



Stimulating and co-ordinating, on an international basis, studies, research, applications, scientific exchange, and communication in the fields of radio science

URSI Newsletter – May 2011
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Welcome message

This is the second issue of the *URSI Newsletter*. We hope you will like this issue as much as our first, which was received very well. We would like to call upon all of you to make use of this channel to exchange information, and to help in building and extending our URSI community. The way the *Newsletter* is set up is flexible and may change over time, depending on the feedback and requests we receive, just as we continuously try to improve our Web site and add new content to it.

One of the features we would like to add to the *Newsletter* is a Young Scientists Corner, which specifically addresses these young researchers, who form one of the cornerstones of URSI activities. If you would like to see content added, please feel free to inform us at the Secretariat.

This issue of the *Newsletter* presents some initial information about the upcoming XXXth General Assembly and Scientific Symposium of the International Union of Radio Science. The paper submission has been closed by now, and the programme is ready. As you will see, the numbers are impressive, and reflect a dynamic community and an eagerness of all of you to present scientific results at this event.

One of the main activities of URSI as a scientific union focuses on Young Scientists. The XXXth General Assembly and Scientific Symposium is an ideal opportunity for those Young Scientists to present their work. We have also received an impressive number of applications from Young Scientists.

You will also read about the successful initiative taken to submit a proposal for an ICSU grant, and a call for the preparation of White Papers. We hope you will find interesting information in this *Newsletter*, and we hope you will enjoy it.

With best regards,

Paul Lagasse, URSI Secretary General

The XXXth URSI General Assembly and Scientific Symposium

The XXXth General Assembly and Scientific Symposium will have a scientific program consisting of plenary lectures, public lectures, tutorials, posters, and invited and contributed papers organized around the 10 Commissions of URSI. Paper submission is now closed. We received an impressive 1319 paper submissions, of which 328 are invited papers. These papers represent work from authors coming from 55 countries. The USA ranks No. 1 with 230 submissions, followed by Japan with 119 submissions and India with 98 submissions.

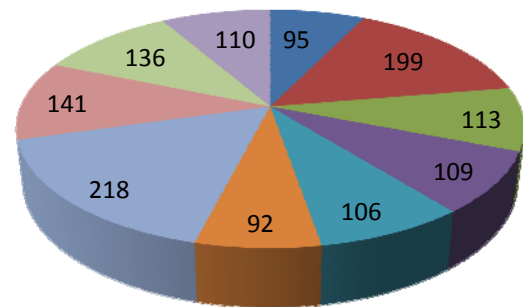


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Submissions are spread over the URSI Commissions:

Commission A: 95	Commission F: 92
Commission B: 199	Commission G: 218
Commission C: 113	Commission H: 141
Commission D: 109	Commission J: 136
Commission E: 106	Commission K: 110

■ A ■ B ■ C ■ D ■ E ■ F ■ G ■ H ■ J ■ K



Out of the 1319 submissions, 102 submitted their paper for the Student Paper Competition, and 238 applied for a Young Scientist award. The process for the selection of these Young Scientist Awards has now started within URSI.

The XXX General Assembly and Scientific Symposium will be held at Lutfi Kırdar Convention and Exhibition Centre in the beautiful historical centre of Istanbul, Turkey, on 13-20 August, 2011. The detailed program and registration form are available at <http://www.ursigass2011.org>.

Commission F Inter-Union session on Disaster Management



As part of the scientific programme at the GASS, a “Commission F Inter-Union session on Disaster Management” is scheduled on 19 August 2011. It will include reports on the related activities of ISPRS (International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing) and IUGG (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics) and papers illustrating contributions by Radio Science to disaster management, with a focus on the remote sensing aspects and on the identification of precursory signals for earthquakes.

Message to the URSI Community and Member Committees

URSI successfully applies for an ICSU Grant

The ICSU Grants Programme supports collaborative scientific initiatives of relevance to science and society. It is a competitive, peer-reviewed programme for ICSU Scientific Unions, Interdisciplinary Bodies, and Joint Initiatives in collaboration with other ICSU bodies, including Regional Offices.

