

## **GSP Working Committee Meeting 2013 Confirmed Outcomes**

### **Host**

ETH Zurich, 9 – 10 September 2013

### **1.1 Introduction**

Jürg Brunnschweiler, Director Global Institutional Affairs of ETH Zurich, welcomed all participants to the meeting. He stressed the importance of the GSP as one of the flagships of IARU.

Anders Hagström welcomed the participants on behalf of the IARU Secretariat.

### **Session 1: GSP 2013**

#### **1.2 GSP 2013 Course Review**

##### **Australian National University**

ANU offered two courses, of which the course “Indigenous Peoples and Development” was run for the first time. As the feedback was excellent for both courses, they will be offered again next year. The field trips of both courses (13 and 11 students respectively) was subsidized and will also be subsidized next year.

With regards to the outgoing students, ANU had changed its practice from last year. The amount of financial support for each students depended on the course costs. Due to this change, the number of applications dropped from approximately 300 to 200. Overall, ANU experienced a successful GSP year.

##### **ETH Zurich**

“ETH Sustainability” develops a new course every year. This year, the course was conducted at ETH’s Future Cities Laboratory on the CREATE campus in Singapore. The course also involved faculty from NUS and other Singapore institutions. Due to the tight course schedule, the planned interaction with the students of the GSP courses at NUS was not possible. The course counted a total of 29 students, 14 of them from ETH.

ETH received only a total of 10 applications of outgoing students. 8 of them were accepted. More promotional activities are planned next year.

##### **National University of Singapore**

Out of the two offered courses, “Southeast Asia in Context” proved to be more popular. NUS received a total of 108 applications of which 27 outgoing students were selected. Three students withdrew. NUS organized a get-together session for the outgoing students with the attendance of former GSP participants.

### Peking University

PKU offered two courses. Inputs from student feedbacks from last year were analyzed to improve modules of the course on “Population Ageing and Health”: More pre-course reading material was provided, the number of faculty members from other institutions was increased and the students were involved more actively through group work and peer learning. The course on Chinese culture was offered for the first time and comprised many lively classroom discussions and video presentations. The course was well received and will be offered again.

There was a drop in student applications (18 compared to 32 last year). Next year, the promotion of GSP will be improved by particularly addressing the faculty members of the institutions.

Some student withdrawals were due to late confirmations by the partners. Students chose other options out of the many available summer programs.

### University of California, Berkeley

The same two courses as in the last years were offered – the “Summer Peace Institute” in Costa Rica and the “Media and Global Protest Movements” course on campus. Feedbacks were positive. Challenges included students’ language proficiency, the mix of graduates and non-graduates and student behavior. For 2014, Berkeley will explore a more open enrolment to explicitly include graduate students.

### University of Cambridge

The incoming students were excellent. However, out of the 12 students accepted, 6 were lost along the way before the course started. Cambridge plans to offer a very similar course in 2014.

Cambridge ran a more active publicity campaign than in previous years and managed to get more outgoing students interested. Some 23 applicants were interviewed, and those selected (and accepting) places were invited to an orientation session, attended by a previous Cambridge GSP participant. In total, 12 students attended 13 courses.

### University of Copenhagen

KU offered three courses. GSP courses at KU have been based on a 3-year commitment of faculty. As this 3-year cycle has come to an end, different courses might be offered next year. Due to the change in government regulations, for the first time, KU had to charge tuition fees, except for students whose home university has signed a fee-waiving agreement with KU (currently ANU, ETH, NUS and UTokyo). This made the courses very expensive for non-EU students. The students had a good time – academically and socially. The Danish students acted well as hosts.

The number of applications of outgoing students increased from last year. Out of over 60 applications, 33 students participated in GSP. The students received funding from KU and Santander that was allocated according to course cost.

### University of Oxford

The course “Global Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” received positive feedback. The course will be offered next year again. The course description had been improved compared to last year; there is still

a need for a clearer description with regards to the expected pre-course knowledge. The number of only 12 incoming students was disappointing. The students would have welcomed a higher diversity.

For outgoing students, the publicity was increased, which resulted in a higher level of applications compared to the previous year. There was also an increase in the number of students who attended. However, the level is still low compared to some other institutions. Oxford hopes to increase the numbers next year.

In addition to the IARU-Santander GSP Scholarships, Oxford had separate funding from the local Santander Bank branch which was used to support incoming students.

