

ASIAN GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION

E-NEWSLETTER 04

January 2022

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@igsnr.ac.cn

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1. Updates from *Asian Geographer*

***Asian Geographer*: Updates for second half of 2021**

Asian Geographer concluded 2021 with over 70 new and revised submissions. The majority of the contributors were based in Asia, with India, China and Indonesia being the three leading origins of manuscripts. Multiple manuscripts were also received from authors based outside of Asia, in countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. Research themes such as tourism development and impacts, internal and international population flows, and human-induced environmental changes were particularly popular. As part of its strategy to promote its international standing, the Journal will give priority to contributions which move beyond the profiling of specific geographical sites to promote a wider theoretical and conceptual understanding.

2022 promises to be an exciting year for *Asian Geographer*, as the first Asian Geographer Annual Lecture will be held in the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers. The lecture, entitled, “Extended Urbanization—A Concept in Search of a Theory?”, will be delivered by Professor Neil Brenner, a renowned critical urban theorist from The University of Chicago, and chaired by Professor Jiang Xu, Editor-in-Chief of *Asian Geographer*. At the same conference, *Asian Geographer* is also sponsoring two paper sessions on “New Technologies and Urban Transformation”, featuring 10 presentations which trace and interrogate the diverse and complex links between new technologies and urban transformation from a variety of critical perspectives.

February 2022 will also see the publication of Issue 1 of Volume 39 of *Asian Geographer*. The latest issue includes five articles covering Northeast, Southeast and South Asia, and examining both contemporary and historical socio-environmental changes. All articles have been published on *Asian Geographer*’s website:

- “Media discourses of territorial disputes in Japan”, by Simon Wellisch and Lukáš Laš: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2020.1768569>
- “Bridging the perception gap? When top-down built megaprojects meet bottom-up perceptions: A case study of Suramadu Bridge, Indonesia”, by Delphine, Patrick Witte, and Tejo Spit: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2020.1750441>
- “A time-use perspective of out-of-home activity participation by older people in Hong Kong”, by Sylvia Y. He, Sandip Chakrabarti, and Yannie H.Y. Cheung: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2020.1808488>

- “Understanding the tribal community’s perception towards tourism impacts: The case of emerging destination in Western Himalaya, Kinnaur”, by Ravinder Jangra and S. P. Kaushik: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2020.1830134>
- “Historical climate-war nexus in the eyes of geographers”, by Harry F. Lee: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10225706.2020.1768571>

(Provided by Prof. Jiang Xu, Editor-in-Chief of *Asian Geographer*, jiangxu@cuhk.edu.hk)

2. Activities of Working Groups

- **AGA Young Geographers Working Group (AGA-YGWG):** On December 18th -19th, 2021, the First Asian Young Geographers Workshop was held online. Initiated by the Young Geographers Working Group of the Asian Geographical Association (AGA-YGWG), the Workshop was jointly organized by AGA-YGWG, Young and Early Career Geographers Task Force of the International Geographical Union (IGU-YECG) and Working Committee for Young Geographers of the Geographical Society of China (GSC-WCYG). Under the theme “Young Geographers’ Response to Challenges in Asia”, the workshop attracted about 600 participants from 30 countries and regions worldwide.
- **AGA Working Group on Cultural Geography (AGA-WGCG):** AGA-WGCG will jointly organize sessions with IGU Commission on Cultural Approaches in Geography during the IGU Centennial Congress, which will be held during July 18th – 22nd, 2022 in Paris and online. For more information, please visit the congress website: <https://www.ugiparis2022.org/>

List of Sessions:

1. Thematic Session "Time for geographers"

1-1. Heritage and Sustainable Development: The Importance of Geographical Thinking - Ryu Je-Hun

1-2. New Cultural Geographies in A Post-Pandemic World: Research Topics and Methodologies - Sánchez-Aguilera Dolores

2. UGI Commission Session: Cultural Approach in Geography

2-1. The Cultural Approach in Geography in Different Socio-Spatial and Temporal Contexts: A Comparative Perspective - Dupont Louis

2-2. Territories and Politics of Animalities: Critical Animal Geographies between Domination and Resistance - Coumau Juli

