

ASIAN GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION

E-NEWSLETTER 06

February 2023

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 2022**

Indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) and Scopus, *Asian Geographer* welcomes contributions from any field of physical or human geographical inquiries and methodologies which further our understanding about Asia and the Pacific Rim. Manuscripts on average received a post-review first decision in 64 days. For details on the journal's submission requirements, please visit <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rage>.

Asian Geographer concluded 2022 with over 60 new and revised submissions received from scholars based in 18 countries around the world. In Asia, India remained in the lead in their number of submissions, followed by a surge of manuscripts from Bangladesh. An encouraging number of contributions were also received from researchers in Southeast Asian countries, such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. Beyond Asia, we continued to receive a steady flow of submissions from the United States and Western Europe. High-quality papers took up an increased share of the total submissions, signaling the growing reputation of *Asian Geographer* as a platform for disseminating research findings with high academic and policy significance.

Envisioning the new year, my editorial colleagues and I are looking forward to the second *Asian Geographer* annual lecture, to be held online on 26 Mar 2023 in this year's American Association of Geographers annual meeting (AAG). Our speaker this year is Ayona Datta, Professor of Human Geography at University College London. An internationally renowned scholar in postcolonial urbanism, smart cities and gender citizenship, Professor Datta will give a lecture entitled 'Territorial politics in the informational periphery', reflecting on her ongoing research of the implications of the digital revolution to urbanization in the Global South. Please join us online if you will take part in the AAG meeting.

As I wrote this update at the beginning of February 2023, *Asian Geographer* has just published its Volume 40.1, comprising five research articles written by scholars based in Canada, Japan, Nepal, the United Kingdom and the United States. These articles well reflect the breadth of themes that our journal embraces, including political, gendered, tourism and climate change geographies:

- [Hokkaido: from the “Road to the Northern Sea” to “Japan’s gateway to the Arctic”](#)
Julie Babin & Saunavaara Juha
Pages: 1-18 | DOI: 10.1080/10225706.2021.1910525
- [Gendered skilled migration: American women in China](#)
Yining Tan
Pages: 19-35 | DOI: 10.1080/10225706.2021.1930079
- [Improving urban Recreational Business District \(RBD\) from the perspective of visitors’ satisfaction and perception](#)
He Zhu, Shuying Zhang & Wenting Yu
Pages: 37-58 | DOI: 10.1080/10225706.2021.1942092
- [Trans-Himalayan connectivity and sustainable tourism development in Nepal: a study of community perceptions of tourism impacts along the Nepal–China Friendship Highway](#)
Roger C. K. Chan & Kishan Datta Bhatta
Pages: 59-80 | DOI: 10.1080/10225706.2021.1943470
- [Private sector climate change adaptation of accommodation suppliers in the small island of Koh Tao, Thailand](#)
Janto S. Hess
Pages: 81-98 | DOI: 10.1080/10225706.2021.1981956

For more of *Asian Geographer*’s latest articles, which examine the missing links of China’s national highways, India’s domestic medical tourism, Sri Lanka’s energy geopolitics, and much more – please visit:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/showAxaArticles?journalCode=rage20>.

(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):**

Initiated by the AGA-YGWG, the Workshop of Asian Young Geographer is jointly organized by AGA-YGWG, Young and Early Career Geographers Task Force of the International Geographical Union (IGU-YECG), Working Committee for Young Geographers of the Geographical Society of China (GSC-WCYG). Under the theme “Sustainable Development and Asian Challenges”, the Second Workshop of Asian Young Geographers was held online on December 17th -18th, 2022. It attracted over 400 participants from 28 countries and regions worldwide.

- **AGA Working Group on Cultural Geography (AGA-WGCG):**

AGA-WGCG jointly organized 4 joint thematic sessions with IGU Commission on Cultural Approaches in Geography during the IGU Centennial Congress, held from July 18th – 22nd, 2022 in Paris:

SESSION 1: Asian and European Geographic Perspectives and Practices

SESSION 2: Traditional Cultures and Folk Societies in Asia and Europe

SESSION 3: Popular Cultures: places, events, practices

SESSION 4: Heritage and Geography in Asian Countries

Organized by AGA-WGCG, the workshop “Asian Atlas of Culture and Heritage” was held during the 5th Asian Conference on Geography. Prof. Shangyi Zhou from China made a presentation "A Future Project on the Asian Atlas of Culture and Heritage" and Prof. Je-Hun Ryu presented a subject "Future Themes and Topics in Cultural Geography for Asian Geographers." About 15 participants including steering committee members of the working group attended the workshop and joined the open discussion.

3. Report of the 5th Asian Conference on Geography

From September 5th to 9th, 2022, the 5th Asian Conference on Geography (ACG) was held in Thai Nguyen, Vietnam. As the key biennial academic event under the auspice of Asian Geographical Association (AGA), this conference was co-organized by Thai Nguyen University (TNU), Association of Vietnamese Geographers (AVG), Institute of Geography, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST). Under the theme “Geography in Dynamic Asia”, the conference was attended by over 360 participants from 26 countries and regions worldwide physically and virtually.



Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on the morning of 6th at Grand Hall of Thai Nguyen University of Education. The kick-off event begun with speeches by Prof. Dahe Qin, President of the AGA, Prof. Hoang Van Hung, President of the TNU and Prof. Nguyen Cao Huan, President of the AVG, who extended warm welcome to the delegates on-site and via online.

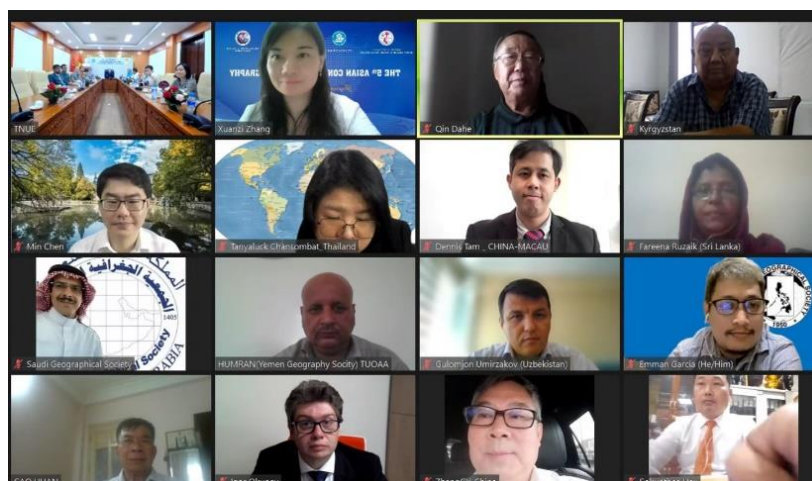
The opening ceremony was followed by plenary lecture session, co-chaired by Prof. Lai Vinh Cam, Vice President of the AGA and Prof. Yukio Himiyama, Past President of the International Geographical Union (IGU). Six keynote talks were given: Promoting Geography for Sustainable Development by Prof. Bojie Fu, Vice President of the IGU, Chairman of Supervisory Board of the Geographical Society of China (GSC), Ethnic Inequalities in Healthcare Access among Older Adults in the Rural Areas in Vietnam: Does Travel Distance Matter? by Dr. Phuong Huu Khiem from the TNU, Challenges of Mountain Environments: Land Degradation and Conservation Strategies in the Indian Himalayan Region by Dr. Prabuddh Kumar Mishra from Shivaji College, University of Delhi, Land use/Land cover dynamics in Houaphan (Laos) and Son La (Vietnam) from 1990 to 2020, by Prof. Nguyen Dinh Duong from Institute of Geography, VAST, The Evolution of Confucian Landscape in the Andong Cultural Region, Korea: Universalism or Particularism? by Prof. Je-Hun RYU from Korea National University of Cultural Heritage, and Data-based Approach to Decision

Making Process by Prof. Bui Quang Thanh, from Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam National University.

During the conference, seven technical sessions and a workshop were organized by spanning a broad spectrum of geography and related various disciplines, focusing on the latest and recent achievements in the study of geography and the most concerned issues about Asia. The key topics of the sessions included Geographical Aspects and Sustainable Development, Socio-Demographic Variables and Globalization, Localization, Urbanization and the Future of Asian Cities, Climate Changes and Ecosystem, Natural Disasters and Remote Sensing - GIS, Geography of Culture and Tourism, Economic Geography and Global Shift in Asia and Asian Atlas of Culture and Heritage. A total of 93 oral presentations were made during one and a half days.

On the afternoon of 8th, the AGA Council Meeting 2022 was convened in a hybrid format. 31 delegates, invited guests and observers were present. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Dahe Qin and Prof. Lai Vinh Cam. The AGA adopted agenda of the meeting and Minutes of AGA Council Meeting 2019 unanimously. Dr. Ali Aldosari, President of the Saudi Geographical Society and Dr. Igor Okunev, Representative of the Association of Russian Human Geographers introduced their organizations and submitted their membership applications respectively. Secretary Ms. Xuanzi Zhang made a report on the work of AGA 2020-2022 and future activities of the Association. Prof. Jiang Xu, Editor-in-Chief of Asian Geographer presented the recent progress of the journal had made on subscription, submission and download and citation. Chair of Working Group on Cultural Geography Prof. Je-Hun Ryu and Chair of the Young Geographer Working Group Prof. Min Chen reported on the activities and visions of the working groups. Prof. Lai Vinh Cam presented the summary report of 5th Asian Conference on Geography on behalf of the Organizing Committee. During the open discussion, Prof. Mohammed A. Humran expressed the interest in joining the AGA on behalf of Yemen Geographical Society and Union of Arab Academics. At last, Prof. Dahe Qin expressed thanks to the participants present and closed the Council Meeting.



