

Report May 2014 – August 2014 to the IGU Executive Committee at their meeting in Kraków

Benno Werlen, IYGU Executive Director
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After my last meeting with delegates of Rwanda's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York (April 19-25, 2014 – see report to Exec. Comm. January–April 2014) and my presentation of IYGU at the 4th Interactive Dialogue of the General Assembly on "Harmony with Nature" I was very optimistic that IYGU would soon be officially placed on the agenda of the next UN General Assembly (starting end of September). That Rwanda decided to apply for the IYGU at the UN General Assembly together with a resolution on genocide in just a few weeks' time was another positive push factor for our application. This would be a perfect move for the IYGU to bring the application process forward. Should the African Group come to a favorable conclusion concerning our application, they will request to have it placed onto the UN General Assembly's agenda for their next meeting.

Unfortunately, soon after my return to Germany I was confronted with certain setbacks. During the further communication with the Rwandan Permanent Mission it became obvious that the UNESCO New York was not informed about the UNESCO resolution of the General Conference from last November and that the cooperation with Rwanda was still not established successfully. Thereupon and with the help of Gordon McBean and Heide Hackmann (IYGU Steering Committee) we made a great effort to identify the responsible person at UNESCO and initiate a connection between the science sector of UNESCO Paris and New York. Eventually after several attempts I was referred to Ana Persic, Science Specialist at the UNESCO. She has been managing successfully the application process of the International Year of Light and seems to very competently fulfil her role in the application process. She told me that the internal communication and coordination between UNESCO Paris and the UN Missions is sometimes difficult and not free of hiccups. With her help we were able to put the application process back on track.

In the meantime the request to place the UNESCO resolution on IYGU on the agenda of the next meeting of African Group Ambassadors was being processed. Thus a second trip to New York from June 29 to July 05 became necessary for adequately briefing the representatives of Rwanda's Permanent Mission and members of the African voting group. We planned further talks about the upcoming activities and scheduling required during the application process, the lobbying of other national UN delegation as well as agreements with UNESCO representatives at the UN on the application procedure. First of all, I met Jeanne d'Arc Byaje (Deputy Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the UN) and Etienne Nkerabigwi (representative of the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the UN). During our talks we discussed further action within the African Regional Group in the UN and developed a detailed schedule for the application process. In addition, it was discussed how to proceed in the other voting groups (especially Latin America and Asia) to ensure a smooth and positive voting process on the IYGU initiative. During the talks it was agreed that I should get in contact with at least one representative country of the other voting groups. These representatives should then coordinate the lobbying in the individual voting groups independently.

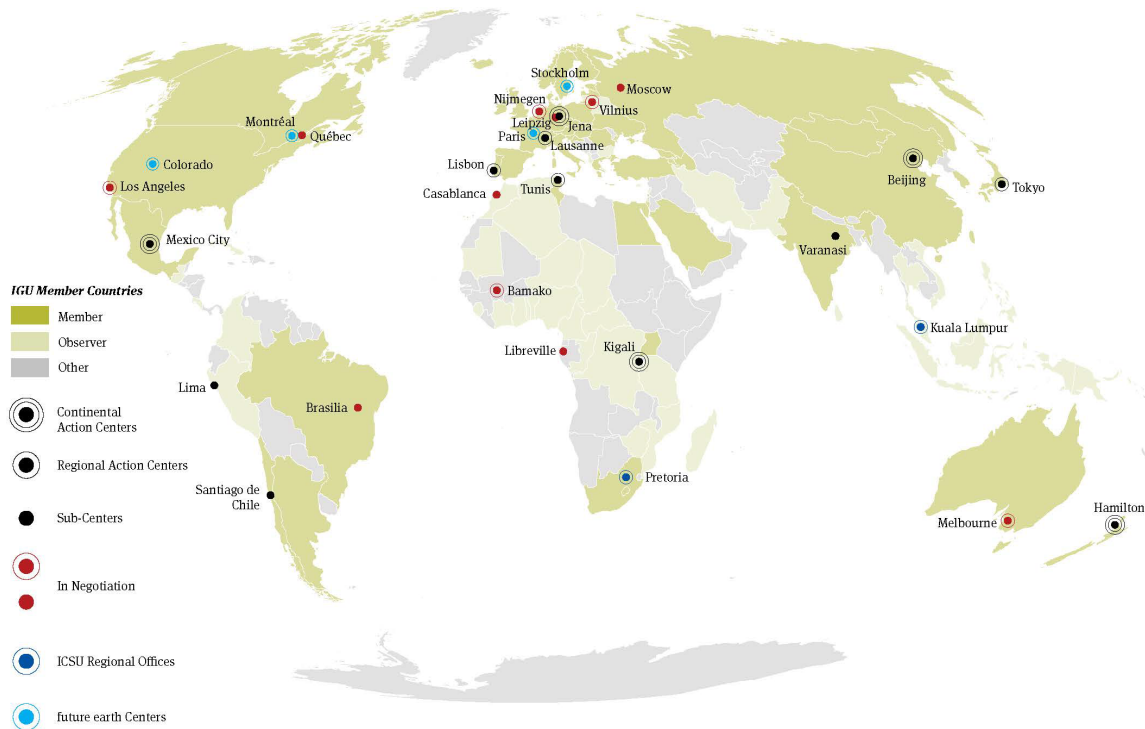
During my second trip to New York I was able to meet first Ana Persic personally and she gave me important information concerning how IYGU could be best positioned during the upcoming application process and what

