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The *IAG Newsletter* is under the editorial responsibility of the *Communication and Outreach Branch* (COB) of the IAG.

It is an open forum and contributors are welcome to send material (preferably in electronic form) to the IAG COB (newsletter@iag-aig.org). These contributions should complement information sent by IAG officials or by IAG symposia organizers (reports and announcements). The *IAG Newsletter* is published monthly. It is available in different formats from the IAG new internet site: <http://www.iag-aig.org>

Each *IAG Newsletter* includes several of the following topics:

- I. news from the Bureau Members
- II. general information
- III. reports of IAG symposia
- IV. reports by commissions, special commissions or study groups
- V. symposia announcements
- VI. book reviews
- VII. fast bibliography

Books for review are the responsibility of:

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General Announcements

Improved production times for Journal of Geodesy papers

Due to improved production process controls by Springer over the contracted-out typesetting of manuscripts, papers accepted for *Journal of Geodesy* can now appear on the online first part of SpringerLink in as little as 15 days. This requires that authors provide all text and figure files to the editors after acceptance (formatted according to the Instructions to Authors) and that the corresponding author returns the pageproofs in two days. Coupled with the faster review times, this means that a submitted paper could theoretically appear in print in a couple of months, subject of course to the complexity of the review and revision process.

WILL FEATHERSTONE
Editor in Chief

Two new Special Issues of the Journal of Geodesy now complete

I am very pleased to announce the imminent release of two new Special Issues of the *Journal of Geodesy*: one on DORIS (Guest Editor: Pascal Willis) and one on Satellite Gravimetry and Inverse Problems (Guest Editors: Nico Sneeuw and Jürgen Kusche). Another Special Issue on VLBI (Guest Editors: Harald Schuh, Chopo Ma and Axel Nothnagel) is currently well into the review process. I would particularly like to thank all editors, authors and reviewers for making these Special Issues a reality. A Special Issue is a collection of complete papers (i.e., not reporting planned projects or incomplete results) in a current and topical area of geodesy. If IAG members, or others, who wish to guest-edit a Special Issue of the *Journal of Geodesy*, please contact me on W.Featherstone@curtin.edu.au to discuss your proposal. Importantly, the expectation on standards and the rigour of the review process applied to special issues is exactly the same as normal issues of the Journal.

WILL FEATHERSTONE
Editor in Chief

Large improvement in the Journal of Geodesy's impact factor

I am particularly pleased to announce to the geodetic community a substantial recent increase in the Thompson Scientific® impact factor for the *Journal of Geodesy*. In 2005, it reached 1.205, which is the highest impact factor that the Journal has ever held. The impact factor is a common metric to judge the quality of an academic journal, as judged by citations. It is calculated, essentially, by the ratio of papers cited to papers published in a journal that is selected for inclusion by Thompson Scientific. Details of the selection criteria and computation of impact factor are given in detail on the Thompson Scientific® website <http://www.isinet.com/>. I would like to thank all authors, editors and reviewers, who have undoubtedly contributed to the increased academic standards of material published in the *Journal of Geodesy*. I also encourage all geodesists to always publish their best work in *Journal of Geodesy*.

WILL FEATHERSTONE
Editor in Chief

Meeting Announcements

3rd International GOCE User Workshop

November 6-8, 2006, ESA-ESRIN, Frascati, Italy.

The European Space Agency's Gravity field and steady-state Ocean Circulation Explorer (GOCE) Mission is planned for launch in 2007. This is the first of ESA's Core Earth Explorer satellite missions, and promises amongst others scientific applications in Geodesy, Solid-Earth Physics and Oceanography.

