



# GIREP Newsletter

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## EDITOR'S SECTION

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Dear Colleagues,

Electronic GIREP newsletters used to be a service to active members of GIREP only and were consequently published in the member section of the GIREP homepage. My request for feedback in the last GIREP newsletter (February 2012) showed that members found it difficult to access the newsletter. Additionally, several non-members expressed their interest for the newsletter. This issue was discussed in our GIREP committee meeting. We came to the conclusion to move the newsletter section to the main web-site and make it accessible for everybody interested. We hope this will foster communication among the community. Following the tradition, we will announce the publishing of a new newsletter through e-mail.

Following the two stars and a wish strategy, I repeat and emphasise **my invitation to you to contribute to the E-Newsletter** (upcoming events, announcements, news from your countries, etc.). As already mentioned in the last newsletters, we plan to have three newsletter issues per year (autumn, winter, spring/ summer) and hope for your support as a reader or an active contributor. The deadline for messages to be included in the next issue of this newsletter is **September 30, 2012**.

I am looking forward to your contributions. Hope to see you at the WCPE in Istanbul. Have a nice summer!

Editor of GIREP Newsletter, Claudia Haagen

## GIREP Committee Meeting – March 2012

The GIREP committee had an intersessional meeting at the Charles University in Prague on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March. The **most important topics** on the agenda of the Prague meeting were: the organization of the WCPE in Istanbul in July, upcoming GIREP-conferences, membership development, the GIREP-homepage and future prospects. The most important decisions arrived at during the intensive discussion process of the meeting will be presented in this newsletter.

The most prominent **achievements** are: A guiding handbook for future GIREP-conference organisers, a redesign of the GIREP-homepage, reorganisation of the GIREP membership data base.

The next GIREP committee meeting will take place in Istanbul during the WCPE.

## GIREP Membership: renewal & fees

The first half of 2012 will end soon, and so does the first part of the GIREP membership year.

We want to thank all members who have already supported GIREP for 2012 by paying the membership fee. If you are not sure about your status concerning membership fees, you can check it in the member section on our homepage. Payment information can be found on the GIREP homepage (<https://www.girep.org/information.html>).

We also invite everybody interested in physics teaching and learning as well as in physics education research to join GIREP. You can become member easily. Just follow that link: <https://www.girep.org/register.html>.

As a GIREP member you have **exclusive access** to the digital proceedings of the past GIREP conferences. In addition you can get a **reduced registration fee** for GIREP conferences.

All GIREP members at the **WCPE 2012** will have several **opportunities to pay the membership fees** for 2012 and/or 2013. Our treasurer Leoš Dvořák will be around during the whole conference. Place and time for membership renewal during the conference will be announced!

### **ATTENTION: You have paid reduced registration fee for WCPE 2012 but have not yet paid the GIREP fee?**

At the WCPE registration desk you will have to pay the membership fee for 2012 and 2013 to get access to the conference.

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*Become member of  
GIREP or join the GIREP  
mailing list by registering  
electronically*

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## Changes on the GIREP homepage

In the GIREP Committee meeting in March, we decided to make some structural changes on the GIREP homepage:

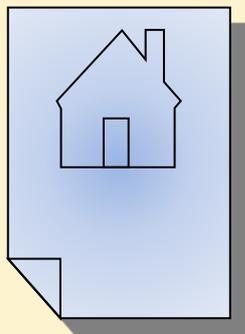
The **newsletter section** was moved from the member section to the public area of the homepage. So now everybody interested in the current newsletter or the newsletter archive can easily access it.

The section containing **electronic proceedings** of past GIREP conferences and seminars was moved to the member section. Only members who have their membership fee account in balance are able to access this section.

All attentive readers of the GIREP homepage may have noticed some minor changes which were meant to avoid redundancies, improve layout and reduce typos.

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*Changes on the GIREP-*



## World Conference on Physics Education

### Current Status

The WCPE 2012 is just about to come. About 325 participants are expected. 250 contributions of different types were submitted and build the base for the interesting and rich scientific program which can be found on the WCPE homepage [www.wcpe2012.org](http://www.wcpe2012.org).