role the UNESCO could play during the implementation year 2016. We agreed that in the Scientific Sector of the UNESCO on person will be named who is dedicated to the implementation of IYGU in the UNESCO. In addition, the timing required for the subsequent application process and the yet to be submitted resolution text were discussed. Right now she is checking the draft resolution about the UNESCO involvement. All other point of the draft of the UN resolution are considered as perfectly well o.k.. Ana Persic thinks we are very well prepared for the further application process, and she endorsed to idea to get in touch with delegates from other UN Missions from all five regional groups in the UN General Assembly; especially the European Union network would be decisive.

The intensive efforts to establish the aforementioned contacts with the ambassadors of other electoral groups were largely successful. Within short time we were able to contact the Permanent Missions of Mali to the UN (African Group), Lithuania (Eastern European Group), Portugal (Western Europe and other Group), Japan and Korea (Asia-Pacific Group), Brazil and Peru (Latin American and Caribbean Group). Even on such a short notice I was able to meet with the ambassador of Mali H.E. Sékou Kasse, the ambassador of Portugal H.E. Alvaro Mendonça e Moura, the ambassadors of Brazil H.E. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota und Adriana Telles Ribeiro and the ambassador of Korea H.E. Mr. Oh Joon. All talks were very successful. I took the opportunity to present the project and its specific aims and objectives and emphasize the implications for the individual countries. Also we discussed the next steps in co-operation with the Permanent Mission of Rwanda. All representatives reassured their general support during the application process. Moreover, the next steps in the respective electoral group were discussed in detail. The discussions made it clear that it is necessary to achieve endorsement of the application within the voting group for Western Europe and other countries (including Canada, Australia, New Zealand), in the best case by Germany and an English speaking country, to ensure a smooth application process. Based on these suggestions I have been in contact with the Permanent Missions of Japan, China, Lithuania, Peru, Luxembourg, and Morocco and requested their support in the lobbying process and the vote in the UN General Assembly. I already wrote to the minister of the Thuringian Regional Government in Germany; he is a good friend of the German Vice-Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, and I asked him to get in touch with the German Foreign Minister Frank Walter Steinmeier, asking him to 'advise' 'his' ambassador in NY to support IYGU, and to do some lobbying inside the EU voting group. Apparently the European and Anglo-Saxon countries think that there are too many UN years and want to stop them if they are not totally in line with the core UN politics. I think that the IYGU perfectly matches the core criteria of UN politics and therefore think that even the aforementioned countries are likely to support it, even if their general attitude towards UN International Years is negative. Therefore, lobbying of the voting groups and especially contacts to the European and Anglo-Saxon network have to be intensified.

