

MINUTES

GeoUnions (GUs) Consortium

Business Meeting Agenda

6 April 2010

Salle Louis Martin Chauffier, Academie des Sciences, Institut de France
23 Quai de Conti, Paris 75005, France

Participants (alphabetical):

Ronald ABLER, IGU President (RA), CHAIR
Orhan ALTAN, ISPRS President (OA)
Tom BEER, IUGG President (TB)
Peter BOBROWSKY, IUGS Secretary General (PWB)
Jacques CHARVET, IUGS Vice President, joined the meeting at 14:30 (JC)
Ian CORBETT, IAU Secretary General (IC)
Ian DOWMAN, ISPRS First Vice-President (ID)
Alik ISMAIL-ZADEH, IUGG Secretary General (AIZ)
François LEFEUVRE, URSI President (FL)
Pierre BAUER, URSI Past President (PB)
Stephen NORTCLIFF, IUSS Secretary General (SN).
Uri SHAMIR, IUGG Past President (US)
Roger SWIFT, IUSS President (RS)

Guest:

Marie-Lise CHANIN, Representative of France at ICSU, Academie des Sciences, joined the meeting from 9:00 to 9:30 and at lunch (MC).
Deliang CHEN, ICSU Executive Director (DC), joined the meeting at 15:00
Jean DERCOURT, Secrétaire perpetual, Academie des Sciences, joined the meeting from 9:00 to 9:30 (JD)
Benno WERLEN, Coordinator of the IGU Initiative “Global understanding”, joint the meeting from 9:00 to 11:00 (BW).

Schedule

9:00 – 11:00 business meeting
11:00 – 11:15 coffee break
11:15 – 12:30 business meeting
12:30 – 14:30 lunch
14:30 – 16:00 business meeting
16:00 – 16:15 coffee break
16:15 – 17:30 business meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

Marie-Lise CHANIN (Representative of France at ICSU) and Jean DERCOURT, Secrétaire perpetual, Academie des Sciences (hosts of the meetings), welcomed the attendees of the meeting. Then JD briefly outlined the history of the French Academy of Sciences, the development relationship with ICSU and its scientific unions, and the French scientific contribution to ICSU. The meeting attendees introduced themselves to the hosts of the meeting. LC and JD left the meeting (LC joined at lunch)

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Review of Minutes and Actions of GU Meeting (Maputo, Mozambique, 19 October 2008)

Each topic of the Minutes was reviewed. All Actions items were done. The Minutes of the GU BM in Maputo was accepted.

4. Brief updates from the unions

IUGS (PB)

IUGS received a 2010 grant from ICSU in cooperation with International Permafrost Association and IUGG. New task group “Global Geoscience Workforce” was set up. Together with UNESCO, IUGS contributes to education initiative in Africa. IUGS has become a member of GEOSS. Next year IUGS will celebrate its 50th anniversary. “Episodes” is now published in India. In February 2010 the EC was held in Paris.

ISPRS (OA)

The Society has increased its activities in three regions –Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Africa and Southeast Asia. The conference on remote sensing in the LAC region will be in Chile in October 2010. Technical commissions discussed their achievements at 8 symposia. In 2010 ISPRS celebrates its 100th anniversary. OA invited the GUs to contribute to the event to be held in Vienna on 2-5 July 2010. Also OA asked the meeting to nominate a person who will address the Centenary General Assembly on behalf of GUs. ISPRS has a special working group on disaster risk. The program (?) “Geoinformation for disaster management” was established after the 2004 Indian tsunami. OA mentioned that the ISPRS Conference "GeoInformation for Disaster Management" (Gi4DM 2011) is to be held on 3-8 May 2011, Antalya, Turkey, and he invited GUs to contribute to this conference as well.

URSI (FL)

The next URSI General Assembly will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, 13-20 August 2011. The inter-commission group on risk management was recently established to study methods and to propose strategies related to radio communication and radio observation systems at the time of, and after, a disaster. A new inter-commission group was established on “Radio Science Services” to have a common view on active and passive radio services. FL expressed his concern on the fact that some URSI national committees have problems in seeking to renew their membership.

Another concern was the unreliability of financial support from National Academies: without this support he wondered how far our unions can continue to exist?. He asked whether other unions experience the similar problems. SN commented that Japan and Germany asked IUSS some time ago to explain how well the Union operates prior to providing financial contributions to IUSS. This is a sign that national members would like to know the benefit from their membership in the union. RA (IGU) also received similar requests. TB mentioned that IUGG had recently problem with the Royal Society who wished to reduce the amount paid towards Union dues. PWB told that Canadian NRC appeared to be unhappy with some of the payments to ICSU, and TB confirmed this was also the case for Australia.