#### University of Tokyo

UTokyo offered 4 courses, one of them a language course. Feedback was mostly positive. The essential success factors included classroom discussions, the general interaction of the participants, the provided pre-reading material and the newly introduced web-dictionary. The multidisciplinary approach presented a challenge as the students' pre-course knowledge was on different levels.

UTokyo received fewer applications from outgoing students than last year because the required English level was set higher. The English language skills issue is still not entirely resolved.

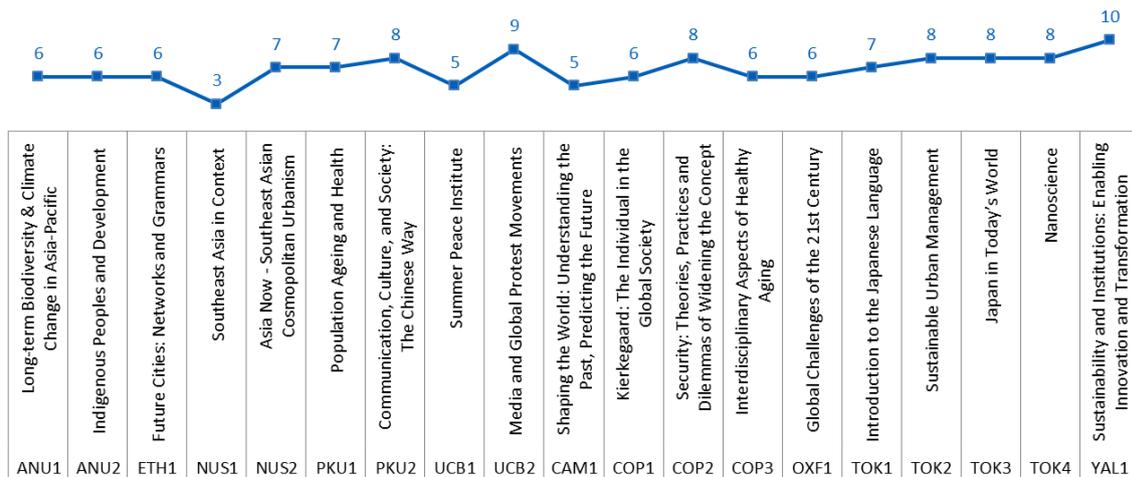
#### Yale University

Yale offered one course this year. It was extended from 5 to 6 weeks, allowing for a research week for students to write a paper. As the GSP instructor, Julie Newman has left Yale, the course cannot be offered again next year. Yale is exploring offering the UN course next year that was in the program before and will contact the member institutions to determine appropriate faculty members to teach in the Yale GSP course 2014. Two professors from Peking University taught at Yale Summer Session in non-GSP courses.

### 1.3 GSP 2013 Review

A total of 19 GSP courses were offered 2013. The courses were diverse in terms of length, cost and timing. Applications dropped significantly compared to the last years (2013: 609, 2012: 889, 2011: 768). A total of 328 IARU students attended GSP 2013 (2012: 352).

The following table shows an overview of the courses and includes an indication of the diversity of student representation from the ten institutions:



Yale hosted the only course with full participation from all member institutions. Most applications were received at ANU; Copenhagen had most outgoing students; and UTokyo welcomed most incoming students.

In the discussion, the following concerns were addressed:

- NUS, Cambridge and Oxford conducted courses with a total cost to students of more than USD 5,000. NUS announced that in 2014, there will be a 50% tuition award for all incoming students for all courses.
- The meeting agreed to declare the classroom contact hours. The Secretariat will include this information in the template of “Course Info Part II”.
- The sense of “IARUness” is more difficult to create among students when many non-IARU students participate. Students appreciate the interaction with a diverse community of peers, hence full representation of all IARU institutions would be appreciated.
- Views differ with regard to the differentiation of GSP to other summer programs. ANU is considering having an IARU exclusive course.

