IGU LUCC Steering Committee 2008-2012

A new IGU LUCC steering committee was created after the Tunis IGC 2008 meeting. Current committee members are:

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NEW IGU LUCC WEBSITE

Due to some technical problems with former web hosting and old website, there was created a new IGU LUCC website – http://www.luccprague.cz/

There you can find up-to-date information about IGU LUCC commission activities, planned conferences and meetings, etc. E-mail address of IGU LUCC secretariat remains the same – igu.landuse@gmail.com.

Jiří Stockmann, Charles University in Prague, jiri.stockmann@gmail.com

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

IGU/LUCC NORTH EAST ASIA CONFERENCE 2009

Pacific Institute of Geography, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, Russia in cooperation with IGU Land Use/Cover Change (LUCC) Commission holds IGU/LUCC North East Asia Conference 2009 - Land cover and land use changes in North East Asia: problems of sustainable nature management. Conference will be held on September 6 – 12 2009 in Vladivostok, Russian Federation.

Main Topics of the Conference:

➢ Theoretical and methodological problems of land use in the context of sustainable development
➢ Problems of land use in the globalizing and changing World
➢ Ecological consequences of long-term land cover/land use dynamics in the separate regions of the World
➢ Natural resources and sustainable land use in North East Asia
➢ Sustainable land use and food security
➢ Land cover and land use legends: problems of unification
➢ Regional development of North East Asia

Programme of the Conference:

6th September (Sunday) – arrival in Vladivostok
7th September (Monday) – registration of participants, Opening, Plenary sessions, Symposium dinner
8th September (Tuesday) – Plenary sessions, Poster sessions, Discussion of results and Closing ceremony, City sightseeing
9th September (Wednesday) – Marine excursion on Peter the Great Bay
10th September (Thursday) – 12th September (Saturday) – Field excursion
13th September (Sunday) – Departure from Vladivostok


(source: Conference official website)

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE 2009

EUGEO 2009, the second Congress on the Geography of Europe, attracts geographers and related professionals from around Europe. EUGEO meeting forum stimulates discussion about research, education, accomplishments, and developments in geography.

The EUGEO Congress 2009 will be held on August 13-16 in Bratislava, Slovakia, a city with a unique cultural, social and economic history. Bratislava, Capital of Slovakia, enjoys a specific location on the borders with Austria and Hungary. Today, Bratislava is a thriving and growing Central European metropolis amazingly reflecting the spectacular development of this region and Slovakia as well.

Congress theme of ‘the Geography of Europe’ should run through all the congress topics.
This could include others’ views of Europe and Europe’s views of others.

- Geographers and geographical communities/associations – their role, work and influence/relevance
- Geography and ethics – rights, values, justice, responsiveness, care, aid
- Geographical analyses and synthesis – thinking on concepts, approaches, methods, techniques and tools
- Post-Socialism/Post-Communism in geographical research
- Teaching geography - educational geography perspectives
- World by European geographers
- Geographical maps, Cartography, Geoinformatics, Remote Sensing
- Geographical Information Sources and Spatial Information Infrastructures
- Geomorphological processes, modelling, mapping and geomorphometry
- Geography focusing on diversity and relationships
- Natural/technical hazards and risks
- Geographical research in protected areas and Biosphere Reserves (MaB)
- Sustainable regional, urban and rural development
- Land use/land cover change
- Geography and economic activities
- Transport networks, information communication technologies, nodes and flows
- Geography of consumption - leisure, tourism, hospitality, retailing/shopping
- Changing cities and their hinterlands
- European population - demographic future, migrations, health
- Regional/local development and European integration
- Poverty and wealth
- Does difference matter? Gender, cultures, religions, ethnicities in geographical research
- Power, democracy, representation, governance in managing territories
- Borders and cross-border cooperation


(source: Congress official website)

IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE TEL AVIV 2010

International Geographical Union in cooperation with The Israeli National Commission for Geography will held IGU regional conference Tel Aviv 2010 – Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World. The conference will take place in Tel Aviv on July 12-16 2010.

IGU LUCC commission will organize a pre-conference meeting and a field trip, similar to that in Tunis 2008 on the International Geographical Congress.

Information about IGU Conference can be found at http://igu2010.com/ Information about IGU LUCC activities, pre-conference meeting and field-trip will be specified by IGU LUCC secretariat (igu.landuse@gmail.com) and at IGU LUCC website www.luccprague.cz.

