

IGC, 2004

Welcome from the chair of conference

**Royal
Geographical
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to the 30th IGC in the UK based in Glasgow. We are so pleased that you registered; we have been delighted with the amount of interest shown, with the number of delegates attending and the volume of abstracts submitted. We look forward to your participation in a great and memorable Congress.

One of our objectives has been to ensure that the 30th Congress is as successful and stimulating as previous meetings including the last held in the UK (the 20th IGC) in 1964. The discipline of Geography has changed so dramatically during those 40 years and we have endeavoured to reflect the contemporary character of the subject in our planning for the Congress. This planning has taken place over the last 10 years, it became a firm commitment when the invitation that we conveyed on behalf of the Royal Society was accepted by the IGU during the 28th Congress at the Hague in 1996, and it was accelerated when we outlined our planning intentions during the 29th Congress in Seoul, Korea in 2000. During preparations over the last decade when the main geographical societies in the UK (the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers and the Royal Scottish geography Society) have been of key significance in developing our plans. It is impossible to list every other organisation and individual who helped over those 10 years but our organising committee, so vital in the early stages of planning, and subsequently the Committee of Directors of IGC 2004, established to organise the Congress, included professor Charlie Withers, Dr Rita Gardner, Dr David Munro, Professor Alan Werritty and myself. We have been supplemented by Professor George Gordon as Honorary Treasurer and Dr Lorraine Craig as Executive Secretary. Dr Jonathan Young was a dynamic and helpful influence in the early years and since 2001 Dr Lorraine Craig has masterminded the necessary control and liaison of key organisational aspects very effectively. She has been the main link to and from the conference organisers, Meeting Makers, who join us to live with the planning evolution day by day for the last 5 years.

We gratefully acknowledge the support received from our sponsors; without their inputs it would have been very difficult to organise such a Congress. We valued the early support provided by the British Academy and the Royal Society, and subsequently Ordnance Survey has been a major sponsor providing assistance in several ways. In addition we are grateful to the Greater Glasgow Clyde Valley, Glasgow Convention Bureau and Tourist Board, the City of Glasgow, the University of Glasgow, ESRI, Intergraph, Microsoft MapPoint, Agence intergouvernementale de la francophonie, France and Scottish Natural Heritage. Earl Dalkeith has been a particularly thoughtful and influential friend to us and has assisted with several particularly difficult issues. To all these organisations and to many individuals we express our sincere thanks.

Our aspiration is to make this Congress a memorable festival of, and for, Geography. The programme has been constructed to incorporate the suggestions that we have received, and we have endeavoured to meet all the requirements of the IGU Commissions which are providing many core sessions for the programme. We are particularly pleased that there are associated meetings of the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG); a Joint International Geomorphology Conference on Geomorphology and Sustainability (join with the IAG and the IHU Commission CO II Challenges for the 21st Century) organised by the British Geomorphological Research Group; as well as meetings of the International Cartographic Association and British Cartographic Society; and the Association of Geographic Information, regional Studies Association and others. Throughout the very full programme of lectures and discussions we hope that all recent exciting trends in Geography are represented and discussed, and that they are disseminated to reach a wider audience so that the growing potential of our subject, under the Congress theme One Earth – Many Worlds, can be more generally recognised and understood.

The Congress is not solely dependent upon academic papers and the ensuing discussions but also involves excursions and social occasions with numerous opportunities for meeting people. We thank the organisers of the field excursions for their assistance in making a great field programme. You will also no doubt wish to take advantage of the opportunity to visit, or revisit, some of the fascinating places in Scotland and in the UK as a whole. We hope that you will enjoy the Congress in its totality; if

you require specific assistance then the Confer4ence Organisers, Meeting Makers, the members of the Committee of Directors, or the student assistants will be delighted to assist you. During the Congress there will be a daily update to the programme circulated so that, if there are items that you wish to see included, please let us know.

Finally, on behalf of all of those who have contributed to the organisation of this Congress, can I thank you for attending that invite you to participate as fully as possible, to contribute to the discussions and debates, and to enjoy the experience. A very warm welcome to the UK, to Glasgow, and to the 30th IGC.

Ken Gregory
Chair of the Committee of Directors