#### 1.4 2013 Post-Course Survey Analysis

Romana Rutz presented the key findings of the student survey:

- A total of 233 students responded, which represents 58% of all participants (local and non-IARU students included). Two courses had a response rate of 100%. The lowest response rate was 24%. The survey procedure was the same for all courses.
- For most students, GSP 2013 was a very good experience overall. 91% would recommend GSP to peers (8% answered neutral, 1% said no).
- The strengths of GSP 2013 were the performance of the instructors, student diversity and classroom discussions.
- An area for improvement is the pre-departure course information – a weakness that has also been recognized in previous years.
- The survey results of the individual courses differed significantly, which means that the courses were offered at heterogeneous levels.
- Some survey questions need to be made more specific to make the results more meaningful, for example: If a course is perceived as rigorous or taught at the right level depends on the academic

background of a student. Regarding pre-departure course information, some students refer to the information provided on the webpage while others refer to the information given by the host university or by the course instructors a few days or weeks before the commencement of the course.

- Some questions address the same topic and/or correlate. To make the survey shorter, these questions can be deleted.
- Students said that the given pre-departure course information was helpful. The more information the better as they want to know what to expect. However, they would have appreciated if the information were available earlier, especially the required reading material. Students should be provided with more detailed information about the expected background knowledge.
- Students who participated in a course of 2–3 weeks length wished that the course had lasted longer.
- Student diversity is a key success factor of GSP. Speaking of diversity, students refer to different nationalities and cultural backgrounds, but also to different academic disciplines and the mix of undergraduate and graduate students. According to the students, the student diversity is what makes the program most worthwhile. Students would welcome an even greater student diversity.
- When choosing a GSP course, course content is the most deciding factor. Students look for course content that is related to their studies and interests. Scholarship availability and course cost are other important deciding factors.

## Session 2: Course Administration and Logistics

### 2.1 Discussion of Key Issues

#### Nomination Process

Coordinators had cases where students from IARU universities applied directly to the host university, circumventing the application process of the home university. The meeting agreed that such students must go through the application process of the home university and cannot be accepted directly by the host university. Students who apply directly without having been nominated by their home university should be referred to the GSP coordinator of their home university.

#### Cancellation Policy / Cost

GSP 2013 was marked by numerous student cancellations. Identified reasons and the agreed measures to be taken are:

Cancellation reason	Measure
Student nominated for more than one course	In general, a student should be nominated only for one course as multiple nominations are bound to cause confusion for both the organizers and the student. If a student has applied for several courses, the sending university should select the student for one of the courses. If a course has vacancies, the GSP coordinator of the organizing university should advise the other universities so that they can give students a second chance who had been turned down by the original course they had been nominated for.
Acceptance uncertainty	Students who have to wait a long time for the notification of acceptance to a course might go for another program. The meeting agreed to try to

Cancellation reason	Measure
	send out acceptance notes to nominated students as early as possible.
Financial reasons	Students know what the total cost of a course is from the course descriptions, but not what financial aid they can count on. The meeting recognized that each organizing university bears the financial responsibility of their course(s). It is thus not possible to set a general cap for the course costs. However, efforts should be made to keep the tuition fees low and to make the financial support more transparent. If a course is very expensive, the costs should be explained in the pre-course description. Estimates about additional costs, such as visa fees should also be included. The prospective student should get a clear picture of the expected costs and funding.

The meeting generally agreed that GSP should be something special and that students should feel honored having been nominated and accepted. This feeling could be emphasized by the Secretariat sending out a welcome letter to the accepted students. Furthermore, student comments could be publicized on the GSP website to stress the uniqueness of the program.

#### *Best Practices*

ANU needs to book flights and accommodation of the field trips ahead. As this causes significant expenditures, ANU gives the students a deadline for withdrawals without a financial penalty. The charge penalty is AUD 250 (approx. USD 250).

For other study abroad programs, ETH sanctions students withdrawing without a valid reason by excluding them from applying to further exchange programs.

#### *Publicity*

- The meeting agreed that the Secretariat should upload an overview of all courses on the GSP website. The overview will include information about the course durations and total costs allowing the students to compare the courses more easily.
- The Secretariat invites the partners to use the IARU logo on their webpages and link the Global Summer Program with IARU.

#### *GSP Facebook Page*

The GSP coordinators confirmed that all GSP pictures sent to the Secretariat can be used to be uploaded on Facebook and/or IARU's webpage. It is advised to include a picture release agreement already in the GSP course offer letter.

The Secretariat invites partners to actively share GSP news to be put on the GSP Facebook page or webpage. PKU reminds the partners that Facebook cannot be accessed within China.