Jiří Stockmann, Charles University in Prague, jiri.stockmann@gmail.com

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LAST MEETINGS

31ST IGC TUNIS 2008

IGU LUCC commission activities were divided into two parts during International Geographical Congress in Tunis 2008: (1) pre-congress meeting including a field trip and (2) a scientific program during congress.
Pre-congress meeting was organized by IGU LUCC steering committee together with local organizers. Along with discussions about LUCC agenda and forthcoming activities in 2008-2012, several interesting papers were presented, followed by a fruitful discussion. The meeting continued with a 3-days excursion in areas where different Tunisian land use problems was presented. Thanks to excellent comments by local researchers, there were analyzed e.g. problems of traditional Tunisian agriculture and problems connected with modernised economy as well. Thanks to the local organizers, the excursion and meeting were very well organized; all participants of the pre-congress meeting were very satisfied.

After the pre-congress meeting, activities of IGU LUCC commission continued during the congress. There were presented 24 papers in 5 sessions:

- session 1 (session chair: Y. Himiyama): LUCC at micro-regional level,
- session 2 (session chair: D. L. Carr): Historical land-use,
- session 3 (session chair: D. Balteanu): LUCC and environment,
- session 4 (session chair: R.B. Singh): LUCC and the population pressure,
- session 5 (session chair: S. Ganzey): Application of GIS and remote sensing in LUCC.

Many scholars from all over the World presented and discussed their papers and they significantly contributed to a high quality of all IGU LUCC activities.

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PECSRL 2008

PECSRL (Permanent European Conference of the Study of the Rural Landscape) was organized by Lusofôna University in Lisboa (Portugal) between August 31 and September 7 2008. The conference was held for the 23rd time. 350 scholars from different professions involved in discussions on development of rural landscape in the dynamic global World participated in the event. Organization of the conference was excellent. The participants had an opportunity to spend two days in Lisboa, two days in Óbidos, and to attend a one-day field trip. All researchers expressed a big interest into the plenary sessions and about forty thematic sessions. There was enough time both to present the papers and to discuss it consequently. Surprising and very positive was a huge participation of young researchers. Quality of papers there was generally higher than in Tunis.

In my opinion, we should have paid more attention to this conference because it was a particularly beneficial forum. Next, 24th conference will take place in Latvia 2010.

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LUCC REGIONAL MEETING IN PRAGUE 2008

IGU LUCC regional Prague meeting – on November 27 to 30 2008 – was organized by IGU LUCC commission in cooperation with Charles University in Prague (Faculty of Science).

A seminar on November 28 constituted the main part of this meeting. It was visited by both foreign (prof. Feranec, Slovakia, prof. Balteanu, Romania, prof. Ganzei, Russia) and Czech researchers. A fruitful discussion after each paper resulted in discussions about including these papers into Atlas of World Land Use, Volume V.

Besides the main seminar, there were also organized three business meetings with members of the steering committee,
and one excursion. During these meetings, there were discussed organizations of commission activities for next four
year. The agreed process will be more specified during the EUGEO Bratislava Conference (August 13 to 16 2009),
where a commission meeting for European members will be organized. Support and guarantee of this seminar will be
realized by prof. Feranec. There was also discussed the structure and content of IGU/LUCC North East Asia
Conference 2009 in Vladivostok, Russia. Conferences and meeting for the year 2010 were discussed as well. There are
two planned meetings in 2010 – IGC congress in Tel Aviv (the steering committee will organize a pre-congress meeting
for IGU LUCC members); the second meeting in 2010 will take place in Bucharest, Romania. All information will be
placed on LUCC commission website.

One of the main activities of the commission – publishing next volumes of the Atlas of World Land Use – was broadly
discussed and as a result, there were scheduled next procedures to each atlas paper. Some of the papers already obtained
were recommended to enlargement of graphical sections (D. Carr, Santa Barbara, USA, E. Milanova, Moscow, Russia).
Papers from this Prague seminar were agreed to be published in the following structure: S. Ganzej: East Asia Land
Cover, D. Balteanu: Problems of land use and land cover in Romania, J. Feranec: CORINE: Evaluation of land cover in
Curtain and land use in Europe. Case study: Czechia borders.

