



INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION
Commission
Geography of Tourism, Leisure and Global Change

Newsletter 2013/2



Successful Commission Meetings in Japan

Tourism between Tradition and Modernity was the theme for pre-conference meeting, 31 July to 4 August 2013, for the IGU Regional Conference in Kyoto, Japan. Altogether more than 25 papers were presented in sessions on the following topics;

- Tourism in Asia
- Branding and commodification
- Tourism and nature
- Wellness, body, spirit
- Experience, interpretation and management

Participants came from Japan, China, Germany, the USA, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Poland, the UK, Slovenia, Israel and Ecuador.

The conference was organized in an excellent way by the *Association of Japanese Geographers Study Group on Tourism and Leisure* and the *Japanese Society for Geographical Sciences Tourism Working Group* and it combined traditional conference sessions with field trips to several tourist attractions in southern Japan.



Particularly the efforts by commission member Assoc. Prof. Carolin Funck, Dr. Takayuki Arima and Prof. Malcolm Cooper were highly appreciated and contributed to make this conference not only an academic success but also a great introduction to tourism in Japan.

Some papers of the conference on heritage and tourism in Asia will be published in a special issue of *Asia Pacific World*. Moreover a book on heritage tourism based on papers from the conference is under consideration.

IGU Regional Conference Kyoto

The IGU Regional Conference in Kyoto, 4-9 August 2013 offered 13 sessions organized by the commission and 7 more sessions on tourism geographies. This made tourism one of the most prominent topics during the conference. Papers covered a wide array of topics and particularly the strong presence of Asian geographers provided a good opportunity to familiarize with current issues in Asian tourism geographies.

During the conference a business meeting was held, too, attended by more than 20 geographers. Among other things the need of a series of conference proceedings was discussed, not least acknowledging the various administrative requirements in parts of the global academic community. This topic is now further processed by the Commission chairs Dieter K. Müller and Alan A. Lew and Jarkko Saarinen, Vice-president of the IGU.

Moreover, the IGU published the venues for upcoming conferences and congresses;

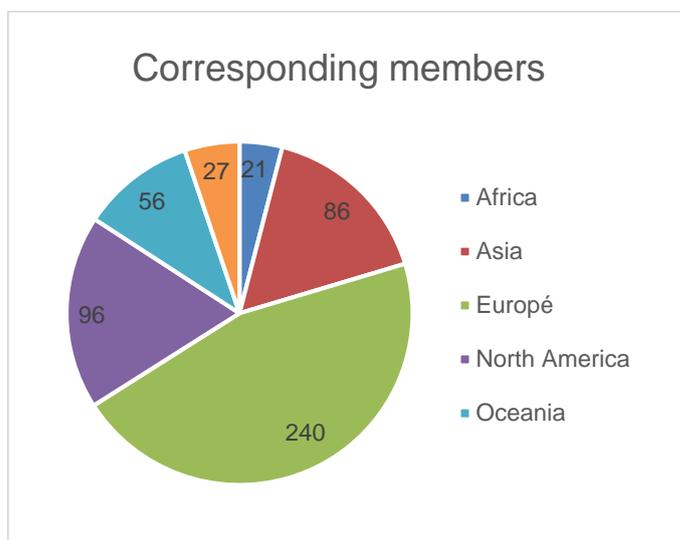
- 2014 Krakow, Poland
- 2015 Moscow, Russia
- 2016 Beijing, China
- 2018 Lima, Peru (tentative)
- 2020 Istanbul, Turkey
- 2022 Paris, France

The commission plans to arrange if possible pre-conference symposia prior to the main congresses.

Considering the geographical locations of the planned conferences the business meeting voiced a need of sponsoring additional meetings in Europe and Africa in order to sustain the integration of English-, Spanish- and French-speaking geographers.

Commission Membership

A recent inventory of the Commission's e-mail list (IGUST) revealed a global membership pattern. The list contains altogether 631 e-mail addresses of which 526 could be related to a specific country. Not surprisingly the inventory showed a dominance of European and North American geographers.



Anyway the recent Commission activities in Asia certainly improved the integration of Asian geographers into the commission's work.

The USA (69 members) and the UK (50) are the countries with most corresponding members followed by Australia (33), Canada (27) and New Zealand (23). Germany was the non-English-speaking country with most members (23). India (21) and China (17) have a leading role in Asia, while South Africa (13) and Brazil (7) and Mexico (7) are the most represented countries in Africa and Latin America, respectively.

This mapped patterns mirror the overall patterns of representation in the IGU-Commissions and demonstrate the necessity to reach out to hitherto less represented countries.

Upcoming Events

IGU Tourism Commission Organized Meetings

- IGU Tourism Commission Pre-Conference, Tourism and Transition in a Time of Change, 13-17 August 2014, Kraków / Pieniny Mts, Poland
- IGU Regional Conference, Changes, Challenges, Responsibility, 18-22 August 2014, Krakow, Poland, www.igu2014.org

Meetings Supported by the IGU Tourism Commission

- Recreation, Tourism & Sport Specialty Group Sessions, [AAG Annual Meeting](#), 8-12 April 2014, Tampa, Florida, USA
- [New Perspectives on Second Homes](#), 9-11 June 2014, Stockholm, Sweden
- 3rd Sustainable Tourism in Urban Environments Conference, 23-25 April 2014, Hong Kong
- 7th Tourism Outlook and 3rd Tropical Coastal and Island Tourism Conferences - Nature, Culture and Networking for Sustainable Tourism, 6-9 August (tentative) 2014, Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

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.com

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