Besides the lobbying in the application process we have been rather successful recently extending the network of IYGU Regional Action Centers: In addition to the already agreed RACs (Beijing, Tokyo, Mexico City, Lausanne, Tunis, Varanasi, Kigali, Hamilton, Lisbon) there have been further agreements for a Regional Action Center in Casablanca (Morocco) as a Center for Africa specializing in North-South dialog and one in Brasilia for Latin-America. Sub-Centers for Latin America are in the making in Sao Paulo (agreed), Lima, Santiago de Chile (in negotiation) for South America. Various attempts to reach the Lithuanian Embassy in Vilnius to confirm the arrangements made previously for a Regional Action Center were unfortunately unsuccessful. In addition to the ICSU Regional Offices (Kuala Lumpur, Pretoria, Mexico City) the secretariats

of ICSU and ISSC's science program "Future Earth" in Canada (Montreal), France (Paris), Japan (Tokyo), Sweden (Stockholm) and the USA (Colorado) will be included as IYGU network partners. For an overview see the following map.



Despite intensive efforts to obtain financial foundations through the Thuringian Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and other German Federal Ministries, approval of the IYGU by the ECOSOC remains critical. For this reason, I travelled to Brazil earlier than planned with a view to obtaining concrete financial commitments. I had scheduled a number of meetings with government and private sector representatives between July 30 and August 10, 2014. In earlier consultations with these representatives held out the prospect of covering the financial support of IYGU in general and the Regional Action Centers in Latin America.

Already on the first day I had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Eliezer Batista, one of the most influential figures of the Brazilian economy and politics. Together with Prof. Inguleore Scheunemann and Prof. Luiz Oosterbeek (General Secretary of the roof Association of the humanities) he has made the variety of meetings possible. We discussed mostly financial and sponsoring aspects of IYGU, e.g., which IYGU structures would be best suited to ensure a direct and non-bureaucratic management of sponsoring and contributions. Also Mr. Batista suggested further potential partners and options for co-operations. Later that day I met with the former ministers of the Brazilian Government, Ernane Galveas (economic consultant to the Brazilian Government) and Bernardo Cabral (consultant to the president), advisors of Confederação Nacional do Comercio (CNC); and chief of the Economic and Financial Division of CNC Mr. Carlos Thadeu de Freitas Gomes at the Brazilian Chambers of Commerce (CNC). During our meeting it became clear that since CNC is a national organization only sponsoring of national activities is possible, e.g., a RAC in Rio de Janeiro. Other possibilities of CNC to support IYGU, which were suggested by my conversational partners, was the mentioning of IYGU at the opening address of the general debate of the 69th UN General Assembly by the

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and Rwanda as the applicant country. CNC will take care of this. During my next meeting with Eduardo Figueiredo – Director President of Instituto BioAtlântica, – engaging in Integrated Landscape Management throughout Brazil, especially in the Amazons – the planning of a RAC in Rio became more concrete. We were discussing a possible thematic focus on the field of integrated landscape management. Also he assured editorial contributions to the brochure eating/drinking/surviving concerning the political economy of water in Brazil and Latin America based on empirical case studies.

Another important meeting during on July 31 was with Professor Dr. Istvan Karoly Kasznar – General Coordinator of Research and Studies of Municipalities and States, Coordinator of Environmental Management Research and Studies, Support for Transnational Companies Studies – at the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV in its Portuguese acronym). The Foundation is considered one of the top 25 think tanks in the world and top think tank in Central and South America (according to the Global Go To Think Tanks Index produced by Pennsylvania University¹). Mr. Kasznar offered to establish contact to the ministry of Planning and Budgeting with the request that IYGU is included in the federal budget and he assured to express the endorsement of the project in the name of FGV to the UN embassy of Brazil. Also FGV would be ready to support all kinds of IYGU meetings including conference facilities, drinks, and gala dinners, but financial contributions won't be possible before the federal elections in January 2015. Mr. Kasznar also suggested launching a RAC in the Amazonian Region as a link to all Amazonian states and the environmental policies in the perspective of IYGU. The financing of the RAC could be organized by FAZENDA (Ministry of Finance, Brazilian Government). Mr. Kasznar also recommended to get in contact with FINEP, the Brazilian Funding Authority for Studies and Projects, which is an organization of the Brazilian federal government under the Ministry of Science of Technology, devoted to funding of science and technology in the country. He promised support by establishing these and further contacts, also for general financing of IYGU.

