

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION REGIONAL CONFERENCE
AUGUST 4–9, 2013, KYOTO, JAPAN

The 2013 Regional Conference of the International Geographical Union (IGU), one of the core events of the world geographical community, was held in Kyoto, Japan from August 4th to August 9th, 2013 having as main theme “*Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth's Future*”. Kyoto, the host city itself seems to embody the two opposite and yet complementary key components of the chosen conference topic in terms of traditional and modern knowledge in reaching the objectives of sustainable development at the local and global scale, as acknowledged by Vladimir Kolossov, President International Geographical Union.

The event was jointly organised by the Japan National Committee for IGU on behalf of the entire geographic community in Japan in cooperation with Japan Organization of Geographical Societies (JOGS) and IGU and hosted by the Kyoto International Conference Center, an institution globally recognized as the birthplace of the Kyoto Protocol, which was concluded in December 1997.

Within the conference, the IGU Commissions and Task Force integrated their meetings and discussions on the following topics: Gender and Geography, Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change, Indigenous Knowledges and Peoples’ Rights, Karst, Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses, Political Geography, etc.

This prestigious event was attended by over 1,400 participants from about 70 countries which displayed their scientific outcomes through presentations and posters unfolded over the Plenary Sessions on *Traditional Wisdom, The Environment and The Great East Japan Earthquake* as well as Commission Sessions on *Applied Geography, Arid Lands, Humankind and Environment, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Climatology, Coastal Systems, Cold Region Environments, Cultural Approach in Geography, Dynamics of Economic Spaces, Environment Evolution, Gender and Geography, Geographical Education, Geographical Information Science, Geography of Governance, Geography of Global Information Society, Geography of Tourism, Leisure, and Global Change, Geoparks, Global Change and Human Mobility, Hazard and Risk, Health and Environment, History of Geography, Indigenous Knowledges and Peoples' Rights, Islands, Karst, Land Degradation and Desertification, Landscape Analysis and Landscape Planning, Land Use and Land Cover Change, Latin American Studies, Local Development, Marginalization, Globalization and Regional and Local Responses, Mediterranean Basin, Modelling Geographical Systems, Mountain Response to Global Change, Political Geography, Sustainability of Rural Systems, Toponymy (Jointly with International Cartographic Association), Transformation Processes in Megacities, Transport and Geography, Urban Geography: Urban Challenges in a Complex World, Water Sustainability*.

Associated to this event, the Romanian Geography obtained a remarkable success to the International Geographical Olympiad which was held prior to the IGU Conference, thus being awarded with four gold medals, ranking first among the participating countries.

On behalf of the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy two scientific papers were presented: “*Climate change adaptation of agriculture in Romania*” (M. Sima, D. Bălteanu, A. Popovici, C. Dragotă, I. Grigorescu, Gh. Kucsicsa) and “*Assessing Invasive Terrestrial Plant Species in the Romanian protected areas. Selected case-studies*” (I. Grigorescu, M. Dumitraşcu, Gh. Kucsicsa, M. Năstase).

Several field trips and activities were organized by the IGU Commissions and the Conference Steering Committee with the support of a number of national/regional geographical societies before and after the conference in order to enable the participants to investigate aspects of Japan’ landscape as well as of its neighbour country, Russia.

The next IGU Regional Conference, organised by the Polish geographers, will be held in Cracow during 18th–22nd August 2014 with the main theme on “*Changes, Challenges, Responsibility*”.

Ines Grigorescu, Mihaela Sima

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION,
LAND USE/COVER CHANGE COMMISSION REGIONAL MEETING
JUNE 20–22, 2013, PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

The 2013 IGU LUCC Regional Meeting was held in Prague, Czech Republic on June 20–22. The event was hosted by Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science. The central theme of this scientific event was focused on Land Use Land Cover Change Research in European Countries. The event gathered nearly 25 researchers from European countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Spain, Russia and Hungary) dealing with topics related to: evaluation of LUCC data, GIS as a tool of LUCC evaluation, progress in remote sensing technologies, data policy and availability of LUCC data archives, abandonment of agricultural land, comparison of trends in LUCC within European countries.

From Romania the meeting was attended by Prof. Dan Bălțeanu (member of IGU-LUCC Commission) and Monica Dumitrașcu from the Institute of Geography of the Romanian Academy as well as by Costin Dumitrașcu from the Spiru Haret University, Faculty of Geography. The papers presented by the Romanian attendees referred to *Land use change in Western sector of Getic Piedmont and Romanian Plain* (D. Bălțeanu, M. Dumitrașcu, A. Popovici, M. Sima, Ghe. Kucsicsa) and *Forest dynamics in the South West Development Region of Romania during the last century* (C. Dumitrașcu, R. Cuculici, I. Grigorescu, M. Dumitrașcu, M. Năstase).

After the conference one day field trip was organised by the head of IGU LUCC Commission, Prof. Ivan Bicik, in Central and Northern Bohemia, a region with specific transformations during the post-communist period in terms of land use-land cover changes, land abandonment, ecological reconstruction of brown fields, etc.

Monica Dumitrașcu