



To:  
Prof. Yukio Himiyama  
President of the International Geographical Union (IGU)  
Hokkaido University of Education, Japan  
E-mail: yukiohimiyama@gmail.com

Prof. Michael Meadows  
Secretary General of the International Geographical Union (IGU)  
University of Cape Town, South Africa  
E-mail: michael.meadows@uct.ac.za  
February 12, 2018

Alicante, March 22, 2018

As President of the Association of Spanish Geographers and, on behalf of its members, I have the honour of nominating Prof. Rubén C. Lois Gonzáles as the Spanish candidate for the vice-presidency of the IGU at the upcoming elections in April 2018.

Prof. Lois is currently a member of the Association of Spanish Geographers, in which he was elected on October 27, 2017, as the person in charge of International and Institutional Relations. Since then he has also been a member of the Spanish Committee in the IGU. Moreover, since February 2016 he has been the vice-president-elect of the Latin American Geography Working Party.

Prof. Lois has been an active participant in the activities organised by the IGU, not only by means of his presence and participation in congresses since 1996, but also by being an active part of the commissions. Between 2004 and 2012, he was a Member of the IGU Commission of Cultural Geography's Steering Committee. Furthermore, he participated in organising the conferences of the IGU Commissions of Urban Geography (2006 in Santiago de Compostela, and in 2017 in Salvador de Bahia), Cultural Geography (Santiago de Compostela 2008) and Rural Geography (Santiago de Compostela 2018).

Prof. Lois is an expert on Urban Geography and Planning. He is a professor of Regional Geographical Analysis at the University of Santiago de Compostela, where he is in charge of the ANTE-IDEGA Research Group. At this university, he has been elected to several posts such as: Director of the Geography Department (1995-1999 and 2017-present); Dean of the Faculty of Geography and History (2005-2009); Director of the Network of Universities of the Galicia-North Portugal Region (2013-2017).



He has enjoyed a brilliant academic career, backed by the leadership of more than several dozen research projects, the publication of more than 200 books and articles in the best Spanish and international Geography publishing houses and journals, and the supervision of more than 25 doctoral theses. He has also held important public posts, being the Autonomous Government of Galicia's Director-General of Tourism (2005-2009) and member-elect of the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela's senate (1999-present).

The Association of Spanish Geographers, which I represent, strongly supports his candidacy for the IGU's vice-presidency, since we are convinced that he is the right person to carry out the functions that this post requires. In view of his outstanding career, we are sure that, if elected, he will play a very active role in favour of Geography. Moreover, his role will be essential in the involvement and integration of Spanish and Latin American geographers in the IGU.

Trusting that the IGU will consider Prof. Lois' nomination and take into account his academic curriculum and institutional representation of Spanish geography throughout his university career, please let me know if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely,



Jorge Olcina Cantos  
President of the Association of Spanish Geographers