There is also a presumption that there will be published one monothematic publication from each meeting. These
publications will be published in prestige publishing houses or at least in geographical prestige magazines. All these
activities will be collectively named: Project of investigation and publication activity of IGU/LUCC in the period
2009-2012.

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PUBLICATIONS

LUCC ATLAS

On its meeting, IGU LUCC steering committee has accepted the idea of continuation of LUCC Atlas (“Land Use /
Cover Changes in Selected Regions in the World”) series. Prof. Himiyama had published three volumes in 2001-2005,
and he had agreed with its continuation as a IGU LUCC activity. Atlas of World Land Use, vol. V is going to be
published in 2009. Therefore, we call on all colleagues who focus on land use and land cover research to participate in
Atlas publishing. All necessary information about forthcoming volumes will be published on IGU LUCC website. If
you are interested, you can also use the e-mail address of steering committee members, or you can write to Mr. Jan
Kabrda (kabrda@seznam.cz) who is the technical editor of the 5th volume of the atlas series.

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ATLAS OF LANDSCAPE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Ministry of Environment, in a close cooperation with many other Czech scientific institutions and
universities, is preparing an Atlas of landscape of the Czech Republic. A team of geographers from Faculty of Sciences,
Charles University in Prague, led by Ivan Bičík (IGU LUCC chair), participates in creating the atlas, using the Database
of long-term land use changes in Czechia (1845 – 2000). Here, some interesting results are presented. They are based
on a complex method, called “typology of land use development”.

The map (fig. 1) shows typology of land use changes between the years 1948 and 2000. Three aggregate categories of
land use are considered – agricultural land (AL / ZPF in Czech), forested areas (FA / lesy in Czech) and “other areas”
(OA / jiné plochy in Czech). Together, these three categories constitute 100 % of area of each of the 8,903 “Basic
Territorial Units” (BTUs / ZÚJ in Czech), depicted in the map. The colours represent various combinations of
increases /decreases of these three categories in the studied time period (top – down in the legend):
- šedá: přesun AL (21 BTUs)
- světle zelená: změna AL pod 10%, FA rostoucí rychleji než OA, rostoucí FA pod 4% (827 BTUs)
- světle zelená: změna AL pod 10%, FA rostoucí rychleji než OA, rostoucí FA přes 4% (584 BTUs)
- světle růžová: změna AL pod 10%, OA rostoucí rychleji než FA, OA rostoucí pod 4% (2.181 BTUs)
- růžová: změna AL pod 10%, OA rostoucí rychleji než FA, OA rostoucí přes 4% (2.712 BTUs)
- zelená: změna AL přes 10%, FA rostoucí rychleji než OA, FA rostoucí pod 12% (628 BTUs)
- tmavě zelená: změna AL přes 10%, FA rostoucí rychleji než OA, FA rostoucí přes 12% (457 BTUs)
- tmavě růžová: změna AL pod 10%, OA rostoucí rychleji než FA, OA rostoucí pod 12% (852 BTUs)
- červená: změna AL pod 10%, OA rostoucí rychleji než FA, OA rostoucí přes 12% (648 BTUs)
- černý bod: změna AL přes 500 hektarů
- šedý bod: změna AL 250 do 500 hektarů
The map presents a period of significant modernization of the Czech agriculture (mechanisation, chemisation, etc.), but also of radical institutional changes. While the first era (1948 – 90) is typical of substantial changes connected with “socialization” of agriculture (nationalisation, creation of large enterprises, plot amalgamation, etc.) and other similar processes, the second period (1990 - 2000) is characterized by “de-socialization” (restitution of property rights, privatization, transformation). These processes might have brought contradictory land use tendencies in some BTUs in the two monitored periods.

However, most of the trends were similar – at least in their spatial distribution and general pattern. The decrease of agricultural land was general and common for most of the area of the Czech Republic. On the one hand, BTUs in favourable natural and/or socio-economic conditions – especially in metropolitan areas and mining basins – witnessed a massive growth of “other areas” (built-up and other developed areas, unused land, infrastructure, mines, bare land, etc.), connected with urbanisation and industrialisation in the first time period, and with suburbanisation in the second one. On the other hand, BTUs in mountains and peripheral regions saw extensification of land use (land abandonment, afforestation in the first time period, grassing-over in the second one). Land use changes were rather weak in traditional “inner peripheries”, e.g., in the Bohemian-Moravian Highland.

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