

ASIAN GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION

E-NEWSLETTER 03

July 2021

Editor: Xuanzi Zhang, Secretary of the AGA



ASIA · GEOGRAPHY

This e-newsletter is circulated to more than 60 contact persons of the member societies of the Asian Geographical Association. Conference announcements, calls for participation in scientific events, information of programmes and projects are welcome. Please send them to Ms. Xuanzi Zhang acg2018@igsnrr.ac.cn

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1. Updates from *Asian Geographer*

- **Asian Geographer: Updates for first half of 2021**

Provided by Professor Jiang Xu, Editor-in-Chief of *Asian Geographer*

As our world evolves, so does *Asian Geographer*. As COVID-19 continues to pose a global threat to our lives and societies, we have witnessed an increasing appetite from international readers for timely interventions which help them make sense of the highly uneven distribution of the unfolding impacts of the virus. This demand is clear from the immense popularity of Asian Geographer's commentary on the geographies of COVID-19 (<http://bit.ly/AG-GC-19>), which has quickly emerged as one of the journal's most viewed and most cited articles. As a result, *Asian Geographer* is introducing a new section called "Critical Perspectives", which welcomes both reviews on the state of the art of current research and commentaries offering research and policy insights on emerging issues that matter to Asia.

Asian Geographer has also opened a new chapter in its international outreach. In April 2021, the journal debuted its first set of sponsored conference sessions during the virtual annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers on the theme "Health, Sustainability, and the Future of Asian Cities". Two sessions were organized, one focusing on how COVID-19 unevenly impacts different spaces and peoples in Asia, and another examining the various attempts of physical and social construction of healthy cities in the region. Ten presenters from academic institutions in China, India, Singapore, and the United States joined the sessions to share and discuss their research across South, Southeast and Northeast Asia. The journal will be organizing more events in international academic conferences to help get the name of *Asian Geographer* heard by the broader community of scholars in geography and cognate fields.

As mentioned in our last update, the next issue of *Asian Geographer* in August 2021 will feature a special issue on "Northeast Asia in Regional Perspective", guest-edited by three geopolitics specialists: Professor Alexander C. Diener from The University of Kansas), Dr. Andrew Grant from Boston College, and Dr. Mia M. Bennett from The University of Hong Kong. As a region which – in its most expansive sense – includes Russia, the Koreas, China, Japan, Mongolia, and even maritime border zones in the Asia-Pacific and Arctic, Northeast Asia has been, and is continuing to be, an important site of regional integration and global connectivity. As the guest editors highlighted in their forthcoming editorial, the special issue unpacks "the complex and often competing visions of Northeast Asia's spatial extent and coherence as a conceptual region, demonstrating how it has shifted over time and continues to shift today." Four research articles of the special issue have already been published on Asian Geographer's website:

- “Bordering and scaling Northeast Asia”, by Edward Boyle and Akihiro Iwashita: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2021.1894189>
- “Material and metaphorical bridgework: Russia’s Asian Pivot through Vladivostok”, by Jeremy Tasch: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2021.1912787>
- “City networks binding resource peripheries to economic and political cores: A Northeast Asian perspective”, by Julia Loginova: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2021.1899948>
- “Living in decline – The dynamics of anthropogenic disturbances in the recent landcover history of Manchuria and its consequences for Northeast Asia”, by Juliane Schlag: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2021.1952884>

As usual, *Asian Geographer* also features a series of “online first” articles at its website (<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/showAxaArticles?journalCode=rage20>). Many recent additions share a focus on tourism development in various parts of Asia:

- “Understanding tribal community’s perception toward tourism impacts: The case of emerging destinations in western Himalaya, Kinnaur”, by Ravinder Jangra and S. P. Kaushik: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2020.1830134>
- “The influence of tourism revenue sharing constraints on sustainable tourism development: A study of Aksu-Jabagly nature reserve, Kazakhstan”, by Imanaly Akbar and Zhaoping Yang: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2021.1894462>
- “Trans-Himalayan connectivity and sustainable tourism development in Nepal: A study of community perceptions of tourism impacts along the Nepal–China Friendship Highway”, by Roger C. K. Chan and Kishan Datta Bhatta: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2021.1943470>
- “Improving urban Recreational Business District (RBD) from the perspective of visitors’ satisfaction and perception”, by He Zhu, Shuying Zhang, and Wenting Yu: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2021.1942092>