#### *Certificates*

The decentralized process of the certificates is working well. The Secretariat reminds the GSP coordinators that each *host* university should hand-out the GSP Certificates to the participating students on the last day of the course. In cases such as the ANU course where the certificates cannot be handed out on the last day of the course because it is not clear at that time if the students have

passed the course, it remains the responsibility of the host university to send the Certificates to the students.

#### Pre-Selection Information

Pre-selection information and course descriptions should be more specific about expected background knowledge and prerequisites. It should also be clearly stated whether a course is intended for undergraduate and/or graduate students. The Secretariat will adjust the template of “Course Info Part II” accordingly.

#### Insurance

Information about additional insurance requirements that students should expect is to be included in the course information.

#### Courses Held in Another Country

ETH shared that the administrative burden is considerably heavier when conducting a course in another country. It is advisable to have a supporting partner institution in that country.

#### Handling of Incoming Exchange Students Interested in GSP

ETH and KU shared that they exclude incoming exchange and visiting students from participating in the GSP.

#### Online Application System

ANU and NUS use their own online application system for outgoing students. It is agreed that partner universities are free to have their own systems/processes. As each application system must suit the individual needs of the operating university, it was agreed that a centralized IARU online application system would not be worth the effort.

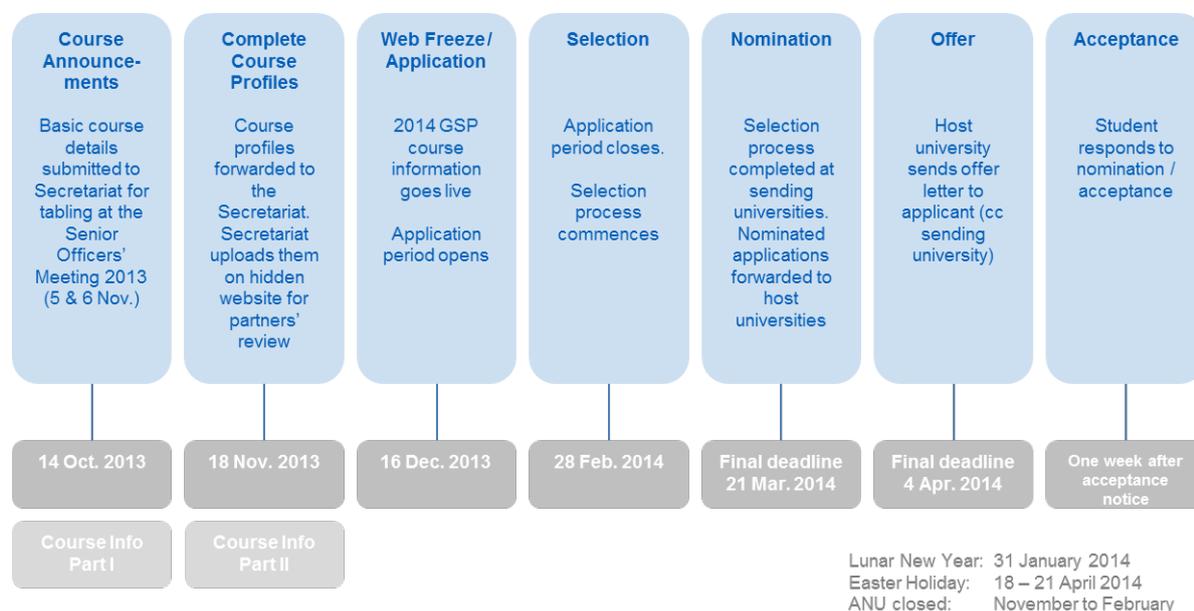
## 2.2 Administrative Matters

#### GSP T-Shirts / GSP Logo

Participants of 11 out of 19 courses 2013 received GSP t-shirts (out of the production batch 2012). It was agreed that GSP t-shirts will no longer be centrally produced by the Secretariat. The Secretariat provides the partners with the logo/design. Partners are free to decide whether they want to equip their students with IARU branding material (e.g. t-shirts, bags, caps etc.). To promote the IARU brand, it was decided not to use the separate GSP logo but to use the IARU logo, the listing of the 10 universities and the name “Global Summer Program” instead.

## Timeline for GSP 2014

Coordinators agreed on the following timeline:



Internal processes of the partner universities differ significantly. For this reason, the meeting agreed that it would not be possible to move the general timeline forward even further. Partners will try hard to speed up the processing of applications after the close of the application period on 28 February 2014. The selection/forwarding and the approval processes should to be done as quickly as possible.