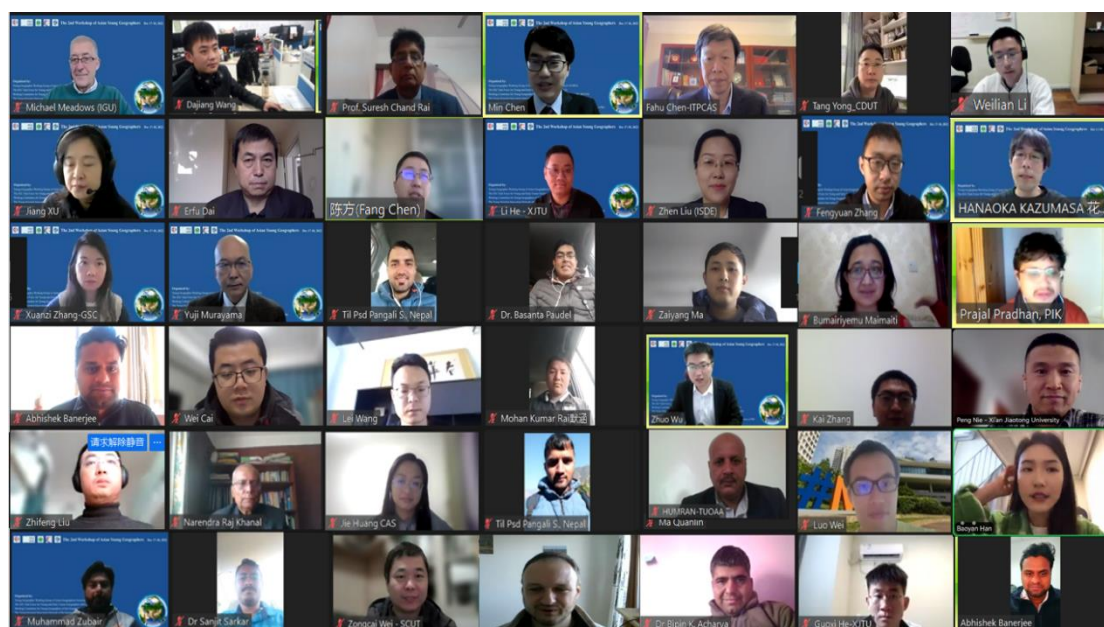


AGA Council Meeting 2022 (Hybrid)

(Provided by Xuanzi Zhang, acg2018@igsnr.ac.cn)

4. Report of the Second Workshop of Asian Young Geographers

On December 17th -18th, 2022, the Second Workshop of Asian Young Geographers 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), Working Committee for Young Geographers of the Geographical Society of China (GSC-WCYG) and Young Scientists Innovation Network of the International Society for Digital Earth (ISDE-YSIN). Under the theme “Sustainable Development and Asian Challenges”, the workshop attracted over 400 participants from 28 countries and regions worldwide.



The Second Asian Young Geographers Workshop (virtual)

The opening ceremony kicked off on the morning of 17th. Prof. Min Chen, Chair of the AGA-YGWG declared the workshop open. Prof. Yuji Murayama, Vice President of the AGA, Former President of the Association of Japanese Geographers, Prof. Michael Meadows, President of the IGU, Prof. Erfu Dai, Chair of GSC-WCYG, Dr. Zhen Liu, Secretary of the ISDE-YSIN delivered welcome speeches on behalf of the organizers respectively.

The workshop featured keynote talks given by 8 distinguished geographers, including Trans-Eurasia Exchange and Climate Change along the Silk-Road by Prof. Fahu Chen, President of the GSC, *Asian Geographer: Your Place in an Asia's World Journal* by Prof. Jiang Xu, Editor in Chief of *Asian Geographer*, *Mobile Phone Big Data and the COVID-19 Pandemic* by Dr. Kazumasa Hanaoka, Association Professor of Ritsumeikan University, Japan, *Continental Scale Mapping of Tree-level Carbon Stocks* by Dr. Martin Stefan Brandt, Associate Professor of University of Copenhagen, *Going beyond Sustainable Development Goals for Transformation towards Long-term Sustainability* by Dr. Prajal Pradhan, Senior Scientist of Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, *Revisiting Transport Resilience: Finding from Travel Behavior Analysis* by Dr. Jie Huang, Associate Professor of Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS, *Digital Technologies for SDGs and DRR* by Prof. Fang Chen, Institute of Remote Sensing and Digital Earth, CAS and *Mountains of Asia with Focus on Development Issues in Nepal Himalayas* by Prof. Narendra Raj Khanal, Past President of Nepal Geographical Society.

A total of 14 parallel sessions were organized on the afternoon of 17th and 18th. The topics covered various fields of geography, for example, collaboration and visualization in geographic modelling, climate risks and their implications for Asian societies, water resources issues, big earth data in environment management and disaster control, geospatial technology, monitoring ecosystem structure and function, sustainable tourism development in Asia, etc. Over 200 oral presentations were made in the two-day event, participants shared their latest research results and discussed the solutions in response to the challenges of sustainable development in the world, especially in Asia.

