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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:

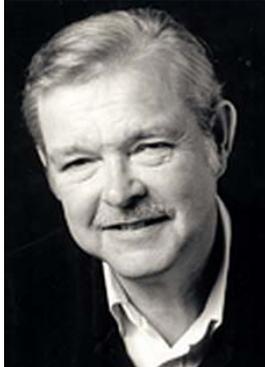
- I. news from the Bureau Members
- II. general information
- III. reports of IAG symposia
- IV. reports by commissions, special commissions or study groups
- V. symposia announcements
- VI. book reviews
- VII. fast bibliography

Books for review are the responsibility of:

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General Announcements

EGU Vening Meinesz Medal to C.C. Tscherning



At the last General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) in Vienna, Austria, April 13-18, 2008 *Carl Christian Tscherning* IAG Honorary Secretary General was awarded by the EGU *Vening Meinesz Medal* for his fundamental contributions to physical geodesy and his unselfish involvement within the International Association of Geodesy.

IAG COB

CONT08: An August Continuous VLBI Campaign

Dirk Behrend and Cynthia Thomas, NVI Inc./NASA GSFC

After a three-year intermission, there will be another continuous VLBI campaign organized this year (CONT08). Similar to the very successful CONT05 campaign, CONT08 will be observed in late summer. However, for scientific reasons the observing period is shifted by about a month so that the actual observations will be taken between August 12 @ 00:00:00 UT and August 26 @ 23:59:59 UT. The observation period should ensure a high signal level in the atmospheric excitation functions for high temporal resolution Earth rotation investigations. The signal vanishes (zero-crossing) in the season transition months of October and March; these months should therefore be avoided entirely.

Currently the logistical preparations for the CONT08 campaign are under way. The CONT08 network will consist of eleven stations (see figure). In contrast to CONT05, it is planned to observe the 15 consecutive days on the basis of UT days, i.e., an observing day will run from 0 UT to 24 UT. In addition, the observing scheme will also be altered so that daily station checks (e.g., pointing) will not necessarily be done at the change of schedules but rather at a convenient, but still well-coordinated time for the stations (i.e., different daily check times for each station). In this way gaps with no observational data can be avoided. Previously, daily check gaps (of 30-min length) resulted in unrealistic peaks in the sub-daily EOP time series derived from the CONT05 campaign data.

The fifteen days of continuous observations will be observed at a recording rate of 512 Mbps. According to preliminary schedule simulations, this will result in a storage space requirement of about 260 TB for the entire campaign. With the geodetic media pool only being able to support the standard IVS observing program, new module purchases are necessary for carrying out the campaign as planned. Several stations/institutions have purchased or will purchase new modules (Medicina, Ny-Ålesund, Onsala, Wettzell, and NASA) to augment the pool with the needed, about three quarters of the full campaign, capacity. If any of the major purchases falls through, it will become necessary to downscale the scope of CONT08, for instance, by reducing the recording rate. A possible fall-back plan is to observe two weeks back-to-back, where one week is observed at 512 Mbps and the other at 256 Mbps.

A further difference to the CONT05 campaign will be that all data will be correlated at one correlator: the Washington Correlator will process the entire CONT08 campaign. This will ease the logistical aspects regarding module handling for the correlators, stations, and shipping.

As was done in previous CONT campaigns, the participating stations will conduct extensive testing of their equipment under the direction of Brian Corey (MIT Haystack Observatory) and Ed Himwich (NVI, Inc./NASA Goddard Space Flight Center). The test results are to be examined by the stations themselves as well as by Brian and Ed. The tests will be done in order to ensure that the stations will be at their peak performance for CONT08.

Aligning the CONT08 observing scheme to the other space-geodetic techniques (GNSS, SLR, DORIS) will improve the comparison and combination work. For that these techniques should make sure that the best

possible observations are taken for the duration of the CONT08 campaign; i.e., no unnecessary maintenance work or upgrades should be performed at the stations. Furthermore, all sites should be analyzed in the regular analysis of the particular service.

To foster inter-technique studies it is envisioned to prepare a special issue on CONT08 in the Journal of Geodesy. The call for contributions will probably go out about a year after the end of the CONT08 observing, that is in the September 2009 time frame. The detailed aspects of this special issue need still to be discussed.

