Russia was represented by seven young scientists and graduate and undergraduate students under the age of 30 from the Institute of Geography of the RAS, Moscow State University, and Moscow State University of Geodesy and Cartography, who made captivating presentations at the meetings.

There were meetings of the working groups and committees with reports on their activities and plans for the future; each of them presented a poster.

The conference had outdoor activities: trekking along the Paris meridian (from the University of Paris, located on the southern outskirts of Paris, through the Montsouris park, and to the north) and competition in orienteering.

Other activities were also organized. They included technical visits to the National Library of France, to the French Research Institute for Development, to the National Geographical Institute, to the Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service, as well as special sessions for young scientists, national and regional mapping agencies, and the annual conference of the French Geoinformatics SAGEO.

Information about a new international journal "Geography. Environment. Sustainability" was disseminated at the conference with its presentation held during the "GI for Sustainability" committee meeting.

The next XXVI International Cartographic Conference will be held in Dresden (Germany) from August 25 to 30, 2013; on this occasion, on 6 July, the German Embassy in France hosted a reception of official delegates of the conference.

Nikolai N. Komedchikov
Vladimir S. Tikunov

ISSN 2071-9388

SOCIALLY SCIENTIFIC MAGAZINE "GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY"

No. 02(v. 04) 2011

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

It is sent into print 09.06.2011
Order N gj211

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