Call for papers and special issue proposals

Asian Geographer disseminates knowledge about geographical problems and issues with a focus on Asia and the Pacific Rim. Contributions may address any field of physical or human geographical inquiries and methodologies. Works based on other regions are also welcomed if they can demonstrate a linkage to Asia and the Pacific Rim. Priority is given to contributions which move beyond the profiling of specific geographical sites to promote a wider theoretical and conceptual understanding. Contributions are welcomed in the form of full-length original research articles,

review papers and critical commentaries (max. 8,000 words), as well as shorter reports on latest fieldwork findings for the section “Asian Geography in Brief” (max. 4,000 words). For more details about the journal’s aims, scope, and submission instructions, please visit <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rage20/current>.

The journal also welcomes proposals for special issues throughout the year. Proposals may be directed to Editor-in-Chief, Professor Jiang Xu, at jiangxu@cuhk.edu.hk.

2. Activities of Working Groups

- **AGA Young Geographers Working Group (AGA-YGWG):** Organized by Nanjing Normal University, Geographical Society of China, China Society of Natural Resources, China Association for Geospatial Information Society, Chinese National Committee of International Society for Digital Earth, AGA Young Geographers Working Group, the First National Geographic Analysis and Modelling Workshop will be held online from August 9th to 16th, 2021. So far more than 1400 participants from over 350 organizations in China, USA, Germany, Sweden, Japan have registered for the virtual event. Participants are requested to submit reports and will be assessed when the training courses end. The qualified trainees will be presented certificates issued by the organizers. The organizers plan to hold the next workshop as an international webinar to attract more international scholars.
- **AGA Working Group on Cultural Geography** will organize joint sessions with IGU Commission on Cultural Approaches in Geography during the 34th International Geographical Congress, which will be held during August 16th – 20th, 2021 online. For the schedule of the congress, please visit the IGC2021 website: <https://www.igc2020.org/>

JOINT SESSION-CULTURAL APPROACHES IN GEOGRAPHY (IGU) AND WORKING GROUP ON CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY(AGA)

HOME» COMMISSIONS

ASIAN AND EUROPEAN GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVES AND PRACTICES

TRADITIONAL CULTURES, FOLK SOCIETIES AND FOLKLORIZATION IN ASIA AND EUROPE

GEOGRAPHY OF POPULAR CULTURES: PLACES, EVENTS, PRACTICES

HERITAGE AND GEOGRAPHY IN ASIAN COUNTRIES: A PERSPECTIVE FROM OUTSIDE AS WELL AS INSIDE

3. News from Pakistan Geographical Association

16th All Pakistan Geographical Conference | APGC | 11th – 13th March 2021

**Department of Geography, University of the Punjab, Lahore,
Department of Geography, Lahore College for Women University,
Lahore-Pakistan**

The 16th All Pakistan Geographical Conference (APGC) was held from 11th to 13th March 2021 jointly at the Department of Geography, University of the Punjab, Lahore, and Department of Geography, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore. The conference organizing committee was comprised of Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (Conference Patron and Worthy Vice-Chancellor of University of the Punjab), Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali Shirazi (Conference Convener and Chairman, Department of Geography, University of the Punjab), Prof. Dr. Syed Jamil Hassan Kazmi (President, Pakistan Geographical Association), Dr. Aysha Hanif (Incharge, Department of Geography, Lahore College for Women University), Prof. Dr. M. Mushahid Anwar (General President, Pakistan Geographical Association), Dr. Gohar Ali Mahar (General Secretary, Pakistan Geographical Association), and Mr. Adeel Ahmad (Conference Secretary). The conference was also attended by Dr. Salman Qureshi, a senior research scientist at Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany) and a senior research fellow at the Birmingham City University (UK).