These and other meeting showed that it would be most important to achieve the support by the UN General assembly as soon as possible. Most of our conversational partners where ready to support IYGU but will only make specific commitments once the resolution has been adopted. Inguelore Scheunemann presented IYGU to the President of the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES). He showed great interest and asked us to get in touch with him after we have the resolution to find a way how BNDES could support IYGU. The meeting with the state authorities of Girea Mirais to talk about the integration of IYGU in the information campaign of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro has been postponed until after we got the UN resolution. Contact for negotiations and cooperation is established.

My meetings with university officials yielded mixed results. Prof. Rogério Haesbeart, Department of Geography University of Nitêro, saw no potential for financial support but would be able to cooperate with the project in other possible ways.

After these first few days in Rio de Janeiro I spent August 4-6 in Brasilia. On August 4, Sybelle de Jongh and I met with Prof. Dr. Paulo Sergio Beirão, Director of Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq), a national research funding agency. The meeting lasted for more than an hour and we

¹ See page 30 and page 37 in <http://gotothinktank.com/dev1/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/GoToReport2013.pdf>

discussed the problems involved in moving from a disciplinary to an interdisciplinary research logic and from there to a trans-disciplinary one, or to what he calls “problem-oriented research”.

In his view it is very difficult to obtain support for interdisciplinary research because career-specific qualifications are based on merits obtained in the disciplinary logic (e.g. publications, citation indices). I suggested that we would need a new currency for the accumulation of academic capital. Prof. Beirão showed interest in an exchange of national academies of sciences and funding agencies about the experiences with transdisciplinary research. He was keen to offer his perspective on the Brazilian experiences in that respect.

Overall, Prof. Beirão fully endorsed the IYGU’s approach towards the transdisciplinary integration of research and its problem-orientation. He cited the project on dengue fever eradication in Brazil as an empirical example of the successful application of such a strategy. Prof. Beirão identified opportunities for promoting the IYGU the science and technology community with the potential for future cooperation where Brazilian community is researching on IYGU-related topics and where perhaps Brazilian best practice examples may be showcased and promoted internationally such that other countries with similar issues may benefit from Brazilian solutions.

The following day, August 5, Sybelle de Jongh and I met with Mrs. Ivana de Siqueira, director of the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI in its Portuguese and Spanish acronym) and her advisor. I presented the recent progress of the IYGU initiative. Based on the links identified between IYGU and OEI in a meeting in December 2012, I highlighted the possible ways OEI could help advance the IYGU’s progress. The meeting concluded with OEI agreeing to take care of the translation, printing, and publishing of the IYGU brochures in Portuguese and Spanish. In addition, OEI will co-author and co-edit the brochure on sports/entertaining//recreating and will ensure the integration of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Later that day, Sybelle de Jongh and I met Minister Carlos Ayres Britto (former president of the Brazilian Supreme Court, a Constitutional Law specialist and professor, and president of Institute INNOVARE’s Superior Council). Among other things, INNOVARE awards a prize for judicial good practice in Brazil, which recognizes procedures and innovative practices that are simple, effective, and low-cost. We discussed the possibilities for integrating INNOVARE into the IYGU. I briefly informed the Minister about the IYGU’s lines of action, its priority areas and how legal aspects are reflected in these; they appear to be a cross-cutting issue and may hold significant potential for boosting transformations towards sustainability. I told the Minister that in cases where countries do not have basic institutional laws or have only a ‘weak’ fundamental law with a weak judiciary structure, this might make international relations, thus understanding on global issues difficult. Therefore, an understanding of global issues is required to harmonize such major discrepancies. There is the potential to share experiences with Brazilian judiciary practices internationally.