For the first time in GIREP history a **special teacher program** was organized to tighten the exchange between school and research by establishing contact between teachers and researchers as well as among teachers from different countries.

The GIREP committee is happy that this **special emphasis on the involvement of teachers** was well accepted by both communities. More than 20 teachers from 17 countries applied for the teacher program. For details see [http://www.wcpe2012.org/Physics\\_Teachers.html](http://www.wcpe2012.org/Physics_Teachers.html).

All **national GIREP representatives** are invited to a meeting and informal get-together after the GIREP Assembly meeting on Thursday.



*Teachers going to the World Conference on Physics Education*

### ASSEMBLY MEETING

The GIREP Assembly meeting is held during GIREP conferences which take place every even year. The next assembly meeting will take place during the WCPE 2012, on **Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm**.

All members of GIREP are invited to come to the assembly. The agenda will be announced in advance. We are looking forward to your coming and contributions.

## GIREP Conference 2013

The GIREP committee decided to skip next year' GIREP conference due to the jam of conferences in the field of science education research taking place in 2013. The one year break shall be used to reconsider the organisational structure etc. of GIREP conferences in general.

The **2014 GIREP conference** will be held in **Palermo**, Italy. Details about upcoming conferences will be presented in the assembly meeting and on the GIREP homepage. We are looking forward to welcoming you again in Sicily in 2014.



## What's going on? – Newsflashes from GIREP countries

This is a new section of the GIREP newsletter informing GIREP members what's going on in the GIREP member countries. We would like to encourage you to contribute to this section.

Send your contributions to [claudia.haagen@unvie.ac.at](mailto:claudia.haagen@unvie.ac.at).



### Teacher Training Sessions in Japan

APEJ (Association for Physics Education of Japan) has developed a systematic teacher-training program to encourage physics teachers to practice experiments and demonstrations in their classes. Actual sessions of the program have been held in Tokyo every summer since 2008. In the sessions, teachers usually realize that basic and fundamental experiments and demonstrations are not as difficult to do as they imagine. A presentation on these sessions was given in GIREP 2011, in Jyväskylä, Finland.

The sessions are conducted by voluntary-teachers. They work as instructors based on their teaching experiences and research activities. Participants can gain useful knowledge and skills from practical instructions, while the instructors can reflect their instructions to improve their knowledge and skills through the sessions.

This kind of teacher-training sessions is not restricted in Tokyo. One session based on this program took place in Hokkaido in January this year. The Hokkaido Branch of the Physics Education Society of Japan and of APEJ organized an executive committee for the session. Twenty-four physics teachers participated in it. Twelve instructors prepared six workshops on experimental topics:

- grating
- standing wave of string
- measurement of  $g$
- electrostatics
- ripple tank
- conservation of mechanical energy.

In this training-workshop in Hokkaido, all experimental workshops lasted 40 minutes and were performed six times. Consequently, during about 5 hours, all participants could join 6 workshops and all instructors could talk to all participants.

The executive committee sent a questionnaire to the participants after the session in Hokkaido. Some of the participants did not have a major in physics from university. All participants, however, answered that the training-workshop had been very useful and discussions with the instructors had been very fruitful. All recognized the importance of basic and fundamental experiments for high school physics teaching anew. One of the participants gave us such a comment: "Let sleeping instruments in the cabinet wake up and work."

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## Promotion of a “young” physics education journal – *EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PHYSICS EDUCATION*

EJPE (<http://ejpe.erciyes.edu.tr>) is an **international peer-reviewed, scientific journal** dedicated to contributing publishing of quality physics education articles throughout the world since 2010. EJPE is established to increase the number of especially physics education academic papers for educators.

EJPE uses Open Journal System (OJS) for submission and checking the status of submitted manuscripts. EJPE utilizes double blind reviews by its reviewers. Average review process of EJPE is around 4 weeks.

The aim of the European Journal of Physics Education is to **disseminate original theoretical and empirical research on physics education**. Contributions are invited from the international community of researchers. EJPE content includes original research papers; book reviews; classroom physics ideas; critical reviews.

**Editor of EJPE:**

Assis.Prof.Dr.Bayram Akarsu  
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**Please send contributions for next GIREP Newsletter till September 30, 2012!**