



## Conferences in Chicago, Hong Kong, and Tallinn

Even in 2015 the IGU commission has been involved in several conferences. This year the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers was held in Chicago, 21-25 April 2015. More than 100 presentations addressed tourism geographies and several sessions were co-organized by the commission and commission members. The IGU involvement in the AAG-events is not least of importance since recent IGU conferences have been organized in Asia and Europe mainly, and hence, it is good to note the continuous great interest in tourism geographies at the AAG's annual meeting.

Another event that the commission has been sponsored for several years is the "International Conference on Sustainable Tourism and Resilient Communities" held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, 6-8 May 2015, and excellently organized by Prof Lawal M. Marafa and his team.



*Prof. Lawal M. Marafa, Chinese University of Hong Kong*

The conference attracted some 40 papers not least from Asia and keynote-speakers were Richard Butler, Trevor Sofield, TC Chang, Amran Hamzah, and commission chair Dieter K. Müller.

Finally the commission was also involved in the 6th Nordic Geographers Meeting in Tallinn, 15-19 June 2015. Here commission represented by its chair Dieter K. Müller offered the session "Geographical imaginations and the reality of tourism in the Nordic countries". Altogether 8 presentations were given on this topic. Among the speakers was also former commission chair C. Michael Hall, University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

The involvement of the commission in various, often regional, meetings on tourism geographies is an important part of the commission's activities. Obviously for many tourism geographers attending major IGU events is not always easy. Funding and time constraints are only two reasons for not being able to attend the IGU-conferences. Therefore, the commission is happy to be able to be present and co-sponsor activities organized by the global tourism geographies community. This is not least because of the IGU's ambition of being a truly global organization, which has been highlighted as one of IGU's strategic objectives, recently presented for the period 2015-2022 ([Draft strategy](#)).

Hence, corresponding members interested in organizing conferences on tourism geographies are always welcomed to contact the commission in order to discuss how the commission may sponsor events in-line with its objectives.

## New Publications

The commission strives for disseminating not least the outcomes of the conferences organized or sponsored by the commission. For that the Commission publishes an annual volume of [Tourism, Leisure and Global Change](#), an online proceedings series covering meetings organized and sponsored by the Commission.

Several commission members are also involved in an initiative to establish a new book series on Tourism and Global Change. Negotiations with Springer are ongoing. In this context a book proposal on *Tourism and Transition* (Müller & Więckowski) based on the outcomes of the IGU-pre-conference meeting in Poland, has been submitted as well.

Moreover, there are plans to publish a volume on second home tourism as an outcome of the IGU-event in Stockholm 2014 to be edited by Dieter K. Müller, Umeå University, and C. Michael Hall, University of Canterbury. Initial plans aim at publishing the volume in the Routledge Handbook series.

## Upcoming Events

### IGU events

During the regional conference in Krakow the IGU announced a plan for the upcoming major events, which will occur every second year after the International Geographical Congress in Beijing 2016.

Furthermore there are discussions to organize more thematic and focused IGU-meetings addressing pertinent topics requiring comprehensive scientific treatment. Commissions may contribute to these events but they are not planned as mandatory activity.

### *IGU Regional Conference Moscow*

During 2015 the major IGU event is the Regional Conference in Moscow, Russia, 16-21 August 2015, [www.igu2015.ru](http://www.igu2015.ru).



# IGU MOSCOW 2015

For the sessions organized by the commission 85 oral papers and 20 posters have been accepted. Thematically the sessions address a variety of topics. Not least “Tourism and regional development” and “Tourism and environment”

attracted many submissions. Other sessions deal with polar tourism, tourism and crisis, and tourism and mobility.

Moreover, the panel session on “Publishing tourism geographies”, which turned out to be a great success at the Krakow event, will be offered again. This session was organized as reaction on interest voiced by young scholars during previous meetings and aimed at encouraging international publishing ambitions.



### *IGU International Geographical Congress Beijing*

The IGU International Geographical Congress in Beijing, China, 21-25 August 2016, is expected to be a record-breaking event in the history of the IGU ([www.igc2016.org](http://www.igc2016.org)); recent rumors expect that more than 6 000 geographers will gather in China, and hence even Commission activities for the event are already scheduled.

Acknowledging the expected scope of the event the Commission has proposed a large number of sessions;

- Tourism and Empowerment Issues in Traditional Communities
- Resilience Approaches to Managing Change in Tourism Places
- Tourism and Economic Geography
- Tourism and Environment
- ICT and Modern Technology in Tourism
- Tourism and Mobility
- Tourism and Violence
- Tourism, Heritage and Globalization
- Urban Tourism and Tourism Urbanization
- Publishing Tourism Geographies (Panel Session)
- Lifestyle mobility and the Local Community
- Tourism and Carbon Emissions
- Tourism Planning and Destination Sustainability
- Nature Based Tourism in Asia
- “Tourism Geographies” in Asia: Contrasting issues, approaches and traditions

The deadline for paper abstracts is set for **15 January 2016**.

### ***Pre-Congress Meeting Nanjing, China***

In addition to the sessions organized during the IGC in Beijing the Commission also organizes a pre-congress meeting in Nanjing, 17 to 20 August 2016, organized by commission members Jie Zhang and Alan A. Lew.

More information on the pre-congress event are expected to be posted in September and can then be found on the commission webpage

<http://www.igutourism.org/china2016.html>

### ***IGU meetings beyond 2016***

Currently the IGU-calendar comprises the following events;

- 2018 IGU Regional Conference Quebec, Canada
- 2020 IGU International Geographical Congress Istanbul, Turkey
- 2022 IGU International Geographical Congress (100 year anniversary), Paris, France

For more and updated information on general IGU events please consider the new webpage of IGU [igu-online.org](http://igu-online.org)

### **Commission Events**

#### ***Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference***

The commission also co-organizes the Tropical Tourism Outlook Conference, 29-31 July 2015, Lombok, Indonesia (<http://www.igutourism.org/lombok2015.html>). The Objectives of this conference are to provide a platform to share, exchange and debate ideas and knowledge related to the understanding and management of tourism development and conservation in tropical environments. Through this, the conference aims to identify practical solutions, chart new directions, and create opportunities for sustainable tourism development in these special environments.

This year about 100 presentations will be offered on the conference theme “Balancing Development and Sustainability in Tourism Destinations”. Commission vice chair Alan A. Lew will give a special presentation titled “The Four Faces of Resilience and Sustainability”



The preliminary conference program can be downloaded at: <http://www.igutourism.org/program-L15.html>

#### ***EUGEO 2015, Budapest, Hungary***

For the first time the commission participates in a EUGEO event in Budapest, 30 August – 2 September 2015, [eugeo2015.com](http://eugeo2015.com). The session “Tourism, Globalization and Culture” organized by commission members Carolin Funck and Dieter K. Müller attracted 17 abstracts.

#### ***German Congress of Geography, Berlin***

The commission is also represented with one session on “Application of recent research approaches of economic geography in tourism geography”, at the German Congress of Geography, Berlin, Germany, 1-6 October.

***Please feel free to disseminate this newsletter to interested colleagues!***

***For joining the IGU Commission’s email list and for receiving continuous information on the Commission’s activities visit the commission web page:***

[www.igutourism.org](http://www.igutourism.org)

**International Geographical Union –  
Commission on the Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change**  
[www.igutourism.org](http://www.igutourism.org)

Contact:

Dieter K. Müller, Department of Geography and Economic History, Umeå University;  
<dieter.muller [at] umu.se>

Alan A. Lew, Department of Geography, Planning & Recreation, Northern Arizona University;  
<alan.lew [a] nau.edu>