Further information on the campaign will be posted to the CONT08 Web page <http://ivscc.gsfc.nasa.gov/program/cont08> as it becomes available.



The network of 11 stations that will participate in the CONT08 campaign to be observed from August 12 to August 26, 2008.

Meeting Announcements

Geodetic Techniques (GNSS, VLBI, SLR) and Its Applications on Atmosphere/Geodynamics session in AOGS 2008

Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) is the one of the biggest society on Geosciences and has the mission to promote the Geophysical sciences for the benefit of humanity in Asia and Oceania. The 5th annual meeting of AOGS will hold in Busan, South Korea on 16-20 June, 2008. You can find more information at the AOGS web site <http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2008/index.asp> and

http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2008/doc/aogs2008_8pp_brochure.pdf. The session for Space Geodesy was accepted like as "Geodetic Techniques (GNSS, VLBI, SLR,,) and Its Applications on Atmosphere/Geodynamics" (Session number : SE87)

SE87: Geodetic Techniques (GNSS, VLBI, SLR,,) and Its Applications on Atmosphere/Geodynamics

The current Space/Ground Geodetic techniques (e.g. GNSS (both ground and LEO based), VLBI, SLR,) with an unprecedented accuracy enable to characterize a broad range of Earth sciences, especially increasingly GPS/SLR/VLBI networks in Asia-Oceania areas cooperating with IGS, ILRS, IVS and GGOS as well as the CHAMP/GRACE and the recently launched Formosat-3/COSMIC mission. Each or combination of geodetic techniques provide valuable insights for Atmosphere (troposphere and ionosphere) and Geodynamics, such as Space-borne GNSS Radio Occultation and Ground-based GNSS meteorology, crustal deformation, Earth Rotation and Polar Motion, Precise Orbit Determination, Positioning and Navigation (RTK, PPP.), land subsidence, natural hazard monitoring as well as deep-space exploration. This session welcomes all Space Geodetic techniques issues/developments and their integration applications in Atmosphere/Geodynamics.

JAMES PARK AND MIKE PEARLMAN

EUREF Symposium 2008

*18-20 June, 2008
Brussels, Belgium*

The EUREF symposium is organised yearly. It is the forum where the EUREF activities are discussed and resolutions are taken. The 2008 symposium will be organised by the Royal Observatory of Belgium (ROB), the Royal Military Academy (RMA) and the National Geographic Institute (NGI).

Important deadline:

- Registration : **May 15, 2008.**

Details are available through the Symposium homepage <http://epncb.oma.be/EUREF2008/>.

WWW.EUREF-IAG.NET

International Symposium on Gravity, Geoid and Earth Observation GGEO 2008

*23-27 June, 2008
Chania, Crete, Greece*

The symposium aims at bringing together geodesists and geophysicists working in the general areas of gravity, geoid, geodynamics and Earth observation. Besides covering the traditional research areas, special attention will be paid to the use of geodetic methods for

- Earth observation,
- Environmental monitoring,
- Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)
- Earth Gravity Models (e.g., EGM08),
- Geodynamics studies,
- Dedicated gravity satellite missions (i.e., GOCE),
- Airborne gravity surveys,
- Geodesy & geodynamics in polar regions, and
- The integration of geodetic and geophysical information.

The **first circular letter** is available http://www.geomatlab.tuc.gr/files/ggeo2008/GGEO2008_1st_Circular.pdf.
The web site of the Symposium is (<http://www.geomatlab.tuc.gr/GGEO2008>) with additional information.

SOURCE: WWW.GEOMATLAB.TUC.GR/GGEO2008

37th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research and Associated Events – COSPAR 2008

*50th Anniversary Assembly
13 - 20 July 2008, Montreal, Canada.*

Contact:

COSPAR Secretariat, c/o CNES, 2 place Maurice Quentin, 75039 Paris Cedex 01, France. Tel: +33 1 44 76 75 10, Fax: +33 1 44 76 74 37. E-mail: cospar@cosparhq.cnes.fr
<http://www.cospar2008.org/> or <http://www.cospar-assembly.org>

Scientific Program Chair:

Prof. Jean-Pierre St.-Maurice, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada

Abstract Deadline:

February 17, 2008

Topics:

Approximately 85 meetings covering the fields of COSPAR Scientific Commissions (SC) and Panels:

- SC A: The Earth's Surface, Meteorology and Climate
- SC B: The Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System
- SC C: The Upper Atmospheres of the Earth and Planets Including Reference Atmospheres

- SC D: Space Plasmas in the Solar System, Including Planetary Magnetospheres
- SC E: Research in Astrophysics from Space
- SC F: Life Sciences as Related to Space
- SC G: Materials Sciences in Space
- SC H: Fundamental Physics in Space
- Panel on Satellite Dynamics (PSD)
- Panel on Scientific Ballooning (PSB)
- Panel on Potentially Environmentally Detrimental Activities in Space (PEDAS)
- Panel on Radiation Belt Environment Modelling (PRBEM)
- Panel on Space Weather (PSW)
- Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP)
- Panel on Capacity Building (PCB)
- Panel on Education
- Special events: 50th anniversary lectures, interdisciplinary lectures, space agency round table, session on EGY - Towards an Earth and Space Science Commons

Papers Published in *Advances in Space Research*, a fully refereed journal.

A. JANOFSKY
Associate Director
COSPAR

14th General Assembly of WEGENER - WEGENER 2008

September 15-18, 2008
Darmstadt, Germany

The Institute of Physical Geodesy (IPGD) of the Technische Universität Darmstadt is pleased to announce that the 14th General Assembly of WEGENER - ***WEGENER 2008 will take place in Darmstadt, Germany, from September 15-18, 2008.*** The conference venue will be *darmstadtium*, the new Science and Conference Center in Darmstadt.

The Wegener project aims to bring together geoscientists interested in using geodetic techniques to measure and understand the 3D surface motion in Europe and the Mediterranean. The 14th Assembly of WEGENER will provide a forum for presentation, discussion, coordination and scientific support for geoscientists interested in unravelling the kinematics and mechanisms of the broad Eurasian/African/Arabian collision zone. Contributions on new aspects arising from the global observing system GGOS and the new satellite missions for gravity, SAR and Laser Altimetry are welcome in particular. The threat by Natural Hazards to the Mediterranean is addressed in a special session on geohazards.

2nd Circular with Call for Abstracts and additional information available at <http://www.ipg.tu-darmstadt.de/wegener/>. The early bird registration rate deadline is **May 1st 2008**.

MATTHIAS BECKER

International IGES School "THE DETERMINATION AND USE OF THE GEOID"

Organized by Politecnico di Milano, Campus Como
COMO, Italy, 15 -19 September 2008.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM (DEADLINE FOR THE REGISTRATION : 15 JULY 2008)

Local Organizing Committee:

Fernando Sansò

Riccardo Barzaghi

Giovanna Sona

e-mail : iges@polimi.it

web : www.iges.polimi.it

Tel : +39 - 02-2399.6527 / 02-2399.7520

Fax : +39 - 02-2399.7519

Organization of accommodation will follow

Preliminary Program:

1st day (15 September 2008) Prof. F. Sansò and R. Barzaghi

Lecture 1 – General Introduction to Physical Geodesy
Lecture 2 – General Theory for Geoid Computation
Lecture 3 – The Remove Restores Concept and Collocation

2nd day (16 September 2008)

Lecture 4 – The Global Geopotential Models **Prof. N. Pavlis**
Exercises 1 on Global Models
Exercises 2 on Global Models

3rd day (17 September 2008) Prof.C.Tscherning

Lecture 5 - The Collocation Method in Geodesy
Exercises 1 on Collocation
Exercises 2 on Collocation
BGI Seminar

4th day (18 September 2008)

Lecture 7 – The Terrain Effect in Geoid Estimation **Prof. R. Forsberg**
Exercises

5th day (19 September 2008) Prof. I.Tsiavos

Lecture 6 – The FFT Methods to Geodesy
Exercises 1
Exercises 2

Note: All the software used during the school will be made available on CD for the participants

REGISTRATION FORM:

Please send by e-mail or fax this registration form to:

iges@polimi.it

Fax: +39 -02-23997519

Registration Form:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Country: _____

E-mail: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Registration Fee (paid before 15 July, 2008):400 Euros

Registration Fee (paid after 15 July, 2008): 500 Euros

Registration Fee includes the School Lecture Notes and the sw package that will be delivered on CD to the students, the social dinner and coffee breaks.

Details on methods of payment will follow.

