

E-Bulletin of the International Union of Geological Sciences (No. 41, July 2009)

"Episodes" IUGS Journal of International Geoscience Vol. 32 No. 1 March 2009 issue now available

Congratulations are extended to the Geological Society of India's new Episodes production operations for being able to transfer and publish the current edition of Episodes with minimum delay.

Articles in the current edition include:

- A Message from the President of Geological Society of India
- Geochemistry of intercalated red and grey pelagic shales from the Mozak Formation of Cenomanian age in Czech Republic
- Biodiversity and palaeoclimatic implications of fossil wood from the non-marine Jurassic of China
- Palynofacies in Lower Jurassic epicontinental deposits of Poland: Tool to interpret sedimentary environments
- The 16th International Geological Congress, Washington, 1933
- The Global Boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) of the Guzhangian Stage (Cambrian) in the Wuling Mountains, Northwestern Hunan, China

Other items include a full Index of Episodes articles published in 2008.

The Editor for *Episodes*, Dr. Mudlappa Jayananda, welcomes short, innovative scientific articles, as well as items dealing with geological sciences and society. To submit your papers, or to make any other enquiries, please email Dr. Jayananda at: gsocind@gmail.com or episodes.editor@gmail.com

Back issues of "Episodes" are available on line at <http://www.episodes.org/backissues.htm>

AEGS 2009 Percival Allen Medal Award to Eduardo de Mulder

The Percival Allen Medal Award is given biennially to a geoscientist for outstanding achievements in the field of international relations in Earth Science. Our congratulations are extended to Ed de Mulder the Executive Director of IYPE, and former IUGS President who was awarded the Percival Allen Medal for being a distinctive European geologist, promoting Earth Sciences by IYPE. The award was announced at the 16th Meeting of the Association of European Geological Societies (AEGS) held 9-13 July 2009 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.

Redefinition of the base of Quaternary System/Period, and of the base of the Pleistocene Series/Epoch

The IUGS Executive Committee has ratified a request from the IUGS International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) regarding the definition of the base of Quaternary System/Period (and top of the Neogene System/Period), and redefinition of the base of the Pleistocene Series/Epoch (and top of the Pliocene Series/Epoch). The ICS submitted for IUGS ratification its recommendation that:

- 1) the base of the Pleistocene Series/Epoch be lowered such that the Pleistocene includes the Gelasian Stage/Age and its base is defined by the Monte San Nicola GSSP, which also defines the base of the Gelasian;
- 2) the base of the Quaternary System/Period, and thus the Neogene-Quaternary boundary, be formally defined by the Monte San Nicola GSSP and thus be coincident with the bases of the Pleistocene and Gelasian; and
- 3) with these definitions, the Gelasian Stage/Age be transferred from the Pliocene Series/Epoch to the Pleistocene.

IUGS/34th IGC at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting

The IUGS together with the 34th IGC will be presenting an exhibit booth at the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Portland, Oregon USA from 18-21 October, 2009. For details about the GSA Meeting see: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2009/>

And for a delightful video experience view and/or download the "Geoheritage slideshow" produced by the Geological Society of America. Available from: <http://www.yearofplanetearth.org/content/geoheritage.html>

International Year of Planet Earth - IYPE UPDATE

In the first quarter of 2009 two more nations (Sri Lanka and Angola) established their own IYPE National Committees, bringing the total number of countries to 80 (including the IYPE Regional Committee for East and Southeast Asia).

The Planet Earth Lisbon Event 2009 (PELE2009)

PELE2009 will be held in Lisbon and hosted by the Portuguese Government. This will be a major worldwide event, from 20-22 November, to highlight the principal results of the IYPE triennium (2007-2009), and to

launch new initiatives for the next decade building on the IYPE legacy. All International Partners will be invited to participate in the meeting with the IYPE leadership and to expose their products in a special exhibition. Fundraising has started and a professional Congress office selected. See IYPE web for details.

