IGU Commission C08.27 Globalization, marginalization and local and regional response

Mountain regions in transformation

Global processes, regional and local impacts and responses

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Preface

The Commission on Globalization, marginalization and local and regional response of the International Geographical Union (IGU) held its annual conference in 2010 in Graz (Austria) and Fribourg (Switzerland). Two days of paper sessions in the Retzhof castle near Leibnitz were followed by a three-day field trip, offering a longitudinal section of the Alps through Austria, Italy and Switzerland. Two days of paper sessions in Fribourg University (Department of Geosciences) rounded the meeting up.

The topic of the conference was *Mountain areas and globalization* – maybe not very original, but corresponding to our overall research foci. From the papers presented, a number that fitted in with the general topic was selected for publication, and they are contained in this volume.

The editors would like to thank the Austrian Bundesland of Styria and the Swiss Academy of Sciences (sc|nat) for their contributions towards the organization of the conference. They are also grateful to the publishers for their support and cooperation.

Walter Leimgruber, Etienne Nel, Walter Zsilincsar