2-3. Night Studies: Geographical Lighting and Spatial View - Vincent Salomé

2-4. Penser les Musées en Géographie : Concepts, Enjeux et Méthodologie -Molinié-

Andlauer Marie-Alix

2-5. The Geographies of Death: Spatial Aspects in Times of Change - Marjavaara Roger

2-6. Mobilizing the Place Mediated Through Local Cultural Institutions and Events: Multifaceted Debates in Japan - Hamano Takeshi

2-7. Geography and Spirituality - Gruet Brice

2-8. Cultural Geography of Asian Cities: Interfacing Heritage, Tourism, and Urbanization in Making Future Sustainable (virtual) - Shinde Kiran

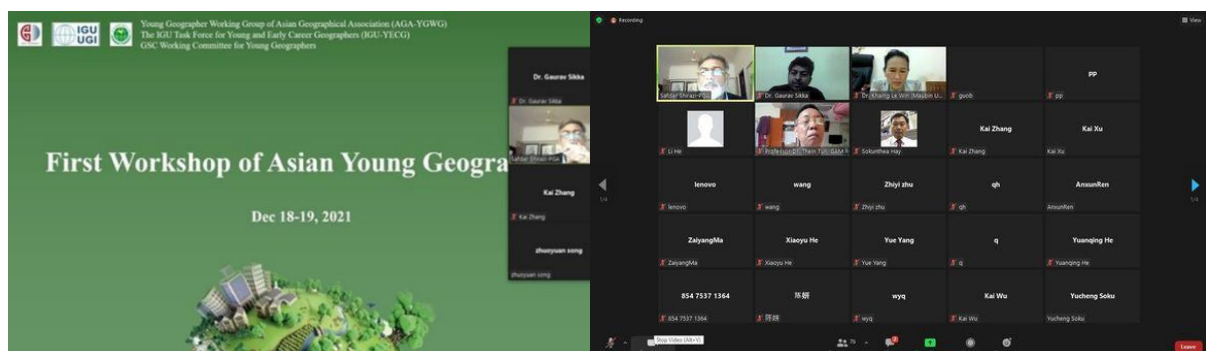
3. News from Pakistan Geographical Association (PGA)

The Department of Geography organized a number of academic activities in the year 2021 under the auspices of Pakistan Geographical Association. Among these academic activities, the Department designed a GIS map of the University of the Punjab's academic blocks, residential area, and hostel area for University's Engineering branch in August, 2021. This followed by a two-day hands-on training workshop on Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) that was organized from 28th-29th October, 2021 at the department in collaboration with Sunder Trading Company. In this training workshop students were taught about in-field data collection and afterwards processing in software. The GIS Day 2021 was celebrated in a series of events including workshops, seminars and webinars. In this series the first webinar by Prof. Dr. Jami H. Kazmi (Meritorious Professor) on "The Drone GIS: A New Window of Geographical Research" was organized on 3rd November, 2021. The second webinar was conducted on 4th November, 2021 by Dr. Hammad Gilani on "Land Resource Assessment using Remote Sensing" and the third webinar was conducted on 8th November, 2021 by Dr. Farheen Khanum on the topic "Socio-Environmental Engagement: A GIS Perspective". This followed by a seminar conducted by a research team from the National Centre of Excellence in Geology (NCEG), University of Peshawar on GIS and Space Applications on 17th November, 2021. The concluding ceremony of the GIS day was held on 22nd November, 2021 where students presented Geography models and certificate distribution ceremony was held.



In November, 2021 the Department got its bi-annual Research Journal PGA (Pakistan Geographical Review) recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan. PGR is among the few university journals recognized by the HEC.

Department's PhD scholar Dr. Nausheen Mazhar presented her paper entitled "Land Surface Temperature (LST) variations and its impacts on Glacial behavior in Hunza Nagar, Pakistan using Landsat imagery" in the International Conference on "Geography, and Global Sustainability" held virtually in December, 2021. Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali Shirazi, President, PGA delivered a keynote speech titled "Climate Change in South Asia: Implications for Land" at the 1st Workshop of Asian Young Geographers co-organized by the Young Geographers Working Group of the Asian Geographical Association (AGA-YGWG), the IGU Task Force for Young and Early Career Geographers (IGU-YECG) and the GSC Working Committee for Young Geographers on 19th December, 2021.

