

## **IGU Laureat d`Honneur 2008**

### **Prof. M.S. Abulezz , Egypt**

Prof. Dr. M.S. Abulezz is one of the most prominent geographers of the Arab World and his services to the communities of geography all over the Arab World have earned him wide fame, esteem and respect. He is the founder of the geography departments in the Khartoum branch of Cairo University, the Arab University of Beirut, Kuwait University, the United Arab Emirates University, and he has been the external examiner of post-graduate dissertations in a number of Arab Universities.

He has conducted scientific research on geomorphology, development, political geography and geopolitics pertaining to Egypt and many other parts of the Arab World, and has published widely on the Islamic World. Among his many international activities are his membership of the advisory board of the United Nation University Program of Human and Social Development and his role as advisor to the Arab delegation to the Euro-Arab Dialogue (from 1973-1979).

He has encouraged Arab geographers to associate themselves with the activities of the IGU, and he has succeeded in incorporating many Arab geographical societies with our Union. He has revived the union of Arab geographers, an organization which was founded in 1961 but has been in decline since 1990, with periodic meetings held in various capital cities in the Arab World. He has spared no efforts in promoting two of IGUs current projects, the "Mediterranean Renaissance Program" and "Culture and Civilization for Human Development" he is a wholehearted supporter of our international Home of Geography.

Professor Abulezz, for your outstanding contributions to geography, your wide scientific experience and expertise, your leadership and encouragement of international dialogue, and your painstaking efforts to disseminate information on IGU achievements amongst Arab geographers, the IGU is proud to confer on you its Lauréat d'Honneur 2008.

## **Hartwig Haubrich, Germany**

Prof. Hartwig Haubrich has made his greatest contribution to the IGU through the preparation of the Charter on Geographical Education.

The 1992 International Charter on Geographical Education was endorsed and proclaimed by the IGU General Assembly in Washington, D.C. The Charter recognizes the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the constitution of UNESCO, and relates these to key questions and concepts that Geography addresses. The Charter notes the contribution of Geography to education, and outlines curriculum content, its implementation, research and international co-operation.

The need for this Charter was recognized at IGU's 1988 IGU Congress in Sydney. Prof. Haubrich was appointed Chair of the Commission on Geographical Education, and assumed the responsibility for constructing the Charter. He drew on his extensive background in geographical pedagogy, and was the driving force behind the Charter development. This document has subsequently been extremely influential in the development of teaching and learning in Geography internationally. It has been translated into 21 languages. The effectiveness of the Charter is also reflected in the strength of the Commission on Geographical Education which has had a corresponding membership of more than 300 since 1992. He retired in 1998, but remains an active member of the Commission on Geographical Education.

Professor Haubrich, for your untiring work on geographical education, your staunch support for its role in addressing the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, and especially for your significant contributions to the Lucerne Declaration, which was brought to the current General Assembly in Tunis, the International Geographical Union wishes to formally acknowledge these contributions by awarding you its Laureat d'honneur 2008.

### **Prof. György Enyedi, Hungary**

For decades, **Prof. György Enyedi** has been the voice and the face of Hungarian geography in the worldwide community of geographers. This position was built first and foremost on the quality of his own work, but also on his skills at team building. Secondly, because of his untiring efforts at maintaining international academic contacts, he has brought many colleagues from abroad in contact with their Hungarian counterparts and this cross-pollination has born rich fruit. During his long and distinguished career, he thus made a major contribution to the international standing of Hungarian geography.

He built contacts with many groups across the world, using his positions in Hungarian Academy very effectively to disseminate knowledge and insights at a global scale. At the individual level also, he has, directly and indirectly, stimulated many people to make, maintain and expand contacts and to share its benefits with others. Both as a person and as a mentor, he has touched the professional lives of numerous colleagues across the world of geography.

György Enyedi is a decisive figure in the long-term development of regional science as an independent and integrative discipline. He has been equally impressive in his leadership capacity within science internationally. Vice-President of the International Geographical Union (1984-1992), he served as President of the Hungarian committee of UNESCO (1998-2002). He is a member of Academia Europaea as well as an honorary member of seven foreign geographical societies. He is Chief Editor of the journal *Hungarian Science* and still serves on the editorial board of several international journals. He was visiting scholar in various leading US and French universities and has received several Hungarian and international awards and honors.

Professor Enyedi, you have made gigantic contributions to the discipline of geography and have championed its identity among a broad range of other sciences. Please accept this Laureat d'Honneur 2008 as the deserved recognition by the International Geographical Union of your numerous outstanding achievements.

**Prof. Leszek Antoni Kosinski, Poland**

Professor Kosinski is one of the world's most influential geographers and, more generally, social science leaders. His contributions to the literature on population processes, distributions and development have been both prolific and highly influential. He has published in excess of 30 books as an author and/or editor, and has made wide-ranging contributions both to the profession of geography and the popular understandings of population issues through journal articles, reviews and maps.