The national conference met with massive success with the participation of over 90 delegates belonging to 17 educational/research institutes across Pakistan. The participants came from 16 different districts of Pakistan, including Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Islamabad, Bahawalpur, Gojra, and Faisalabad. In three days, 55 research papers were presented (oral and poster presentations) in 8 parallel thematic sessions with four plenary talks by the eminent geographers of Pakistan. The thematic sessions included topics from Traditions of Physical Geography, Disaster Risk Management, Emerging Geo-Informatics Technologies, Population & Urban Geography, Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Ecosystems, Emerging Geographies in Pakistan, Water Resources Management, Geopolitics, Ecology, and

Environmental Management, and Geographies of Health and Healthcare: Socio-Ecological Perspective.



(Provided by Professor Safdar Shirazi, Secretary-General, Pakistan Geographical Association, geoshirazi@hotmail.com)

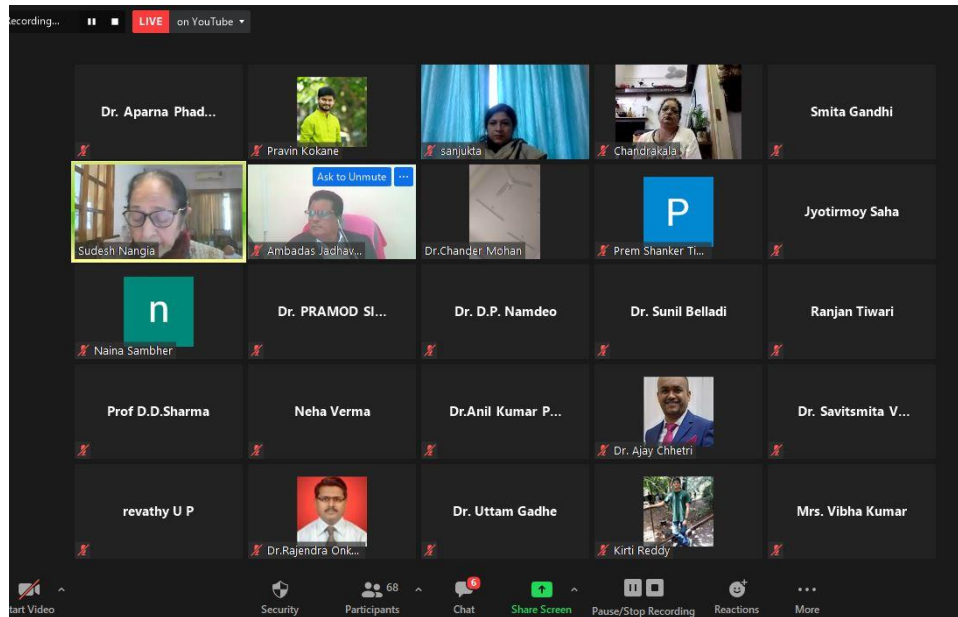
4. News from National Association of Geographers, India

A Two-Day National Webinar on “Resilient Cities”

15th - 16th January, 2021

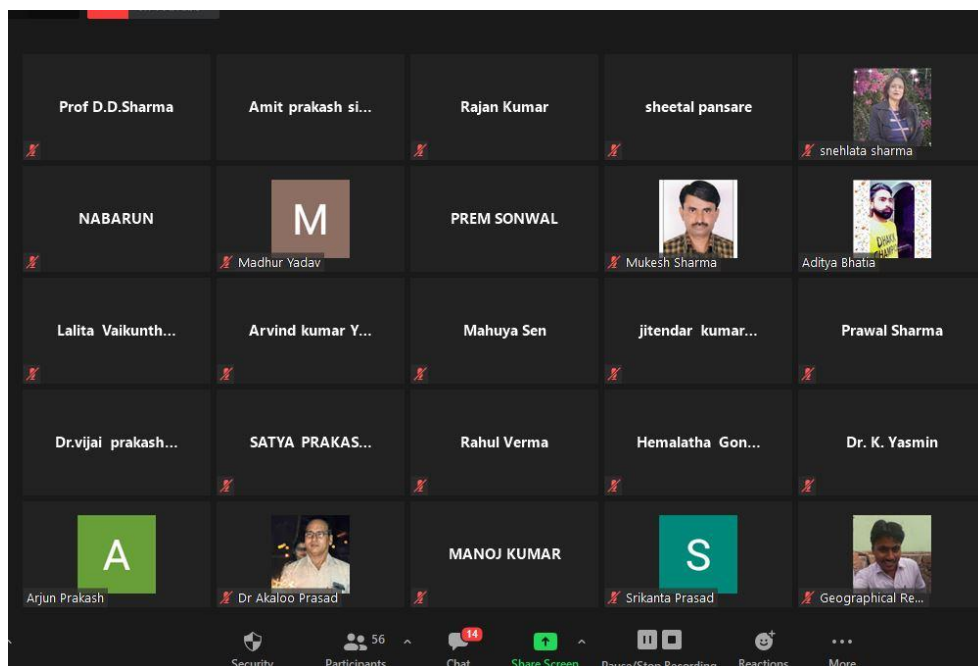
Organized by Department of Geography, University of Mumbai and National Association of Geographers, India