The Minister enquired about the legal form that the IYGU’s RACs should take in the different countries and how they would access and administer the financial resources earmarked for implementing actions. He stressed that the legal form of the organization was very important and that funding from the public sector is usually provided for national activities only. Funding for events taking place outside of Brazil would therefore need to come from the private sector. I assured the Minister that these problems are currently being analyzed and various pathways being explored. Further, the Minister indicated that he might be able to help with contacting the Brazilian Bar Association (Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil – OAB) and other institutions for further talks on these matters. In addition, we discussed the integration of the Human Rights aspects into all brochures, especially within the fields of gender and labor. Legal aspects should be addressed in the field of

pollution (air, water, etc.) on a global scale. For all these topics INNOVARE would be prepared to organize specific authors contributing to all brochures in this respect.

On August 6, I met with Confederação Nacional da Indústria (CNI) President Robson Andrade; Dr. Eliezer Batista, Prof. Inguelore Scheunemann; Shelley Carneiro (COEMA/CNI); Mrs. Sybelle de Jongh, and Mrs Lucilene Velo (CNPq). Eliezer Batista and Inguelore Scheunemann traveled especially for this meeting from Rio de Janeiro to support the IYGU and to signalize support from the private sector. After a longer presentation of IYGU by Inguelore Scheunemann in Portuguese, the vision of GIT, Rio+20 and CNI intervention on the occasion, and comments of Shelley Carneiro about previous event with COEMA in 2012, support for IYGU was requested to CNI through its president Mr. Robson Andrade. Eliezer Batista emphasized the importance of IYGU concerning the integration of the private sector in environmental policymaking, and its potential to coordinate actions by the private and public sector.

After these important remarks I gave a brief update on the recent progress of the IYGU initiative, including the UNESCO resolution/approval and UN meetings). I addressed the question of the potential for funding by CNI as discussed with Shelley Carneiro in the 2012 meeting. President Robson Andrade enquired about the legal structure of IYGU and the types of activities planned in and outside Brazil. Due to the legal status of CNI it is impossible for them to fund activities outside Brazil.

President Andrade recognized the importance of the IYGU for integrating the scientific sector and the productive sector in finding solutions to development and sustainability problems. He also emphasized the relevance of CNI's network at the Brazilian national level, gathering the states federation and the technical education institutions (SENAI-SESI: National Service of Industry learning and Industry Social service which also include schools of basic education, sports, and citizenship campaigns) throughout Brazil, and IEL which is responsible for promoting research and technological innovation. This private network covers all Brazilian states and the institutions represented in it have good access to and partnership with municipal governments and local communities, even in remote areas of the Amazon region.

Some best practices of CNI institutions have already been extended to other countries in Latin American and Africa (Portuguese speaking countries) through technical cooperation via the Brazilian Cooperation Agency at Itamaraty.

Concerning financial support, President Andrade observed that objective projects needed to be proposed in order to request the funds for their implementation and that CNI would use its credibility to access these funds, be they governmental or private. In this respect Mr. Carneiro proposed to work on a Memorandum of Understanding with COEMA representatives concerning the identification of pilot projects to be implemented under the IYGU framework.

Over lunch the IYGU group and Mr. Shelley de Souza Carneiro, coordinator of CNI's Environment Unit, discussed the possibility of integrating IYGU projects in the existing bilateral programs, for example, with CNI's German counterpart.

To sum up, CNI is prepared to finance the IYGU project and to co-finance the RAC for South America in Brazil. In addition CNI is – according to Director Robson Andrade – willing to invite all chambers of industries and commerce in the world to participate in 2016 actively in the IYGU with special programs and conferences. In the afternoon of that day, I met with Shelley Carneiro to discuss the kinds of projects that CNI would be keen to fund. We also talked about the internal organizational structure of CNI with three 'grand regions' and

the coordination of activities inside the member states at that level and the coordination of all ^{three} by COEMA at the national level at the CNI headquarter in Brasilia.

We agreed to present IYGU at the annual meeting of CNI offices of all 27 member states in Rio in August 2015 with the invitation of IYGU experts on the topic 'global change'. I was unable to accept the invitation to present IYGU at the annual meeting 2014 (August 19-21) because of the IGU Regional Conference in Kraków. I accepted the invitation to present IYGU at the CNI conference for the Amazon Region in April 2015 with the regional representatives and considerable number of International NGOs. This will focus on highlighting the implications of IYGU for environmental policy.

From August 7 to 10 I stayed in Sao Paulo. Unfortunately, the meeting scheduled with the Rector of the University of Sao Paulo (USP) had to be cancelled because of an ongoing strike at USP.