IUGG (TB)

IUGG celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2009. In between IUGG General Assemblies, 8 Union Associations hold their scientific assemblies. 7 of 8 associations organized their assemblies in Buenos Aires (IAG, geodesy), Cape Town (IASPEI, seismology), Hyderabad (IAHS, hydrology), Montreal (IAMAS-IAPSO-IACS, atmosphere-ocean-cryosphere), and Sopron (IAGA, geomagnetism and aeronomy). IUGG receive a 2010 grant from ICSU in cooperation with IGU, IUGS, ISPRS, IUTAM, GOOS of UNESCO-IOC, and AGU. “GeoScience in Africa” is a scientific priority area of IUGG. IUGG wants not only to hold scientific meetings in the sub-Saharan region, but also develop research projects in cooperation between African and IUGG experts. IUGG has established 4 new committees: Visioning, Education and Capacity Building, Membership Issues, and Honors and Recognitions. The next IUGG General Assembly is in Melbourne, Australia (27 June – 8 July 2011).

IAU (IC)

The major event in the life of the Union was the International Year of Astronomy 2009 (<http://www.astronomy2009.org/>, IYA), which was enormously successful! 140 countries participated. Too many activities to be mentioned. IAU received EUR650,000 to maintain the IYA Secretariat and an IYA legacy: Education subcomponent, especially in developing countries. The IAU General Assembly was held in 2009 in Rio de Janeiro. The Union has about 10,000 individual members and 68 National members. Meanwhile there are local difficulties due to financial problem, some countries increase their subscription dues. IAU has established good relations with UNESCO because of IYA. Our new initiative is to use astronomy as an educational tool. The new IAU program “Astronomy Development”(AD) received 20 proposals for establishing the Office (with annual support of EUR 200K). IAU hopes to be able to establish 5 to 10 regional centers of AD. UNESCO is interested to work with IAU on the AD program. The next GA in 2012 IAU will be held in Beijing, China. IC posed a question: what is the added value of our membership in ICSU? What do the scientific unions get from ICSU?

IUSS (RS)

The IUSS General Assembly will be in August 2010 in Brisbane, Australia. Focus of the Assembly is “Soil solutions for a changing world”. We expect about 2000 attendees. IUSS is considering decoupling the Presidency from the hosting of the General Assembly which is the current arrangement, the hosts of the GA providing the President.. SN will finish his term in 2010. IUSS has increasing demand to better soil science education. SN mentioned that fewer students (at least in UK) were pursuing scientific careers, although a reasonable number continue to study soil science as postgraduates. He also notified the group that was a feature length film

called 'DIRT! The movie' which had been widely shown in the US and on some TV outlets in Europe.

IGU (RA)

RA mentioned that IGU would like to propose an International Year of Global Understanding and BW will later present this initiative. IGU will hold its regional meeting in Tel Aviv in July 2010. IGU had a large number of proposals for meetings and will experiment with holding a conference or congress every year from 2010 through 2016. The executive committee is in transition. Since 1922 President and SG were always elected at general assemblies; now half of the executive committee is elected or re-elected every other year. The next GA is in 2012 in Cologne, Germany.

ACTION: GUs shares information about GAs including duration on the assemblies and registration fees.

5. International Year of Global Understanding – IGU initiative

BW was invited to present the project proposal. IGU initiative for a United Nation declaration of an International Year of Global Understanding will focus on socio-cultural aspects of sustainability as well as the natural aspects of our planet Earth. Why IGU? This is because the Union has supported over 25 years several programs (UN-Summit on Sustainable Development, UN-Initiative on Global Change, International Years on Mountains and Planet Earth, participate in SCOPE, IHDP, and IGBP) with sustainability as a key component. The globalized social and spatial effects on each person's daily life on our planet are unevenly distributed. All aspects involve new combinations and re-combinations of the social, cultural, economical, and the natural on one side and the spatial and temporal on the other side. The principal goals of the proposed Intl Year is (i) to broaden everyone's understanding of his/her globalized life-conditions in cultural, social, economic, and natural aspects and (ii) to demonstrate the great potential of trans-disciplinary research in building a safer, healthier and richer future for humankind by opening new perspectives for sustainable way of life under globalized conditions.

FL: Electrical engineering and science & technology, which impact our life, are missing from the broad program.