This is a preliminary announcement of the ESA's intent to hold the third in a series of International GOCE User Workshops from 6-8 November, 2006 at ESA-ESRIN, in Frascati, near Rome, Italy. This pre-launch workshop is timed to take place prior to the closure of the forthcoming GOCE Data Announcement of Opportunity (see: <http://eopi.esa.int>). It is intended to provide potential users of GOCE data products with the opportunity to obtain the latest information on satellite performance as well as details regarding ground segment operations, data products and user services. It will allow users the opportunity to learn about product specifications, and the plans for data calibration and validation. This Workshop will also offer the opportunity for users to present their planned scientific studies, prior to consolidating their GOCE Data AO proposals.

Conference proceedings are anticipated to be published as an ESA Special Publication by the ESA Publications Division, and so full scientific papers are encouraged in addition to the Workshop presentation material. The official language of the workshop is English.

Preliminary Calendar of Key Dates

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • First Announcement | March 2006 |
| • Second Call & Web Announcement | May 2006 |
| • Deadline for Abstract Submission | 7 th July 2006 |
| • Notification of Abstract Acceptance | 8 September 2006 |
| • Preliminary Programme | 15 September 2006 |
| • Confirmation of Participation | 18 September 2006 |
| • Registration | 18 September 2006 |
| • Proceedings Paper Submission | 13 October 2006 |
| • Presentation Material for Meeting | 30 October 2006 |
| • GOCE User Workshop | November 6-8, 2006 |

Further information on Workshop objectives and themes are available on the Workshop web site:

<http://earth.esa.int/goce06>

We look forward to welcoming you at the Workshop. Please do not hesitate to forward this announcement to colleague you believe may be interested.

The 3rd International GOCE User Workshop 2006 - Organising Committee

M. R. DRINKWATER, J. BENVENISTE (CHAIRS)

R. FLOBERGHAGEN, R. HAAGMANS, M. KERN, G. PLANK, E. MONJOUX, C. COMPARETTO, C. MORRIS (MEMBERS)

Symposium on Terrestrial Gravimetry: Static and Mobile Measurements

St. Petersburg, Russia, 20 - 22 August 2007.

The meeting is being organized by Leonid Vitushkin, Chair of the Study Group 2.1 (Comparison of Absolute Gravimeters) of Commission 2. The symposium is officially sponsored by the IAG, co-sponsored by the Institute of Earth Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow; and the BIPM.

The topics of the conference will include the design and investigations of the measuring instruments for the absolute and relative measurement of the gravity field, their applications for terrestrial, shipboard and airborne platforms, and in the metrology of gravimetry. Traditional free-fall, superconducting, and spring-type gravimeters, gradiometers, and new technologies, such as based on atom interferometry, will be especially welcome, as will results and methodologies of static and mobile campaigns, as well as current and future networks. Geophysical interpretation of results and connection with space-borne systems are of limited interest, since the emphasis is on terrestrial (including airborne) instrumentation and methods to extract gravity field measurements for a variety of applications.

More details about the symposium will soon be available on the website of the meeting. Contact person of the Local Organising Committee is Mrs. Margarita Grishina (mgrishina@eprib.ru).

CHRISTOPHER JEKELI AND
LEONID VITUSHKIN

IAG Sponsored Meetings

International Symposium "Modern Technologies, Education and Professional Practice in Geodesy and Related Fields"

9-10 November 2006, Sofia, Bulgaria

The symposium (with a special session for young specialists and students) will be held at the House of Science and Techniques, 108 Rakovski Str., Sofia, 09-10 November 2006, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For up-to-date information please, visit the symposium website at: <http://www.gis-sofia.bg/sgzb/>.

Symposium on Terrestrial Gravimetry: Static and Mobile Measurements

20 - 22 August 2007, St. Petersburg, Russia.

The topics of the conference will include the design and investigations of the measuring instruments for the absolute and relative measurement of the gravity field, their applications for terrestrial, shipboard and airborne platforms, and in the metrology of gravimetry. Traditional free-fall, superconducting, and spring-type gravimeters, gradiometers, and new technologies, such as based on atom interferometry, will be especially welcome, as will results and methodologies of static and mobile campaigns, as well as current and future networks. More details about the symposium will soon be available on the website of the meeting.

