



NOTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON CARTOGRAPHY AND CHILDREN



Date: 18th of November, 2009

Place: General Bernardo O'Higgins Military School, Santiago de Chile

Number of participants: 22

Countries: 14 (Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Hungary, Indonesia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, USA)

Resume: *The meeting was divided into two parts: during the first 45 minutes Co-Chairs presented shortly all the activities made between 2007 and 2009, talking also about the future plans for the next two years. After the coffee break, for about one and a half hour the Commission discussed the experiences accumulated during the organization of the current Barbara Petchenik Competition and the judging of the entries based on the new rules adopted last year.*

Our first activity within this meeting was to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Commission on Cartography and Children. In 1995 the Working Group on Cartography and Children began its activities, which constituted a solid starting and reference point to found the actual Commission during the International Cartographic Conference held in Ottawa, Canada only four years later. For all the participants in the meeting it constituted a special honour to count with the presence of Jacqueline Anderson (Montreal, Canada), who dedicated considerable efforts to constitute first the Working Group and later the Commission, playing a fundamental role as Chairperson between 1995 and 2003; and to count also with the presence of Regina Araujo de Almeida (Sao Paulo, Brazil), past vice-president of ICA, who also collaborated in the organization of the Working Group and Commission. In this "birthday" we also remembered colleagues as Henry Castner (who worked together with Jacqueline Anderson organizing the Working Group and the Commission) and Patrick Wiegand, founder member and Commission Chair between 2003 and 2007.

After the short "festivity", the meeting followed with the presentation of our activities between 2007 and 2009. During the last two years the Commission organized two meetings: the first one organized within the scope of the 2nd International Conference on Cartography and GIS, held in Borovets (Bulgaria) in January of 2008 and the second one during the Joint Symposium on Cartography and Geoinformatics for Early Warning and Emergency Management in Prague (Czech Republic) one year later.

From 2007 the sending of Commission newsletters by e-mail for the members has become more systematic, writing at least two newsletters a year (February and September). We plan to keep this frequency for the next two years period too, not excluding the option of sending more newsletters in a year if needed.

In September of 2008 the Commission Co-Chairs were contacted by ICA Executive Committee to begin the edition of the 2nd volume of the book "Children Map the World" in collaboration with ESRI. After the first contacts, a team with the participation of four Commission members was formed, which kept in contact with the editors named by ESRI.

During the first half of 2009 was made a selection of 100 drawings sent to the Barbara Petchenik Competitions in 2005 and 2007. In September of 2009 the book was ready for printing and was officially presented by ICA President William Cartwright during ICC2009.

The Commission considers it a very important aim to follow and widen the development of stronger links with international and regional organizations: our common interest is first of all to follow the contacts with the IGU Commission on Geographical Education, and to follow the presentation of the activities of our Commission for regional organizations, trying to wake up the interest of other colleagues working in projects and research related to our field. In the specific case of Europe members have different options to realize this idea, e.g. participating in the activities of EU thematic networks related to Geography, Earth Sciences, etc. Commission members from other continents were encouraged to disseminate the activities of our Commission within other sister regional organizations.

One of the aims for 2007-2011 is the promotion of the use of digital cartography and GIS in schools. In the interest of accomplishing this aim, Commission Co-Chairs encouraged members to organize or participate in the GIS Days, an international event organized in more than 80 countries every year in November. Participants in the meeting were also asked to report their experiences in this kind of activities, sending the information for the Commission newsletter and/or for ICA News too.

Other tasks were also fixed for 2010 and 2011:

- Actualization of the list of members on the Commission website
- Members were asked to send their contributions for the Online Bibliography and Web links on Cartography and Children, to make it accessible for all the Commission members and specialists interested in this theme.
- The Commission will participate in the organization of a new competition, planned for ICC2011 in Paris, France: the Biannual Awards on Educational Cartographic Resources, an initiative that started from a proposal written by our Past Chair Patrick Wiegand in 2005. This year a more detailed preliminary proposal was written and sent to ICA Executive Committee for its consideration and possible approval.
- In our original plan of activities was included the edition of a new book on Educational Cartography (a collection of papers on case studies in this theme). Because of the work on the new "Children Map the World" book, Commission Co-Chairs decided to postpone the contacts about this book on Educational Cartography. Co-Chairs intend to begin the preparatory work during the first half of 2010, arriving at the next Commission Meeting with specific proposals about the themes, structure, etc.

The next Commission meeting will be organized in June 15-20, 2010 in Nessebar, Bulgaria, within the 3rd International Conference on Cartography and GIS.

