



**International Geographical Union
COMMISSION ON LAND USE/COVER CHANGE**

NEWSLETTER

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Unfortunately, dr. Sergey Ganzei, vice-chair of IGU LUCC commission sorrowfully passed away in 2011. We lost great researcher and dear colleague... He was one of key members of steering committee and e. g. one of the splendid IGU LUCC conference – in Vladivostok 2009 – was organized under his supervision and with great success... We will miss him forever.

IGU LUCC WEBSITE

All important information about IGU LUCC commission's activities you can find at IGU LUCC website – <http://www.luccprague.cz/>. There you can find up-to-date information about IGU LUCC commission activities, planned conferences and meetings, etc. E-mail address of IGU LUCC secretariat remains the same – igu.landuse@gmail.com.

Attention: Website and e-mail address will probably change after vote of new commission chair during IGC in Cologne 2012.

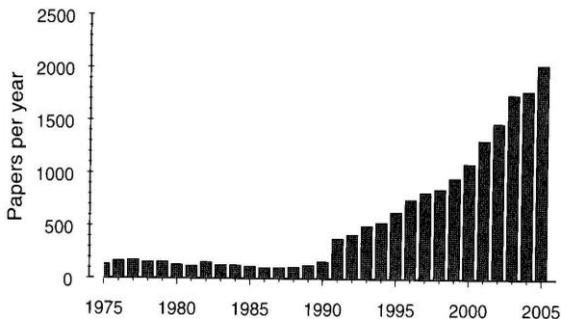
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NEWS

Growing importance of land-use studies

One of the key topics of contemporary research is landscape and its changes. It is researched not only by geographers, but also by scientists from other fields of study, for example historians. In the last two decades of 20th century there was also formed term historical (or also dynamic) land use. We can observe increase of papers and contributions focused on land use changes in the last 35 years. Aspinall (2006) presented in the newly established Journal of Land Use. Science rapid growth of number of papers, where term „land use“ is keyword or is present in abstracts cited on ISI Web of Science (fig. 1). Within International Geographic Union the Land Use/Cover Change (IGU LUCC) commission has long history with distinct influence of Czech authors. Most papers agree that society is one the driving forces in nature changes and the key role is played by growing number of Earth inhabitants and especially increase of their consumption.

Fig. 1: Increase of publications focused on land-use in 1975-2005.



Source: Aspinall 2006

Ivan Bičík

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

XV. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHERS, CHARLES UNIVERSITY IN PRAGUE, CZECHIA, AUGUST 6-10

IGU LUCC Commission would guarantee one section with four papers. Prof. Bicik suggests that there would be suitable to represent different results of historical land-use focused probably on Central Europe.

More information on <http://eseh.org/about/histgeogprague>

IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE, COLOGNE, GERMANY, AUGUST 26-30, 2012

The 32nd International Geographical Congress will be held in Cologne during 26 – 30th August 2012. IGU LUCC commission will organize three or more sessions and business meeting (also oriented on the next activity of the Commission after 2012) as usually in the main days of IGU Congress. We started cooperation with Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems on the preparation preconference meeting organized in Czechia at the Faculty of Science **in Prague** and in the field. Excursion will show typical problems of the Czech rural transformation and landscape and land use changes and will present results of investigation of the Middle European geographers. This preconference will be in August 20-26th.

More information on <http://www.igc2012.org>

CONFERENCE IN INDIA

During IGC in Santiago de Chile prof. Chauhan suggested that next commission meeting should take place in conference in **India**, where land-use topics are deeply studied and also number of participants could be higher in comparison with Cologne because of considerably lower costs for researchers from Asia. Conclusion was that prof. Chauhan will organize this conference after agreement with commission head prof. Bicik.

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LAST MEETINGS

IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE, SANTIAGO, CHILE, NOVEMBER 14-18, 2011



Results of steering committee business meeting (November 17th):

Ivan Bicik briefly evaluated commission activities in 2008-2011. He mentioned regular publishing of IGU/LUCC commission Newsletter (Newsletter No. 11, 12, 13). After that several successful conferences were mentioned: Vladivostok 2009, Prague 2010 and Santiago de Chile 2011. Conference in Vladivostok was focused on Eastern Asia and was organized by Russian Academy of Science (Far Eastern Branch, Pacific Institute of Geography), about 70 researchers attended this meeting. One year later 45 participants visited meeting in Prague, called “Land use and land cover changes in a globalised world “. It was organized by Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Science. Main meeting in 2011 was realized during Regional conference in Santiago de Chile. There was obvious that LUCC problematic is very popular, 26 participants had their papers divided into 7 sections (22 papers were presented). It is clear that interest in complex land use research in last quarter century is still increasing. Publication activities in last year were focused on next volumes of Atlas of World Land Use: Volume No. V (aimed at land-use in Czechia, Slovakia and Russia) was

published in 2010 in Prague. Because of great interest there was also published summarizing edition of Volumes No. I - IV in one big Atlas LUCG by prof. Himiyama in Japan. Nowadays the Volume No. VI is preparing and it will be concentrated on long-term land-use changes in Czechia. Finally Ivan Bicik stated that it is necessary to modify steering committee members, because part of steering committee members is not active at all and commission activities should be ensured after year 2012.

