

Dear all,

Hope you had a good summer or winter!

Before IYGU takes its final step, I would like to update you on the latest developments during the past months. I therefore attach the detailed January-April, April-August 2014 reports. For a quick overview I would like to stress the following points:

After the application process was blocked during the transfer from UNESCO to the UN, mainly due to 450 full time UNESCO positions being cut at the beginning of the year; fortunately, the problems were solved at the end of April. Rupert Maclean was of huge help in this process.

Rwanda started the application process inside the UN in May.

The editors meeting for the production of the brochures was held in Jena in early June; we produced a manual for the writing and editing process. We should have a first draft of all the brochures early in 2015. In the meantime, the first arrangements with publishers have been made. The participants at this meeting were: Allen Scott, Walter Spiess, Peter Taylor, Mathis Stock, Armin Reller, Peter Jackson, and Benno Werlen; John Urry participated via Skype, Margret Robertson's points were discussed in the meeting and widely integrated into the recommendations.

Despite a major effort we have not been able to compensate for the delay that the mentioned problems caused and therefore could not table the IYGU for the last quarter of the 68th General Assembly.

The lobbying at the different Permanent Missions has so far been very successful. Owing to the help that several members of the IYGU network provided, I was able to meet with a number of strategically very important permanent missions in New York. The IYGU will hopefully be tabled soon for the 69th General Assembly starting on September 23.

Without the resolution, fundraising is quite difficult. During my trip to Brazil and thanks to the generous help of Ingelore Scheunemann, Sybelle de Jongh, and Luiz Oosterbeek, we made considerable progress despite this difficulty. It is most likely that we can compensate at least partly the delay.

The network of Regional Action Centers is in full progression. About 10 Centers have already been set up, with about another 15 being negotiated right now. Together with the ICSU offices and the Future Earth Centers it will be possible to get about 50 'hubs' of action and communication.

According to board members of the Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, Dilma Rousseff, the President of Brazil, will ask all UN member states to support the IYGU in the 69th General Assembly in her opening address on September 24. You can follow the livestream broadcast of the opening session on <http://webtv.un.org/>

At the IGU regional conference in Krakow, substantial progress was made regarding the use of the expected declaration for the positioning of geographical teaching at different levels and the integration of the IYGU into the Geo Olympiad.

If everything goes well, we should have the resolution between early October and December 23, 2014.

Many things have been accomplished, but there is still a lot to do!

I am looking forward to providing you with decisive information from the 69th General Assembly very soon.

Benno