F. SANSÒ – R. BARZAGHI – G. SONA

ILP workshop at Ensenada, Baja California

(Mexico), 21-26 September 2008:

Volcanism, mantle, paleo-stress and sedimentary basins;. A joint International Lithosphere Programme Task Force conference.

The conference will be held at the Corall Hotel in Ensenada, facing the Ocean, 200 m away from the Earth Science building. A 2 days pre-conference field trip (September 22-23) is scheduled. Already approved sessions comprise: Volcanism and geodynamics: insights from studies of eroded volcanic systems; Long-term evolution of volcanoes and volcanic systems recording lithospheric processes; Lithosphere-asthenosphere interactions; Temporal and spatial changes of stress and strain; Baby plumes; Architecture and evolution of the Gulf of Mexico and other Mexican basins; Sub-Andean basins and Circum-Pacific margins.

On-line abstract submission, hotel infos, and registration are available on the web site of the Mexican Geophysical Union (www.ugm.org.mx), with a deadline for submission on 2 June 2008.

Other contacts: Dr L. Delgado-Argote (ldelgado@cicese.mx), Dr F.

Ortuño-Arzate (fortuno@imp.mx), Prof. A. Tibaldi (alessandro.tibaldi@unimib.it).

A. TIBALDI

16th International Workshop on Laser Ranging – Updated Announcement

Poznan Poland, October 13-17, 2008.

The Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences will host the next International Workshop on Laser Ranging in Poznan Poland (15 km from the Borowiec SLR station) on October 13-17, 2008 (note new dates). The theme of this year's workshop is "SLR, The Next Generation". The first circular will be issued soon. In the meantime, we ask you to reserve these dates on your calendars and plan to attend what will surely be another exciting laser workshop.

We are also pleased to announce that the proceedings from the 15th International Workshop on Laser Ranging, held in Canberra Australia in October 2006, have been completed. All presentations and papers from this workshop will also be accessible through the ILRS Web site at: <http://cddis.gsfc.nasa.gov/lw15/index.html>.

CAREY NOLL

Crustal Dynamics Data Information System (CDDIS)

Colloquium to honour Helmut Moritz

on November 14, 2008 at Berlin (Germany)

(Extract of the First Circular distributed on April 10, 2008)

Announcement and Invitation

On November 1, 2008, Prof. Dr. techn. Dr. h.c. mult. Helmut Moritz, Graz, Member of the Leibniz Society of Sciences at Berlin, Full Member of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), foreign member of over ten national academies of sciences, is reaching the age of 75.

On this occasion the Leibniz Society, to honour its standing member of many years', is organising an all-day Colloquium on the theme "Scientific Geodesy" on November 14, 2008, at Berlin. This colloquium is supported by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and the Graz Technical University.

Helmut Moritz is also by international standards one of the most important representatives of scientific geodesy in the last half-century heralded by the International Geophysical Year 1957/58, which marked the beginning of space travel and the resulting space research in October 1957, in which the geodesy with all its branches reached a level unimaginable before and became truly international and global. Helmut Moritz served the international geodetic community over many years, to mention only: from 1979 to 1983 as the President of the International Association of Geodesy, and from 1991 to 1995 as the President of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, to which there belong 7 associations, the oldest of these being the IAG.

In the honorary colloquium on the 14th of November 2008 the Leibniz Society centres on Helmut Moritz' fields of study and scientific interest. The Society invites his friends, colleagues, coworkers and scholars to present papers on relevant actual and historical subjects. Future applications can be accepted only for poster presentation.

The Committee organising the colloquium consists of Erik W. Grafarend (Stuttgart), Bernhard Hofmann-Wellenhof (Graz), Heinz Kautzleben (Berlin) and Reinhard Rummel (Munich). The 2nd Circular will be distributed on July 31, 2008.

Colleagues, who intend to take part in the colloquium and are interested to get the 2nd Circular, are asked to contact the address kautzleben.leibniz-sozietat@t-online.de

HEINZ KAUTZLEBEN

IAG Sponsored Meetings

EUREF Symposium 2008

June 18-20, 2008, Brussels, Belgium

The EUREF Symposium 2008 will take place in Brussels, Belgium from 18th to 20th June 2008. Details are available through the home page of the Symposium: <http://epncb.oma.be/EUREF2008/>.

