Welcome

To Whom It May Concern:

You may have noticed that the 26th General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) is quickly approaching. This event will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 26 June to 2 July 2015. As a chairman of the Local Organising Committee IUGG 2015, and on behalf of the entire Czech geosciences community, I extend a cordial invitation to attend this once-in-a-lifetime scientific and social event.

IUGG has a General Assembly every four years, and Prague is the only city to host this event for a second time (in 1927, Prague hosted the third IUGG General Assembly with some 300 participants).

Over the last century, the IUGG has made admirable breakthroughs in all aspects of Earth Sciences. Currently, IUGG is a composite of eight semi-autonomous, concurrent disciplines. Prague has flourished, developing into an ideal site for this once-in-a-lifetime scientific and social event. Prague hosted the third IUGG General Assembly in 1927; “Besides, the city is since 1992 on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites and offers one of the world’s prose and startled collections of architecture. We have selected for you the guided tours that include PRAGUE’S MUST SEE.

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To Whom It May Concern:

Welcome

Key Dates to Remember

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<th>June 2014</th>
<th>September 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Registration &amp; Accommodation OPEN</td>
<td>Call for Abstracts OPEN</td>
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<td>31 January 2015</td>
<td>10 April 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract Submission deadline</td>
<td>Registration Early Bird fee deadline</td>
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<td>15 June 2015</td>
<td>Registration Standard fee deadline</td>
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Registration Fees Structure

- **Early Bird (10 April 2015)**
  - Full registration: 540 EUR
  - Retiree registration: 430 EUR
  - Student: 360 EUR
  - Accompanying person: 100 EUR

- **Standard (from 11 April 2015 to 15 June 2015)**
  - Full registration: 700 EUR
  - Retiree registration: 550 EUR
  - Student: 430 EUR
  - Accompanying person: 120 EUR

- **Late & Onsite (after 16 June 2015)**
  - Full registration: 830 EUR
  - Retiree registration: 680 EUR
  - Student: 500 EUR
  - Accompanying person: 150 EUR

Scientific Program

**Draft Scientific Program by Times**

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**Scientific Field Trips**

A number of field trips and workshops are being planned to a wide range of geologically interesting sites within the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Europe.

- **Halfday Excursions**
  - Grand Tour of Prague
  - Prague Castle in details
  - Jewish Quarter & Old Town
  - Cruise on Vltava river with dinner

- **Full Day Excursions**
  - Pilgrim Upland & Konopiště Castles
  - Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad)
  - Český Království
  - Karlštejn Castle + Glass factory

**Hotel Accommodation & Hospitality**

For your convenience, a number of hotels is being selected as the official IUGG 2015 hotels and special rates have been obtained. Prices vary from 36 EUR to 300 EUR and a full list will be published on the website www.iugg2015prague.com in June 2014.

More than 3000 rooms are available within a short distance of the Prague Congress Centre ranging from budget to five star accommodations. Questions regarding accommodation may be directed to the IUGG 2015 Prague Secretariat at:

**IUGG 2015 Prague Secretariat**

Tel.: +420 261 174 305
Fax: +420 261 174 307
Email: accommodation@iugg2015prague.com

For updated information please visit website www.iugg2015prague.com.

**Scientific Field Trips**

- **Trosky Castle.**
- **Spectacular columnar jointing of basanite on Panská skála Rock.**
- **High Tatras.**
- **Prague to Panská Rock.**
- **Martin Monk.**
- **1. 7.**
- **2. 7.**

Sincerely yours,

Vladimír Cermak
Chairman, LOC IUGG 2015
Mission

The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) is the international organization dedicated to advancing, promoting, and communicating knowledge of the Earth system, its space environment, and the dynamical processes causing change. Through its constituent Associations, Commissions, and services, IUGG convenes international assemblies and workshops, undertakes research, assembles observations, gains insights, coordinates activities, liaises with other scientific bodies, plays an advocacy role, contributes to education, and works to expand capabilities and participation worldwide. IUGG is committed to the principle of free exchange of data and knowledge among nations, and encourages unrestricted scientific participation by all people.

Objectives

The Union is a scientific organization, its objectives are:

- Promotion and coordination of physical, chemical and mathematical studies of the Earth and its environment in space
- International cooperation in geosciences to benefit the humanity
- Initiation and promotion of scientific programs
- Organization of scientific meetings worldwide
- Dissemination of scientific knowledge via special publications and scientific journals
- Organization of broad outreach activities especially in the developing world
- Promotion of science education and capacity building
- Encouragement of data services and data preservation
- Cooperation with other international, governmental, and intergovernmental organizations
- Dissemination of awareness about the Earth and its environment in space among the general public

Structure

IUGG is comprised of eight semi-autonomous International Associations (IA), each responsible for a specific range of topics or themes within the overall scope of Union activities.

