



IRC 2026

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

İSTANBUL - TÜRKİYE
17-21 AUGUST 2026





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WELCOME MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues,

We invite you to discover the riches of Geographical science worldwide and to come together to understand and cooperate with each other on a global level! The IGU Regional Conference, which will be held in Istanbul in 2026, provides a platform to emphasize the importance of geographical research and science. This conference will offer new perspectives on understanding the profound effects of geography on natural and human systems, stimulate discussions aimed at finding solutions to global challenges, and bring together the geography community around the world.

The conference will take place between 17-21 August 2026 at Istanbul University, an ideal place to discover the historical and cultural riches of Istanbul.

Our conference will be full of sessions reflecting the comprehensive perspective of Geography. You will meet with experts who will address important issues such as sustainable management of natural resources, climate change effects, protection of cultural heritage and digital geography, share your knowledge and experiences and establish new collaborations.

This conference emphasizes the global importance of Geography science and offers participants the opportunity to exchange knowledge, get inspired and establish long-term collaborations with colleagues from different geographies. You will also have the chance to experience the rich cultural heritage of Istanbul with activities such as social events and city tours to be held during the conference.

We believe that every participant in our conference plays an important role in deeply understanding the impact of geography on the world and producing solutions to global problems. We will be very happy to see you among us in this unifying atmosphere.

It's time to come together to discover the power of Geography and unite the worlds. See you in Istanbul for an unforgettable experience!

Regards,

Prof. Dr. Barbaros Gönençgil

Head of Local Organizing Committee

MAIN THEME

IGU 2026 Regional Conference

Exploring the Earth, Connecting Worlds

Geography is a discipline that seeks not only to understand the physical and human landscapes of the Earth, but also to improve the connections and relationships between diverse societies and ecosystems globally. This motto underlines the importance of geographical knowledge in tackling global challenges, promoting sustainability, and improving international cooperation and understanding.

IRC 2026 İSTANBUL KEY TOPICS

- Globalization vs Localization
- Climate Change
- Migration and Conflicts
- Earth and Disasters
- Eurasia and Middle East Studies
- Anthropocene
- AI in Geography

ABOUT ISTANBUL



THREE EMPIRES - THREE CAPITALS

Istanbul has been the capital of the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, leaving behind a multicultural sediment of civilizations and faiths in the forms of aqueducts, cisterns, palaces, churches, synagogues, mosques and above all, cultural tolerance and harmony.

MODERN TOURISTIC ESTABLISHMENTS AND CONGRESS FACILITIES

Istanbul today is the focal point of industry, commerce and cultural life in TÜRKİYE. It has many internationally acclaimed hotels, congress centers and offers state-of-the-art meeting facilities. The city is connected to the world by two international airports, international harbours, railways and Trans-European-Motorway.

SOME OF THE TOURISTIC PLACES TO VISIT IN ISTANBUL

- The Bosphorus • Hagia Sophia Museum • Topkapı Palace • Archeology Museum • Dolmabahçe Palace
- St. Irene • Yerebatan Cistern • Caria Museum • Grand Bazaar • Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum
- Spice Market • Museum of Turkish Carpets • Maiden's Tower

ACCESSIBILITY

Almost all international airlines have convenient direct flights to Istanbul from all over the world. Recently, Turkish Airlines offers direct flights from 200 cities all over the world including LOS ANGELES, CHICAGO, NEW YORK, TORONTO, SAOPAULO, CAPE TOWN, JOHANNESBURG, NAIROBI, CASABLANCA, DAKAR, JAKARTA, HONG KONG, TOKYO, SHANGHAI, SEOUL, SINGAPORE, NEW DELHI, ALMATY, BISHKEK, MOSCOW, PARIS, ROME, AMSTERDAM, BRUSSELS, MADRID, LISBON, BUDAPEST, BUCHAREST, PRAGUE, STOCKHOLM, HELSINKI etc....

www.irc2026.org

CONTACT

For Scientific Inquiries:

Prof. Dr. Barbaros Gönençgil (Istanbul University)

scientific@irc2026.org

secretariat@irc2026.org

For General Inquiries:

secretariat@irc2026.org