Another point raised was whether WHO have been involved in the discussions: how is the program related to the ESSP of ICSU?

US: we have to make a case for science. Young generation should be somehow incorporated in the proposal.

RA: The younger generation is mentioned in the proposal. Namely, family matters and neighborhood matters. We need to find ways to collaborate between natural and social sciences.

PWB: The idea is good, but from practical point of view, the whole thing needs to be more strongly developed: why should governments sponsor the initiative? The major point will be the ability to raise sufficient funding.

BW: No money can be raised without support of ICSU and surely UN. But now a few sources already exist: in Germany (DFG, the state of Tueringen), and there is a network between economic and political schools.

6. GeoUnions Science Topics

Health. ID reported on the ICSU project “*Mapping GeoUnions to the ICSU Framework for Sustainable Health and Wellbeing*,” which was coordinated by ISPRS and supported by GeoUnions. The project particularly showed the value of Unions working together. ID will report on the project at the ICSU Scientific Unions meeting on 7 April. ID mentioned that the project workshop was successfully held in Pretoria, Africa. The workshop recommendations serve the basis for the further development in this area. Answering the SN’s question, ID emphasized the importance of soil science in studies of health and wellbeing.

Natural Hazards. AIZ reported on the new ICSU project “Extreme Natural Hazards and Societal Implications (ENHANS)”, submitted by IUGG and supported by IGU, ISPRS, IUGS, IUTAM (theoretical applied and mechanics), IRDR, GOOS of IOC-UNESCO, AGU with involvements of the ICSU Regional offices. The project will be presented on 15 April at the meeting of the IRDR Scientific Committee at ICSU in Paris and the web page of the project is under development (launched on 15 April). Three major events are planned in the framework of the project with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia and the Pacific region. The first symposium “Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk in Latin America and the Caribbean” and associated events will be held in Foz do Iguassu, Brazil, at the AGU joint Scientific Assembly “Meeting of Americas” (8-13 August 2010). The second event will be a workshop on extreme hazards and disasters in sub-Sahara Africa (January 2011, University of Pretoria, South Africa). And the third event will be held at the XXV IUGG General Assembly (27 June – 8 July 2011, Melbourne, Australia). We plan a scientific symposium “Grand Challenges in Natural Hazards Research and Risk Analysis” followed by the ICSU Open Forum on Natural Hazards and Disaster Risks.

FL: mentioned that URSI also supports the project. He told that several scientific topics related to natural hazards and disasters are of competence of his Union. For example, ionospheric perturbations, at the origin of perturbations in radio waves, may impact the availability and the quality of radio images (errors in the directivity and in the positioning) during the catastrophes.

OA: told that ISPRS people were involved in the studies of the recent Haiti earthquake disaster, especially scientists from the University of Turin (Italy) who were the first group of researchers who prepared a disaster map for the area. ISPRS will send a representative to Brazil for the first ENHANS project event. Also OA mentioned that he is organizing the conference “GeoInformation for Disaster Management (Gi4DM2011) on 3-8 May 2011 in Antalya (Turkey) and the link between the conference and the ENHANS project would be welcomed.

Data and Information. PWB mentioned the importance of data and information for the scientific community in geosciences and for ICSU and GeoUnions in particular. He reported that IUGS would like to prepare a new ICSU project on data management issues for 2011 ICSU Grant Programme and seeks support from GeoUnions. It can be a joint GeoUnion initiative. Several questions were raised related to data communication, data open access and general availability of data. The existence of GeoNetCast – Geo-portal – Data on Earth Observation was reported.

7. Relationship with ICSU

7.1. ICSU: general

US: With its new Executive Director Deliang Chen the atmosphere in ICSU has been changing. Deliang is working hard. Many representatives of GeoUnions were appointed to various ICSU committees. Most recently Ian Dowman (ISPRS) was appointed to ICSU Dues Committee.

PWB: mentioned that IUGS is still unhappy with the nomination business. Only one nomination from IUGS was accepted for the last year. He suggested placing all nominations on the ICSU web page (in the member zone) to enable judgments to be made on appointments.

ACTION: Ron Abler to formulate and to deliver a message at the ICSU Union meeting about transparency in the work of ICSU.

IC: When Unions talk to ICSU, we should understand what we want out of ICSU. What is ICSU doing for us to justify our membership in ICSU. ICSU will produce a strategic plan, and the role of Unions and the lines of communication should be mentioned somehow in this document. ICSU appears to have almost no influence outside its boundaries. The reports of governmental organizations are considered by governments, but not ICSU decisions.