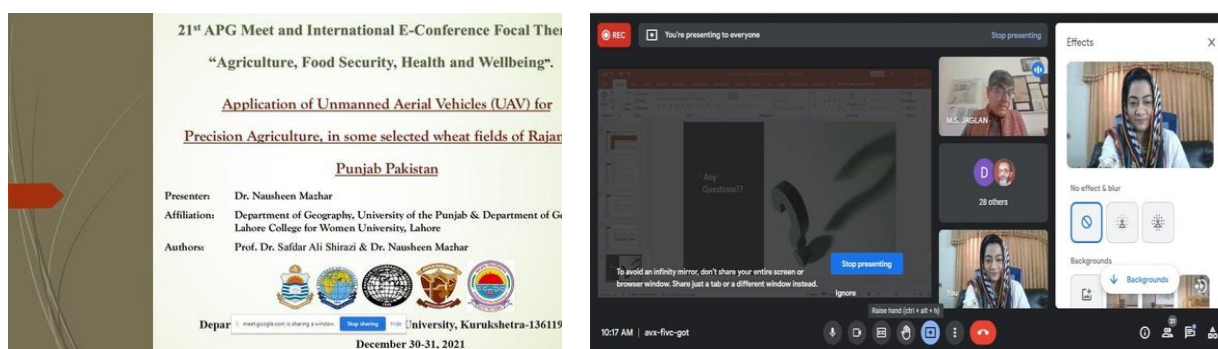


The ex-President Pakistan Geographical Association, Meritorious Professor Dr. Syed Jamil Hasan Kazmi retired from his more than 40 years of service as faculty member at Department of Geography, University of Karachi, Karachi. The Department of Geography, University of Karachi organized a Farewell Party on his retirement on 30th December.



During 2021, the Department of Geography produced 4 PhDs. The degrees were awarded to these scholars on the 130th Convocation Ceremony of the University of the Punjab (18th December, 2021).

Dr. Nausheen Mazhar, Department of Geography, Lahore College for Women (LCWU) presented her research successfully under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali Shirazi, President, GA entitled, “Application of Unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for precision agriculture, in some selected wheat fields of Rajanpur, Punjab-Pakistan” in 21st APG Meet and International E-conference focal theme: Agriculture, Food security, Health and Wellbeing.”



(Provided by Prof. Safdar Ali Shirazi, President of PGA, geoshirazi@hotmail.com)

4. News from National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI)

The 43rd Indian Geography Congress 2021

Organized by Department of Geography, Institute of Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-221005

Focal Theme: Population, Environment, Health, Sustainable Development Goals and Appropriate Technologies: Post-Covid-19 Scenarios

The 43rd Indian Geography Congress was beginning with the Inaugural Ceremony held on 28th October 2021 at 11AM in the Prof. R.L. Singh Memorial Hall, Department of Geography, Banaras Hindu University. In the opening ceremony Prof. R.K. Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble State Minister for Education, Government of India was the chief guest, Prof. V.K. Shukla, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University was chief Pattern of the congress, Prof. Rana Pratap President of NAGI presided over the function, Prof. B. Hema Malini, President elect (NAGI) and Prof. Suresh Chand Rai, Secretary General (NAGI), and Director, Institute of Sciences, BHU graced the dais. Prof. V.K. Sharma convenor of 43rd IGC (NAGI) welcomed the guests and introduced the themes of the conference. Prof. Sures C. Rai presented the annual report of the Association.

The National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI) honored Prof. H.S. Sharma, Jaipur with Bhoogol Ratna Award, while Prof. Abha Laxmi Singh, Aligarh and Prof. (Late) Sudipto Adhikari, Patna was awarded Bhoogol Vachaspati Award. Indian Geography Congress organized three memorial lectures viz., Prof. R.L. Singh memorial lecture delivered by Prof. A.P. Mishra, BHU, Varanasi, Prof. S.S. Dhabaria memorial lecture by Prof. Seema Jalan, Udaipur and Prof. A. Geddes memorial lecture by Prof. R.B.P. Singh, Patna. Prof. N.P. Iyyar Young Geographers award was organized on 29th October 2021.

