



News at a Glance

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1. **36th International Geological Congress rescheduled for 9-14 November 2020**

Statement from Prof. Dr. Qiuming Cheng

President, International Union of Geological Sciences



The COVID-19 epidemic is causing considerable disruption worldwide. In view of the health risk and mindful that about 5,000 delegates from 120 countries were then registered, on 21st February the Government of India announced the postponement of the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC), originally scheduled for 2-8 March, to a date to be defined later. Such momentous decision came to a point when preparations for the IGC were being

finalized and delegates were getting ready to travel to India. IUGS believes that it is now of paramount importance for the parties involved in the Congress to quickly reach a consensus on a common line of action, in order to provide all the participants (delegates from Adhering and Affiliated Organizations, representatives of IUGS Commissions, Task Groups and Initiatives, registered members, exhibitors, industrial and scientific sponsors, observers) with clear, unequivocal information.

The parties involved in different roles in the IGC are: (i) the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), i.e. the constituted entity that has assumed legal and financial responsibility for the forthcoming IGC; (ii) the International Geological Congress Committee (IGCC), i.e. the IUGS-IGC joint committee dealing with IGC matters, which may be called upon by the LOC for



advice; and (iii) the IUGS Executive Committee (EC), i.e. the IUGS body responsible for the overall administration of the Union. Following a proposal by the LOC on 24 February to postpone the IGC to November, the IUGS EC has agreed to that request. An informal poll, held amongst the National Delegates to the IGC and the other Council participants, reached the same conclusion. After these results, it was the turn of the IGCC to vote on the LOC proposal, which was unanimously endorsed on 26 February. On 27 February, the LOC released the results of an official poll according to which 86% of the 2,400 respondents are willing to participate in the November IGC.

The duration of the present epidemic is not foreseeable. Nonetheless, the IUGS will provide full cooperation to the LOC in order to meet the new timeline. To this end, we urge all IUGS constituent bodies to plan ahead to ensure the highest level possible of participation in the 36th IGC in November. It is essential that, as in the past, the four-year cycle of IUGS activities is formally reported. Among other matters, the progress of all IUGS bodies must be reviewed, new officers must be elected, and the venue for the 2028 IGC decided. We commend the Indian Local Organizing Committee for its resilience in the face of a most unexpected event which has put at risk years of dedicated preparatory work. It is now crucial that all 5,000 registered participants receive clear information on the new program and activities as soon as they become available, as well as details on the handling of previous hotel and Congress registrations.

During its 142 years of history, the International Geological Congress has weathered all kinds of unexpected events. For the common good of the global geological community we should now all strive to ensure that the 2020 edition is a success.

Read [here](#) the decision letter sent by the IGCC Co-Chairs to Dr. Rasik Ravindra, Secretary General of the 36th IGC.

Visit the 36th IGC website to be updated on the further developments of the congress:

<https://www.36igc.org/>



2. News from the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

IUGS Special Project Awarded to IFG

IUGS has awarded a 'Special Project' to IFG called, 'Forensic Geological Analysis of Crimes in International Mining, Minerals and Metals' This is expected to run from 2020 to 2022. This project seeks to evaluate the current global scale of crimes that take place in the mining, minerals and metals industry, and assess geological methodologies and strategies, which may aid in the detection, prevention, management and mitigation of these crimes.

The launch of Forensic Geology in India

On 5 March 2020, the first meeting on forensic geology will take place in Delhi, India, as part of the 36th International Geological Congress. This is the first formal event of its kind and will officially launch forensic geology in India.

Forensic Geology in Poland

In February 2020, two members of the IUGS-IFG Committee will visit Poland to assist with a new course including forensic geology at the University of Warsaw. This visit will also focus on the provision of geological advice on search, for the location of war graves associated with the Second World War.

Search for missing person in Colombia

IUGS-IFG have agreed to support a two year project aimed at searching for the suspected graves of missing persons in Colombia. This will include the adoption of the Geoforensic Search Strategy, developed in the United Kingdom using a blend of geological and law enforcement search techniques and strategies. IUGS-IFG members will meet in Bogota in early March to arrange a timetable and programme.

A Guide to Forensic Geology

The Geological Society of London have commenced the publication process of the book, 'A Guide to Forensic Geology', which has been written by the IUGS Initiative on Forensic

Geology. This has taken at least a decade to complete and the search chapter has evolved over the past 25 years. The publication is expected to be available later in 2020.

