



Notes:

- *If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS E-Bulletins please send them by email to: iugsmouri@uj.ac.za*
 - *If you require information on international conferences, meetings ...etc. to be considered for inclusion in the calendar of events on the IUGS website, please send them by email to: pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca*
 - *To be added to, or removed from, the IUGS E-Bulletin distribution list, please e-mail to: iugs.beijing@gmail.com*
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NEWS FROM THE IUGS OFFICE

IUGS Bureau at the inauguration ceremony of the GSSP:

On Friday October 25th, 2013, the IUGS Bureau was invited to attend the inauguration ceremony of the GSSP defining the Turonian Stage in the Pueblo State Park, Colorado. State Park rangers placed the “golden spike” in the presence of GSA president Suzanne Kay who pointed out the importance of such places for science, education and outreach. The ceremony fitted well into the 125th anniversary of GSA and the Denver meeting. We would like to thank ICS Chair Stan Finney and his subcommission for the Cretaceous for their work and effort.

Fraud and plagiarism in conjunction with paleontological work in India: A message from Roland Oberhänsli, IUGS President

On October 18th, 2013 Prof D. Banerjee reopened a discussion by email regarding the topic of fraud and plagiarism in conjunction with paleontological work in India several decades ago. Having lived through a time of plagiarism in Germany that led to the loss of office of a minister of defence and a minister of science and technology, this mail caught my attention. On the basis of the few details provided, I reacted with the following text to the Indian colleagues:

“truth always hurts! I find it extremely important making our community aware of fraud and plagiarism in science - since, being so easy, it always happens. Many of you might be worried and embarrassed. But I think it is a moral duty of only an elder eminent scientist to make the young colleagues aware of such situations. Today they have to struggle very hard for a career in science. “

I know that the full details were not revealed to me by the first mail of D. M. Banerjee and I received many additional mails from people who were associated with these events. This case should be resolved within the Indian Earth Science community. A platform for such cases is IUGS’ Commission for Geoscience Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE) and IUGS’ two affiliated geo-ethics groups.

It is not the intention, nor the task of the IUGS' President to pass judgement on the situation in India, but I consider it my duty to make our community aware of such events that can destroy our credibility.

I would like to pass this message onto our young colleagues to make them aware that contentions of major fraud resurface for decades, threatening the reputations of others implicated by association, if not resolved in a transparent manner.

IUGS-sponsored events: 2nd G-EVER International Symposium and the 1st IUGS & SCJ International Workshop on Natural Hazards

Report by Prof Yujiro Ogawa:

The event was planned under IUGS, SCJ (Science Council of Japan) and G-EVER (of Geological Survey of Japan), and was held successfully on 19th and 20th of October, 2013, with field trips to the tsunami disaster areas of March 11th 2011 Tohoku-oki Earthquake.

More than 22 talks with 26 posters were given with more than 50 participants in attendance. Talks, posters and discussions were well organised, and all the participants were engaged in very interesting discussions. Earthquakes and tsunamis, volcanic and landslide disasters topics were covered in addition to the general scope of issues. Finally, societal activities were recommended to the various decision makers and an agreement will be formulated by the attendees in due time. The results of the meeting will be invited for contribution in review papers or independent research papers to the international journals such as Episodes and Springer e-books.

The IUGS-EC members present at this meeting were: President Prof Oberhansli, Vice-president Prof Dilek, Secretary General Dr Lambert, and Councillor Prof Ogawa.

We are grateful to the IUGS to support this symposium and workshop.

OneGeology consortium meeting:

This event was held in Paris on 21st and 22nd October 2013. Consortium members adopted new objectives and governance structure, appointed new board members and a managing director Marko Komac, IUGS Vice President. Further details can be found on www.onegeology.org

Awards:

Prof Jesus Martínez-Frías, Chair of IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education, Training and Technology Transfer and President of IUGS Affiliate organization, IAGETH has been awarded a NASA Group Achievement Award (2013). This Award is received as part of the "MSL REMS Instrument Development and Science Team" *For exceptional achievement defining the REMS scientific goals and requirements, developing the instrument suite and investigation, and operating REMS successfully on Mars.* This is the second NASA award received by Prof. Martínez-Frías. In 2006, he was also recipient of a NASA Group Achievement Award for his participation in the "Mars Analog Research and Technology Experiment Project (M.A.R.T.E.)" *for exceptional performance in the exploration and discovery of a new subsurface biosphere on Earth, while developing and demonstrating a system for searching for subsurface life on Mars.*

NEWS FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD

Africa: 1st International Symposium on Medical Geology in Africa (ISMGAf)

The University of Johannesburg will be hosting the 1st International Symposium on “**Medical Geology in Africa**” from the 24th to the 26th March 2014. The event is sponsored by the University of Johannesburg (UJ), the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA), the International Union of Geological Science (IUGS) and the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA).