During this 1st part of the meeting we intentionally left out the discussion about the Barbara Petchenik Competition, to dedicate the 2nd part of the meeting exclusively to this topic.

2ND PART: OPINIONS AND PROPOSALS ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BARBARA PETCHENIK COMPETITION AND THE NEW RULES.

The proposals and opinions received by email before the meeting were summed up in a PowerPoint presentation, which was divided into three main parts:

- Proposals for changes in the new rules
- Experiences judging the entries
- Other opinions related to the Competition

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN THE NEW RULES:

- Reproduction, dissemination of winning entries

Instead of:

Any participant must agree that his/her representation may be reproduced by the **ICA or UNICEF** or scanned for publication on the Internet by Carleton University (on behalf of the ICA) without consultation or copyright fees.

Jesus Reyes (Hungary) proposed to substitute **UNICEF** with “**other international organizations**”

Ferjan Ormeling (The Netherlands) - “**other international non-profit organizations**”

Ana Maria Garra (Argentina) - Other question related indirectly to this theme: can or not a national coordinator (organizer of Barbara Petchenik Competition in his/her own country) use all the national entries freely (e.g. for publication)? Can or not use the winner entries?

Participants agreed to ask ICA legal representative (lawyer) about this question

- Proposals related to age groups:

The participants accepted the proposal sent by Peter vander Krogt (the Netherlands), to make more exact the description of each age group:

At present: under 9 years, 9-12 years, above 12 years

From now: under 9 years, 9 up to and including 12 years, 13 up to and including 15 years

Ana Maria Garra (Argentina) – to add a new age group to the existing three groups: before beginning the Elementary School.

Jacqueline Anderson (Canada) – the age to begin Elementary School is different by country, so it can be difficult to determine the lower bound of the next category (after beginning the Elementary School to 9 years?)

Temenoujka Bandrova (Bulgaria) – does the number of entries justify the creation of a new age group?

Jesus Reyes (Hungary) – Jury can decide if a very young (less than 6 years) child’s entry can obtain or not a special mention considering his/her age and the quality of the work (in 2007

the Jury took a similar decision, giving a special mention to the youngest participant in the competition).

The proposal was not accepted.

- Question about the actual theme of the competition

Ana Maria Garra (Argentina) – Could be changed the actual theme of the competition for 2011? Argentine organizers faced some difficulties to explain for younger children what the meaning of a “globalized world” is.

Ferjan Ormeling (The Netherlands) – Perhaps the solution can be to add a short explanation to clarify the meaning of this theme, what the Commission (organizers) wait from the participants.

Temenoujka Bandrova (Bulgaria) – The rules specify that the theme is valid for two competitions, that it is valid for a period of four years. The “Children Map the World” book edited by ESRI and ICA also presents a selection from two competitions organized under the same theme, so changing the theme could be an unfortunate solution.

Rosangela de Almeida (Brazil) – At the future, we can consider to propose themes closer to cartography, not only general themes.

Diah Kirana Kresnawati (Indonesia) – She agreed to Ormeling’s proposal about adding a short explanation to the theme.

Participants agreed to keep the same theme for the next competition.

- Paper format to draw the maps

At present can be read in the rules that “The maximum size of a map must not exceed A3 (420 mm x 297 mm or 17 x 11 inches)”, leaving open the choice to draw maps less than A3 (e.g. A4 format).

Marcello Martinelli (Brazil) proposed to use only a standard format for all the drawings and this format can be the A3.

This proposal was positively received by the participants.

Ana Maria Garra (Argentina) asked if the base map can be a digital printed map, which the child should draw the content (theme) on.

Other proposal on this topic was sent by Peter vander Krogt (The Netherlands), to detail the physical requirements of the entries sent to the competition. Actually, we can read within the rules that “The maximum size of a map must not exceed A3 (420 mm x 297 mm or 17 x 11 inches) and its surface should be flat; the map can be made using any material, but pasted-on objects may not be higher than 5 mm or 0.2 inch”. His proposal is to change this text to a more detailed one, based on his personal experiences as International Coordinator of the Competition:

- the maximum size must not exceed A3 (420 mm x 297 mm or 17 x 11 inches)
- the surface should be flat and pasted-on objects may not be higher than 5 mm or 0.2 inch and have to be thoroughly fixed.
- the map can be made using any unbreakable material (thus no glass).
- no moveable or folding-out parts covering sections of the drawing (Note: the submissions will be photographed or scanned and the complete drawing has to be visible in one scan or photo).
- no perishable materials (like leaves of plants) may be used.
- do not plasticize or laminate the drawings because that disturbs the physical appearance of the drawing.