### Further Deadlines to Keep in Mind

- First week after the course has started: Send student data (given name, family name, e-mail address, home university) to the Secretariat. Also include the data of non-IARU and local students. This data is needed to conduct the centrally coordinated survey.
- Last day of the course (or when course completion results are available): Hand-out GSP Certificates to students
- Approx. end of August (Secretariat will inform in advance about exact due date):
  - Course reports
  - Santander report

The Secretariat will send out reminders and all necessary templates (Course Info Part I/II, GSP Certificate, course report, Santander report) in due time.

### Outlook of GSP 2014 Courses

University	Courses (tbc)	Comments
ANU	2	Call made to the faculty in July/August. Approximately 3 proposals are expected.
ETH	1	Overriding theme will be sustainability, course to be held in Switzerland
NUS	2	Southeast Asia in Context: Will stay the same New program for "Asia Now" NUS usually informs the faculty about the possibility to offer GSP courses. A 3-year commitment per course is required.

University	Courses (tbc)	Comments
PKU	2	PKU will choose suitable courses out of the pool of international courses and looks for experienced faculty with good English skills.
Berkeley	2	New courses (always on the lookout for potential courses and professors with good teaching skills). Considering to offer a graduate/postgraduate course within GSP
Cambridge	1	Similar course as this year, to be developed based on past student feedbacks
Copenhagen	3	Looking for a new set of courses (new 3-year cycle of faculty commitment)
Oxford	1	Repeat of 2013 course
UTokyo	4	Repeat of the 4 courses from 2013, revised credit scheme
Yale	1-2	Looking out for new courses by asking departments directly Preferably a joint proposal: co-teaching with other institutions

### Student Survey

Coordinators agreed that the survey results are partly predictable. Some of the questions overlap. In particular, questions Q1 (academic rigor) and Q13 (broader IARU network) need to be rethought. The Secretariat will use the input to revise the survey and will circulate a draft to GSP coordinators.

Some partner universities require the outgoing students to write a report. With the student's consent, the forwarding of these reports to the host universities would be appreciated.

### 2.3 Santander Funding and Scholarship Arrangements

The Santander agreement limits scholarships to a maximum of USD 2,000 per student. In addition, Santander has asked that scholarships should be at least USD 1,000 per student to be "significant". However, the agreement also states that all IARU universities shall seek to provide further aid for students. The Secretariat is in the process of clarifying with Santander if the scholarship can be less than USD 1,000 per student when the Santander monies are used as "top-up funding" (in addition to the financial support from the student's home university).

The universities should try to use the full amount of USD 20,000 per year, as carrying over a large amount of unconsumed funds every year will weaken IARU's case when asking for follow-up funding. If the full amount cannot be used for outgoing students, the remaining funds should be offered to incoming students who have not yet received the maximum of USD 2,000 of the IARU-Santander GSP Scholarship by the sending university.

The coordinators welcomed the idea to share the amount of funding each student has received, including other funds than the IARU-Santander GSP Scholarships.

The current Santander agreement is valid for three years and terminates with GSP 2014. The Secretariat will approach Santander for a follow-up funding in spring 2014.

If Santander is willing to continue and increase their sponsorship, the GSP coordinators suggest to use the additional funds as follows:

- Make the GSP experience possible to more students
- Program for graduate students (e.g. graduate student conference)

- Funding of the Global Internship Program
- GSP faculty conference

## 2.4 GSP Alumni

In many partner universities, GSP alumni are involved in information sessions for outgoing GSP students or serve as campus ambassadors for incoming GSP students.

With regards to the GSP alumni survey 2014 (batches 2011–2013), Jane Edwards (Yale) volunteered to draft a proposal taking into consideration the inputs of the meeting. In general, the survey should aim to ask quality-oriented and reflective questions. We want to find out whether GSP was more than only a three-weeks experience. The alumni should also be asked for ideas on how to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> GSP anniversary 2017. It was recognized that it might be difficult to achieve a satisfactory response rate as many universities do not have established mechanisms for tracking GSP alumni after graduation.

