

CPGIS Annual Report and Financial Report

2008-09 Management Term

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By

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On this sunny end-of-October afternoon, one can smell candies in the air, and exciting news about Halloween party flies everywhere. I sit down at my desk looking out of the window, picturing in my mind how kids dressed in various costumes would walk up our drive way after sunset for treat. CPGIS could throw a Halloween party as well to celebrate the end of another successful year. Or may we hold a virtual party to wrap up this past year and look forward to the next exciting year?

Following the submission of CPGIS 2007-08 Annual Report by **Fang Qiu** and his management team on November 22 of 2008, I announced the official formation of CPGIS 2008-09 management team on November 30, 2008. Eleven months have passed by since then. They flow away in a no-return manner, leaving CPGIS with a busy, challenging, and fruitful year. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you joining me while I roll back the tapes to replay this past year of CPGIS. Let us re-enjoy our achievements and those exciting moments. Let us reflect on some issues and prepare for a better year.

I. New development of CPGIS

With **CHANGE** being the theme for many issues nowadays, CPGIS has also seen some important change in this past year. During this transition process of CPGIS, we needed to handle a number of issues timely and properly in order to define a path for our future development towards a healthier and more sustained association. Among these, the following were of essential to CPGIS –

(1) President's Office working closely with the newly elected BOD, following the related change of CPGIS bylaw:

According to the amended bylaw, BOD members were elected by full members for the first time towards the end of **Dr. Qiu's** management term. As one of the first few important events during 2008-09 term, **Lin Liu** was elected by the newly formed BOD to serve as BOD Chair. Following the newly defined BOD functions and operation procedure, CPGIS President's Office has closely worked with BOD on a series of important issues in this past year, which include the revision of CPGIS membership fees, the review and approval of our contract with *Taylor & Francis Group* for the publication of CPGIS flagship journal, the approval of budget for AAG Getting Together, and the approval of starting the process of and final decision on the selection of a new host for CPGIS Headquarters Office. Since this is the first year the related bylaw revision was implemented, there was a learning process for both President's Office and BOD. We also have observed some issues that need further revision and/or clarification for the collaboration between CPGIS President's Office and BOD, which will be discussed in a later section of the report.

(2) Selection of a new host for CPGIS Headquarters Offices:

Starting with a newly elected BOD, this management term concludes by a successful selection a new host for CPGIS Headquarters Office. CPGIS HQ Office will be hosted by the China Data Center at the University of Michigan, under the leadership of **Shuming Bao**. CPGIS has been blessed since its inception 17 years ago by having **Peng Gong** and his team at the University of California – Berkeley to host the Headquarters Office and to perform the many essential functions including banking account and membership management. We were blessed that we never needed to conduct a selection of such until this past year. This selection was new, important, and challenging to us all. With the devoted work of CPGIS HQ Selection Committee (consisting of **Ge Lin, Lin Liu, Yongmei Lu, Xu Shi, and Chaowei Yang**), and with the support from our candidates and from CPGIS members, we have concluded this search successfully. Please see the related committee report in the appendix for more information about this process. The transference of related HQ functions, data, and documents have already started, and the new HQ Office will officially start function with the next CPGIS management team.

(3) Recent development of CPGIS journal with a new title and a new publisher:

With the leadership of **Hui Lin**, CPGIS' flagship journal, formally named *Geographic Information Sciences*, has also gone through significant change during this past year. Starting from this year, the journal is officially published by *Taylor & Francis* with a new name, *Annals of GIS*. The journal is owned by CPGIS and edited by an editorial team that is appointed by CPGIS. *T & F* will be responsible for publishing and marketing the journal. CPGIS' members will continue to receive free journal subscription as part of their membership benefit. CPGIS will receive royalty from publisher. Our goal is to continue improving the quality and reputation of our journal in hoping to gain it an impact factor in the next few years. To achieve this goal, CPGIS journal management team (consisting of **Hui Lin (chair), Shuming Bao, Anrong Dang, Peng Gong, Bo Huang, and Jun Yan** (The Chinese University of Hong Kong)) will work hard to solicit high quality papers to be published in the journal. Meanwhile, we invite our members to check for the new appearance of our journal and to support our journal by submitting research papers. More information about *Annals of GIS* can be found at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1082-4006&linktype=offers>.