His proposal was accepted by the participants.

- Street address to send the entries

Peter van der Krogt asked to include his University street address into the rules, to be used only if the postal service or courier doesn't accept a P.O. Box address when National Organizers send the entries from their countries to The Netherlands.

EXPERIENCES JUDGING THE ENTRIES

- Members' exclusion to vote on maps sent by their own countries and role of the new points system within the judging process

Jacqueline Anderson (Canada) – In this case the points system is detrimental to the countries judging the maps submitted.

Temenoujka Bandrova (Bulgaria) & Jesus Reyes (Hungary) – Jury members' exclusion to vote their own countries was a condition included in the rules from the first competition. Perhaps the new points system makes more remarkable the exclusion, and the difference in points between the 1st (5 points) and 2nd (3 points) place is too high...

Jesus Reyes (Hungary) – A possible solution could be to make shorter the point difference: 1st place - 5 points, 2nd place - 4 points and 3rd place - 3 points???

James Carter (USA) – Perhaps we can try giving only 3 points for 1st place, 2 points for 2nd place and 1 point for the 3rd place.

Jacqueline Anderson (Canada) – At future, we could consider to count not only the number of points, but also the number of members of Jury, who voted for an entry.

These questions remained open for more discussion by email and in the next Commission meeting.

- Judging process based on CD

Ana María Garra (Argentina) – Despite of the high quality of the images on the CD sent to Jury members, sometimes we can not determine, appreciate exactly which materials and techniques were used to make the map.

A possible solution to this situation could be to ask children/teachers to add information about materials and technique of making to the label attached to the back side of the entry, and this information should be also specified on the CD.

Jacqueline Anderson (Canada) – The new points system is a very good tool for a preliminary selection of finalist drawings and a starting point for discussions, but the final decision should be taken personally at ICC conference, having a chance to see personally the original entries and not only the scanned ones.

These proposals were accepted by the participants.

OTHER OPINIONS RELATED TO THE COMPETITION

- Lack of cartographic aspects in entries

Jacqueline Anderson (Canada) – Analyzing the entries sent to the last competitions we can note that the graphic solutions played a more important role than the cartographic aspects.

José Angel Nieto (Spain) – They organize a regional competition in Andalusia (apart from the Barbara Petchenik competition) and their experience is very similar: the sent drawings present more artistic solutions than cartographic ones.

Meith Fagerqvist (Sweden) – Personal contacts with teachers are very important, talking about how children can make the maps...

Temenoujka Bandrova (Bulgaria) – In the rules written for the Barbara Petchenik competition the minimal cartographic requirements are described in detail. So, the accomplishment of these requirements is a key role of the National Coordinators when they make or translate from English the Call for the Competition, and a key role of the National Jury deciding which criteria should play a more important role when they take their decisions.

- Asking some extra-information from participants

Milan Konecny (Czech Republic) – During the making of the 2nd volume of the “Children Map the World”, authors decided to include some interviews with previous winners. It was very difficult to localize them some years after the competition, because we had only “official” data about them (school name, address). We could ask some more personal data (e.g. personal address and counting with the parents’ approval too) when they send their entries to the competition, specifying that this information won’t be public and it will be only used to localize them if needed when ICA publish their maps in collaboration with other organizations.

- About voting slips

In the last three International Cartographic Conferences (A Coruna 2005, Moscow 2007 and Santiago de Chile 2009) Local Organizers made three different voting slips for public vote in the Map and Barbara Petchenik Exhibition. During the final meeting of Judging Panel in Santiago (organized to decide about the winner of public vote), members agreed to design a template for the public vote in the future Barbara Petchenik Exhibitions, to assure that some

elemental data will be asked from the voters. We can propose to use an appropriated version of this template for the General Map Exhibition too.

- Other initiatives for future Exhibitions

Participants in the meeting commented on our distresses related to the impartiality of the public vote, trying to find or at least propose a possible solution. José Angel Nieto (Spain) expressed that the vote could be more impartial if the author's data and the name of the country is not presented together with the entry ("anonym" exhibition).

Marcela Riveros (Chile) – From the next International Cartographic Conference the Barbara Petchenik Competition could include two new panels showing the final winners of the previous competition together with the actual entries.

This last proposal was accepted by all the participants.

Finally, all the participants in the Commission Meeting wish to express their sincere congratulations to Marcela Riveros for all her efforts organizing the Barbara Petchenik Exhibition in ICC2009, and for her original and laudable initiative of creating a wonderful catalogue presenting all the entries submitted to the Exhibition in printed format.