The workshop concluded on the afternoon of 18th. 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 and gave a brief presentation on the Working Group. 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 10 papers were selected for the awards. 4 winners including Dr. Zhaoyin Liu from National University of Singapore, Dr. Muhammad Zubair from National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan, Dr. Sanjit Sarkar from Central University of Karnataka, India and Dr. Lingfeng He from Xi'an Jiaotong University, China were invited to give their acceptance speeches.

Initiated in December 2021, the workshop was established to serve as a new platform for young geographers in Asia and beyond to facilitate exchanges and sharing of their research, as well as to promote exchange and cooperation among young geographers,

geographical institutions and associations in Asia. According to the conference organizer, with the alleviation of the pandemic situation globally, the next workshop is expected to be held offline.

(Provided by Xuanzi Zhang, Min Chen, Li He)

5. News from Nepal Geographical Society (NGS)

To promote geography and geographical research, the Nepal Geographical Society (NGS) is conducting webinar series on monthly basis on different crosscutting contemporary issues from geographic perspective. The Nepal Geographical Society (NGS) has successfully organized first webinar on 8 August 2022. Dr. Bhagawat Rimal was the speaker of the event and had presented his research work “**Evidencing Climate Vulnerability of Land-Water Partitioning using Remote Sensing Technology**”. Over three dozen participants from Nepal, China, Switzerland and USA including professional geographers/geoscientists, universities professors/faculties, researchers working in different sectors, and students actively participated on the event. Following the presentation, interesting discussion was held. Dr. Rimal responded queries and comments raised by the participants. Mr. Tibendra Raj Banskota, Joint Secretary of NGS hosted the event and welcoming to the speaker and all the participants. The next, Dr. Basanta Paudel, the General Secretary of NGS has delivered vote of thanks and appreciations to the speaker and all the participants of the event. Finally, Dr. Bipin Kumar Acharya, President of the NGS had stated concluding remarks of the event with appreciations to the speaker as well as all the participants.

The second webinar successfully organized by NGS on 7 September 2022. Dr. Til Prasad Pangali Sharma was the speaker of the event and had presented his research work “**Assimilation of Snowmelt Runoff Model (SRM) Using Satellite Remote Sensing Data in Budhi Gandaki River Basin, Nepal**”. In the second episode of NGS webinar, there was joined participants from different countries i. e., Nepal, China, India and USA. Following the presentation, interesting discussion was held. Dr. Pangali Sharma responded queries and comments raised by the participants. Mr. Tibendra Raj Banskota, Joint Secretary of NGS hosted the event, and Dr. Bipin Kumar Acharya, President of the NGS had stated welcome remarks of the event with welcoming to the speaker and all the participants as well as appreciations to the Mr. Mahesh Pathak for his valuable contribution to purchase annual cost of Zoom Meeting. The next, Dr. Basanta Paudel, the General Secretary of NGS has delivered vote of thanks and appreciations to the speaker and all the participants of the event.

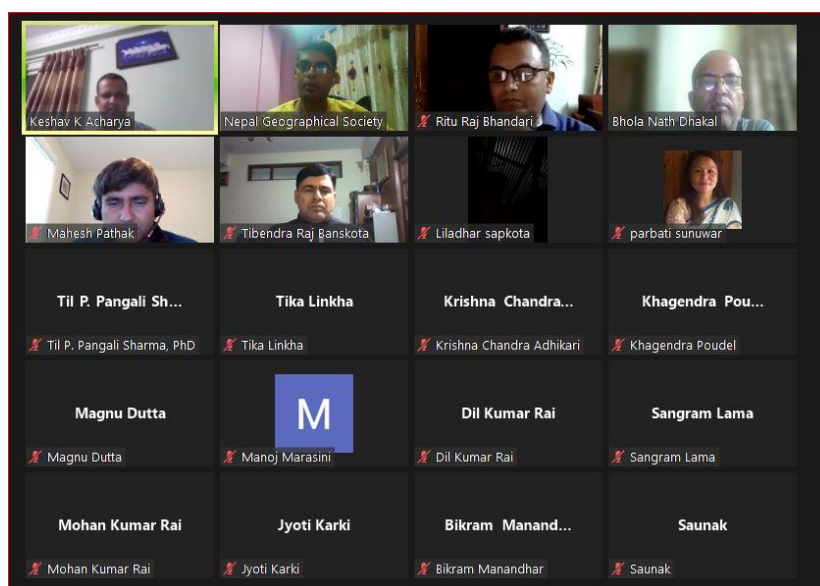
Once again Nepal Geographical Society express sincere gratitude to the event presenter Dr. Til Prasad Pangali Sharma and the all the participants of the event.