Organizers of the congress received more than 400 abstracts on wide range of themes of the congress. Several eminent geographers, Scientists and Research scholars from more than 20 states and abroad participated in the congress and presented their research work. The technical session covered the wide range of themes with a major focus on emerging challenges. The validatory ceremony was organized on 30th October 2021 at 4pm.



- Prof. Suresh Chand Rai, Secretary General, National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI) and Vice President, Asian Geographers Association (AGA), Awarded Honorary President of the Center for Military Historical Geography of the Republic of Moldova for the development of Moldova-Indian scientific relations.



- Prof. Suresh Chand Rai, nominated as Member of IUGG-IGU National Committee, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- New Academic Achievement of Prof. Suresh Chand Rai. His name shortlisted in World Scientist and University Rankings 2021.

AD Scientific Index		Rankings for Scientist		World Scientist and University Rankings 2021	
		University, Subject, Country, Region, World		University of Delhi	
				Suresh Chand Rai	
		In University of Delhi (295)	In India (28234)	In Asia (156093)	World (716000)
		Rankings			
Total H	23	#77	#4838	#38249	#224146
Last 5 year H	17	#81	#6292	#48770	#250645
Last 5 year H / total H	0.739				
Total i10	36	#83	#5908	#43011	#232730
Last 5 years i10	28	#78	#5821	#43888	#222750
Last 5 years i10 / Total i10	0.778				
Total Citation	1622	#101	#6552	#49714	#292329
Last 5 years Citation	805	#109	#8789	#65294	#340412
Last 5 years Citation / Total Citation	0.496				
Natural Sciences *		#41 (130) *	#1419 (6227) *	#7787 (25994) *	#38990 (103853) *
Geography *		#1 (3) *	#3 (27) *	#48 (237) *	#764 (2419) *

www.adscientificindex.com

Date : 31.12.2021 * Source and Methodology: <https://www.adscientificindex.com/scientist.php?id=425033>

(Provided by Prof. Suresh Chand Rai, Secretary-General of NAGI, rais1958@rediffmail.com)

5. News from Korean Geographical Society (KGS)

- The 2022 Korean Geographical Society Conference will be held on Jun 24, 2022. This conference is expected as a face-to face meeting.
- The 15th Korea-China-Japan Joint Conference on Geography (KCJJCG). KGS recently had an online meeting with representatives from China and Japan. This conference will be held at the Asia Center of Seoul National University from Oct 14 to 17, 2022.

Conference Theme: Livable Cities and Resilient Future

Organizing Committee:

•Chairperson

Nahm Keebom (University of Seoul)

•Secretary-General

Yang Byungyun (Dongguk University)

•Chair, Scientific Committee

Lee Gunhak (Seoul National University)

•Chair, Operating Committee

Choi Suh-hee (Kyung Hee University)

Lee Jaehyun (Kyungpook University)

•Chair, Field Trip Committee

Chi Sang-Hyun (Kyung Hee University)

Oh Jeong-Sik (Dongguk University)

•Committee Members:

Choi Youngeun (Konkuk University)

Jin Jong-heon (Kongju National University)

Jung Sung Hoon (Kangwon National University)

Chung Su-Yuel (Sangmyung University)

Park Bae-Gyoon (Seoul National University)

Park Sunyurp (Pusan National University)

Park Soo Jin (Seoul National University)

•Advisory Committee

Hwang Chul Sue (President of KGS, Korea)

Chen Fahu (President of GSC, China)

Matsubara Hiroshi (President of AJG, Japan)

(Provided by Prof. Byungyun Yang, KGS, yby94@dgu.ac.kr)