However, I was able to meet representatives from USP's Department of Geography. They let me know that – after comprehensive discussions over the last days – they had decided to support IYGU and to apply for supplementary staff in order to host the RAC for Brazil in cooperation with the RAC for South America at Brasilia.

The contact persons at USP's Department of Geography USP – if supported by the faculty and the University – are Prof. Rita Cruz, Prof. Paulo Wagner Ribeiro, and Prof. Fabio Contel. Because of my very tight schedule and their additional meetings due to the strike, a face-to-face meeting with these contact persons was not possible.

In the afternoon on that day I met Prof. Dr. Jose Armenio Brito Cruz (President of the Brazilian Institute of Architects/SP (IAB)) and Renata Semin (the most important architect of urban areas studies in Sao Paulo and Brazil). Prof. Brito and ^{Mr./Mrs.} Semin offered to include IYGU into the 'XI Bienal de Arquitectura de Sao Paulo' in May 2015. We agreed to integrate in this cooperation the editors and authors of the brochure 'housing/working//urbanizing'. We envisage a conference prior to the XI Bienal to launch both the IYGU and the Bienal in the Brazilian context and to cooperate in the fundraising for the event.

In addition we agreed to include a representative of the Latin American architects as editor of the brochure and to include as many examples as possible of the Latin American urbanization process of the last three decades with its highly problematic social and environmental consequences. The cooperation will be developed further for the UNIV itself in 2016.

On August 8, I met Dr. Dieter Halm, Director of the DFG's Latin American Office. Dr. Halm emphasized the outstanding position of the Sao Paulo Research Foundation FAPESP among the 26 federal state research funding agencies in Brazil as one of Brazil's main scientific research-sponsoring agency and as one of DFG's cooperation partners. FAPESP and the funding agencies of the states of Rio de Janeiro and Minera Gerais are the only ones fulfilling DFG's criteria for cooperation partners. By now the FAPESP is known as a very reliable partner over many years. Dr. Halm emphasized the broad topical range of research cooperation in the form of programs but also as single projects in form of Ph.D. scholarships, always in the context of bilateral research cooperation. However, he didn't see any possibility for IYGU-focused joint programs with FAPESP.

Dr. Halm is willing to establish contact with the German-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, is preparing cooperation with CNI, and is also keen to support CNI's plans to get in touch with all chambers of industry and commerce in the world.

In the afternoon of August 8, I had a meeting at the Sao Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) with Prof. Hernan Chaimovich (Director of Special Programs and former vice-president of ICSU) and Virginia Sanches Subinas (Technical Advisor of the Scientific Directorate).

After a short presentation of the IYGU program, including the specific focus on global sustainability on the basis of six fields of everyday activities, and an outline of the Brazilian contacts already established, Prof. Chaimovich explained that FAPESP's research concept. For FAPESP scientific research is , understood to be any original investigation that aims to contribute to the constitution of a science. A science is understood to be any body of rationally systematized and justified knowledge obtained through the methodical use of observation, experimentation, and reasoning. This (...) definition applies to the exact, natural and human sciences, technological disciplines and disciplines usually included among the so-called humanities. This definition is - under specific emphasis of the novelty of the question, methodic approach, and social impact – is open for transdisciplinary research in both 'branches' of FAPESP: in fundamental research (novelty) as well as applied research (impact) and all mentioned research fields. The three funding instruments are scholarships, (individual/ 2 years and thematic/ 5 years research), grants, and special programs (cutting-edge research in biodiversity, bioenergy, global climate change, and other multidisciplinary areas). In addition FAPESP is funding Research, Innovation and Dissemination (world class) Centers for up to 11 years.

Referring to the IYGU Prof. Chaimovich emphasized the significance of special programs in line with specific UN Years in the past like the International Polar Year and the UNIY of Biodiversity. He highlighted to benefits of the 'channeled' evaluation process if a research application is having the stamp of a UNIY. Therefore all transdisciplinary IYGU-related research proposals will be welcomed and will receive a channeled multidisciplinary evaluation. Therefore FAPESP is the ideal partner for the IYGU's goals in the field of research and could become a model for other funding agencies in the world, especially in the context of the Future Earth project initiated by ICSU and ISSC.