The third webinar of NGS has successfully organized on 9 October 2022. Dr. Keshav Kumar Acharya was the speaker of the event and had presented his research work “**Federalism and Participatory Local Governance in Nepal**”. In the third episode of NGS webinar, there was joined participants from different countries i. e., Nepal, China,

India and USA. Following the presentation, interesting discussion was held. Dr. Acharya responded queries and comments raised by the participants. Mr. Tibendra Raj Banskota, Joint Secretary of NGS hosted the event with welcoming to the speaker and all the participants. The next, Dr. Basanta Paudel, the General Secretary of NGS has delivered vote of thanks and appreciations to the speaker and all the participants of the event.

NGS has successfully conducted its fourth episode of monthly webinar series on 7 November 2022. In this episode, Dr. Chhabi Lal Chidi from Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University was the speaker and he presented his research entitled “Evaluation of traditional rain-fed agricultural terraces for soil erosion control in the mountain of Nepal”. Following the presentation, interesting discussion was held. Dr. Chidi responded queries and comments raised by the participants. Dr. Basanta Paudel, General Secretary of NGS hosted the event with welcoming to the speaker and all the participants. The next, Dr. Bipin Kumar Acharya, the President of NGS has delivered vote of thanks and appreciations to the speaker and all the participants of the event.

The 5th episode of monthly webinar series by NGS was held on 5 December 2022. In this episode, Dr. Prabuddh K. Mishra from Department of Geography, Shivaji College, University of Delhi, India was the speaker and he presented his research about “Understanding Indigenous Perspectives of Soil, Water and Nutrient Conservation in Eastern Himalaya, India”. Following the presentation, interesting discussion was held. Dr. Mishra responded queries and comments raised by the participants. Dr. Bipin Kumar Acharya, the President of NGS hosted the event with welcoming to the speaker and all the participants as well as delivered vote of thanks and appreciations to the speaker and all the participants of the event.



Glimpse of webinar of NGS

(Provided by Dr. Basanta Paudel, basantapaudel11@gmail.com)

6. News from Association of Japanese Geographers (AJG)

The Association of Japanese Geographers celebrates its 100th anniversary this year since its establishment in 1925. As part of the commemorative activities, the Encyclopedia of Geography was published by Maruzen Publishing under the chief editorial direction of Prof. Yuji Murayama, Vice President of Asian Geographical Association. (https://www.maruzen-publishing.co.jp/item/?book_no=304825).



地理学事典

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(Provided by Prof. Kenta Yamamoto, kenta@kokugakuin.ac.jp)

7. News from Pakistan Geographical Association (PGA)

The Institute of Geography, University of the Punjab organized an orientation session for its BS (1st & 5th) and MPhil (1st) semester. In this regard, a **Geography Awareness Walk** was arranged from the Department of Geography to the Vice Chancellor's Office in the wake of creating awareness about Geography among the students of the University.



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

8. News from Azerbaijan Geographical Society (AGS)

International Conference on Modern Problems of Geography held in Baku

Azerbaijan Geographical Society hosted an international scientific-practical conference "Modern problems of geography: integration of science and education" on November 29-30, 2022 in Baku, Azerbaijan.



The organizers of the event were Azerbaijan Geographical Society, the Institute of Geography, Azerbaijan Tourism and Management University, the Guba branch of Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University, Bursa Uludag University (Turkey), Kyrgyz Academy of Education, Jizzakh State Pedagogical Institute (Uzbekistan), Tiraspol State University (Moldova) and Tabriz University (Iran).

In the opening ceremony, The General Director of the Institute of Geography, Doctor of Geography Zakir Eminov welcomed the participants of the event and expressed gratitude to the guests for accepting the invitation and taking an active part in the event.

The Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, Professor Ulanbek Mambetakunov, Rector of the Tiraspol State University of Moldova, Professor Eduard Coropceanu, Uludag University of Bursa, Turkey, Dean, Professor Salih Chepni, Professor Khalil Velizade, Head of the Department Tabriz University of Iran, Secretary General of the Bangladesh National Geographical Association Nurul Islam, Director of Tbilisi State University, Professor Tamara Tsutsunava spoke at the opening ceremony of the conference. They noted that interesting reports will be heard and ideas will be exchanged in the direction of problems and solutions of modern geography, the integration of science and education, and wished success to the conference.