International Symposium on Gravity, Geoid and Earth Observation GGEO 2008

June 23-27, 2008, Chania, Crete, Greece

The symposium aims at bringing together geodesists and geophysicists working in the general areas of gravity, geoid, geodynamics and Earth observation. Besides covering the traditional research areas, special attention will be paid to the use of geodetic methods for Earth observation, environmental monitoring, Earth Gravity Models, geodynamics studies, dedicated gravity satellite missions, airborne gravity surveys, Geodesy & geodynamics in polar regions, and the integration of geodetic and geophysical information. The website of the Symposium is <http://www.geomatlab.tuc.gr/GGEO2008>.

New Challenges in Earth's Dynamics ETS2008

September 1-5 2008, Jena, Germany

Under the sponsorship of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), the Commission 3 (Geodynamics) & the sub-commissions on earth Tides (3.1), Crustal Deformation (3.2), Geophysical Fluids (3.3) and the Global Geodynamics Project (GGP) organise for the first time a joint meeting which will include the 16th International Symposium on earth Tides. The assembly will provide a unique opportunity to exchange new results and strategies to meet the current challenges of earth's dynamics from different viewpoints. For details, please visit www.ets2008.de.

14th General Assembly of WEGENER - WEGENER 2008

September 15-18, 2008, Darmstadt, Germany

The 14th General Assembly of WEGENER - WEGENER 2008 will take place in Darmstadt, Germany, from September 15-18, 2008. The conference venue will be darmstadtium, the new Science and Conference Center in Darmstadt. The 14th Assembly of WEGENER will provide a forum for presentation, discussion, coordination and scientific support for geoscientists interested in unravelling the kinematics and mechanisms of the broad Eurasian/African/Arabian collision zone. Contributions on new aspects arising from the global observing system GGOS and the new satellite missions for gravity, SAR and Laser Altimetry are welcome in particular. 2nd Circular with Call for Abstracts and additional information are available at <http://www.ipg.tu-darmstadt.de/wegener/>.

IAG Related Meetings

PLANS 2008: Position Location and Navigation Symposium

May 6 - 8 2008, Monterey, California, USA

PLANS 2008 is the second biennial conference co-sponsored by the IEEE and the ION. Please visit the website www.plansconference.org for details.

Use of GIS and Remote Sensing in Disaster Risk Management

May 5 - 16 2008, Bangkok, Thailand

This 2nd Regional training course will take place in Bangkok, Thailand. The main purpose of the course is to enhance the capabilities of professionals and technical staff working in disaster risk management by providing them with understanding of the use of spatial information in disaster risk management. For detailed information visit http://www.itc.nl/education/courses/course_descriptions/C08-ESA-TM-02.aspx.

Measuring the changes

May 12-15 2008, Lisbon, Portugal

This conference is the second joint meeting of the two groups under the theme "Measuring the Changes", combining the 13th FIG Symposium on Deformation Measurements and Analysis with the 4th IAG Symposium on Geodesy for Geotechnical and Structural Engineering.. The recent catastrophic disasters have dramatically increased the importance, and demand, for fully automated, continuous, and reliable deformation monitoring in the civil engineering, mining, and energy sectors. The Conference webpage is <http://measuringchanges.lnec.pt/>.

International Symposium on the Effect of Climate Change on the World's Oceans

May 19-23 2008, Gijón, Spain

Climate change is the most important threat to the Earth. Even if we stabilize CO₂ emissions, the 2007 IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) Assessment confirms that warming will continue for decades and sea level will continue to rise for centuries. The Symposium will bring together results from observations, analyses and model simulations, at a global scale, and will include discussion of the climate change scenarios

and the possibilities for mitigating and protecting the marine environment and living marine resources. For details, please visit http://www.pices.int/meetings/international_symposia/2008_symposia/Climate_change/

SIRGAS 2008 General Meeting and Workshop

May 26-29 2008, Montevideo, Uruguay

The next SIRGAS meeting will take place in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 28 to 29 May 2008, in combination with the second workshop of the SIRGAS Working Group I (Reference System), which will be held two days before, from 26 to 27 May, 2008. The corresponding web site is <http://www.sirgas.org/index.php?id=156&L=2>.