(4) Increase of CPGIS membership fees:

After a thorough review of membership fees and membership benefits, with the approval of President's Office and BOD, we have increased our membership fees for some categories of CPGIS memberships. Student annual membership fee was increased from \$10 to \$20 and regular membership fee from \$20 to \$40. This is the first time

CPGIS raised its membership fee since the associated was founded in 1992. The increase of membership fees will enable CPGIS to keep up with membership benefits (such as free journal subscription and free registration for some CPGIS social and business events including AAG Getting Together). Membership fee increase is effective since April 2009.

(5) Continuing effort to pursue of CPGIS non-profit organization status:

Among the many changes, there is one unchanged theme - the continuous pursuit of CPGIS Non-profit Organization Status. CPGIS Non-profit Organization Status Committee (**Lin Liu - Chair, Aijun Chen, Peng Gong, Yongmei Lu, Xun Shi**) was formed in November 2008 as the only cross-term committee. Considerable research was conducted to understand the procedure and possible costs for such a process. With the success selection of a new host for CPGIS HQ Office, CPGIS Non-profit Organization Status Committee will work closely with Dr. Bao and his team to push this forward.

(6) On-going bylaw review:

As an important response to our continuing growth and many important changes, CPGIS Bylaw Review Committee (**Bin Li (Chair), Dongmei Chen, Fang Qiu, Fahui Wang, and Bing Xu**) took the lead to review CPGIS bylaw and for necessary and appropriate changes. This is an on-going process. Any change of CPGIS bylaw will need a majority approval vote from BOD.

II. **Important CPGIS Events**

With the devoted work of the related CPGIS committees and the support from CPGIS members and friends, we have successfully organized, sponsored, and hosted a series of research, teaching, training, and consulting activities in various formats through diverse channels. The detailed reports from related committees can be found in the appendix section. Here is a brief summary –

(1) CPGIS Getting Together at AAG Conference: Las Vegas, March 24, 2009

With the great work of AAG Getting Together Committee (**Diansheng Guo (Chair), Bernie Fang, Qinghua Guo, Fang Qiu, and Zhixiao Xie**), we had a successful annual business meeting at AAG. Thanks to the many rounds of calculations work by our treasurer (**Chuanrong Zhang**) and the support from BOD, I was able to secure a small budget for CPGIS social gathering after the business meeting, which proved to be very successful and well-received.