The webinar was a joint academic venture of Department of Geography, University of Mumbai and National Associations of Geographers, India. The webinar was convened by Dr. Sanjukta Sattar (Head, Department of Geography, University of Mumbai) and co-convened by Dr. Aparna Phadke and Dr. Pravin Kokane (Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Mumbai). Prof. Suresh C. Rai, Secretary General of NAGI provided all kinds of support and guidance for the organization of the National Webinar. The National Webinar was purposely kept free for all. An overwhelming response was received with 646 registrations. Eminent Geographers, experts from various other fields like planning, community development and sustainability. Zoom meeting online platform was used for the online conduction of Webinar. The webinar was also broadcasted live on the official YouTube Channel of Mumbai University.



Prof. Sudesh Nangia on ‘Smart City – Sustainable or Resilient: Do We have a Choice!’

Prof. H. N. Misra discussed on “Cities for Tomorrow” in the panel Discussion on ‘Resilient Cities’



The webinar was concluded by Discussion and comments by the senior geographers like Prof. Smita Gandhi and Prof. Ambadas Jadhav.

(Provided by Dr. Aparna Phadke, Co-Convener)

**Founder Life Member of NAGI Inducted in Union Council of Ministers,
Government of India**

Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, one of the founder Life Members of the National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI), became New Member of the Union Council of Ministers (State Minister for Education and Foreign Affairs), Government of India in July 2021. He was elected Member of Parliament from the Inner Imphal constituency of Manipur State. Before his political career, he had a four-decade-long career as a Geography Professor in the Department of Geography, Manipur State University, and worked as Registrar of the same University. He was the Director of the College Development Council at Manipur University. He did his Master of Arts and PhD in Geography from Guwahati University.

Prof. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh is very active in social/environmental activities in Manipur State. He raised the environmental issues of the famous Loktak Lake of Manipur. This is an immensely proud moment for all of the geography fraternity in India and the National Association of Geographers, India, (NAGI) one of the largest bodies of Geographers in the Country.



Secretary General (NAGI) with Honorable Minister of State Govt of India Prof. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh & Smt. Ranjan Singh

(Provided by Prof. Suresh Chand Rai, Secretary-General, NAGI, raisc1958@rediffmail.com)

5. News from Korean Geographical Society

The 2021 annual conference of the Korean Geographical Society was held on June 25, 2021. The meeting was conducted entirely online.

18 sessions were held, 85 presentations were given, and over 180 attendees joined this conference. At this conference, many scholars working in the United States, Swiss, and Mexico had joined as presenters and attendees.

There were six special sessions as follows: Contributions of Geography in the Post COVID-19 era; Challenges and Solutions in regard to the national spaces; Internationalization of the Korean Geographical Society journal, Future of Geography Education, Digital twin and Smart space, and International applications of the National Atlas.

(Provided by Prof. Byungyun Yang, Korean Geographical Society, yby94@dgu.ac.kr)

6. News from Geographical Society of China

2020 Top 10 Research Achievements of Chinese Geography Unveiled

The Geographical Society of China (GSC) Annual Spring Conference 2021 & Chinese Geography Editing and Publishing Conference was held from May 28th – 30th, 2021 in Xi'an, China. At the opening ceremony of the conference, GSC unveiled 2020 Top 10 Research Achievements of Chinese Geography, which were listed as follows:

