

## Editorial

### *“Our Magnetic Planet Moving in Space”*

#### **The IAGA 11th Scientific Assembly in Sopron, Hungary**

The International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA) is a non-governmental organization founded to promote and coordinate studies of the electrical and magnetic properties of the Earth's core, mantle and crust, of the middle and upper atmosphere, of the ionosphere and magnetosphere, and of the Sun, the solar wind, the planets and interplanetary bodies. The IAGA 11th Scientific Assembly (after the 10th Assembly in Toulouse, 2005) is held in Sopron from 24 to 29 August 2009 with the motto: *“Our Magnetic Planet Moving in Space”*.

After a series of two-week long and usually mid-summer assemblies, the Sopron Assembly is the first one-week long meeting, and it is held in the end of summer. The 53 symposia of five Divisions (I: Internal Magnetic Field, II: Aeronomical Phenomena, III: Magnetospheric Phenomena, IV: Solar Wind and Interplanetary Field, V: Geomagnetic Observatories, Surveys and Analyses) and two Interdivisional commissions (on History and on Developing Countries) attracted 1222 abstracts, submitted from 59 countries. In Sopron approximately 700 oral talks and 500 posters will be presented in the developing “Sopron Downtown Conference Centre”, with the Liszt Ferenc Congress and Cultural Centre as its focal point. The oral talks will run in nine session halls, and the posters (first time at such international meetings) will be on show for the whole week. Approximately 170 scientists received some partial support to attend the Assembly: about 120 people directly from IAGA and 50 from various Hungarian and international sources.

The Sopron Assembly is an outstanding event of the closing year of the IYPE (International Year of Planet Earth) triennium 2007–2009, and also of accompanying international years (Heliophysical Year, Polar Year and Electronic Geophysical Year). IYPE will be represented at the Sopron Assembly Exhibition. Springer Science+Business Media (which will publish the official IAGA Special Sopron Book Series as a sub-series to the IYPE series as a legacy to the Year), INTERMAGNET and further commercial exhibitors (Bartington, AGICO, Akadémiai Kiadó, etc.) will be represented, too. The Assembly will be held under the patronage of József Pálinskás, President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Imre Szabó, Minister of Environment and Water and Tamás Fodor, Mayor of Sopron. The Opening Ceremony is fully organized by the City of Sopron. The Hungarian Oil Company (MOL) is the sponsor of a major cultural event; the National Office for Science and Technology supported more than 40 scientists to attend the meeting.

As we have realized, there is a quite significant public interest toward the mysteries of geomagnetic field: among others toward its pole reversals. It is our responsibility to bring all IAGA sciences closer to the Society. An especially important societal contribution of the Sopron Assembly might be expected in the field of climate change. As it has been recently underlined by the President of IAGA (see IAGA News 45), the scientific debate about the climate change has not ended. It will and must continue with open exchange of ideas. It will continue, among others in Sopron, too.

Looking forward to the exciting new results of the Sopron Assembly in these and other IAGA topics, *Acta Geodaetica et Geophysica Hungarica* has now the honour to publish one of the Association Lectures presented at the Toulouse Assembly. David Loper's paper "Earth's Habitable Loop: Water, Atmospheric Structure, the Geomagnetic Field and Plate Tectonics" is an excellent representation of the complexity of our IAGA science. Another IAGA-related paper in the present issue is a project-closing report of the host institute (Geodetic and Geophysical Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences), which illustrates a broad coverage of IAGA science in Sopron.

The Local Organizing Committee and the Hungarian National Committee of IUGG are pleased to welcome you to the IAGA 11th Scientific Assembly in Sopron, Hungary.

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