URSI – SCOSTEP proposal

URSI, in collaboration with SCOSTEP (Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics) prepared and submitted a proposal entitled “*A Geophysical Approach to Assess Natural Disasters and Space Weather impacts on Earth*”. The project is lead by Dr. Jean-Pierre Raulin, Centre of Radioastronomy and Astrophysics, Presbyterian Mackenzie University, São Paulo, Brazil and includes participation from research groups in Brazil, Argentina, Peru and possible extension to groups in Chile and Paraguay.

The main objective is to incentivize the development of a regional centre for the use of geophysics as a new approach for natural disaster prevention, and to assess the impacts of space weather phenomena on the Earth's environment and technological systems. Since radio communications and observations are important to assessing geophysical hazards, the former objective implies a natural collaborative activity between Latin-American scientists involved in radio and geophysical sciences.

The South American region is particularly affected by natural disasters as consequences of earthquakes, El Niño, and global-change related phenomena. Casualties and property losses could be significantly reduced by discussing and providing improved geophysical methods to evaluate the risk of such natural hazards.

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In the same region, space weather impacts and effects are enhanced, because space weather spreads over a large latitudinal sector, including equatorial regions and the South Atlantic magnetic anomaly. It is therefore crucial to characterize all aspects of space -weather dynamics, from the long-term and transient solar phenomena, to the arrival of magnetic clouds at the Earth's orbit responsible for disturbed geomagnetic conditions. All of these are capable of affecting the Earth's atmosphere and terrestrial technological systems.

Groups of excellence on these subjects already exist in South America, and an intense network of instrumental facilities is rapidly growing. Thus, for the first time it is desirable to join efforts and discuss converging research activities within a common regional structure.

The proposal, accepted for funding by ICSU, will run for one year.



The Jicamarca Radio Observatory (JRO), the premier scientific facility in the world for studying the equatorial ionosphere, one of the instrumental facilities involved in the URSI-SCOSTEP proposal.

Call for White Papers

All URSI Member Committees, URSI Commissions, URSI Standing Committees, along with individuals are invited to submit proposals for White Papers on radio science. Radio science encompasses the knowledge and study of all aspects of electromagnetic fields and waves.

For a specific issue involving radio science, a White Paper presents the scientific views and opinions of URSI, along with the pros and cons on the issue. These are presented in a manner that is understandable by a much wider technical – and, even non-technical – audience, outside of URSI.

White Papers should be 30 pages of text or less, with a short (no more than three-page) executive summary. They must contain all relevant details in accordance with the assessment criteria described below. Proposals should involve the definition of an action group that can prepare the draft well in time before the URSI General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, 13 – 20 August 2011.

Drafts of White Papers are considered by the Board and are reviewed by the Member Committees and the URSI Commissions before being published as White Papers.

Criteria for deciding on whether an URSI White Paper is warranted:

1. Timeliness: Why is a White Paper required now?
2. What is the target audience for this URSI White Paper, and what impact is it likely to have on this audience?
3. What other related URSI Position Statements, URSI White Papers, URSI Recommendations, or URSI Resolutions already exist? Are there other international (and national) scientific consensus statements on this topic? Is it an area of “conflict?” What is the “added value” of this URSI Position Statement or White Paper?
4. Is it appropriate for URSI? Does URSI have the necessary expertise to produce a White Paper on this topic? Do other partners need to be included?
5. What is the proposed dissemination strategy, e.g. publication in the *Radio Science Bulletin*, posting on the URSI Web site, transmission to ICSU,...?
6. Is an URSI White Paper necessary? Does this topic justify an URSI Position Statement or White Paper?

Papers & Publications of URSI colleagues

If you have published a paper that might be of interest to the rest of the URSI Community, let us know, and we will list the links.