More specifically, his contribution to the profession of geography has been outstanding.. He has been a member of an IGU Commission since 1967, Chair of a commission for almost a decade, and Secretary-General and Treasurer of the IGU for 8 years. His general scientific merits are evidenced by his election to Fellowship of the Royal Society of Canada. He has also led the International Social Science Council as Secretary-General for almost a decade, and made important contributions to the activities of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population and the International Human Dimensions Programme.

Professor Kosinski, you truly merit the award of Laureat d'honneur on the grounds of your outstanding contributions to leadership in the discipline of geography in the Academy and especially, in the Canadian national context. For your service to IGU and to many other international organizations as well as for your scholarly achievements in arenas where population geography intersects with demography and other social sciences we congratulate you for your efforts.

## **Prof. Dr. H. Th. Verstappen, The Netherlands**

Dr. Verstappen has made a tremendous, extra-ordinary contribution to the field of Geography, as a science and as an institution, both in substantive and practical ways.

Early in his career he contributed in very concrete ways to capacity building among the young Geography Faculty of the first university established by the government of Indonesia, just after independence. The contribution of 'Pa' Verstappen (as he was fondly called) to the development of geography all over Indonesia has been crucial and successful in all respects. He is still remembered and appreciated by his many (former) students and colleagues.

Still on the international front, he was elected Vice President of the IGU in Paris 1984 and later led the organization of the IGC on the theme of "Land, Sea and the Human Effort" at The Hague (1996). The Congress was a challenge and a trend-setter in working out a different format for IGC's, as requested by the IGU Executive Committee. He served as President of IGU from 1992 to 1996, fostering innovative schemes such as the IGU Promotion and Solidarity Fund and supporting the idea of corresponding membership. The efforts Prof. Verstappen made to strengthen and renew the IGU and to ensure the success of the IGC in The Hague have left a great impression on all who have met him and worked with him in those years. His sense of direction and the pleasant and effective ways in which he relates to people were crucial to ensure success.

Scientifically, Prof. Verstappen made substantial contributions to the development of geomorphology and its applications to further development, in particular in Southeast Asia and in Latin America. In the context of the UN Year on Deserts and Desertification he displayed a wide range of high quality activities, particularly in the study of dry lands, of natural hazards and disaster mitigation. These are all topics which are essential for the sustainable future of humankind and his early contributions are most appreciated. These issues are now, very much at the heart of the efforts to mitigate climate change.

Herman, the many major contributions which you have made to Geography, in analytical and practical innovations as well as institutional leadership, indeed qualify you as an excellent candidate to receive the IGU Laureat d'Honneur 2008.

## **Vladimir Kotlyakov, Russia**

Vladimir M. Kotlyakov is a world-leading specialist in the field of geography and glaciology. His early achievements included pioneering studies of Antarctic Ice Sheet, Earth's ice cover in general and its changes in space and time. He clarified the content of space glaciology already in the 1970s and applied isotope and geochemical methods to the study of ice and its evolution. He played a major role in the interpretation of ice core studies from the deep drilling at the Vostok station in Antarctica, thus enabling study of the Earth climate for four glacial-interglacial cycles. In later years he examined global and regional problems of interaction between society and environment in conditions of changing climate.

Professor. Kotlyakov is the author of many scientific articles, more than 100 of them were published in English, French, Spanish, Czech and Polish languages. He has also authored 30 scientific monographs. He is particularly famous for his concept of systematic glaciological mapping, which he demonstrated as editor-in-Chief of the World Atlas of Snow and Ice Resources (1976-1997) where he suggested innovative approaches to the study of nival-glacial hazards and principles of glacial forecast.

Internationally, too, Vladimir Kotlyakov has been a leader. Elected Vice-President of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences, he was President of the International Commission of Snow and Ice. He was member of the Scientific Committee of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme, in the early 1990s and served on the Steering Committee of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Programme. He was elected Vice-president of IGU from 1988- to 1996 and, during the 1990s, was a member of the Earth Council led by Maurice Strong. He is a member of Academia Europaea, a honorary member of the American, Mexican, Italian, Georgia, and Estonian Geographical Societies and foreign member of the French and Georgian Academies of Sciences. In 1989-91 he was elected the People's Deputy of the USSR and was vice-chairman of the Parliament Committee on Ecology. He is a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences since 1991, director of the Institute of Geography, Russian Academy of Sciences, and was elected Honorary President of the Russian Geographical Society in 2000.

Laureate of many honours throughout his career, Vladimir received the State Prize of Russia for 2001, both Russian Independent Prize "Triumph" and the Great Gold Medal of the Russian Geographical Society in 2004. and the L.S. Berg Gold Medal of Russian Academy of Sciences in 2005.

For your outstanding contributions to Geography, to both its scientific advancement and international reach, for your pioneering work in the integration of insights from both human and physical aspects of environmental change, the IGU proudly confers on you its Laureat d'Honneur for 2008.