In addition, it was mentioned that it might be possible to organize a FAPESP-sponsored IYGU workshop for all interested researchers from the state of Sao Paulo and possibly also for Brazil in general. This workshop would provide information on potential research proposals that would match the IYGU's programmatic criteria. This workshop might be organized for early 2015, maybe in coordination with the workshop on 'housing/working//urbanizing' at the 'XI Bienal de Arquitectura de Sao Paulo' in May.


In the evening of that day I met with a representative of the Brazilian Bar Association's (Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil – OAB) National Environmental Law Committee, namely with Prof. Dr. Carlos Alberto Sanseverino, President and Member of OAB's Federal Council.

The Environmental Law Committee of the Brazilian Bar Association is very much interested in participating in IYGU with special conferences that emphasize the role of environmental law in Brazil and promote better environmental regulations of specific types of actions that bear high environmental relevance. This might be implemented through a stronger emphasis on spatial practices instead of focusing on spaces and territories as such.

I received two invitations to present IYGU: First, at the national conference of the Brazilian Bar Association (October 21-23, 2014 in Rio de Janeiro), and second, at the ... the following year in Brasilia.

After exploring the broad scope of the international scientific organizations and teacher associations involved on global level, I raised the issue of the lack of media contacts in the Brazilian context and beyond. Dr. Carlos Alberto Sanseverino offered OAB'S support in the mobilization of Brazil's print and visual media, especially in the context of OAB's annual meeting in October in Rio de Janeiro.

During the meeting several phone calls came in to express their interest in and support of IYGU in the phase of preparation and implementation. The most prominent was the call from Fabio Sanseverino, member of the shadow cabinet as minister of law of the most prominent opponent of President Dilma Rousseff in the upcoming elections in October 2015.

 (National Confederation of Industry CNI, President Mr. Robson Andrade / Brasilia, Getulio Vargas Foundation / Rio de Janeiro) and for transdisciplinary research programs in the field of "Global sustainability" (Ministry of Education and Research in Brasilia, research foundation of the State of Sao Paulo FAPESP (*Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo*) and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences FLACSO (*Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales*)). XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX In addition, meetings were planned with colleagues from the Universities of Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil to establish a Regional Action Center as well as meetings with the Environment Commission of the Brazilian Bar Association in Sao Paulo (*Ordem dos Advogados Brasileiros – seccional de São Paulo*). XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX At the meeting with CNI President Mr. Robson Andrade I was accompanied by Mr. Eliezer Batista, one of the most influential figures of the Brazilian economy and politics. He has made – together with Prof. Inguleore Scheunemann and Prof. Luiz Oosterbeek (General Secretary of the roof Association of the humanities) – the variety of these meetings possible. Inguleore Scheunemann also established contact to Ernst Brugger who is very well connected to the World Business Council on Sustainable Development WBCSD and assured to help us to develop a concept to address the private sector/WBCSD for supporting IYGU. We agreed to wait for the outcomes of my trip to Brazil before we will go into more detailed planning.

More important activities during the reported period of time represents the work on the six theme brochures as part of the planned outreach activities in IYGU. On 3-5th June a first editors' meeting took place in Jena where seven members of the IYGU Scientific Board (Peter Jackson, Armin Reller, Allen Scott, Walter Spiess, Mathis Stock, Peter Taylor, and John Urry) and I had preliminary discussions on the form, content, publishers, and authors of the publications. At this meeting we agreed on the following structure: There should be publications on the topics Eating/drinking//surviving, Moving/staying//belonging, Working/housing//urbanizing, Communicating/networking//interacting, Wasting/recycling//preserving, and sports/entertaining//recreating. The brochures intend to give the RACs a guideline for their work on implementing the IYGU in their region but should be resources rather than 'instruction manuals'; that is, they should set the agenda and raise questions rather than suggest or even prescribe how people should act. Especially they should stimulate ideas for transdisciplinary research and should help establish the IYGU project itself as an example of transdisciplinary work. All editors agreed to produce first drafts of the brochure until the end of the year.