6. News from Geographical Society of China (GSC)

The China Conference on Geography 2021 Successfully Held

Jointly organized by Geographical Society of China (GSC) and Fujian Normal University (FNU), the China Conference on Geography 2021 was successfully held on December 12th-15th, 2021. Due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, the Conference was organized in a hybrid mode, having attracted more than 2300 participants on-site and online from over 300 geographical institutions and organizations home and abroad. On the first day of the conference, the event including opening ceremony and the keynote lectures was broadcasted in live streaming via Bilibili.com. The number of the online audience reached up to 160,000, which hit the record high since GSC joined live broadcasting. Under the theme “Challenge of the Times, Theoretical Innovation, Social Practice”, the Conference aimed to study and discuss the geographical science problems in coordinating the two overall situations at home and abroad and building a new development pattern, to summarize the latest achievements in geographical theories, methodologies and technological applications, and to formulate development direction of the discipline aiming at the world's scientific and technological frontier and serving the SDGs.



The China Conference on Geography 2021, Fuzhou

The opening ceremony began on the morning of December 13th and was chaired by Prof. Qinghua Chen, Vice President of FNU. Prof. Fahu Chen, President of GSC, delivered a welcome speech. Prof. Michael Meadows, President of the International Geographical Union (IGU), expressed his congratulations to the opening of the Conference on behalf of the IGU by video. “Fuzhou Declaration from Chinese Geographical Community on Actions towards Carbon Neutralization” was officially released during the ceremony, in order to implement the thoughts on ecological civilization and the national major strategic decision on achieving

the goals of carbon peak and carbon neutralization.

The plenary lecture session was followed by the opening ceremony. 10 eminent geographers from China were invited to present their latest research online and on-site. 2 geographers from abroad also joined the conference online, including Professor Daniel Sui from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, USA and Professor Maria Paradiso from University of Naples Federico II, Italy.

From December 14th to 15th, a total of 48 sessions were organized online. 761 oral presentations were made during the two days. The largest number of participants in one single session was 3217. Apart from that, over 30 posters were selected to be presented both online and at the conference venue. The topics of the sessions focused on the key issues of geography and national strategic needs, including "basic research of geography", "comprehensive research of geography", "national strategy and scientific and technological support", "global change and sustainable development", "geography education and disciplinary construction", etc. Some special sessions were also convened during the conference, including forum of female geographers, forum of young geographers, etc.



(Provided by Ms. Xuanzi Zhang, GSC, igc2016@igsnrr.ac.cn)

7. News from Vietnam Association of Geographers (AVG)

The 7th National Congress of the Vietnam Association of Geographers and the 12th National Geographic Conference

In two days, December 17-18, 2021 the Vietnam Association of Geographers held the 7th Congress of the Vietnam Association of Geographers and the 12th National Geographic Conference. Due to the influence of the Covid-19 epidemic, the Congress and the Conference were held in face-to-face and online formats.

The 7th Congress of the Vietnam Geography Association was held on December 17, 2021 at the Institute of Geography, the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology with the presence of nearly 60 delegates in Hanoi and the participation of over 500 delegates representing the member's associations, universities and research institutes at 31 online points across the country. The congress evaluated the achievements of the 2016-2021 term, proposed operational directions and elected the Executive Board of the Association for the term 2021-2026. Prof. Nguyen Cao Huan continued to be elected as the Association's President. Prof. Lai Vinh Cam, Vice President of the Asia Geographical Association was elected as Vice President of the association in charge of foreign affairs.

The 12th National Geographic Conference was held on December 18 with the theme: Geography with green economic development and ensuring territorial security.

The Conference was held at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City with the participation of over 500 delegates representing the member's associations, universities and research institutes at 31 online points across the country. To prepare for the Conference, The Organizer Committee received over 300 scientific reports from geographers across the country on five thematic sessions includes: Natural Geography and Environment, Human Geography, Applying Modern technology in Geography, Geography Education and Geography of Mekong delta River. The Organizer Committee has selected 286 articles and published in two volumes Proceedings of the Conference. Due to the influence of the Covid-19 epidemic, the organizers only held plenary session with 12 reports talks by the eminent geographers of Vietnam.