## Session 3: GSP Further Directions

### 3.1 GSP Collaborative Courses and a GSP Hub?

At the GSP Working Committee Meeting 2012, the idea of regional GSP “hubs” was discussed. With several thematically related courses, such hubs would gather a larger pool of students in one location, making it easier to organize team teaching, comparative studies and interaction between different groups of students. ANU and Berkeley committed to explore the idea to start the exploration of the “hub” idea – aiming to be implemented in 2015 or 2016. Other IARU educational initiatives are to be kept in mind when thinking about the hubs. A draft proposal will be circulated among the GSP coordinators and then presented at the Senior Officers’ Meeting in November.

For the Yale Summer Sessions, Yale invited two professors from PKU to teach non-GSP courses. As this proved to be successful, Yale supports the idea of future co-teaching for GSP and will send out select invitations to IARU partners to seek faculty members to teach in a joint program. The coordinators concluded that faculty team teaching is a simple and effective area for collaboration. The universities are asked to make existing opportunities transparent.

### 3.2 Synergies with Other IARU Global Education Initiatives Activities

In 2010, Presidents asked the GSP group to take responsibility of all educational programs. At the time, the group felt that it was premature to take on this broader responsibility as the GSP was still in a development phase. As Presidents in April 2013 reconfirmed their wish to strengthen the IARU educational activities, the Secretariat felt it was important that the group be aware of the ongoing IARU educational initiatives to be able to use potential synergies.

- The **Global Internship Program** is a platform for partners to offer internships to students who thus get an opportunity to gain international (work) experience. ETH reported about the excellent experience made in summer 2013 with IARU interns. Several partners offer internship opportunities through existing programs that are not IARU-specific. A first step in broadening internship opportunities for IARU students would be to promote these programs within the

Alliance. Coordinators agreed to make existing internship programs available through the IARU website.

- **Campus Sustainability Fellowships** are offered by the sustainability offices. It is a self-run program and based on reciprocal arrangements. GSP coordinators are encouraged to contact the person within their university who is responsible for the fellowships to explore possible synergies with the GSP. Contacts are available from the Secretariat on request.
- **Graduate Student Conference:** Presidents have confirmed their support for activities for graduate students. KU will host the second Graduate Student Conference in 2014. Some GSP courses are already available to graduate students. Partners are asked to look out for further existing opportunities on the graduate student level that can be extended to IARU graduate students.
- **Global Cross-Disciplinary Tournament (GXT):** The GXT was initiated as a GSP “spin-off” by an ANU student 2011. It has been run three times. ANU students are thinking of assuming the responsibility for organizing the GXT 2014.
- **IARU Sports Event:** ETH Zurich has proposed to host a IARU Sports Event in conjunction with the Presidents’ Meeting in April 2013. The GSP coordinators expressed their concern with regards to the academic gain, timing (exam period) and cost of participation.

## Session 4: Course Quality & Academic Rigor

### 4.1 Course Design and Quality

An ongoing discussion among GSP coordinators is about what makes (or should make) the GSP unique. While defining the differentiation factor is difficult, the coordinators believe that the GSP package as a whole must make GSP an outstanding experience for the students. To make/keep the program distinctive, partners reconfirmed their commitment a) to adhere to the GSP Aims & Principles, b) to make efforts to achieve broad student participation in each course and c) to include research components in the courses.

Coordinators agreed that providing a meeting opportunity for faculty who are teaching GSP courses might be a good way to develop a common approach to courses. This could take the form of a “GSP teaching conference” or “GSP faculty conference” in parallel to the GSP coordinators meeting. Involving faculty in the GSP Working Committee itself have been only partly successful in the past. However, the participation of Prof. Paulin Straughan, Vice-Dean of the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, in the current meeting demonstrated the value of such a direct exchange and coordinators thanked her for her valuable input.

## Session 5: Wrap-Up

### 5.1 Summary, Reporting to Senior Officers

- The Secretariat will prepare a report of the GSP Working Committee Meeting 2013 to be presented at the Senior Officers’ Meeting in November. The draft report will be circulated to the GSP coordinators for comments.

- ANU and Berkeley will draft a “hub” proposal to be presented to the Senior Officers for further considerations.
- Yale will draft a proposal of the GSP alumni survey 2014.

## 5.2 Next Meeting

Considering the many proposals in the pipeline, the coordinators agreed on the necessity to meet again next year. As delegates from 5 IARU universities plan to attend the 2014 EAIE conference in Prague, the group decided to meet in Europe. Liza Denny offered to explore the possibility of hosting the meeting at University of Oxford on 22–23 September 2014.