The World Stress Map Project - A Service for Earth System Management

The World Stress Map (WSM) is the global compilation of information on the present-day stress field of the Earth's crust with 21,750 stress data records in its current WSM database release 2008. It is a collaborative project between academia, industry and government that aims to characterize the stress patterns and to understand the stress sources. The project commenced in 1986 as a part of the International Lithosphere Programm (ILP). From 1995-2008, the WSM was a project of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Since 2009 the project is maintained and further developed at the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam - GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences. The WSM project is a task group of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI) and is a service within the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services (FAGS) that was formed by the International Council for Science (ICSU). The World Stress Map (WSM) is co-labelled as an IYPE legacy item. See: <<http://www.world-stress-map.org/>>

For more IYPE activity regularly check the website at <<http://www.yearofplanetearth.org/>>

Prof Sospeter Muhongo a candidate for the Director-General of UNESCO

Last month the final list of the 9 candidates for the forthcoming election for the position of Director General of UNESCO was published. Distinguished geoscientist Prof Sospeter Muhongo has been nominated by Tanzania as one of the candidates and if elected will be the first geoscientist to hold that position. Prof Muhongo is a firm believer in "science for the benefit of the global society" and development of policy informed by scientists first - and politicians next. He places food security, human health, and climate change, as the world's top emerging issues against a backdrop of increasing world population (projected to reach 10 billion by 2050). In 2004 Prof Muhongo was the first recipient of the Robert Shackleton Award for Outstanding Research in the Precambrian Geology of Africa. He is currently the Executive Director of the ICSU Regional Office for Africa, and Chairperson of the UNESCO/IUGS International Geoscience Program (IGCP).

Earthlearningidea - an initiative for the International Year of Planet Earth and beyond

Earthlearningidea, <<http://www.earthlearningidea.com>>, is a voluntary initiative which brought a new Earth learning idea to Earth science educators across the world every week during 2008, the International Year of Planet Earth. The project continues with a monthly activity throughout 2009 and all previous activities remain live on the website. The ideas are aimed primarily at classrooms with few or no resources and at pre-service teacher educators (to reach wide audiences). Global discussion around each idea is encouraged through a blog, <<http://www.earthlearningidea.blogspot.com>>. By July 2009, 64 different activities had been posted. The Earthlearningidea refrain is:

- * - an Earth science teaching idea at regular intervals;
- * - at minimal cost, with minimal resources;
- * - for teacher educators and teachers of Earth science through school-level science or geography;
- * - an online discussion around every idea;
- * - to develop a global network.

Interested educators from around the world subscribe free of charge, and receive email updates when new items appear on the website. A list of keywords on the website means that a search can be made for particular topics. A list of supporters offering geoscience or educational expertise, is posted on the website. A separate list of those who have offered moral support is also maintained. Thanks to voluntary translators across the world, the activities are being regularly translated into Spanish, Italian, Norwegian, Mandarin Chinese and Portuguese. Since the website was established in May 2007, it has received over 15,500 'hits' from over 140 countries (<http://www.earthlearningidea.com/home/ELI_around_the_world.html>) and the blog is being well patronised, with comments and ideas for extension work. All activities are free to download. Check the website and contribute your own ideas to the blog.

Chris King, Peter Kennett and Elizabeth Devon, Earth Science Education Unit, Keele University, U.K. Email: info@earthlearningidea.com

Earth System Research Visioning Website Launched

The International Council for Science (ICSU) has launched an online consultation website to gather questions that will help direct the future of Earth system research. The "Earth System Visioning Process" is spearheaded by ICSU in cooperation with the International Social Science Council (ISSC). The three-step Earth System Visioning Process has been launched under the leadership of ICSU's Committee on Scientific Planning and Review.

The first step in the process is a web-based consultation at <http://www.icsu-visions.org/> which poses the questions: "What is the most important research question in Earth system research that needs answering in the next decade? Why?" ICSU invites the scientific community - natural and social scientists - as well as technology experts, decision-makers, and the general public, to contribute by visiting the website until 15 August 2009. On the website readers can post research questions, and also indicate how they view the contributions from others by voting on questions and posting comments. By registering on the website you will be able to receive updates on the progress and results of the Earth system visioning process over the next 18 months. An editorial on the Visioning Process has been published in Science (Reid et al. Vol. 325, 17 July 2009, p. 245). For more information email visioning@icsu.org or phone Leah Goldfarb on +33 (0)1 45250709.