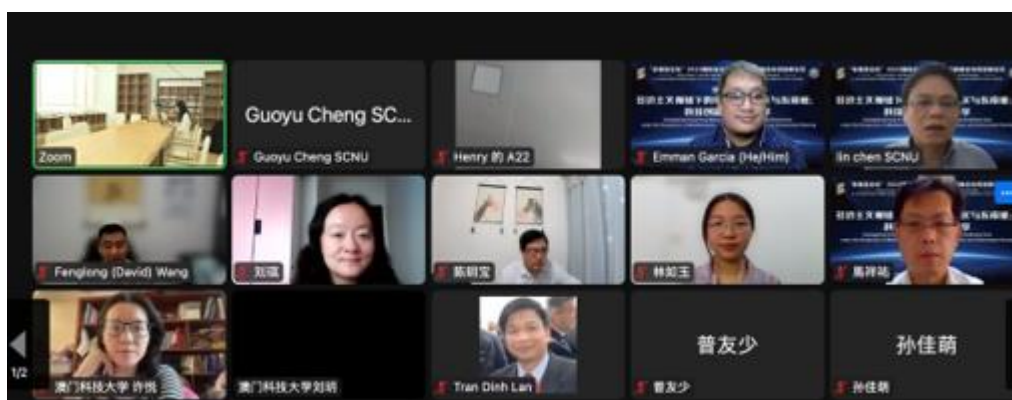
After the break, the conference continued its work in various sections. During the two-day conference, more than 50 reports were presented on topics covering almost all areas of geography. At the end of the event, the conference participants were awarded certificates.

The main purpose of the conference was to bring together scientists, researchers, and public and private sector workers to analyze the factors of improvement and development of higher education institutions, as well as to exchange new research, and thoughts and search for solutions to geographical problems.

(Provided by Dr. Emil Jabrayilov, emil.jabrayilov@gmail.com)

9. News from Philippine Geographical Society (PGS)

The PGS, through its president – Emmanuel Garcia, participated in the 2022 **International Conference & Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area Industry Education Integration Innovation Forum** organized by The Center for Southeast Asian Studies of South China Normal University (SCNU, China). Professor Garcia delivered his presentation, Enhancing and Integrating the ‘Lahat Dapat’ Toolkit for Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, which is a project collaboration of the PGS and Salikhain Kolektib in providing community-based and participatory disaster risk reduction strategies.



The **Second International Conference on Geographical Studies (ICGS 2022)** was held virtually on November 10-11, 2022. ICGS 2022 is a collaboration with the UP Department of Geography, and in partnership with Social Sciences and Philosophy Research Foundation (SSPRF). ICGS2022 Emotional Geographies: Passion in the Geographical is premised on multiple geographies that stems from our everyday interactions and showcased through the different lens of geographical inquiry. ICGS 2022 included a wide-range thematic discussions covered in 2 plenary sessions, 18 panel sessions, 57 paper presentations, and a Book Forum for the publication of Dr. Kristian Karlo Saguin, ‘Urban Ecologies on the Edge: Making Manila’s Resource Frontier.’ In addition, the annual assembly of the PGS and election of its Board of Trustees for 2023 also formed part of the event.

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

10. News from Geographical Society of China (GSC)

First Conference on World Geography Convened in Shanghai, China

The First Conference on World Geography was held on November 26-27, 2022 in Shanghai, China. With the theme of “Geography and Our Common Future”, the conference was jointly organized by the Geographical Society of China (GSC), China Institute for Innovation & Development Strategy, East China Normal University (ECNU) and University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



Experts and scholars from China and abroad delivered over 500 keynote lectures and reports on a variety of topics ranging from geography and low-carbon energy security to research innovative tools and methodologies for the advancement of world geography during the two-day conference, which was held both online and on-site.

The Conference on World Geography is designed as global platform for geographers to exchange views, share progress in their respective studies, and have a dialogue with scientists of other disciplines and policy makers in seeking for solutions for the environmental crisis. It will be held in Shanghai every two years starting from 2022.

(Provided by Xuanzi Zhang, acg2018@igsnr.ac.cn)

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

Report of 44th Indian Geography Congress

Organized by the Department of Studies and Research in Geography, Rani Channamma University, Belagavi, Vidyasangama-591 156, Karnataka

Focal Theme: Climate Change, Water Resources, Agriculture and Sustainable Development

The 44th Indian Geography Congress was beginning with the Legendary Lecture on 19th December 2022 at 10-11 AM. Prof. Suresh C. Rai Secretary-General, National Association of Geographers, India, Chaired the Session. Mr. Ashok Dalwai, IAS, CEO of National Rainfed Areas Authority, Govt. of India, Dr. Ashok Alur, Director Centre of Excellence for Farmer Producer Organizations, Karnataka and Dr. Rajshekhar Patil, Director, Indo-Malaysian Medical Centre KLE, Belagavi delivered the lecture. The Inaugural Ceremony was held on 19th December 2022 at 5 PM in the Karnataka Lingayat Educational Society (KLE), Auditorium, Belagavi, Karnataka. In the opening ceremony Mr. Basava Raj Bommai, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka State inaugurated the Congress. Former Hon'ble Chief Minister, B.S. Yadurappa, Education Minister, PWD Minister of Karnataka State, and other dignitaries were also present on the dais. Prof. B. Hema Malini, President of NAGI presided over the function, Dr. Basav Raj Bagade, convener of 44th IGC (NAGI) welcomed the guests and introduced the themes of the conference. Prof. Suresh C. Rai presented the annual report of the Association.



44th Indian Geography Congress
Inauguration Ceremony



Prof. Rai giving concluding remarks on the legendary lecture at the 44th Indian Geography Congress.