SN: Our grouping in GeoUnions is a significant benefit for us of being in ICSU. ICSU major programs are important for all us.

7.2. ICSU Regional Offices

US gave a brief report on the activities of the ICSU Regional Offices: in Africa, LAC and AP and mentioned difficulties in the relationship of the ICSU Unions with some of the Regional Offices.

AIZ told about the IUGG experience in communication with ROA.

FL also mentioned the absence of ROA. to important African meetings organized in the context of International initiatives like IHY (International Heliophysical Year) and so the absence of support to emerging scientific communities in domains which are not in the ROA programmes.

PWB: ROA was still more active compared to other ROs and had produced several scientific programmes.

Meanwhile there is a concern on the added value of the ROA programs, except that they summarize the knowledge in the specific area.

US noticed that after the review of the ROA activity and the activity of the ROA Secretariat, the ROA Director Sospeter Muhongo is recently resigned, and ICSU now searches for a new director. ICSU appointed Dr. Rocky Skeef as an Acting Director of ROA.

FL: Regional offices should facilitate activities of the ICSU Scientific Unions, even when some of the activities do not overlap with their own priority area.

7.3 Discussions with Deliang Chen, ICSU Executive Director

RA welcomed Deliang Chen who joined the meeting. RA mentioned that one of the topics for discussion with DC is the planned GeoUnions meeting at UNESCO with Robert Missotten and others.

SN asked DC about the relation between UNESCO and ICSU?

RA suggested TB should tell how the idea of the meeting had emerged.

TB told that one of the agenda topics of the IYPE meeting (London, January 2009) was a discussion of a new initiative on a global science programme proposed by several IYPE Board Members (representing national geological societies). It was mentioned that UNESCO and ICSU Scientific Unions have to be approached and invited to the discussions. R. Missotten suggested a meeting at UNESCO and the appropriate time was April 2010 during the ICSU Unions meeting.

DC: UNESCO is a UN body and has a mandate to promote science, culture and education. The national Ministers of education represent countries in UNESCO. UNESCO will sometimes invite the Ministries of science, but not always. UNESCO has a Deputy Director-General responsible for science. UNESCO sees ICSU as a privileged partner. If we look at the history, we see that ICSU was one of the active supporters of establishing UNESCO. Some UNESCO science programs correlate with the ICSU programs, namely, Water, Biodiversity programs. There is the framework agreement between ICSU and UNESCO to support some interdisciplinary programs (e.g., DIVERSITAS, IOC, WCRP). ICSU has been receiving funding from UNESCO, initially quite substantial, but now diminishing. At present ICSU receives about EUR 200,000 from UNESCO. UNESCO wants to work with the ICSU Scientific Unions rather than directly with ICSU. UNESCO is an important partner for ICSU. Via UNESCO we can get governmental linkages. New DG of UNESCO is keen to enhance the link with science. ICSU wants UNESCO to support ICSU programs. We see some degree of competition between ICSU and UNESCO sections. ICSU revisiting the issue related to Intl Years. New programs on Ecosystem, on Disasters Research, Earth System Science, and Sustainability which sit across the UNESCO-ICSU interface. If we can come up with a mega-initiative, it would be supported from ICSU and UNESCO. The important points of the ICSU activity are its disciplinary excellence and inter-disciplinary programs.

RS: Issue of sustainability, food, limited resources, bio-fuels are important from IUSS point of view.

US: ISSC was weak, and they work with ICSU to strengthen their science.

AIZ asked about the status of ICSU in the global world community.

DC: ICSU is well positioned in the UN system as a privileged Scientific Body.

PWB: How is UN-ISDR linked to the new ICSU program IRDR.

DC: IRDR is co-sponsored by ICSU, ISSC and UN-ISDR. ICSU provides access to scientific community. UN-ISDR has had difficulties to communicate with this community. WMO has also

involved in the natural hazard program. IRDR collaborates with WMO. Also IRDR was approached by IPCC and asked for assistance in the field of extreme events and climate change.

8. GeoUnions Joint Resolution

RA: The resolution was drafted by AIZ and revised by IC with some remarks from FL.

FL: URSI prefers a shorter resolution and also some revisions of the resolution related to technology development and advanced technology.

PWB: Such a resolution is needed but must be released at an proper time.

US: disagrees with PWB that we have to get the document be released at time of disaster. It should ready and discussed by the scientific community because its content is not specific to particular disasters but to the overall awareness of disasters and the responses to disaster.