PUBLICATIONS, JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS

--Springer publishing has released "Geoheritage" - a new scientific journal that covers all aspects of geoheritage and its protection. Visit: <http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences/geology/journal/12371>>

--The latest edition of The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) Electronic Journal is available at: <http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals>>

--The International Association of Hydrologists' "IAH Groundwater eNews" is available at online: http://www.iah.org/news_eneews.asp>

--The "Earth Science India e-Journal" is now available on the web and can be viewed at <http://www.earthscienceindia.info>>. This open access quarterly e-journal is a not-for-profit website under the umbrella of The Society of Earth Scientists and is devoted to the development of Earth/Environmental Sciences of India.

--The International Erosion Control Association (IECA) has their official journal publication "Erosion Control" available at: <http://www.ieca.org/>>

--UNESCO Global Geoparks Network - keep up to date with current activities at <http://www.globalgeopark.org/publish/portal1/tab59/>>

--The Earth Portal <http://www.earthportal.org>> website information includes a free weekly newsletter that you can receive at: <http://www.earthportal.org/news/>>

--Earthscan, has a new journal "Environmental Hazards" addressing the full range of extreme geological, hydrological, atmospheric and biological hazard events. For more information see: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=37213>> For Enquiries email to: journals@earthscan.co.uk

--The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) Bulletin 114 (May 2009) is now available on the website - both in high resolution (13 Mb) and low resolution (5 Mb). See: <http://www.iuss.org/index.htm>>

--ProGEO The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage publishes a quarterly newsletter ProGEO NEWS available online at <http://www.progeo.se/index.html>>

--The latest International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme NEWSLETTER of the can be download at: <http://www.igbp.net/page.php?pid=231>>

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

For a listing of forthcoming geoscience meetings, conferences, and workshops of interest check the Calendar section of the IUGS website: <http://www.iugs.org/Calendar.html>>

August 9-19, 2009. The INHIGEO 2009 Annual Meeting, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Theme "Fossils and Fuel". Calgary is one of the major centres of the oil industry in North America and has close proximity to major fossil sites like the Dinosaur Provincial Park and the Burgess Shale. See www.inhigeo.org. For conference registration etc: <http://www.peopleware.net/index.cfm?siteId=158&eventDisp=INHIGEO>>.

August 10-14, 2009. 2009 International Symposium on Endemic Diseases and Geological Environment (ISEDGE), Changchun city, Jilin Province, China. Sponsors include CGS, UNICEF, IUGS-GEM, IAH, and NSFC. See: http://www.cigem.gov.cn/en_readnews.asp?newsid=17874>

August 23-28, 2009. IAMG 2009, International Association for Mathematical Geology Conference, Stanford University, California, USA. See: <<http://iamg09.stanford.edu/>>

September 2-6, 2009. 13th Congress RCMNS (Regional Committee on Mediterranean Neogene Stratigraphy), Naples, Italy. The RCMNS is a Sub-Commission of the Neogene Stratigraphy within the IUGS - ICS. Congress details at: <<http://www.sociedadgeologica.es/documentosPDF/CircularRCMNS2009.pdf>>

September 14-22, 2009. 3rd International Earth Science Olympiad 2009 (IESO 2009), National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan. IESO is an important activity of IGEO (International Geoscience Education Organization). More information at: <<http://www.ieso2009.tw/main/home/home.html>>. Online registration <http://www.ieso2009.tw/main/home/1b_registration.html>. For inquiries, please contact Chun-Yen Chang Chairman, IESO 2009 Local Organizing Committee (email: changcy@ntnu.edu.tw.)

September 28 - October 10, 2009 "Advanced School on Non-linear Dynamics & Earthquake Prediction." Trieste, Italy. Online applications only at: <http://cdsagenda5.ictp.trieste.it/full_display.php?ida=a08182>

October 5-8, 2009. 99th Annual Meeting of the Geologische Vereinigung (GV). Held at the Geoscience Centre GZG, Universität Göttingen, Germany. (NOTE originally scheduled for September 2009 but now changed to the dates shown) Theme "Earth Control on Planetary Life and Environment". For information see: <<http://www.gv-tagung2009.de>>. Queries to Gerhard Wörner email: gworne@gwdg.de.

October 5-9, 2009. 2nd International Symposium on the Geology of the Black Sea Region, Ankara, Turkey. Register through the website at: <<http://www.mta.gov.tr/isgb/>>. Email contacts: isgb@mta.gov.tr or okay@itu.edu.tr

October 9-13, 2009. IUGG Scientific Workshop on 13 October to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the IUGG. Melbourne, Australia. At this venue the IUGG Executive Committee, and the IUGG Bureau, will hold their annual meetings from 9-12 October.

