

After my presentation at the Normal University of Beijing Tuesday morning, May 7, I met in the evening Prof. Dahe Qin, member of the Chinese Academy of Science and Vice-President of IGU, Dr. Guoyou Zhang, Secretary General of the Chinese Society of Geographers (GSC), and Prof. Shangyi Zhou, member of the steering committee of IYGU. We discussed the institutional implications, the aims and claims of such a center and especially the opportunities for Chinese geography by setting up a regional center of IYGU in the year of the International Geographical Congress in Beijing in 2016. I also mentioned that it would be very helpful to get China – as member of the Executive Board of UNESCO – as a supporting country in the decision making process during the ExB-meeting September/October in Paris.

The whole group was unanimously in favor to host a regional center of IYGU for Asia and assured to get in touch with the UNESCO ambassador and give a very positive outlook for the support of China in the ExB meeting, based on a very close relationship between GSC, Academy of Science and the representatives of China at UNESCO.

On Thursday, May 9 I met – with Dr. Guoyou Zhang and Prof. Shangyi Zhou – Prof. Liu Yanhua, former vice-minister of China for science and technology and currently the Counselor of State Council of China, as well as the President of GSC to discuss issues of financial support of the regional center at Beijing, complementing the sponsoring of the Center by the GSC. All in all Prof. Liu Yanhua is highly positive about IYGU. He will take care to get China's political support in UNESCO and the UN and he will organize the financial basis for starting the preparation of the regional center for East Asia; he also assured to take care of the covering of all financial needs of the center, including translations and of the printing costs of the brochures etc.

With this, we have completed first round agreement for all continental centers!