Speech by Prof. Nguyen Cao Huan, President of AVG
(Provided by Prof. Lai Vinh Cam, Vice President of AVG, lvcamminh04@yahoo.com)

8. News from Philippine Geographical Society (PGA)

- The Philippine Geographical Society held an election for the Society's 2022 Board of Trustees in November 2021 during its General Assembly. Emmanuel B. Garcia was re-elected as President of the Philippine Geographical Society.
- The first ever International Conference on Geographical Studies (ICGS 2021) was held on November 4-5, 2021. ICGS 2021 is a collaboration with the UP Department of Geography, and in partnership with Social Sciences and Philosophy Research Foundation (SSPRF). With the theme, "Geographies of Care: Lives, Spatialities, Experiences and Practices", it served to highlight the multi-faceted aspect of care geographies as we navigate the pandemic and deal with the precarities of living in the 'new normal' and how relations and practices of care are implicated in the production of our everyday geographies. ICGS 2021 featured four plenary sessions, 15 panel sessions, and 47 paper presentations. Prof. Lai Vinh Cam, Vice President of the AGA, delivered a congratulation speech online at the opening ceremony on behalf of the AGA.



Speech by Lai Vinh Cam, Vice President of the AGA

- The project partnership of PGS with Center for Disaster Preparedness (CDP) and ProdJX Artist Community was successfully completed in 2020. The project incorporates innovative techniques in the form of gamification of the Participatory 3-Dimensional Map (P3DM) to promote community-based awareness on contingency planning, specifically for earthquake-related hazards. PGS also spearheaded a Geonarratives Mapping activity as part of the project activities. Focusing on Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), this collaboration aimed to develop a platform to be used in facilitating inclusive participation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) planning process. The project received additional funding from Elrha's Humanitarian Innovations Fund (HIF) program for

its second-phase implementation. The next phase of the project will be conducted until December 2022.

- The Society's partnership with PDRF has been extended with the implementation of the project 'Strengthening Partnerships through Harmonized Plans for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management'. Under the Project Konek: Komunidad at Negosyo Tungo sa Katatagan, PGS will conduct mapathon activities in 12 barangays in Quezon City. The goal is to provide capacity building in the partner barangays with the creation of their local maps that will be used in their disaster risk reduction and management activities. The barangays will also be provided with a compiled risk atlas of their locality derived from the mapathon activities.

- About *Philippine Geographical Journal* (PGJ)

As the official journal publication of the PGS, the PGJ serves as:

- a. an outlet for geographic research on the Philippines, Asia-Pacific, and the Global South;
- b. a forum for intellectual contributions that establish relationships within the the discipline and related fields; and
- c. a journal for activities of the Philippine Geographical Society, field reports, invited essays, book reviews, featured maps, memorials, and selected International/National Conference on Geographical Studies (ICGS/NCGS) plenary speeches.

In December 2021, the PGS publicized the release of the latest issues of the *Philippine Geographical Journal*. These issues are available online and can be accessed via <https://sites.google.com/up.edu.ph/pgj/home>

(Provided by Prof. Emmanuel Garcia, President of PGA, ebgarcia1@up.edu.ph)

9. Report - International Geography Declaration on Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss

Following the International Geographical Societies Gathering in Response to Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Crises held online on June 22nd, 2021, the societies released a joint statement of International Geography Declaration on Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss. Endorsed by 79 global geography societies and organizations from 58 countries, the declaration of the need for action on climate and nature crises was officially published on October 21st, 2021.

The key messages of the Declaration are as follows:

- Global geography community calls on world leaders to place the protection of nature and a liveable climate at the centre of the world's economics and politics
- Geography is applied knowledge of our planet and our relationship with it
- Global geography community pledges to redouble its efforts to help deliver a better tomorrow



**A JOINT DECLARATION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL
GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETIES
ON THE CLIMATE AND
BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCIES**

GEOGRAPHERS HAVE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES in the face of the global biodiversity and climate crises. Geography is a discipline that is uniquely located at the intersection of the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities. This equips geographers to be adept systems-thinkers and interdisciplinarians. It is furthermore an applied knowledge, focused above all on the state of our planet and our relationships with it. All of this makes the learning, teaching, and practice of geography centrally relevant to the closely-linked challenges of the global climate and biodiversity crises.