Indian Geography Congress organized four memorial lectures viz., Prof. K.N. Singh memorial lecture delivered by Prof. V.K. Rai, BHU, Varanasi, Prof. M. Shafi memorial lecture by Prof. H.N. Misra, Allahabad University, Prof. R.P. Singh Memorial Lecture by Prof. D.P. Singh, Magadh University, Bodh-Gaya, Bihar and Prof. G.S. Gosal memorial lecture by Prof. R.B. Bhagat, IIPS Mumbai. Prof. N.P. Iyyar Young Geographers and Prof. Aadya Saran Memorial Award were organized on 21st December 2022.

Organizers of the congress received more than 300 abstracts on a 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 (28) covered a wide range of themes with a major focus on emerging challenges. The validity ceremony was organized on 21st December 2022 at 4 pm.



Valedictory Ceremony of 44th Indian Geography Congress on 21st December 2022

International Geographical Union (IGU) Thematic Conference, 2022 on “Sustainability, Future Earth and Humanities: Opportunities and Challenges”, was organized by the Department of Geography, Central University of Haryana, Mahendragarh from 24-25th November 2022. The inaugural session was presided over by the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Haryana Professor Tankeshwar Kumar. Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, of the Central University of Punjab was Chief Guest. Prof. J.P. Singhal, Former Vice-Chancellor, of the University of Rajasthan, and Professor Sushma Yadav, Hon’ble Pro-Vice-Chancellor, of the Central University of Haryana were Special Guest. Prof. Barbaros Gönençgil, Secretary-General, and Prof. Nathalie Lemarchand, 1st Vice President of the International Geographical Union (IGU) were Guests of Honour at the opening ceremony. IGU Thematic Conference brochure and a book on Geospatial Technology were released during the opening ceremony.

A plenary session entitled “Science, Policy and Human Response to attain Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” took over the inaugural. The plenary panelists included academician and scientists such as Prof. Rana P. B. Singh, Former Head, of the

Department of Geography, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Prof. Nathalie Lemarchand, Full Professor, Université Paris 8 UFR eriTES Department de Géographie, France, Prof. Brij Maharaj, Senior Professor of Geographer at the University of Kwazulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa, Prof. Suresh C. Rai, Member, Joint National Committee of IUGG-IGU, INSA, New Delhi and Secretary-General, National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI) C/O Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi and Dr. R. N. Sahoo, Principal Scientist, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Government of India, New Delhi. The plenary session was moderated by Prof. Milap Punia, Head, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The plenary session focused on the importance of establishing linkages between science, policy, and people participation in achieving Sustainable Development Goals looking at it in a multidisciplinary way.

The total number of paper presentations was 369 under pre-registered abstracts category. Technical sessions were clubbed into four slots (two slots each day). Each slot has 14 parallel sessions (total of 44 technical sessions). IGU Thematic Conference 2022 also organized the IGU Task Force Young and Early Career Geographers (IGU-YECG) best paper award in the memory of Late Dr. Manju Singh. In the session, Prof. Barbaros Gonencgil, Prof. Nathalie Lemarchand, Prof. Brij Maharaj, and Prof. Haseena Hashia were jury members adjudging the best paper.



Prof. Suresh Chand Rai, Member, Joint National Committee of IUGG-IGU, INSA, New Delhi, delivered a lecture during the panel discussion

Prof. Barbaros Gönençgil, Secretary-General was the Chief Guest of the Valedictory function. Prof. Sunil Kumar, Registrar, of the Central University of Haryana was the Special Guest while Prof. Nathalie Lemarchand, Université Paris, France, and Prof. Rana P.B. Singh, Former Head, of the Department of Geography, Banaras Hindu University were Guest of Honor. The Valedictory session concluded with thanking all the attendees and the local organizing team.

(Provided by Prof. Suresh Chand Rai, raisc1958@rediffmail.com)

12. News from Geographical Society of Uzbekistan (GSU)

Members of the Geographical Society of Uzbekistan successfully took part in the international expedition from August 15 to September 5, 2022, together with the Russian Geographical Society and Rossotrudnichestvo, an **international expedition - Kamchatka: Northwest Ring of Fire** was organized. More than 20 scientists, basic doctoral students and researchers from 10 countries of the world (Russian Federation, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Belarus, Armenia, Egypt, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan) took part in the international expedition. The delegation of the Geographical Society of Uzbekistan for the first time successfully participated in this international expedition. When determining the routes of international expeditions and conducting research, attention was paid to the following issues: - assessment of the natural conditions of the area and the current state of natural components in it, identification of terrestrial and marine habitats of local endemics, rare species of flora and fauna listed in the Red Book, assessment of the level of anthropogenic impact on the coast of the water area; - determination of the necessary conditions for the development of the territory; - 16 formulation of proposals for the development of ecotourism areas; - definition of zones of ecotourism and recreational activities on the territory; - assessment of the level of anthropogenic impact on the geosystems of the area, including the level of recreational impact, determination of the necessary conditions for the development of the area and the formulation of proposals for the development of various areas of ecotourism; - assessment of the composition of marine geosystems in various parts of the water area adjacent to the Kamchatka Peninsula and their ability to absorb carbon dissolved in water; - assessment of the level of anthropogenic load on the geosystems of the water area adjacent to the peninsula; - selection of the location and area of a possible marine carbon landfill, etc. During the expedition, field studies were carried out on these issues. Based on the results of the study, an expeditionary report was prepared and proposals and recommendations on topical issues were developed.



