

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION REGIONAL CONFERENCE

July 12–16, 2010, Tel Aviv, Israel

The 2010 Regional Conference of International Geographical Union (IGU) was held in Tel Aviv, Israel on July 12-16. The event was hosted by the Israeli National Commission for Geography and jointly organized by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Haifa; Department of Geography, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Department of Geography and Human Environment, Tel Aviv University and Department of Geography and Environment, Bar Ilan University. The central theme of this scientific event was focused on *Bridging Diversity in a Globalizing World*. Within the conference, the IGU Commissions integrated their meetings and discussions: Land Use and Land Cover Change, Mountain Response to Global Change, Applied Geography, Climatology, Urban Commission: Emerging Urban Transformations, Political Geography, History of Geography, Geographical Information System, Hazard and Risk, Land Degradation and Desertification, etc.

This prestigious event gathered nearly five hundred presentations and posters which were grouped on several sessions on the following general topics: Political Geography, Local Development, Tourism, Leisure & Global Change, History of Geography, Cultural Approach in Geography, Geomorphic Challenges, Geography & Governance, Hazard and Risks in a Globalizing World, Urban Commission, Gender and Geography, Arid Lands, Humankind and Environment, Global Information Society, Marginalization, Globalization & Regional & Local Response, Islands, Climatology, Population Geography, Land Use & Land Coverage, Geographical Education, Applied Geography, Modelling Geographical Systems, Karst, Health and Environment, Land Degradation & Desertification, Dynamics of Economic Spaces, Environmental Evolution, Water Sustainability, Biogeography & Biodiversity and Geographical Information System.

From Romania the following papers were presented: “*Environmental changes in the Bucharest Metropolitan Area*” (D. Bălteanu, I. Grigorescu); “*L’agrotourisme en Roumanie, une activité nécessaire pour l’espace rural*” (G. Camară, D. Tudora); “*The impact of in-migration flows on the rural economy: the case of Romania*” (L. Guran-Nica, M. Sofer, M.E. Teodorescu, R. Săgeată); “*Opportunities for Development of Tourism Traffic on the Romanian Black Sea Coastline*” (M.T. Andrei, T. Simon); “*Ciucaș Mountains – specific landforms and their role in tourism development*” (G. Posea, C. Marin, M. Andrei, L. Guran-Nica); “*Le potentiel geomorphotouristique des Souscarpatés d’entre la Ialomița et la Prahova*” (M. Mihăescu); “*Biodiversity in Judea lowland*” (H. Moyal, V. Surd); “*The impact of tourism on climate change in European Union*” (I. Pop, M. Andrei) and “*Socio-economic characteristics of the elderly population in Romania*” (D.V. Nancu, L. Guran-Nica, M. Persu).

Numerous field trips and activities were arranged by the IGU Commissions and the Conference Steering Committee before and after the conference in order to enable the participants to explore the landscape of Israel.

Ines Grigorescu