

Dear members of the IGU Executive Committee

I would like to update you on the progress concerning the issues discussed at our last meeting in August at the IGU 2013 Kyoto Regional Conference.

1) *Representation within IYGU Committees and Panels*: Several new members joined the IYGU Steering Committee, Scientific Panel, and Outreach Panel. I invited a number of outstanding scholars and able practitioners, and all of them accepted. We now also have a much better balance concerning the representation of the Global South, gender/women, and the youth in the IYGU Steering Committee, Scientific Panel, and Outreach Panel. I am confident that with this diverse, able, and competent team the IYGU is well-equipped to meet any challenges that may arise in the UN/UNESCO application process.

The **Steering Committee** encompasses now the following members: Ron Abler (USA): Past-President of IGU; Ulrich Beck (Germany); Deliang Chen (P.R. China); Anantha Duraiappah (Malaysia); Lord Anthony Giddens (UK); Heide Hackmann (South Africa): Executive Director of ISSC; Gudmund Hernes (Norway): Past-President of ISSC; Vladimir Kolosov (Russia): President of IGU; Sebastian Lentz (Germany); Robyn Longhurst (New Zealand); **Lindisizwe Magi** (South Africa); **Manasse Mbonye** (Rwanda); Gordon McBean (Canada): President-Elect of ICSU; Margaret Robertson (Australia); **Ebrima Sall** (Senegal); Adama Samassékou (Mali): President of CIPSH; Lukas Sosoe (Ghana); **Steven Wilson** (UK): ICSU Executive Director; Shangyi Zhou (P.R. China)

The **Scientific Panel**: **Ibidun Adelekan (Nigeria)**; **Irasema Alcántara-Ayala** (Mexico), **Habib Ben Boubaker (Tunisia)**; Georg Gartner (Austria); Yukio Himiyama (Japan); Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Russia); Peter Jackson (UK); Jacques Lévy (France); Reinhard Mechler (Austria); **Chipo Plaxedes Mubaya** (Zimbabwe); Luiz Oosterbeek (Portugal); John Pickles (USA); Armin Reller (Germany); Lauren Resnick (USA); Saskia Sassen (USA); Allen J. Scott (USA); Walter E. L. Spiess (Germany); Nico Stehr (Germany); Mathis Stock (Switzerland); Farhana Sultana (Bangladesh); Peter J. Taylor (UK); John Urry (UK)

The **Outreach Panel**: Karl Donert (UK); **Aharon Kellerman** (Israel); Rupert Maclean (Australia); **[Joël Ndoli Pierre (Rwanda) (invited; decision pending)]**; Lauren Resnick (USA); Margaret Robertson (Australia); Eric Tsang Po Keung (Hong Kong, P.R. China).

(You can also refer to the website, for Steering Committee: <http://www.global-understanding.info/people-behind/steering-committee/>; Scientific Panel: <http://www.global-understanding.info/people-behind/scientific-panel/>; Outreach Panel: <http://www.global-understanding.info/people-behind/outreach-panel/>)

2) *Contact with other Geo Unions*: The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) have confirmed their financial support of the IYGU initiative with annual payments to be made from 2014 to 2016. While the IUGS has already given us their indirect support (through their ICSU membership), they are now directly involved and with their logo visibly represented on the IYGU webpage, by next Monday at the latest. The question remains, if we could also asked also the other

Geo Unions for financial support, the ones that supported the IY of Planet Earth?

3) *Contacts with global research organizations and initiatives*: ICSU Executive Director Dr Steven Wilson is now a member of the Steering Committee (see the above link). In addition, the cooperation with **Future Earth** is beginning to take shape in the sense that the IYGU “is expected to become part of the Future Earth initiative” (§11 of the Draft Resolution submitted by the East African Delegation to the Office of the UNESCO Executive Board on July 22, 2013). The Future Earth logo will soon (by next Monday at the latest) features prominently on the IYGU website (with kind permission of the leaders of the Future Earth initiative).

Frans Berkhout used the following wording: ‚Let me also say that I (...) look forward to working more closely with the IYGU’; and Steven Wilson very similarly: ‚I think there is a great deal of enthusiasm about the relationship between IYGU and Future Earth.’ I think this are very promising signs for future cooperation. The brochures in all seven languages have been updated and are ready for print by Friday. Over the weekend they will be send, together the flyer in French and English, to the Rwandan embassy. The updated websites will be ready by next Monday at the latest. Unfortunately the translation of the website in Arabic will not be accomplished totally by this date. Hope to find somebody for this soon. Given the recent progress, I hope you are as excited as I am about the IYGU entering the application process at the end of September 2013 when the UNESCO Executive Board meeting begins in Paris. Please wish me luck!

Best regards,

Benno