- Cryospheric Sciences (IACS)
- Geodesy (IAG)
- Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA)
- Hydrological Sciences (IASH)
- Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (AMAS)
- Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO)
- Seismology and Physics of the Earth’s Interior (IASPEI)
- Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth’s Interior (IAVCEI)

Owing to the interactive nature of the subject fields managed by the International Associations, five Union Commissions have been established which serve the Union and the international geophysical community by promoting the study of particular interdisciplinary problems:

- Climatic and Environmental Changes (CCCE)
- Mathematical Geophysics (CMG)
- Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (GRC)
- Study of the Earth’s Deep Interior (SEDI)
- Data and Information (UCDI)

In addition, IUGG establishes inter-Association Commissions, and relationships with other scientific bodies with similar interests.

Membership

By their very nature, geodetic and geophysical studies require a high degree of international cooperation as well as effective central coordination. The Union is fortunate in having 70 Member Countries. The great majority of those countries participate in the Union through IUGG National Committees, set up by national academies or other bodies that adhere to the Union.

Research Programs

IUGG has initiated and/or supported collaborative efforts that have led to highly productive interdisciplinary international programs such as:

- International Lithosphere Program (ILP)
- Extreme Natural Hazards and Societal Implications (ENHANS)
- Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)
- International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)
- World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)
- Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (RDR)
- International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU)
- International Year of Deltas (IYD)
- Mathematics of Planet Earth (MPW)
- World Data System (WDS)

Scientific Meetings

IUGG holds General Assemblies at four-year intervals. The next IUGG General Assembly will be held in Prague, Czech Republic, 22 June – 2 July 2015. In between the IUGG General Assemblies, the Associations hold Scientific Assemblies, sometimes jointly with other Associations.

Publications

Several IUGG Associations develop publication programs. Among well-known scientific journals published by the associations are the Journal of Geodesy (by IAG), the Hydrological Sciences Journal, the Red Book and Blue Book Series (by IAH), and the Bulletin of Volcanology (by IAChE). IUGG produced a series of books published by the American Geophysical Union. Since 2012 the Cambridge University Press agreed to publish the Special Publication Series of IUGG.

Capacity Building and Education

Capacity building and science education meetings are essential components of educational activities of IUGG. Within the Union bodies, dozens of scientific workshops and symposia are held annually all over the globe and co-sponsored by IUGG. IUGG and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP, Trieste, Italy) cooperate to promote educational programs related to geophysical sciences by organizing advanced schools and workshops, and developing diploma courses related to Earth and space sciences.

Science Policy

Science policy is an essential component of the IUGG activities. IUGG cooperates with the United Nations and other international, regional and national organizations to disseminate scientific findings among the states and the public with the aim of promoting scientific research and funding.

Awards

IUGG established three major Union awards: the Gold Medal, the Honorary Membership, and the Early Career Scientist Award. Among more than 20 medals, prizes and awards of the Union Associations, the most important awards are the Gay Bomford Prize (IAG), the International Hydrology Prize (IAGU-NESCO-WMO), the Shin Kuo Award (IAGA), the Prince Albert I Medal (IAPSO), the IASPEI Medal, and the Thorarinsson Medal (IAVCEI). The Union Associations recognize early-career scientists as well: the IAG Young Authors Award, the IAGA Young Scientist Award, the IAHs Tison Award, the IAPSO Eugene LaFond Medal, and the IAVCEI George Walker Award.

Getting to Prague

By plane

- Easily accessible from all major European cities (max. flying time 2.5 hours)
- Direct flights from 128 destinations all over the world
- Two terminals – Terminal 1 and 2.
- Many low cost providers

By car

Distance from European cities:

- Berlin 350 km
- Zürich 694 km
- Frankfurt am Main 508 km
- Amsterdam 877 km
- Budapest 525 km
- Bratislava 328 km
- Kraków 540 km

By train

Prague has several train stations, but international trains are likely to arrive at the Main Railway Station (Hlavní nádraží). There are also some international arrivals at Holešovice Station (Nádraží Holešovice). These stations are connected to the underground (red line C) and go directly to the Prague Congress Centre (Výstaviště).

Public Transport

Prague has much used and inexpensive underground, tram, and bus system. During the peak hours, underground trains run every 1 or 2 minutes, and during off-peak hours at least every 10 minutes. For more information about Prague public transportation visit www.dpp.cz

Negotiations are taking place with the city for subsidies or free travel for General Assembly delegates. Check the website for development.