Asia Oceania Geosciences Society's 5th Annual Meeting (AOGS 2008)

June 16-20, 2008, Busan, South Korea

The AOGS mission is to promote geophysical science for the benefit of humanity in Asia and Oceania. Hence, AOGS 2008 will once again bring together geoscientists from all over Asia, Oceania and the rest of the world to present their works and ideas. AOGS invites all geoscientists to convene their own sessions and present their findings at AOGS 2008 in Busan. The session for Space Geodesy was accepted like as "Geodetic Techniques (GNSS, VLBI, SLR,) and Its Applications on Atmosphere/Geodynamics" (Session number : SE87) For further details, visit <http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2008/index.asp>.

United Nations Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop

July 8-11, 2008, Hastings, St. Michael, Barbados, South Korea

The United Nations Regional UN-SPIDER Workshop: "Building Upon Regional Space-based Solutions for Disaster Management for the Caribbean" will be held in Barbados from 08-11 July 2008. First Announcement provides information on the workshop and is available on the website <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/unspider/workshops.html>.

37th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research and Associated Events – COSPAR 2008

50th Anniversary Assembly

13 - 20 July 2008, Montreal, Canada.

The 50th Anniversary Assembly COSPAR 2008 will be held in Montreal, Canada. For more information about this particular event please visit the Assembly website at <http://www.cospar2008.org/>.

Conference on Remote Sensing Techniques in Disaster Management

22-24 September 2008, Zadar, Croatia

The First International Conference on Remote Sensing Techniques in Disaster Management and Emergency Response in the Mediterranean Region will take place in Zadar, Croatia. The subject "Disaster Management and Emergency Response" is a high-priority topic in the Mediterranean region. Risk reduction using remote sensing techniques may be very helpful in various applications. Identification of relevant space-based and airborne information for Disaster Management Support and Emergency Response is a major priority issue. The webpage of the conference is <http://www.earsel.geosat.hr/>.

Third World Congress "Aviation in the XXI-st Century"

22-24 September 2008, Kyiv, Ukraine

The Third World Congress "Aviation in the XXI-st Century" - "Safety in Aviation and Space Technology", will be held at the National Aviation University, Kiev, Ukraine, September 22-24, 2008. For more information please visit <http://congress.nau.edu.ua/>.

16th International Workshop on Laser Ranging

13-17 October 2008, Poznan, Poland

The next International Workshop on Laser Ranging will be held in Poznan Poland (15 km from the Borowiec SLR station) on October 13-17, 2008. (note new dates). The theme of this year's workshop is "SLR, The Next Generation". The first circular will be issued soon.

HydroChange 2008

October 1-3, 2008, Kyoto, Japan

The HydroChange 2008 Symposium "Hydrological changes and management from headwater to the ocean" will be held at Kyoto Garden Palace, Kyoto, Japan. Please visit the official web site of the Symposium at http://www.chikyu.ac.jp/HC_2008.

21st CODATA International Conference

5-8 October 2008, Kyiv, Ukraine

CODATA - International Council for Science : Committee on Data for Science and Technology's 21st International Conference: "Scientific Information for Society - from Today to the Future" will be held in Kyiv, Ukraine. Visit <http://www.codata.org/08conf/index.html> for more information.

UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop

October 13-15 2008, Bonn, Germany

The Second United Nations International UN-SPIDER Bonn Workshop: "Disaster Management and Space Technology – Bridging the Gap" to be held in Bonn, Germany from 13-15 October 2008. The workshop will be organised by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and will build on top of the first workshop held in Bonn last year. More information on the workshop is available on the website www.unspider.org.

The Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management

October 13-16 2008, Isle of Capri, Naples, Italy

A joint IAHS UNESCO Symposium on The Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management will be held in Naples, Italy. The purpose of the Symposium "The Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management" is to discuss ways in which hydrologists can contribute most effectively to the planning and management of freshwater projects, including the efficient operation of existing systems faced with new socio-political situations. Web page of the Symposium is www.ihp2008capri.it.

XXXVI IAH Congress

October 26-31, 2008, Toyama, Japan

"Integrating Groundwater Science and Human Well-being" congress is planned to be held in Toyama, Japan. Please visit <http://www.envr.tsukuba.ac.jp/~IAH2008>.