This event will consist of a 1 day symposium (oral and posters presentations) and 2 days short course presented by Prof Jose Centeno, a toxicologist from the Joint Pathology Center, USA (Past Chairman, IMGA), Dr. Saverio Fiore, Senior Researcher at Institute of Methodologies of Environmental Analysis (IMAA) of CNR and Head of the Research Group Micro and Biominerals for Health and Environment, Italy and Dr Mark Cave, Geochemical Baselines and Medical Geology Project Manager, BGS, UK.

Why an ISMGAF? Although there is a growing interest in Medical Geology in the world, it is in Africa that application of research results would be most relevant. However, it is also in Africa that this field is least developed. Considering the possible significance of the health problems related to **naturally occurring geological** materials and geological processes in African countries in general, we believe that it is time to gather through this symposium and bring together experts from various fields of science including geoscientists, toxicologists, epidemiologists, medical experts, public health scientists, biotechnologists, biochemists...etc.. in order to discuss the possible sources as well as the fate and impacts of natural and environmental risk factors on the development of human and animal diseases.

Our overarching goal of ISMGAF is to provide a platform for the development of research and training of students in medical geology and to seek solutions to these geological and natural issues.

We believe that these discussions will lead to a better characterization and understanding of naturally-occurring trace elements and toxic compounds in the air, groundwater, soil and rocks and will help to explain patterns of diseases such as various cancers, cardiovascular diseases and osteoporosis...etc.

We hope that experts in various fields related to Medical Geology worldwide will join us and share with us their knowledge and expertise. We also welcome any financial support to the event in order to give opportunities for African students to attend the event.

The 1st circular and registration form can be downloaded at: www.uj.ac.za/geology. Further information can be obtained by contacting Hassina Mouri at: hmouri@uj.ac.za

We thank you for any support you may wish to provide and we look forward to your contributions and to welcoming you to the University of Johannesburg, South Africa.

RECENT INFORMATION ON PUBLICATIONS

1) Newsletters & E-Journals:

- The International Council for Science (ICSU) Newsletter can be accessed through: <http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/insight>
- The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) E-Journal can be accessed through: <http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals/>
- The Société Algérienne de Géophysique (SAGA) Newsletter can be accessed through: www.sag.dz
- The International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) E-bulletin can be accessed through: <http://www.igbp.net/>
- The Mineral Research & Exploration Bulletin (Turkey) can be accessed through: <http://www.mta.gov.tr/v2.0/eng/all-bulletins.php?id=145> - down
- The UN SPIDER e-bulletin since January 2013 can be accessed through: <http://www.un-spider.org/about/updates/un-spider-updates-january-2013>
- The European Federation of Geologists GeoNews can be accessed through <http://www.eurogeologists.de/>
- The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage (ProGeo) Newsletter can be accessed through <http://www.progeo.se/>

2) Magazines

- EARTH magazine online can be accessed through: <http://www.earthmagazine.org/>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The 35th International Geological Congress – Cape Town, South Africa 27 August to 4 September 2016: updated information will be provided in the next E-bulletin (November 2013).

Other forthcoming events

All forthcoming events are listed on the IUGS website (<http://www.iugs.org>) and will remain published until the event concludes. To see the IUGS listing of forthcoming geoscience meetings, conferences and workshops, go to the Calendar section of the IUGS website at:

<http://iugs.org/index.php?page=calendar&phpMyAdmin=2c9f06db78f0953a55b10dcfdc5907f6>

The IUGS website lists more "geo" related events than any other website devoted to such information. Analysis of the IUGS website statistics indicates that the "IUGS Calendar" section is one of the most frequently visited elements of our website with regular hits from over 160 countries. The IUGS is pleased to continue this service to help promote all "geo" related events.

Please email your meeting/conferences posting requests/information directly to the IUGS Secretariat at iugs.beijing@gmail.com, or to the IUGS Webmaster at: pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca to be listed on the website of the IUGS.

NEED TO CONTACT A GEOSCIENCE ORGANIZATION AROUND THE WORLD?

The Directory of Geoscience Organizations of the World produced by the Geological Survey of Japan includes web links to national geological surveys as well as state and provincial geological surveys at: <http://www.gsj.jp/information/gsj-link/dir/index.html>
The geology.com website with news and information about geology and earth science also lists geological organizations and agencies: <http://geology.com/groups.html>

With best regards

Prof Hassina MOURI

IUGS Councillor 2012 – 2016 I www.iugs.org

IMGA Councillor 2013-2017 I <http://www.medicalgeology.org/>

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