(2) CPGIS Go-Home Project: Nan Jing & Nan Chang, May 28 – June 3, 2009

- CPGIS Go-Home Committee (chaired by **Le Wang** and consists of **Xiuping Jia, Hui Lin, and F. Benjamin Zhan**) organized this year's Go-Home project. The participants, including **Xiaoyong Chen, Wendy Guan, Bo Huang, Gaoqing Zhou, and Le Wang**, visited with three institutions in China (Nanjing Normal University, East China Institute of Technology, and Jiangxi Normal University), during which they delivered professional research talks and exchanged research ideas with domestic GIS professionals.
- (3) CPGIS Summer Research Workshop: Beijing, June 18-20
With the support from **Capital Normal University** and **Peking University** (in an amount of roughly ¥70,000), CPGIS 2009 Summer Research Workshop turned out to be a great success. This Research Workshop was a modification of CPGIS Young Scholar Summer Workshop (YSSW). Due to unexpected low response to the original call for participating for CPGIS YSSW, I took the liberty to work with the co-chairs of the committee to expand this event and include broader participants. Final workshop participants were selected based on candidates' research qualification and availability for the workshop. The three themes of the workshop were: *Web & GIS, GIS and Urban Studies, Environment & Health*. More than 40 researchers from China and abroad attended the workshop. There were 15 invited paper presentations and a panel discussion session. The papers were of high quality and the follow-up discussions were fully enjoyed by workshop participants. The workshop program and detailed participants information are included in the appendix. The committee in charge of this event is made of **Jing Zhang (chair), Yu Liu (Co-Chair), Yongmei Lu, Wanxiang Sun, Yongqian Tian, and Xiaobai Yao**.
- (4) CPGIS GIS Training Program: multiple sites in the US, July 19 – August 8, 2009
Under the leadership of **Chaowei Yang**, this year's "Advanced GeoInformation Science Certificate Program" turned out to be another great success. Eighteen GIS professionals from domestic China visited and studied in five universities and institutions in the US during a seven-week period. A number of professors and scientists from various universities, government agencies and companies introduced various cutting-edge topics in GIScience to the trainees. A full list of the participating institutions and instructors can be found in the attached committee report. Committee members include **Fang Qiu, Yifei Sun, David Wong, and Huayi Wu**.
- (5) GeoInformatics' 2009 Conference and CPGIS awards: Fairfax, August 12-14, 2009
The 17th International Conference on GeoInformatics (GeoInformatics 2009) was successfully held on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University. The conference

consists of plenary session, student paper competition sessions, special sessions, general sessions, and a poster session. More than 250 professionals and students from 34 countries and districts participated in the conference. About 240 full papers have been submitted to IEEE to be published by IEEE eXplore as the conference proceedings. CPGIS Annual Conference Committee (**Aijun Chen (chair), Yuqi Bai, liping Di, and Desheng Liu**) are to be congratulated for the success of this conference.

As a highlight of GeoInformatics 2009 Conference, a few CPGIS awards were presented during the Conference Dinner on August 12. With the recommendation from CPGIS Award Committee (chaired by **Bing Xu**, and consisting of **Yehua Wei** and **A-Xing Zhu**), CPGIS 2009 Best Service Award was presented to **Diansheng Guo**.

The papers submitted to student paper competition for GeoInformatics 2009 were fully reviewed for both writing and oral presentation quality. The final awards went to **Donovan H. Parks** (First Place, Dalhousie University, Canada), **Qing Zhao** (Second Place, Chinese University of Hong Kong, China), **Tianfang Fang** (Third Place, Texas State University, USA), and **Lei Wu** (Third Place, Chinese University of Hong Kong, China). Thanks to the hard work of CPGIS Student Paper Competition Committee and all reviewers for the student papers (**Xun Shi (chair), Yuqi Bai, Jenny Du, Wei Luo, Lan Mu, Zhixiao Xie, Bing Xu, and Yang Yue**).

(6) Selection of GeoInformatics' 2010 conference site and host(s)

With the recommendation from CPGIS Conference Site Selection Committee (Chaired by **Wei Luo** and consists of **Aijun Chen, Lan Mu, and Jinfeng Wang**), CPGIS President Office and BOD have approved the selection of Peking University and Capital Normal University to host GeoInformatics' 2010 Conference. The conference will be held on PKU campus on June 18-20, 2010. The announcement was made during the conference dinner at GeoInformatics' 2009. **Yu Liu** and **Aijun Chen** will be Conference Chairs. Please pay attention to the upcoming Call for Papers and consider joining us in Beijing next June.

(7) HOME project

CPGIS HOME Committee (chaired by **Hanming Tu** and consists of **Shuming Bao, Qin Tang, and Bin Li**) has represented CPGIS by participating in a series of activities organized by the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). These include submission of two proposals responding to the 2009 Call for appraisal and selection of outstanding policy proposals and suggestions, and attending the HOME project

Nanjing conference in September 2009. Details are included in the attached committee report.