Geographers can do much more than present an analysis of these challenges. They also have a vantage point from which they can point to the kinds of thought and action that can deliver a better tomorrow for every person on Earth. This coming October and November will see some of the most consequential weeks in terms of humanity's collective relationship with planet Earth. In October the world's governments will come together to confront the continuing dramatic loss of species and their habitats—the biodiversity crisis—compounded as it is by the accumulating impacts of climate change. It is hoped that the meeting will set the stage for ambitious new targets for the global conservation of nature out to 2030.

Around the same time, in Milan, Italy, and then, for two weeks in November, in Glasgow, Scotland, governments will reconvene to confront the existential challenge of climate change. It is widely hoped and expected that the meeting will set enhanced and more urgent reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions out to 2030, as well as mandating a critical role for nature in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Geographers, whether as students, researchers, educators, writers, explorers, practitioners in business or policy, or as engaged and curious travellers, encourage our leaders to make ambitious commitments to place the protection of nature and a liveable climate at the centre of the world's economics and politics at this critical juncture.

Accordingly, we pledge that our institutions will redouble our efforts to apply the unique attributes that are the hallmark of the learning, teaching, and practice of geography to the global environmental challenges that have drawn together the world's governments to these vital meetings this year. We commit to doing all that we can to apply geography's potent capabilities to the task of making the coming decade one of hope and of positive action.

SIGNATORIES TO THE DECLARATION:

National Geographic Society, American Geographical Society, American Association of Geographers, Institute of Australian Geographers, Queensland Royal Geographical Society, National Committee for Geographical Sciences of the Australian Academy of Science, Bangladesh National Geographical Association, Royal Geographical Society of Belgium, Benin Association of Geographers, National Association of Postgraduates and Researchers in Geography (ANPEGE), Association of Brazilian Geographers, Canadian Association of Geographers, Royal Canadian Geographical Society, Geographical Society of China, Hong Kong Geographical Association, Geography and Education Research Association of Macau, The Geographic Society of China located in Taipei, National Committee for Geography (Colombia), Croatian Geographical Society, Cyprus Geographical Association, Czech Geographical Society, European Association of Geographers, Geographical Society of Finland, National Geographical Society of France, Geographical Society of Georgia, German Society of Geography, Association for Geography at German Universities and Research Institutions, Hungarian Geographical Society, Association of Bengal Geographers, The Association for Geographical Studies (Delhi), Indian National Committee for IGU, National Association of Geographers (India), Indonesian Geographical Association, Geographical Society of Ireland, Israeli Geographical Association, Italian Geographical Society, International Geographical Union, Association of Japanese Geographers, Human Geography Society of Japan, Japan Organization of Geographical Sciences, Geographic Society of Kenya, Korean Geographical Society, Luxembourg Geographical Society, Geographical Society of Madagascar, Mexican Society of Geography and Statistics, Geographical Association of Myanmar, Namibian National Committee for IGU, Royal Dutch Geographical Society, New Zealand Geographical Society, Association of Nigerian Geographers, Norwegian Geographical Society, Pakistan Geographical Association, Philippines Geographical Society, Polish Geographical Society, Portuguese Association of Geographers, Romanian Geographical Society, Russian Geographical Society, Russian National Committee for International Program "Future Earth", Russian National Committee for IGU, Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Samoa Association of Geographers, Saudi Geographical Society, Slovenian Geographical Association, Slovak National Committee for the IGU, Society of South African Geographers, Southern African Geography Teachers' Association, Geographical Association of Spain, Centre of Geographical Studies (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning) University of Lisbon, Sri Lankan Association of Geographers, Swedish National Committee of Geography, Swiss Association of Geography, Swiss National Committee for the IGU, Turkish Geographical Society, Uganda Geographical Association, Ukrainian Association of Geographers, The Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), Geographical Association, University of Cambridge, Department of Geography, and the Vietnamese Association of Geographers.