ACM GIS 2008

November 5-7, 2008, Irvine, CA, USA

The ACM SIGSPATIAL International Conference on Advances in Geographic Information Systems 2008 (ACM GIS 2008) is the sixteenth event of a series of symposia and workshops that began in 1993 with the aim of bringing together researchers, developers, users, and practitioners carrying out research and development in novel systems based on geo-spatial data and knowledge, and fostering interdisciplinary discussions and research in all aspects of geographic information systems. Additional information is available through the webpage <http://acmgis08.cs.umn.edu/>.

Digital Earth Summit on Geoinformatics: Tools for Global Change Research

November, 12-14, 2008, Potsdam, Germany

The summit will be held in Wissenschaftspark Albert Einstein, Potsdam, Germany from 12-14 November 2008. It will bring together leading scientists from Geoinformatics and Global Change research and will foster the exchange of ideas, cooperation between so-far disjoint scientific fields and provide time for in-depth discussion. For details please visit the webpage of conference, www.isde-summit-2008.org.

IAG Sister Societies' General Assemblies

Associations' Scientific Assemblies of the IUGG

- IUGG/IAGA, August 23-30, 2009, Sopron, Hungary
- IUGG/IAHS, September 7-12, 2009, Hyderabad, India
- IUGG/IASPEI, January 10-16, 2009, Cape Town, South Africa
- IUGG/IAG, August 31-September 4, 2009, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- IUGG/IACS-IAMAS-IAPSO, July 19-29, 2009, Montreal, Canada
- IUGG/IAVCEI, August 18-25, 2008, Reykjavik, Iceland

FIG Working Week

June 14-19, 2008, Stockholm, Sweden

The FIG Working Week 2008 – Integrating Generations will be held in Stockholm, Sweden in June 2008. This conference is hosted jointly by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) and the Swedish Association of

Chartered Surveyors (Sveriges Lantmätareförening, SLF). The website of the conference is <http://www.fig.net/fig2008/>.

XXI ISPRS Congress

July 3-11, 2008, Beijing, China

The quadrennial ISPRS Congress will be hosted by the Chinese Society of Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography, with the theme 'Silk Road for Information from Imagery'. It is worth mentioning that ISPRS 2008 Beijing will be held just one month before 2008 Beijing Olympic Games when the city will become the focus of world attention. Detailed information is available from the Congress website: <http://www.isprs2008-beijing.org/>.

33rd International Geological Congress IGC

August 6-14, 2008, Oslo, Norway

The 2008 Congress will be held in collaboration with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and many other international and national organisations, the National IUGS Committees in the five Nordic Countries (Norden): Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden. Please visit <http://www.33igc.org/> for more information about the IGC 2008.

IAVCEI 2008 General Assembly

August 18-25, 2008, Reykjavik, Iceland

Reykjavik is an excellent place to host the IAVCEI General Assembly in 2008. The main theme of the meeting will be "Understanding Volcanoes". The meeting is devoted to volcanism and volcano-tectonics of all environments and the impact of volcanic eruptions on the surface environment and human activities. The website of the Assembly is <http://www.iavcei2008.hi.is/>.

Obituary

István Joó (1928-2007)



István Joó, a prominent personality of the Hungarian geodesy and cartography from the early 1960s until the beginning of the 21st century, died on the 5th of August, 2007 at the age of 79. He was born in 1928, in Hidashollós, a tiny village near the western border of Hungary, in a peasant's family with eight children. He was just two years old, when he lost his mother; his grandmother brought him up. He spent his childhood and adolescence in the shadow of the Second World War. The village environment, manual labour and performing of all the duties expected in a large family formed his character.

Because of the war, he completed secondary school with some delay in 1950 in Körmend, and started his university studies in Sopron, at the first Hungarian land surveying engineering faculty founded in the previous year. After the first academic year, with a military command he was called up to go on with studies at the Faculty of Military Engineering of the Technical University of Budapest (BME). He graduated with honours as a certified military engineer specialized in cartography, and a certified land surveying engineer too. He was a remarkable student with his diligence, strong power of will and persistence.

After completing his university studies, he started to work as a topographer at the Cartographic Service of the Ministry of Defence. In 1956, he refused to sign the so-called "profession of allegiance to Kádár", so his military career finished. In January 1957, he began to work for the Enterprise of Land Surveying and Soil Testing, dealing with engineering geodesy. Then he became a technical secretary at the Cartographia Enterprise. Being a very ambitious and active young engineer of good organizing skills, in 1961, at the age of 33 he was appointed to chief engineer of the State Office of Lands and Cartography (ÁFTH). From January 1962, he became the Head of the Technological Department of the ÁFTH in Budapest; that position made him the number one technical leader of the whole Hungarian land surveying profession (the general director of the Office did a political job). István Joó kept his important post also in the period of several restructuring in the public administration, during 25 years, until he left Budapest for teaching at the College in Székesfehérvár.