There was also discussed activity of commission during future conference in Cologne (Germany) in 2012. After discussion there was recommended to invite all members of steering committee to this congress together with question whether they want to participate in future commission activities. Also there was discussion about new possible head of this commission (Ivan Bicik has to finish 2012 in this function) and about commission orientation too; it's obvious that focus of LUCG commission is quite wide and it is necessary to continue in work of this commission because of its results; at the same time it is important to more cooperate with commission orientated on Earth observation (remote sensing). Publishing of next volumes of Atlas of world land-use was also recommended as an irreplaceable research commission activity.

Meeting participants also briefly evaluated regional conference in Santiago de Chile from the IGU LUCG commission point of view:

- a. Participation of researchers from Latin America was indisputably very fruitful, it documents abilities of Latin America researchers to join commission activities more closely;
- b. LUCG topics are most frequented from all conference papers;
- c. LUCG sessions were diverse and with high quality of most papers; most part of papers is suitable for scientific publishing; we think about call on participation on next volume of Atlas of World Land Use, Volume VIII;
- d. Two languages with simultaneous translation were very good experience in the point of view of future regional conferences. We recommend that interpreters could have at least papers abstracts to be prepared for new special terms.

Ivan Bičík



Field trip during IGC in Chile – National park protects remains of temperate zones forests, in higher altitudes with a lot of Araucaria species.

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PUBLICATIONS

Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague prepared next Volume of Land-use atlas. This Volume VI will be published in March 2012. This volume is very “regional” all papers are focused on land-use changes in Czechia. This atlas is possible to ask on the address of head of the IGU/LUCC commission Ivan Bičík: bicik@natur.cuni.cz after paying only post expenditure. Another possibility how to obtain this will be visiting IGC in Cologne or Conference of historical geographers in Prague (both August 2012).

Himiyama, Y., Bičík, I. (eds.): Land Use / Cover Changes in Selected Regions in the World, Volume VI, IGU-LUCC Research Reports, IGU-LUCC, Asahikawa, Japan and Charles University in Prague, Czechia.

Content of Atlas, Volume VI:

Part A:

Bičík, I., Kupková, L. et al.: Transformation processes in Czechia in land use data. Risks and problems.

Part B:

Bičík, I., Štych, P., Jeleček, L.: Types of long-term landscape changes in Czechia

Štych, P., Bičík, I., Bláha, J. et al.: Model types of landscape changes in Czechia:

1. Recreational-agricultural landscape in the Prague suburbs
2. Residential-agricultural landscapes with nature protection
3. Abandoned mining-agricultural landscape
4. Intensively used fertile agricultural landscape
5. Landscape with residential, service and agricultural function
6. Landscape along the Iron Curtain

Part C:

Balej, M., Raška, P., Anděl, J., Oršulák, T.: Land use changes in northwestern part of the Czech Republic: the effects of displacement of German inhabitants.

Frélichová, J.: Intergrated Landcape Assessment of Cezava Region: How Can the Concept of Ecosystem Services Contribute?

Ivan Bičík

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FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF IGU LUCC COMMISSION

Major types of activity:

a. The Commission plans to hold at least **one open symposium every year** in different parts of the world. It is regarded as essential to establish ongoing work so that these regional conferences are seen as the culmination of continuing efforts, and not merely as isolated occasions. Meetings of IGU LUCC commission will be also parts of IGU congresses.

b. Meetings with macroregional effect focused on LUCC problematic of different world regions. Most of participants will take place from given macroregion, but also researchers from other parts of the world will be welcomed.

c. Publishing of next volumes of atlas Land Use / Cover Changes in Selected Regions in the World. Until now five volumes had been published, Volume no. 6 is prepared nowadays. Publishing of these atlases enables to prepare interesting regional analyses of land use and land cover development in different world regions. It is printed on big format and in colour.

d. Preparing and publishing of special publications as results of international and national meetings focused on LUC C topics, organized or co-organized by IGU LUC C commission.

e. Organization of expert reviews of papers in international research magazines.

f. Other informal support in LUC C studies.