THIS INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT WAS CONVENED BY

10.Report – The First Asian Young Geographers Workshop

On December 18th -19th, 2021, the First Asian Young Geographers Workshop was held online. Initiated by the Young Geographers Working Group of the Asian Geographical Association (AGA-YGWG), the Workshop was jointly organized by AGA-YGWG, Young and Early Career Geographers Task Force of the International Geographical Union (IGU-YECG) and Working Committee for Young Geographers of the Geographical Society of China (GSC-WCYG). Under the theme “Young Geographers’ Response to Challenges in Asia”, the workshop attracted about 600 participants from 30 countries and regions worldwide. After call for paper within two weeks, a total of 213 abstracts and papers were received. As a result, 178 of them have been selected for oral presentations in 14 sessions of different topics, such as Building Resilience to Poverty Reduction in Asia, Hydro-Climatic Extreme Events in Mountain Regions, Geographical Indications Environment and Sustainability, etc.



The First Asian Young Geographers Workshop (virtual)

The opening ceremony kicked off on the morning of 18th. Prof. Min Chen, Chair of the AGA-YGWG declared the workshop open. Prof. Chul Sue Hwang, Vice President of the AGA, President of the Korean Geographical Society, Dr. Komali Yenneti, Chair of the IGU-YECG, Dr. Zhuo Wu, Vice Secretary General of GSC-WCYG delivered welcome speeches on behalf of the three organizers respectively. Then, Ms. Xuanzi Zhang, Secretary and Treasurer of the AGA introduced the preparatory work of the 5th Asian Conference on Geography (5th ACG) and invited all participants to get together again at the 5th ACG, to be held during September 5th -9th, 2022 in Thai Nguyen, Vietnam.

During the two-day online event, the workshop featured keynote talks given by 7 distinguished geographers, including *Young Geographers in Asia and Sustainable*

Development by Prof. Yukio Himiyama, Past President of the IGU, *Coastal and Estuarine Wetlands in Anthropocene* by Prof. Michael Meadows, President of the IGU, *Sustainable Water Resources Management: Issues and Challenges* by Prof. Suresh Chand Rai, Vice President of the AGA and Secretary General of the National Association of Geographers, India, *Climate Change in South Asia: Implications for Land* by Prof. Safdar Ali Shirazi, President of the Pakistan Geographical Association, *Smart Technology and Sustainable Cities and Communities* by Prof. Anthony Yeh, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Professor of University of Hong Kong, *Big Data and Geospatial Technologies for Sustainable Cities Research* by Prof. Mei-po Kwan, Chinese University of Hong Kong, *Ecosystem Responses to Gradual Environment Change* by Prof. Shuli Niu, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The workshop concluded on the afternoon of 19th. Prof. Li He, Secretary General of AGA-YGWG chaired the closing ceremony. Prof. Min Chen made a summary report on the achievements of the workshop. Then, Prof. Guoyou Zhang, Vice President and Secretary General of the GSC announced the winners of the Excellent Paper Awards. After recommendations by session chairs first and thorough review and deliberation by the awarding committee afterwards, finally 9 papers were selected for the awards. 3 recipients including Dr. Fan Zhang from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, Dr. Yangyang Li from National University of Singapore and Dr. Vu Thi Bac from VNUHCM-University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam were invited to give their acceptance speeches.

Under the Covid-19 pandemic which has been lasting for two years, the workshop was initiated to serve as a new platform for young geographers in Asia and elsewhere of the world, to facilitate sharing, exchanges and collaborations on their latest research, in order to seek responses to address nowadays' challenges we are facing.

(Provided by Ms. Xuanzi Zhang, Secretary & Treasurer of the AGA, igc2016@igsnrr.ac.cn, Min Chen, Chair of AGA-YGWG, chenmin0902@163.com)

11. Forthcoming Events

- **The 5th Asian Conference on Geography** is scheduled to be held from September 5-9, 2022 in Thai Nguyen, Vietnam. Website: <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 IGU Centennial Congress** will be held from July 18-22, 2022 in Paris, France. Website: <https://www.ugiparis2022.org/>
- **The IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology** is postponed to be held in May 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 April 7-8, 2022 in Phuket, Thailand. Website: ICGGS <http://www.icggs.org/>
- **The 15th Korea-China-Japan Joint Conference on Geography (KCJJCG)** will be held in Seoul, Korea from Oct 14 to 17, 2022. The website will be open soon.