2020 Top 10 Research Achievements of Chinese Geography

No.	Name of Project	Project Leader & Key Participating Organization
1	Denisovan DNA in Late Pleistocene Sediments from Baishiya Karst Cave on the Tibetan Plateau	Dongju Zhang (Lanzhou University)
2	Coupling Loop Theory and Regulating Application of Coupler for Interaction between Urbanization and Eco-environment in Mega-urban Agglomerations	Chuanglin Fang (Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS)
3	High-resolution Cenozoic Stratigraphy Sequence of the Central Tibetan Plateau: Revising History of Plateau Uplift and	Xiaomin Fang (Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research, CAS)

Ecological Environment

4	Big Data Method and Technique for Major Respiratory Infectious Diseases Epidemic Prevention and Control	Chenghu Zhou (Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS)
5	High-resolution Simulation of Global Urban Land Changes and Their Impacts on Key Environmental and Ecological Factors	Xia Li (East China Normal University)
6	Advancing Spring Greenup of Northern Vegetation Exacerbates Summer Droughts and Heatwaves	Shilong Piao (Peking University)
7	Evolution and Effects of the Social-ecological System over a Millennium in China's Loess Plateau	Xutong Wu (Peking University)
8	Poverty Alleviation Through Rocky Desertification Control and Restoration in Karst Areas of Southwest China	Kelin Wang (Institute of Subtropical Agriculture, CAS)
9	Global Trends of CO ₂ Fertilization Effects on Vegetation Photosynthesis	Yongguang Zhang (Nanjing University)
10	Dune Bistability and its Dynamical Processes	Zhiwei Xu (Nanjing University)

Professor Fahu Chen, President of the GSC said: “2020 Top 10 Research Achievements of Chinese Geography represent the latest research achievements and the most important breakthroughs of Chinese geography in the year 2020.” The campaign to select «Top 10 Research Achievements of Chinese Geography» was launched by the GSC in 2021, aimed at promoting development of Chinese geography, encouraging Chinese geographers to grasp new trends of the discipline as well as to make new breakthroughs both in basic research and application development. The projects should be completed within the year 2020. They should be theoretical and technological applications in the field of geographical science with intellectual property rights, as well as major scientific, technological and social service progress supported by geographical innovation research, including engineering practice and decision-making, etc. The forms of project encompass articles with theoretical, methodological and technological innovation included in official publications, patents with authorization and transformation prospects, research achievements accepted by authoritative academic institutions and provincial ministries and commissions, major scientific expeditions or research projects, advice to serve national policy formulation approved by the government, or scientific and technological progress reported by national media, etc. Only branches of the Society, as well as GSC fellows and members of Standing Executive Committee are eligible for the nomination. As a

result, a total of 20 projects submitted to the award committee took part in the competition. The 10 finalists were determined by votes from a scientific jury through a review meeting organized by the GSC. The results were approved by the GSC Standing Executive Committee Meeting and were officially unveiled at GSC Annual Spring Conference in Xi'an.

2020年度中国地理科学十大研究进展发布

2020年度“中国地理科学十大研究进展”入选成果名单
(以得票多少为序)

序号	项目名称	主要完成人及所在单位
1	白石崖溶洞晚更新世沉积物中发现丹尼索瓦人DNA	张东菊等(兰州大学等)
2	特大城市群地区城镇化与生态环境耦合圈理论及耦合器调控应用	方创琳等(中国科学院地理科学与资源研究所等)
3	首获青藏高原腹地新生代地层高精度年代序列-修正青藏高原隆升和生态环境历史	方小敏等(中国科学院青藏高原研究所等)
4	重大呼吸道传染病疫情防控大数据方法与技术	周成虎等(中国科学院地理科学与资源研究所等)
5	全球高精度城市用地变化及其对环境生态关键因子影响的模拟研究	黎夏等(华东师范大学等)
6	北半球春季植被物候提前加剧夏季干旱和热浪	朴世龙等(北京大学)
7	近千年来黄土高原社会-生态系统演变过程及效应	武旭同等(北京大学等)
8	西南喀斯特石漠化治理与生态恢复研究及其对扶贫工程的科技支撑	王克林等(中国科学院亚热带农业生态研究所)
9	全球尺度植被CO ₂ 施肥效应变化趋势	张永光等(南京大学)
10	沙丘双稳态的发现及其形成机制	徐志伟等(南京大学等)

