



NEWS AT A GLANCE

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ICSU GRANTS €30,000 TO IUGS AS SUPPORT FOR THE RFG INITIATIVE

The International Council for Science (ICSU) has granted €30,000 to IUGS for a proposal prepared by Roland Oberhänsli, IUGS President, to obtain support for the Resourcing Future Generation Initiative.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 68TH ANNUAL IUGS EC MEETING, VANCOUVER

IUGS Executive Committee members join the Roundup

Every January in Vancouver, the Association for Mineral Exploration of British Columbia (AME BC) hosts the Mineral Exploration Roundup. This conference brings together prospectors, geoscientists, investors, suppliers and all those interested in the mineral exploration industry. This year, over 6,400 participants from 37 countries attended this event. The 68th Annual IUGS Executive Committee Meeting was held at this same venue, graciously hosted by the Roundup organizers, with sponsorship by Tourism Vancouver and the City of Vancouver. In all, about 50 individuals attended all or portions of the 3-day long IUGS meeting, chaired by IUGS President Roland Oberhänsli. Thanks go to all representatives from the IUGS Scientific Bodies, Affiliated Organizations, and National Committees, for joining the IUGS Executive and presenting on behalf of their groups. Special thanks go to the hosts of the meeting and the representatives from AME BC, CIM, GAC, and Roundup, as well as the Resources for Future Generations 2018 organizing committee.

The 2014 reports from Commissions, Joint Programs and Task Groups have been uploaded at: <http://iugs.org/index.php?page=activities>.

IUGS Inter-Congress Event: Resources for Future Generations 2018

IUGS is pleased to announce the 1st IUGS Conference on Resources for Future Generations to be held June 2018 in Vancouver, Canada. Edmund Nickless, champion for the IUGS' RFG initiative, addressed AME BC Roundup participants to announce the event. Sessions would address the problem of the increasing global



demand for resources—in particular minerals, water and energy. RFG2018 would provide a venue and program for geoscientists, industry representatives, policy makers, and stakeholders to exchange expertise, knowledge and interests. The announcement of the RFG2018 meeting was well received by the audience.

Any questions about the RFG2018 Conference? If yes, <mailto:info@rfg2018.com>
Vancouver Convention Center: <http://www.vancouverconventioncentre.com/>

Discussion of a new global geochemical mapping initiative

In his proposal for restructuring of IUGS scientific activities, José P. Calvo, IUGS Secretary General, suggested elevating the status of Global Geochemical Baselines activities in IUGS. The officers of the EC were positive, due to its compatibility with the Resourcing Future Generations theme. It was also suggested that Global Geochemical Baselines would be a suitable project proposal for the ICSU's Future Earth initiative. Already in October 2014, IUGS officials met with officers of the International Research Center on Global-scale Geochemical Mapping, and the two sides explored future cooperation on global geochemical mapping in accordance with the MOU between IUGS and China Geological Survey. The EC approved going forward with a broader new initiative on Global Geochemical Baselines, using the "Chemical Earth" platform to access the data.

GAC approved in principle as an IUGS Affiliated Organization

The Geological Association of Canada (GAC) submitted an application to become an Affiliated Organization of IUGS in 2013. All scientific organizations that are autonomous and international are permitted to apply for affiliation. In certain instances, nationally focused organizations have been accepted as IUGS Affiliated Organizations, particularly when close partnership is essential. In most cases, national organizations should approach their IUGS National Committee and seek representation there. The IUGS Executive viewed that having GAC as an Affiliated Organization would bring benefits to the global RFG2018 Inter-Congress event and to IUGS. It is expected that GAC will partner with the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (CIM) to provide organizational backing for RFG2018. In light of GAC's important role in relation to RFG, the Executive of IUGS agreed to grant the Geological Association of Canada Affiliated Organization status, pending ratification of IUGS Council.

Find out more about GAC and its activities [here](#).

Preparations for 35IGC, Cape Town (Aug. 27–Sept. 4, 2016)

Greg Botha, Secretary-General 35th International Geological Congress Foundation informed the IUGS Executive that the Second Circular will be released in early February 2015. The Scientific Program subcommittee, chaired by Laurence Robb and supported by an advisory panel, has identified three core topics; Geoscience for Society; Fundamental geoscience; Geoscience in the Economy. Hassina Mouri sits on the Scientific Committee as IUGS Liaison. The committee has identified 49 themes, based on previous events, communication with interest groups and symposium submissions. The deadline for submission of symposium proposals has



been extended to end May 2015, ahead of the call for abstracts that opens on July 1, 2015. Over 30 field trips are planned to cover many aspects of the geology of South Africa. The International Geological Science Committee (IGCC), including the IUGS Bureau, will travel to Cape Town in 2015 and view the venue.

Find out more about the 35th IGC on its [official website](#).

Call for a Joint IUGG–IUGS Council for 2023/24?

Roland Oberhänsli, IUGS President, took up the idea promoted along with the last EC meeting in Goa and asked the IUGG representatives to consider the possibility of a joint international congress with the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. He pointed to the success of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) whose annual meetings include geophysics. It was decided that Oberhänsli would ask IUGG EC Members, during their meeting in Prague, that both unions should send out a call for such a common meeting 2023/24. The EC envisioned that the joint event would feature joint IUGG–IUGS symposia as well as independent symposia. The IUGS President, went further to say “Should we consider the consequences if the two Unions (IUGS–IUGG) merged?” Over a decade ago (2002) the European Union of Geosciences and the European Geophysical Society had merged to become the European Geological (EGU).

IGCP Restructuring

UNESCO and IUGS have been engaged in discussions since late 2013 on the restructuring of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) to accommodate the Global Geoparks Network. It is foreseen that the scientific program IGCP (International Geoscience Programme) and the GeoParks will work within UNESCO under one umbrella. In 2014, several meetings had been held with Patrick McKeever, Chief of Section, Earth Sciences and Geohazard Risk Reduction and Han Qunli, Director of the Executive Office. IUGS aims to sign a Memo of Understanding with the UNESCO Executive this year. The IUGS President reported that the Hazard and Disaster group had now become part of the Earth Sciences section, suggesting the position of earth sciences in UNESCO has been strengthened over the last year.

Next IUGS EC meeting

The Geological Society of China offered to host the 69th IUGS EC Meeting in South China in January 2016.



NOTES

- If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS e-bulletins, please <mailto:Amaury@geo.uni-potsdam.de>
- Please check the IUGS [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming scientific meetings this coming month. If you require information on international conferences, meetings, etc. to be considered for inclusion in this Calendar please <mailto:pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca>
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-bulletin distribution list, please <mailto:iugs.beijing@gmail.com>

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