The cover features the IUGS and Geological Society logos at the top. The main text reads "Coming in 2020" in large blue letters, with a graphic of a book spine that says "COMING SOON". Below this is the title "A Guide to Forensic Geology" and the editors' names: "Edited by: L.J. Donnelly, D. Pirrie, M. Harrison, A. Ruffell and L.A. Dawson". At the bottom, it says "To find out more about Forensic Geology please visit: www.geolsoc.org.uk/forensic". The background image shows two forensic geologists in white protective suits working at a crime scene.

The photograph shows three forensic geologists in white protective suits working at a crime scene. They are kneeling on the ground, examining a small object. A yellow "CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS" tape is visible. The background shows a rocky, outdoor environment. The image is framed with a black border containing logos and text.

Photograph: Laurance Donnelly IUGS-IG

36th International Geological Congress, 2-8 March, Delhi, India
Theme 1: Geoscience for Society. Symposium 1.8, Forensic Geology
Thursday 5th March, 11:00-17:00
Dr Laurance Donnelly: Chair, IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (geologist@hotmail.co.uk)
Dr Biplob Chatterjee: IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (biplob.chatterjee@geovale.com)

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3. Information from the Geological Society of London



Sign up here to receive alerts for new and upcoming Geological Society of London IUGS publications, including, the Guide to Forensic Geology already mentioned:

http://emails.geolsoc.org.uk/k/Geolsoc/iugs_newsletter_sign_ups



EDITORS' NOTES:

CONTRIBUTING TO THE IUGS E-BULLETIN, WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

IUGS wishes to improve the co-ordination of the publication of information on **news, events and achievements** arising from IUGS activities (**not science reports or papers**). All IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives and IGCP projects are requested to provide a steady flow of material. Contributions from Adhering Bodies will also be welcomed.

To aid co-ordination and standardization, IUGS has introduced a preferred format and a monthly timetable.

Format of submitted material:

Contributors should provide:

For the E-Bulletin: 2 or 3 sentences with between 1 and 3 illustrations (photographs, diagrams etc.) with captions as separate .jpg, .gif or .png files with a resolution of 150 dpi; optimally accompanied, by:

For the website: a concise text of about 0.5 to 1 A4 page (up to about 600-700 words), if possible providing a web-link (e.g. to an IUGS activity website).

The short text in the E-Bulletin will be hyperlinked to any longer text which will be placed on the IUGS website. Items that are not in reasonably good English will be returned for improvement. Others will be edited for use of English if necessary. If proposed contributions are too long, they will be returned for shortening. All images must, if necessary, be copyright-cleared before submission.

Each contribution to the IUGS E-Bulletin, website and/or social media should be marked as to which target medium or media it should be published in. Each contribution should be sent, at the same time, to the following addresses:

silvia.peppoloni@ingv.it	(E-Bulletin Editor-in-Chief)
giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it	(Webmaster)
gurmeet28374@gmail.com	(Social Media Manager)



Timetable:

The idealized timetable for the E-Bulletin is:

1. IUGS sends a reminder to leaders of activities in the last week of each month;
2. Contributions should be provided by the 16th day of that month (**items arriving after that date cannot be included in the next monthly issue**);
3. IUGS will evaluate all submitted items in terms of urgency and will allocate these to the next monthly issue or a later issue and will also check that these comply with IUGS policy for publications and ethics;
4. The IUGS Team will aim to compile that month's E-Bulletin by the 25th day of the month and send it to the IUGS Secretariat;
5. The IUGS Secretariat will dispatch the E-Bulletin to the IUGS Community on, or before, the last day of each month;
6. Long versions of material will be posted on the IUGS Website in coordination with the publication of the relevant E-Bulletin.

This timetable will be varied, as necessary, to allow for public holidays that affect the E-Bulletin Team and IUGS Secretariat such as Christmas and Chinese New Year.

NOTES

- If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS e-bulletins, please mail to: silvia.peppoloni@ingv.it.
- 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 mail to: giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-bulletin distribution list, please mail to: iugs.beijing@gmail.com or secretariat@iugs.org.
- Follow the IUGS on Social Media! We are on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).
- Check the IUGS website: <http://www.iugs.org/>

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