(Provided by Dr. Gulomjon Umirzakov, g.umirzakov@gmail.com)

13. News from Vietnam Association of Geographers (VAG)

The 13th National Geographic Conference of Vietnam Held in Hanoi

In order to evaluate and summarize the achievements of the geographic sciences, on December 26-27, 2022, the Vietnam Association of Geographers in cooperation with the Central Institute for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VU-CRES), the Son Tay Town' Party Committee and People's Committee of Ha Noi City has organized the 13th National Scientific Conference with the theme "Vietnam's Geosciences with rational use, resource restoration and circular economy development". The main topics of the Conference include: i). Natural conditions and natural disasters; ii). Planning and management of natural resources; iii). Socio-economic conditions and tourism development; iv). Geotechnology; v). Teaching in geography.

The conference has received the attention of members of local geographical associations across the country and received hundreds of draft scientific reports. Through a rigorous evaluation and editing process, the Conference has selected 218 quality articles and published them in 2 Volumes of proceedings. These are the research results of the members of the Geographical Society, coming from universities, research institutes, social organizations, management agencies as well as schools.

More than 300 hundred delegates have attended the Conference, especially with the participation of Prof. Noma, Former President of the Society of Human Geography of Japan, Prof. Dominique Laffly, Attaché for Science and Education Cooperation, French Embassy, and professor at the University of Toulouse, France.

Regarding the sustainable socio-economic development, Son Tay town (Hanoi city) is evaluated as a case study from the perspective of geographical science on the integrated relationship between nature, culture and tourism, between socio-economic development and circular economy, between development dynamics and territorial planning.

Regarding the use and restoration of natural resources, spatial analysis tools such as GIS and remote sensing, including machine learning techniques, are applied in proposed measures to response to natural disasters, such as floods and droughts or restore degraded land after mining. The themes of territorial planning associated with biodiversity conservation or ecotourism have also attracted the attention of the Conference.

Socio-economic geography and circular economy is an important topic as the speakers focus on circular economy research in organic agriculture development, regional linkage issues associated with planning policies on environmental protection and sustainable development. The aspects of the Covid-19 epidemic and its relationship with socio-economic development, livelihood development, and tourism development are also analyzed and evaluated to draw useful lessons. The field of geography education in universities and high schools is actively discussed about new teaching methods and the issue of improving teaching quality, especially in the context of

technology 4.0. Many lessons have been learned and shared for the entire Conference.

Thus, the 13th National Geographic Conference of Vietnam has made breakthroughs when linking geosciences with solving critical issues that society is posed, such as promoting circular economy with restoration of resources and environmental protection, conservation of nature and indigenous culture with sustainable tourism development, linking geography education with training high-quality human resources to meet the ever-changing needs of society. The results of the conference have also summed up the achievements of Vietnamese geographers in recent years, and are also a lesson to be shared for the Asian geoscientific community in particular and the international community in general.



Delegates to the 13th National Geographic Conference of
Vietnam



Overview of the Conference



The Asian Geographical Association awarded the Plaque of
Appreciation to Vietnam Association of Geographers



The Asian Geographical Association awarded the Plaque
of Appreciation to Thai Nguyen University

At the Conference, on behalf of AGA, Prof. Lai Vinh Cam, Vice President of AGA have presented Plaque of Appreciation to Vietnam Association of Geographers and to the Thai Nguyen University in grateful appreciation to outstanding contribution to the Association development and excellent support in hosting the 5th Asian Conference on Geography (ACG2022).

Provided by Dr. Vo Thanh Son, Vice Director CRES, VNU,
Dr. Bui Anh Tuan, Institute of Geography, VAST (igtuan253@gmail.com)

14. Forthcoming Events

- **The 3rd Istanbul International Geography Congress** will be held from June 14-17, 2023 in Istanbul, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of TÜRKİYE. Website: www.iuck.istanbul
- **The 15th Korea-China-Japan Joint Conference on Geography (KCJJCG)** is to be held on October 20-23, 2023 in Seoul, Korea. Website: <https://2023kcj.org/>
- **The 3rd Workshop of Asian Young Geographers** will be held in early November 2023 in Nanjing, China. The exact dates of the Workshop will be announced soon.
- **The 35th International Geographical Congress (IGC2024)** will be held from August 24-30, 2024 in Dublin, Ireland. Website: <http://igc2024dublin.org/>