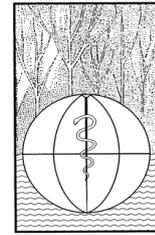




International Geographical Union  
Commission on Health  
and the Environment (IGU CHE)



**Notes from a Meeting of the IGU CHE Commission, held at the Kellogg centre,  
Michigan State University, 12.30-1.30pm, 11 July, 2013.**

Present: Robin Kearns (Acting Chair), Mark Rosenberg, Sue Grady, Izabella Lecka, Svetlana Malkhazova, Thomas Kistemann, Sara McLafferty,

Apologies: Thomas Krafft, Wang Wuyi

Robin welcomed those present to the meeting and initiated a discussion of recent as well as forthcoming Commission-sponsored activities.

Aided by notes sent in advance by Thomas Krafft, the following were noted;

1. The forthcoming Regional IGU Meeting in Kyoto (4-9 August, 2013) where the Commission will have four sessions and at which Wang Wuyi will represent the Commission and coordinate the sessions.
2. International Conference on *Intra Urban Dynamics and Health* September 11-13 in Paris: This conference is the first of four planned in the context of the ICSU programme on *Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment*. (Commission members will be involved in the programme and we will continue to work with this group)
3. The next conference of GEOSAUDE (with participation from across Portuguese speaking countries) in Coimbra, Portugal on 21-24 April.
4. The IGU Regional Conference (18-22 August 2014) in Krakow. Izabella Lecka suggested a 2-day pre-meeting symposium in Warsaw (15-6 August) with the group then travelling to Krakow on 17<sup>th</sup>. Izabella was advised to restrict participation to about 50 to ensure the organising is manageable and that the meeting can run with a single stream of papers.
5. The following IGU Regional meeting is in August 2015 and in Moscow. Our contact there is Commission member Svetlana Malkhazova who will help to organize sessions in the main congress as well as convene a pre-meeting (this may involve a special meeting/training on GIS and Health).
6. The next IMGS (2015) is in Vancouver in July of that year will be supported by the CHE. Valorie Crooks is host. The 2017 meeting will be on the other side of the Atlantic, with France being a possible candidate.
7. The Commission activities in context of the IGC 2016 in Beijing will be organized by Wang Wuyi including a pre-conference meeting in China. Details will be discussed at the Krakow meeting.

Other matters discussed at the Commission Meeting included:

- Mark Rosenberg reported on *Future Earth* - a 10 year Global Change research initiative that has been launched by ICSU together with other partners will replace IGBG, DIVERSITAS and IHDP (the merging of the three aforementioned programmes into Future Earth is planned for this year/early 2014). The role of health as a cross cutting theme within Future Earth remains unclear and the existing specific project of Global Environmental Change and Human Health GECHH might come to an end without any substitute. The need to support this theme more actively and get more visibility for the Commission was noted.
- The new president of the IGU Wladimir Kolossow has suggested in a letter to chairs that Commissions should more vigorously reach out to other disciplines. It was agreed that our commission has always actively done this (e.g., as reflected in the diversity of disciplinary representation at the IMGS). As the current discussions within the Public Health and Global Health communities seem to indicate a renewed interest in geographical methods and spatial analysis it was agreed that we could further extend our links.
- The Commission has started a new web page: <http://www.IGUHEP.org> While the old one remains for the time being, it will soon simply provide a link to the new one. Thomas would like feedback and suggestions on what to include in the future.
- The student training workshops that the commission had organized during the last four years together with other partners at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing have been rested for the year. This year there will be only a training workshop for Chinese students. We are currently redesigning the workshop concept and seek new sponsors for continuing with this activity.

The meeting finished at 1.30pm