

THE 33rd INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL CONGRESS
“SHAPING OUR HARMONIOUS WORLDS”
AUGUST 21–25, 2016, BEIJING, CHINA

The Congress, organized by the International Geographical Union, together with the Geographical Society of China and the Institute of Geographic Science and Natural Research (CAS) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences held in Beijing, was attended by 5,000 participants from over 100 countries.

The Congress theme was “Shaping Our Harmonious Worlds”. The discussions, held in over 200 sessions, highlighted current scientific trends in various geographical areas.

The opening ceremony awarded the students who had taken part in the International Geographical Olympiad. The Romanian delegation, co-ordinated by Mihaela Cornelia Fiscutean and Dorin Fiscutean, teachers at the National College in Iassy, obtained 4 medals (2 gold medals: Maria-Sabina Calisevici – “Ștefan cel Mare” National Military College in Câmpulung Moldovenesc and Ioan-Adrian Toma – “Unirea” National College in Focșani; 1 silver medal: Radu Artiom – “Jean Monnet” Theoretical Lyceum in Bucharest, and 1 bronze medal: Sorina Avădanei, “Calistrat Hogaș” National College in Piatra Neamț.

More than 20 Romanian researchers and University teaching staff from Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Iași and Timișoara presented several scientific papers.

Throughout the Congress proceedings, besides the sessions of communications, the General Assembly meetings, attended by the representatives of the National Committees gathered to elect a new IGU President, designated Prof. Yukio Himiyama (Japan) for this position, and also naming five new vice-presidents: Joos Droogleever-Fortuijn – The Netherlands, Barbaros Gönençgil – Turkey, Nathalie Lemarchand – France, RB Singh – India and Rémy Tremblay – Canada. The venue of the 2024 IGU Congress will be Dublin (Ireland). In 2020, the Congress venue will be Istanbul (Turkey), while in 2022, Paris (France) will host an Extraordinary Congress occasioned by the anniversary of the IGU Centenary.

After the Beijing Congress, organized a number of four thematic field surveys, were organized as follows: arid areas, inclusive of the Gobi Desert and the North-West of China; the Tibetan culture (Tibet, Lhasa); water resources (Yangtze River and the Dam of the 3 Defiles) and the karst relief (Li River, Yunnan National Park).

Dan Bălteanu, Monica Dumitrașcu

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IGU COMMISSION ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT,

AUGUST 16–19, 2016, VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

An important scientific event organised in the framework of the International Geographical Union (IGU), the **Annual Meeting of the Commission on Local and Regional Development**, was held in Vladivostok, Russian Federation (16–19 August). The conference was jointly organized by the Pacific Geographical Institute, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (FEB RAS), Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) and the IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development.

The Scientific Committee of this scientific event was made up of leading scientists and professors of the Russian scientific society based in Vladivostok and preeminent members of the IGU Local and Regional Development Commission: Acad. Petr Baklanov, Pacific Institute of Geography FEB RAS, Vladivostok; Prof. Petr Brovko, FEFU, Vladivostok; Prof. Evgeny Novoseltsev, Far Eastern Marine Research Institute, Vladivostok; Prof. Michael Sofer, Department of Geography and Environment, Bar-Ilan University, Israel (then Chair and current honorary member of the Commission); Prof. Jerzy Banski, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences (the incumbent Chair of the Commission) and Prof. Anthony Sorensen, School of Human and Environmental Studies, University of New England, Australia.

The meeting gathered around 20 scientists from 5 countries (Russia, Israel, Poland, Romania, and USA). The main topics targeted general aspects of local and regional development, urban-rural linkages, as well as illustrative examples from Far East Russia and worldwide, grouped into three sections: I. Issues of local and regional development in the rural space II. Theoretical issues in regional Development III. Case studies in regional development IV. Regional development in Pacific Russia.

The conference agenda also included a round table on the Development Strategy of Vladivostok City Agglomeration for 2020–2030 which was hosted by the Far East Federal University, where the participants were able to argue on the strategic priorities and scenarios of socio-economic development of the city. During the last two days of the event, two field trips were organised. The focus was on the main development clusters of the Far East Russia: industrial and sea transportation (Nakodka – the largest industrial and transport harbour, Kozmino Bay, the terminal point of the Eastern Siberia – Pacific Meridian pipeline and Vostochny Sea Port – part of the eastern branch of the Trans-Siberian railroad) and former agricultural and mining areas subject to new regional development projects – Territories of Advanced Development – NAD (Ussuriisk – Mikhailovsky areas).

