Review of the IGSM 2022 in Hannover/Hamburg

From 6.6. to 12.6.2022 the IGSM 2022 took place in Hannover and Hamburg which was organised by a committee of students from Leibniz University Hannover and HafenCity University Hamburg. For 100 students and alumni from 14 different countries, a varied program consisting of professional exchange, but also cultural and leisure activities was on the agenda.

Monday, 6.6.2022, the participants arrived in Hanover by plane, train or bus. Upon arrival at the accommodation, the DJH Youth Hostel Hannover International, the participants were given the welcome bag with the IGSM T-shirt and gifts from the sponsors at check-in. In the evening, the Welcome Evening took place at the university, where the participants could get together with food from the grill and a drink to meet old friends again or to get to know participants who attend an IGSM for the first time.

Tuesday, 7.6.2022, started with the official opening of the IGSM. The participants were welcomed by the organising committee and the Dean of Studies of our subject at Leibniz Universität Hannover. On this occasion, the annual group photo in the IGSM T-shirts was taken. Furthermore, some of the sponsors were on site, who introduced themselves and had also set up small stands with exhibits, where there was then the opportunity to talk and establish contact. After lunch, the participants made their way through Hanover's city centre and old town by answering questions about the sights. In the evening, the International Evening took place at the Geodetic Institute. Food and drinks typical for the countries of the participants were served and tasted while international music was played.

Wednesday, 8.6.2022, was dedicated to the participants who reported on their projects and research work. Nine interesting presentations were given, including the topics indoor positioning, remote sensing and 3D modeling. During the lunch break, posters from participants and students from Hanover could be viewed. After some free time in the afternoon, the National Evening took place in the evening at Béi Chéz Heinz, a popular party location in Hannover. The event was combined with the summer party of the student council, allowing other geodesy students outside the organisation committee to mingle with the IGSM participants.

So that the participants could also get to know the second university and city whose students were involved in the organisation of this IGSM, an excursion to Hamburg took place on Thursday, 9.6.2022. Here, the Hafencity around the university was visited in small groups. We passed the
Michel’ and went to the Elbe beach for a short break with fish sandwiches. After a tour of the ‘Kiez’, the evening ended in a location in the Schanzenviertel.

On Friday, 10.6.2022, workshops were held, some of which were organised by sponsors and others by staff from our universities. In total, there were four workshops to choose from. In the ArcGIS workshop, the ArcGis Survey123 software was presented and tried out, which can be used to create and fill out forms for efficient data collection. The Virtual Reality Workshop began with a short theoretical part on VR, which was then broken up with a live VR session in which participants could immerse in historical cities. In the workshop on hydrography, methods and applications were explained to the participants by means of small tasks. The fourth workshop dealt with the Robot Operating System. In the afternoon, it was time for the cultural program. There were three options to choose from: a guided tour in the Herrenhausen Gardens, a visit to the Lower Saxony State Museum and a visit of the Beginen Tower. For the evening program, the Sponsors’ Evening, the sponsors were invited to the university and also turned up in large numbers. This offered the participants the opportunity to exchange ideas again or to make contacts with them in a more relaxed atmosphere this time.

The last real day of the event, Saturday, 11.6.2022, started with a sports program. In the parks around the university, various stations were set up, such as tape measure rolling, tug-of-war or egg race, which were completed by small groups one after the other. Afterwards, the General Assembly took place. After the welcome by the IGSA (International Geodetic Student Agency), the financial reports of the previous meeting (Online IGSM 2021 from Hannover) and the current meeting were presented. Furthermore, the organisation committee of IGSM 2023 from Valencia presented its planning so far. Following this, the organisers for the IGSM 2024 were sought. The application of the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Sofia, Bulgaria was accepted with great cheers. Last but not least, long-time IGSM participants (from 5 participations on) were honored. In the evening, the Grand Ball took place in the atrium of the main building of Leibniz Universität Hannover. There, the best presentation and the best poster, for which the participants voted, as well as the winning groups of the city rally and the sports program were honored with presents. Further, guest gifts were presented by the participants to the organisation committee in appreciation for the successful IGSM. With a delicious dinner and good music, the evening became a never-ending celebration.

On Sunday, 12 June 2022, it was time to say goodbye to the many old and new friends who made their way home.