As a Head of Department within the National Lands and Cartographic Office (OFTH, successor of the ÁFTH) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, he initiated the creation of a new geodetic basis for Hungary. The Hungarian geodetic datum marked currently as HD72 was established under his direction; this meant the introduction of a new primary national control network (EOVA), a new mapping projection system

(EOV) and a new map system (EOTR) at the same time. Dr. Joó also initiated the start of the new primary vertical network (EOMA). In 1967, he supported the establishment of FÖMI, called at that time Institute of Geodesy and Cartography (currently Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing) which has been an important factor in the research and development of geodesy and cartography in Hungary up-to-now. The satellite geodesy was his labour of love; in 1969, within the Geodetic Science Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), the Cosmic Geodetic Sub-Commission was created on his proposal. He was its first chairman until 1981.

Dr. Joó's scientific activity and research interest were many folded. He published his first paper in 1962, in the Hungarian journal „Geodézia és Kartográfia” on the displacement of measuring pyramids. The theme of his doctoral thesis (dr. techn., BME) in 1964 was the changes of Hungary's area when representing it in various projection systems. In 1968, in his CSc thesis (in MTA), he dealt with the accuracy analysis of girotheodolites. In 1979, in his academic doctoral thesis (DSc, MTA), he compared the new horizontal control network with the earlier ones, using statistical methods. He spent a long period of time with the recent vertical crustal movements based on repeated levelling data. Dr. Joó was also the co-ordinator of the analyzing work of crustal movements in the East-European and Carpatho-Balkan Regions; he edited four map works in this theme. In the last couple of his years, he completed this activity with correlation regression analysis and modelling, involving his colleagues at the College's Department and students too. In the last days of his life, he still planned to set out a new levelling line of crustal movement. The number of his publications exceeds 360; 30 out of them are books, textbooks, theses and map works. Almost one third of the publications are published in foreign languages.

In summer 1986, Dr. Joó was appointed to University Professor of the Sopron University, and at the same time, he became the Head of the Székesfehérvár Faculty. Until 1994, he worked as the General Director of the College Faculty of Land Surveying and Land Management of the Sopron University (currently Faculty of Geoinformatics, University of West Hungary, Sopron) and also as the Head of the Department of Geodesy until 1996. Dr. Joó started his activity as a lecturer much earlier, in 1965, when he travelled systematically to Székesfehérvár to lecture on higher geodesy; he considered teaching more important than any other job of him.

Dr. Joó showed his skills of science-organizing very early. He was the member and leader of several Hungarian and international scientific organizations and he worked for them through long years with success. He held leading posts not only in the Hungarian State land affairs for a long period of time, but he was active in the international organizations of our profession and science too. He was the Secretary of Section IV of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) from 1975 to 1979, and a member of the Commission for Recent Crustal Movement (CRCM) within IAG Section V between 1972 and 1990. At the same time, he was the Head of the Sub-Commission for Eastern Europe. Between 1982 and 1994, he was active as the Chairman of the Hungarian National Commission of FIG. He was the Hungarian National Correspondent for IAG between 1972 and 1991, and a member of the MTA's Geodetic Science Committee through decades and even the Chairman for the period 1999-2001. He organized several national meetings and international conferences.

As appreciations of his merits in professional works, scientific research and higher education, Professor István Joó was awarded several honours. Among others he is the holder of the ministerial prizes A. Fasching and A. Szentgyörgyi resp., and the Honorary Medal “Lázár Deák” of the Geodetic and Cartographic Society. In Olsztyn, Poland he was conferred an honorary doctoral degree.

He lived a healthy life. As a young man he used to smoke, but later on with strong will he stopped it, consciously ate and kept his physical condition also with manual labour. He systematically played chess as a young man and also in his later age. He loved his family: he brought up three children, and helped them by all means.

István Joó with his activity, life work and strong character left a deep impression both in the profession of geodesy in Hungary and in those who knew him in person.

JÓZSEF ÁDÁM