SN: To whom will the resolution be addressed.

OA: we need to adopt the resolution and to post on the Internet to make it available for our members.

DC: ICSU can place the joint resolution at the ICSU website, to show to other organizations or to present at high level meetings.

Motion by RA “to accept the resolution following some ‘polishing’ of the English” and seconded by PWB.

SN and RS agreed to check English of the resolution

(the final copy of the Resolution is enclosed)

9. A common GUs strategic plan

RA: The topic was suggested by Alberto Riccardi.

IC: I do not see any particular reasoning to develop a strategic plan for GUs. We are an informal organization, and we should follow the strategic plans of our own Unions and that of ICSU.

It was agreed to postpone the consideration of the topic until a more complete proposal is prepared with a stronger justification.

10. GEOITALIA 2011

JC: informed that during the last IUGS EC meeting in Paris (22-25 February 2010) L. Boriani (who is one of the organizers of the ICSU GA in 2011) requested to explore the possibility that the GUs would hold their meeting in Turin before the General Assembly and participate in

GEOITALIA 2011 – 8th Forum of the Italian Federation of Earth Sciences (Turin, Italy, 19-23 September 2011).

GUs accepted the kind invitation.

ACTION: PWB asked to provide more information on the event.

11. Planet Earth Institute (PEI)

SN: informed that he received an e-mail from Ed de Mulder, who asked the group to discuss the new Planet Earth Institute at the GUs business meeting.

TB: Based on the information provided, IUGG considers that this initiative is of some interest for our membership, but without further development of the initiative with a clear understanding of the principal aims and work program, IUGG cannot support it .

JC: IUGS is not against the initiative, but we would like further information to allow a better evaluation. There is a good outreach component ...

US: Overall impression of the project is not strong.

Conclusion: GUs received the message from Ed de Mulder, discussed it, and noted it.

ACTION: SN to inform Ed de Mulder that GUs wish the PEI project a success.

12. Global Geoscience Initiative

AIZ: Several members of the IYPE Board, along with representatives of some other Earth science institutions, have started to explore whether there is scope to launch a global geoscience initiative, in response to the ‘call to arms’ embodied in the Tsukuba Declaration put forward by participants in IYPE, IPY, Electronic Geophysical Year (EGY), and the International Heliophysical Year (IHY). The vision of the group developing this proposal is that it should: (i) be inclusive, and involve a geoscience community which is broad both in terms of discipline and nationality; (ii) have a clear socio-economic context, and global societal relevance; (iii) focus on a globally significant science theme, and preferably involve global processes, and (iv) attract the support of scientific communities, funding agencies, governments and other institutions in many countries, under the umbrella of UNESCO and the geoscientific International Unions. Two town hall meetings took place in USA (at the GSA and AGU Fall meetings in 2009) and the third town hall meeting will be held in Vienna at the EGU GA in May 2010.

GUs agreed that no action is needed at present. We should see the further development of the initiative. More information is required for any action.

13. Meeting of GUs at UNESCO

GeoUnions representatives agreed to meet Robert Missotten at UNESCO on 9 April at 8:30.

US: ICSU would like to improve relations with UNESCO.

IC: IAU will not be present at this meeting.

RA: Representatives of IGU, ISPRS, IUGG, IUGS, IUSS, and URSI will attend the meeting.

14. Chair and Secretary of GUs

Tom Beer was asked to Chair the GUs until the next GUs meeting. TB mentioned that he is likely do not participate in the ICSU GA and asked to look for someone else. It was suggested that we contact INQUA and ask the Union to convene the GUs including organization of the next business meeting and producing Minutes of the business meeting. John Clague (INQUA) was contacted and agreed to convene the GU meeting in Rome.

The meeting concluded 17:30.

Submitted by Alik Ismail-Zadeh, GUs Secretary.