IAG Related Meetings

3rd International GOCE User Workshop

November 6-8, 2006, ESA-ESRIN, Frascati, Italy.

ESA's intent is to hold the third in a series of International GOCE User Workshops from 6-8 November, 2006 at ESA-ESRIN, in Frascati, near Rome, Italy. Further information on Workshop objectives and themes, as well as details for abstract and paper/poster submission, are available on the Workshop web site: <http://earth.esa.int/goce06>.

International Symposium on Advances in Geographic Information Systems – ACM-GIS 2006

November 10-11, 2006 Arlington, Virginia, USA

The 2006 International Symposium of ACM GIS will be the fourteenth of a series of symposia/workshops that began in 1993 with the aim of bringing together researchers, developers, users, and practitioners carrying out research and development in novel systems in which geospatial data and knowledge is central. Please visit the website <http://www.itc.nl/acmgis06> for details.

125th Anniversary of Seismology in Hungary

November 13-14, 2006 Budapest, Hungary

The Permanent Seismological Commission was organised according to resolution of the Hungarian Geological Society of 9 November 1881. In the activity of the Commission took part the most prominent geologists, geographers and geophysicists of the country. Among them Radó Kövesligethy who made a lot to develop the theoretical backgrounds of seismology, organised the national network of earthquake observatories and was one of the founders of international collaboration in seismology.

To commemorate this anniversary of seismology in Hungary the Hungarian Academy of Sciences organises 13-14 November 2006 a meeting in the main building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest, Roosevelt square 9).

For more information contact please Péter Varga (varga@seismology.hu)

UN/China/ESA Training Course on the Use and Applications of GNSS

4 – 8 December 2006, Beijing, China

This training course is being organized in cooperation with the Government of China and the European Space Agency (ESA), as part of the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, for the benefit of the developing countries in Asia and the Pacific region. The training course will be hosted by the National Remote Sensing Centre of China and China-Europe GNSS Technology Training and Cooperation Centre in Beijing from 4 to 8 December 2006. The website link of the above planned training course is <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/SAP/gnss/index.html>.

Munich Satellite Navigation Summit 2007

6 - 8 March 2007, Munich, Germany

The Munich Satellite Navigation Summit 2007 – the fifth one – to be held 6-8 March, 2007 in the famous “Residenz München”, Germany, has been established as the European and international conference with global impact featuring invited high-ranking worldwide speakers from industry, science and governments dealing with the directions of satellite navigation now and in the future. Further information is available on the website <http://www.munich-satellite-navigation-summit.org>.

First Asia workshop on superconducting gravimetry

12-16 March 2007, Hsinchu, Taiwan

The promotion of superconducting gravimetry research includes, among others, exchange of gravity data, software, research personnel and inter-comparison of absolute gravimeters. The workshop is open not only to scientists in Asia, but also to scientists in the world. The abstract submission deadline is December 31, 2006. Please visit http://space.cv.nctu.edu.tw/SG/Asia_workshop.html for details.

WMSCI 2007

8-11 July, 2007, Orlando, Florida, USA

The 11th World Multi-Conference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (WMSCI 2007) will take place in Orlando, Florida, USA, from July 8-11, 2007. WMSCI 2007 is an international forum for scientists and engineers, researchers and consultants, theoreticians and practitioners in the fields of Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics. The topic of the conference is related to the area of Geographical Information Systems. Visit the conference homepage at <http://www.iiis-cyber.org/wmsci2007> for further details.

IAG Sister Societies' General Assemblies

XIIIth ISM Congress

September 24-28, 2007, Budapest, Hungary

The XIIIth Congress of International Society for Mine Surveying (ISM) will be held at Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Budapest, Hungary. The preliminary program is available from the ISM website: <http://www.ism.rwth-aachen.de>.