(8) Poyang Lake project

CPGIS Poyang Lake Project Committee was charged to take lead on various projects that are related to Poyang Lake region and participated by CPGIS members. Committee chair was **Shuming Bao** and committee members included **Peng Gong, Chansheng He, Lin Hui, and Bing Xu**. The major activities include securing grant and publication as well as participating in CPGIS workshops through collaborating with CPGIS Go Home Committee. Please see attached committee report for more information.

III. **CPGIS routine management and services**

While the various CPGIS activities and events are exciting and fruitful, the routine management and services provided by the related CPGIS committees and office holders should never be overlooked. These committees have been working diligently, *often behind the scene*, to ensure smooth operation of CPGIS and continuous benefit to our members. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the volunteer work provided by the following committees / officers –

(1) Membership database

CPGIS Membership Committee is charged to handle membership payment and to maintain member database. Chair of this committee is **Qi Chen** and members consist of **Aijun Chen, Fang Qiu, Jianwu Tang, and Liheng Zhong**. It is a great challenge to integrate membership databases from various sources and to keep it updated. Under the leadership of **Qi Chen**, this committee has been working very hard through collaborating with CPGIS Webpage Committee and CPGIS HQ Office to streamline the related procedure and to maintain a valid membership database. Their work provides the basic membership information that we share with T&F for the delivery of our journal, *Annals of GIS*.

(2) Webpage maintenance

Benefited from webpage design and maintenance procedure from CPGIS 2007-08 Management Team, this committee have provided our community with a relative stable and accessible services. Our members can join CPGIS or renew their membership using our online system and can update their membership information online as well. CPGIS Webpage Committee consists of **Aijun Chen (chair), Qi Chen, Qunying Huang, Yang Liu, Yaxing Wei, and Yanhua Zhao**.

(3) CPGIS Newsletter

CPGIS Newsletter Committee 08-09 was chaired by **Desheng Liu** and members include **Jenny Du, Qinghua Guo, Xin Miao, Jun Yang,** and **Jun Yan** (West Kentucky University). We would not have seen the timely publication of our newsletters without this committee's organized and quality work! Their job report includes all the newsletters we have received throughout the year.

(4) CPGIS HQ Office at UC – Berkeley

Every CPGIS member worked with our HQ Office at UC- Berkeley and enjoyed the services provided by our staff there, especially **Dr. Peng Gong** and **Mr. Liheng Zhong**. In addition, CPGIS cash flows will not be possible without their dedicated work, nor will CPGIS have a reliable mailing address. After all these years' quality services and volunteer works, our UC – Berkeley Office is now undergoing a transferring stage with the CPGIS new HQ Office. The mission of UC –Berkeley HQ Office may have been completed, but the glories will shine into the many future years of CPGIS!

(5) Career Development Committee

Renamed from CPGIS Faculty Development Committee 07-08, this committee has been involved in a broader spectrum of formal and informal advice and consulting activities. The committee report in the appendix includes a list of services provided by this committee in this past year. Committee members are **Lin Liu - Chair, Peng Gong, Bin Li, Liqiu Meng, Shih-lung Shaw, Qin Tang, Jinfeng Wang,** and **David Wong**.

(6) CPGIS President's Office

CPGIS President's Office oversees the operation of CPGIS and facilitates routine and special activities of our association. CPGIS 08-09 office holders for President's Office include **Yongmei Lu** (President), **Aijun Chen** (Vice President, & President Elect for 2009-10 term), **Chuanrong Zhang** (Treasurer), **Liheng Zhong** (Secretary General), **Fang Qiu** (Past President), and **Xun Shi** (President Elect for 2010-11 term). One new role for the President's Office in this past year was to work with BOD in a different manner on various important CPGIS issues in order to make savvy decisions to serve the best interest of CPGIS. For that purpose, we worked as facilitators, organizers, coordinators, and initiators on various CPGIS activities. It was our privilege to serve CPGIS. Personally, I feel being blessed having this opportunity to pay back to this community.