2020 Top 10 Research Achievements of Chinese Geography, unveiled in Xi'an

(Provided by Xuanzi Zhang, Secretary, Geographical Society of China, igc2016@igsnr.ac.cn)

7. Report - International Geographical Societies Gathered Online in Response to Climate Emergency

Jointly organized by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS), the Royal Geographical Society (RGS-IBG) and the International Geographical Union (IGU), the International Geographical Societies Gathering was held online on June 22nd, 2021. Over 60 representatives from 30 world's leading geographical societies joined the online discussion and provided their respective and collective responses to climate emergency in the run-up to COP15 in Kunming and COP26 in Glasgow later this year. The gathering of international geographical community discussed collaborative efforts to tackle climate change and the sustainable development goals. As a result, participants developed a joint statement and ideas for collaborations in the future.

Chief Executive of RSGS, Mike Robinson who devised the idea for the gathering welcomed the participants and reflected on the event "Scotland plays host to the world's governments this November and we wanted to help play our part by

convening our global network of sister organizations, to understand each other's perspectives better, to seek greater collaboration and to use our collective leadership to build the understanding of solutions and commitment to action on this critical issue."

The delegates from Italy, Israel, Russia, China, Ireland, Colombia, Uganda and EUROGEO introduced their work and shared their key projects and activities on climate change and SDGs. After their presentations, participants were invited to join group discussions under three different themes: education, research, and public engagement and policy. The subsequent discussions concerned what geography is doing right and what it could do differently. One topic that was particularly emergent throughout the day's discussions was the interdisciplinary nature of geography, the advantage of which is a more complete understanding of the world, and of the effects of climate change, both human and physical, local and global. It was followed by provocations from several international speakers considering different perspectives on climate change. The provocations ultimately inspired second round discussions about the responsibility of geographical societies to seize opportunities for collaborations and how to share with and support each other. As a uniquely inter-disciplinary subject, geography provides insight into a broad scope of issues attributed to climate change, and its solutions.

Professor Joe Smith, Director of the Society, said: "The meeting captured the great scale and breadth of contribution to these key global challenges by geographers all over the planet across decades. Geography and geographical bodies have made a huge contribution to knowledge, engagement and action on biodiversity and climate change. But at the gathering we also provoked each other to stretch our ambitions, and commit to greater contributions in future."

Professor Michael Meadows, President of the IGU, declared the conclusion of the gathering, commenting on the significance of the meeting: "Even as the global population reels in the face of the most serious health crisis in over a century, the climate crisis is affecting all of our lives. Geographers have a very special skillset in terms of teaching and research that can – and indeed must – be harnessed through the kind of cooperation that the international community of Geographical Societies is able to foster in order to help mitigate the myriad problems associated with human impact on the environment".

Ahead of the biodiversity and climate change COPs later this year, the societies will release a joint statement on the issues discussed at the gathering.



(Provided by Xuanzi Zhang, Secretary, Geographical Society of China, igc2016@igsnr.ac.cn)

8. Forthcoming Events

- **The 5th Asian Conference on Geography** is rescheduled to be held at Thai Nguyen University, Thai Nguyen, Vietnam from April 21-25, 2022. Website: Home Page <http://acg2021.tnu.edu.vn/>
- **The Council Meeting of the AGA and the Business Meeting of the AGA Executive Committee 2022** will be held during the 5th Asian Conference on Geography in Vietnam.
- **The 34th International Geographical Congress (IGC2021)** will be held virtually from August 16-20, 2021. Website: IGU 2021 - <https://www.igc2020.org/en/default.asp>
- **The IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology** is postponed to be held in spring 2022 in Mashhad, Iran. Website: <https://rcg2020.um.ac.ir/index.php/en/>
- **The 2nd International Conference on Geography and Geoinformatics for Sustainable Development (IGCCS)** is scheduled to take place on November 18-19, 2021 in Phuket, Thailand. Website: ICGGS <http://www.icggs.org/>
- **The 43rd Indian Geography Congress** will be held online on October 28-30, 2021. If you are interested in joining the meeting, please contact Professor Suresh Chand Rai, Secretary-General, NAGI. raisc1958du@gmail.com