On behalf of the Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy two scientific papers were presented: “*Urban growth related to distance explanatory factors in Bucharest Metropolitan Area. Spatial and temporal assessment using logistic regression*” (I. Grigorescu, Gh. Kucsicsa) and “*Farming practices and policies in shaping the metropolitan agriculture in the Southern Romania*” (A. Popovici, I. Grigorescu, B. Mitrică, I. Mocanu, M. Dumitraşcu).

The next annual meeting of the IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development is projected to be held in Romania (September 11–15, 2017). It event be integrated into a larger scientific conference organized in the framework of the IGU which will gather three Commissions: Land Use/Cover Change, Local and Regional Development and Biogeography and Biodiversity.

Ines Grigorescu

THE 11th EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON APPLIED CLIMATOLOGY (ECAC),
SEPTEMBER 12–16, 2016, TRIESTE, ITALY

The 16th EMS Annual Meeting & the 11th European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC) was held in Trieste, Italy, on 12–16 September 2016. The Conference was organized by **Copernicus Meetings** in co-operation with the Unione Meteorologica del Friuli Venezia Giulia ONLUS (UMFVG), the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Istituto di Scienze Marine (CNR-ISMAR), the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), the EUMETNET Climate Programme and EUMETNET Working-Group of European Forecasters, and **the European Meteorological Society (EMS)**. The Conference was also supported by all Italian EMS Member Societies.

This year, the theme of the Conference was “**Where atmosphere, sea and land meet: bridging between sciences, applications and stakeholders**”. The Conference explored the ways and means to support stakeholders, practitioners and decision-makers to mitigate as far as possible future environmental change and to adapt to it where and when necessary.

Many issues on safety, socio-economic impacts and infrastructure investments are particularly urgent in coastal areas. These issues are linked to the changing atmospheric and oceanic circulation, sea level rise, extreme events, floods and landslides.

The ECAC theme 2016 explored these intertwined issues with special emphasis on the sea-atmosphere-land interactions and transitions. Assessing and predicting the evolution of the environment and its impacts are topics that go hand-in-hand with developing solutions to support risk assessment, preparedness and mitigation.

The main areas covered by this scientific event were: *Climate*: Chair Inge Auer (ZAMG Austria), *Applications of meteorology*: Chair Will Lang (UK MetOffice), *The atmospheric system and its interactions*: Chair Renate Hagedorn (DWD Germany), *Communication and education*: Chair Tanja Cegnar (SEA Slovenia), *Measurements and observations*: Chair Frank Berich (DWD Germany) and, *Numerical weather prediction*: Chair Andrea Montani (ARPA-SIMC, Italy).

The session programme included 265 posters and 450 oral presentations organized in 46 sessions. Time slots for 1-minute express-talks to briefly introduce the content of poster presentations were scheduled for all sessions, mostly within oral block, or at the start of the poster session.

At the plenary **ECAC Symposium on Climate Change – Adaptation and Mitigation**, a panel was organized with the audience. Questions such as: How can COP21 target be met? What does the target mean for climate change research and for climate services? What is the relevance of links between NGOs and science? What are mitigation options and is geoengineering a viable approach? – were addressed to and discussed with the audience.

The Conference also featured a small exhibition of commercial companies, involving manufacturers of meteorological instruments.

The 16th EMS Annual Meeting & the 11th European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC) was a great success, being attended by 637 participants from 45 countries. Romania was represented by 10 scientists. The Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, had two scientific posters: *Communicating changes in frost days and the frost-free season in the Romanian Plain to support end-users’ decisions in agriculture*, authors: Constanța Boroneanț, Mihaela Sima, Diana Dogaru, Dana Micu, and Elena-Ana Popovici, in the SE1/CE8 session: *Creating national and regional climate services in Europe through partnerships* (co-organized), and *Synoptic climatology of heavy precipitation in an active landslide region of Romania (The Curvature Carpathian-Subcarpathian region)*, authors: Dana Micu, Simona Andrei, Mihai Micu, Răzvan Zarea, and Florica Toanca, in the ASI session: *Atmospheric hazards*.

The next upcoming EMS & ECAM 2017 will take place in Dublin, Ireland, on September 4–8, 2017.

Constanța Boroneanț