IV. **Issues and recommendations**

I have some observations on a few issues from my service experience in this past year and believe that they should be prioritized on CPGIS' to-do list. I here share them with CPGIS below with the belief that proper addressing of these issues will significantly improve the operation of CPGIS and will definitely ease the transition period of our association –

(1) Streamline the maintenance and updating of membership database

It is critical for both the operation of CPGIS and a health growth of our journal to fully clean and update our membership database. This might be done in three steps: (a) to integrate the different versions of membership databases into a complete and relatively accurate one, (b) to effectively get our members involved in updating their membership information and keeping the information updated, and (c) to create a standard procedure for the maintenance and updating of this database in the future.

I wanted to emphasize that this is definitely one of the most difficult and largest job for CPGIS. The success of it needs collaborative work among membership committee, webpage committee, HQ Office, and **all of CPGIS members**. But it is critical for the operation of CPGIS, management of our journal, and quality of our membership benefits.

(2) Online membership renewal and fee payment

This issue is connected to issue #1 as well as issue #4 below. Our online membership renewal and fee payment system is not stable. This might hurt CPGIS significantly as people tend to be frustrated when they try our webpage but fail. We could lose existing members when renewal is not allowed, and our lost to potential new members might be permanent since it is hard to re-attract people to check a failed web service. From an early investigation conducted by Aijun Chen and Liheng Zhong, I understand that the failure of this function might be related to **the lock implemented to CPGIS account by Paypal** and the solving of this problem needs CPGIS to address issue #4 below.

(3) Clear definition for division of responsibilities between President's office and BOD

This is a totally new issue after the new election of BOD following our bylaw amendment that was passed recently. The operation of CPGIS President's Office and the collaboration between this office and CPGIS BOD need clear official guidance.

(4) CPGIS Non-profit Organization Status

As mentioned in the first section of this report, CPGIS Non-Profit Organization Status is an on-going task for which a cross-term committee is charged to work on. I wanted to re-emphasize here that this should be put on the top of the list for our incoming President. With the selection of a new CPGIS HQ Office, CPGIS needs to work with Shuming and his team to **register CPGIS at our new HQ Office** as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the Non-profit Organization Status Committee needs to prepare to actively pursue 501(c)3 status for CPGIS. This is critical for a more viable and sustainable financial status of CPGIS; it is also essential for our membership maintenance and online payment system.

V. **Financial Report**

It is my pleasure to report that CPGIS has a healthy financial balance by the end of 2008-09 management year. The two expense items were for AAG CPGIS Gathering Social Event and our payment to Paypal by using the online payment system. Starting with a balance of **\$13,126.48**, we ended with a balance of **\$15,754.48**. Details are listed below.

Beginning balance: **\$13,126.48**

Income: \$3,040.00

Member registration and Renew: \$ 440.00

Contribution and Donation: \$2,600.00

• GeoInformatics 2009: \$2200.00

• Other (from CPGIS lifetime members): \$ 400

Expense: \$ 412

CPGIS 2009 AAG Getting Together: \$350

Other (online payment cost / withheld by Papal): \$ 62

Ending balance: **\$15,754.48**

VI. **Concluding Remarks**

After I finished typing the above more than 3,500 words to report our activities in the past year, I feel that I have never been more proud of CPGIS and the 2008-09 Management Team. It was my greatest privilege working with you all. All the success and glories belong to this management team!

With the submission of this report, I declare that CPGIS 2008-09 Management Team is dismissed. I now officially pass the flag of CPGIS to **Dr. Aijun Chen** and his team for another great year for CPGIS!

A few more words

While enjoying the relief of finishing the report, I heard that Beijing already had its first snow of this year. That must have happened when I was organizing all the committee reports and digging through the hundreds of CPGIS-related emails and documents accumulated in my computer during this past year.

瑞雪兆丰年！

The next year for CPGIS will be definitely better!