

International Geographical Union--Union Géographique Internationale

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To the Chairs of National Committees for the IGU

Dear Colleagues,

The 34th International Geographical Congress (IGC) at Istanbul, Turkey, is only nine months away. Starting in 1871 at Antwerp, Belgium, the IGC has been the greatest periodic international event for the world geographic community. It is in fact fascinating to see the progress of the preparations for the 34th IGC, as you see below:

1. The abstract submission platform is now open. There are 32 different Commission topics (with 127 sub-topics) and 12 Task Force & Thematic session topics (with 45 sub-categories). The deadline for abstract submission is 13 January 2020. For detail, see <https://www.igc2020.org/en/ABSTRACT-SUBMISSION.html>.
2. As of today there are 6 distinguished keynote speakers who give lectures at the Congress. For detail about them, see <https://www.igc2020.org/en/KEYNOTES.html>.
3. The registration system for the Congress is now open, and we can register to the Congress at <https://www.igc2020.org/en/REGISTRATION-AND-ACCOMMODATION.html>.
4. In order to enjoy the cultural sites and history of Istanbul & Turkey, we have a number of daily and pre-post tour options, as you see at <https://www.igc2020.org/en/DAILY-AND-PRE-POST-TOURS.html>.
5. General Assembly, the prime decision-making body of the IGU, is scheduled on 2nd, 3rd and 4th day of the Congress. Not only the delegates appointed by the member countries, but also all the registered Congress participants may attend it and join the discussion.

The 34th IGC will demonstrate itself as an invaluable place of achieving the objectives of the IGU, which we find in the IGU Statutes at <https://igu-online.org/organization/statutes/>. Needless to say, organizing this congress involves enormous work and comes at a substantial cost, but geographers in Turkey dare to do it because they believe it is of great value to the world geographers and even broader society.

As I mentioned in my Remarks in the latest e-Newsletter (No. 33), IGU adheres to the International Science Council (ISC) and its "Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in the Conduct of Science" (CFRS). This committee is the guardian of *the principle of universality of science*, which faces serious challenges in the turbulent world where we live (<https://council.science/topics/cfrs>). Let's work together to enhance geography through free, responsible and high quality 34th IGC 2020 at Istanbul!

With Best Regards,



Yukio Himiyama, IGU President

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