RESOLUTION ¹

Natural Hazards, Risks and Disasters

Adopted by the ICSU GeoUnions Consortium, comprising:

The International Astronomical Union
 The International Geographical Union
 The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
 The International Union for Quaternary Research
 The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
 The International Union of Geological Sciences
 The International Union of Soil Sciences
 The Union Radio-Scientifique Internationale (International Union of Radio Science)

on 6 April 2010

Recognizing that:

1. natural hazards have a significant disaster potential;
2. the first decade of the 21st century has been marked by a number of environmental disasters;
3. many vulnerable people reside in areas of significant natural disaster risk;
4. better knowledge of the geosciences will increase mitigation of natural risks; and advanced technology, observations, and timely warnings can reduce damage, improve preventive measures and reduce loss of life;
5. the economic impact of natural disasters greatly exceeds the cost of mitigation;
6. disaster reduction, management, preparedness and warning systems are all essential long-term planning needs;
7. reducing the impact of disasters should be carried out mainly at the local level;
8. geoscience knowledge and propagation of this knowledge can assist rescue agencies to obtain more rapidly understanding of the extent of a potential disaster and plan remediation;
9. sharing remote sensing and spatial information are vital in damage assessment supporting the rescue operation after natural disasters; and
10. one element in reducing the impact of natural hazards is to improve our predictive capability of their occurrence, which requires a thorough understanding of the nature of the dynamic processes of the Earth system.

¹ This Resolution is based on the ISPRS Beijing Declaration (http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2124_DD_FILE_ISPRS_Beijing_Declaration.pdf), IUGG Resolution “Science on Natural Hazards and Environmental Disasters” (<http://www.iugg.org/resolutions/nathaz2010.pdf>), IUGS Resolution (http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/3013_DD_FILE_IUGS-Declaration-Haiti-Earthquake-Jan2010.pdf).

We recommend that:

1. multi-disciplinary and multi-national natural hazard and risk assessment research programs be developed to share and integrate diverse data streams, to improve understanding of the natural phenomena associated with disasters, to develop observation techniques, predictive modeling capability and to produce planning tools for disaster risk assessment and reduction at all scales;
2. earth science education becomes an integral part of education systems at all levels and in all countries;
3. systems and procedures are developed for reliable real-time monitoring, early warning, increasing public awareness, establishing regional evacuation routes and shelters and general risk mitigation based on charts of vulnerability to natural hazards and risk assessments;
4. regional and local disaster management centers are established where they do not now exist to catalog information on the population and infrastructure at risk, and to monitor land, ocean and atmosphere in relation to all kinds of natural hazards; and
5. regional natural hazard warning systems are established which can disseminate timely and accurate information needed by decision makers and the public;

and accordingly, we resolve to:

1. promote the development and application of scientific expertise and experience in the understanding, modeling and visualization of geological, physical, technological, biological and social processes and their implications for the mitigation of natural disasters;
2. make this critical information freely available to the public with special consideration being given to government officials, policy makers, emergency planners and the insurance industry
3. urge international agencies and developed countries to provide economic and technical support for the implementation of programs and systems for identifying potential hazards in less-developed countries with significant risks of natural disasters, on the understanding that assistance before a disaster will save lives and reduce economic hardship.

APPENDIX.

Information on the dates & place of the GUs GA, registration fee and young scientists program

IGU

The IGU GA usually meets on three consecutive days during an IGU Congress for three hours in each session, for a total of nine hours.

Registration fees for IGU Conferences and Congresses have averaged about US\$500.00 for recent meetings.

ISPRS

The registration fees for the next ISPRS Congress in Melbourne, Australia at 25 August - 1 September 2012

	Before March 2012	Before June 2012	On site
Participants:	\$875 AUD	\$1075 AUD	\$1275 AUD
Full time students & seniors*	\$550 AUD	\$750 AUD	\$950 AUD
Accompanying persons	\$420 AUD	\$520 AUD	\$620 AUD

IUGG

XXV IUGG General Assembly will be held on 27 June to 8 July 2011 in Melbourne, Australia (<http://www.iugg2011.com>)

A scientific part of the Assembly (28 June – 7 July) will comprise of Union symposia, Inter-Association symposia, and symposia and workshops of 8 IUGG International Associations (the Scientific Program of the Assembly will be available on 4 June 2010).

Registration fee is not yet decided, but early-bird registration fee will be under AUD 900.

The Union Symposium “Early Career Scientists in Geophysics” will be held at the Assembly.

URSI

URSI Chicago GASS (General Assembly and Scientific Symposium), 9 – 16 August 2008

Scientific part

- 1 day for workshops
- 11 half-days scientific sessions

Fees

- regular participants: USD 600 before 15 May and USD 700 on or after that date
- students: USD 200 before 15 May and USD 250 on or after that date
- accompanying persons: USD 50

Young scientific programme

- 124 YS accepted in total (due to visa problems, 22 could not attend)

URSI Istanbul GASS (General Assembly and Scientific Symposium), 13 -20 August 2011

Scientific part: Same format than for Chicago

Fees: lower

Young scientist programme: same order, no visa problems expected