October 12-16, 2009. 3rd Hemispheric Conference on Medical Geology (3rd HMedGeo), the Holiday Inn Convention Center, Montevideo, Uruguay. For queries email centeno@afip.osd.mil and/or tonycent@comcast.net, with a copy to nmanay@fq.edu.uy. For information on the program, excursions, participants, etc see: <<http://www.geologiamedica.com/>>

October 12-16, 2009. The AGID Working Group for Geoethics are Convenors of the International Section "GEOETHICS" being held at the Mining Příbram Symposium, Příbram, Czech Republic. For more information email Lidmila Nemcova at: lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz. The Geoethics newsletter can be downloaded at <<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/search/search.cfm?q=agid+GeoethicsNews>> Web: www.bgs.ac.uk/agid/

October 18-21, 2009. Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America, Portland, Oregon USA Theme "From Volcanoes to Vineyards: Living with Dynamic Landscapes" Details available at: <<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2009/>>

October 18-23, 2009. The VIII International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry (8 ISEG), Ouro Preto City, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Jointly with the XII Brazilian Geochemical Congress (12 CBGq). The XII CBGq/VIII ISEG is a forum for discussion and scientific experience exchange in all congress topics. See: <http://www.12cbgq.ufop.br/12cbgq/presentation.htm>

October 25-28, 2009. First World Young Earth Scientists (Y.E.S.) Congress 2009, Beijing, China. Theme "The Young Earth Scientists for Society". This Congress is aimed at young representatives from geological associations and institutions, young leaders in politics, and delegates from administrative bodies to meet at the congress to establish a worldwide network between future leaders and policy makers and future earth science advisors. See: <http://www.yescongress2009.org>

October 26-31, 2009. International conference on GEOSCIENCE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT (GeoDev). Dhaka, Bangladesh. Jointly organized by AGID (Association of Geoscientists for International Development), BGS (Bangladesh Geological Society), GSB (Geological Survey of Bangladesh), and IGEO (International Geoscience Education Organization). The Registration Form and Abstracts for GeoDev due 31 May 2009. See: <http://www.geoscied.org/GeoDevFirstAnnouncement.doc>

November 12-15, 2009. International symposium on Geology, Natural Resources and Hazards in Karst Regions (GEOKARST 2009). Hanoi, Vietnam. For more information contact Assoc. Prof Pham Quy Nhan. E-mail: phamquynhan@yahoo.com

November 15-18, 2009. IAH-WRC Groundwater 2009 Conference. "Groundwater – Pushing the Limits". Somerset West, South Africa. Organised by the Geological Society of South Africa. See: <http://www.kruger-associates.com/groundwaterconference2009/home/default.asp>

November 20-22, 2009. The Planet Earth Lisbon Event 2009 (PELE2009). Hosted by the Portuguese Government, will be a major event in Lisbon, to commemorate the end of the IYPE triennium, and to launch new initiatives for the next decade building on the IYPE legacy. All IYPE International Partners will be invited to participate in the meeting with the IYPE leadership and to expose their products in a special exhibition. Fundraising has started and a professional Congress office selected. See <http://www.planetearthlisbon2009.org/>

November 22-26, 2009. XII Chilean Geological Congress, Santiago, Chile. Contact Sociedad Geologica (info@sociedadgeologica.cl) or see <http://www.congresoгеologico2009.cl/public/?/#>

December 1-5, 2009. The 6th Symposium on the Atlantic Iberian Margin -MIA 09. Geology Department, Oviedo University, Oviedo, Spain. Deadline for abstract submission 31 July 2009 See: <http://www.uniovi.es/mia09/index-ing.html>

December 3-4, 2009. 2nd International Workshop on Sinkhole Phenomena. Auditorium, ISPRA-Geological Survey of Italy, V. Curtatone 7, 00185. Rome, Italy. This workshop is free to attend and is open to all earth science related researchers. To participate, online registration is necessary by 30 November 2009. Go to: <http://www.isprambiente.it/site/en-GB/Archive/Events/Documents/090520_sinkhole.html> Other information is on the website: <<http://www.isprambiente.it/>>

April 11-17, 2010. The 5th Conference of the African Association of Women Geoscientists. Grand-Bassam, Cote D'Ivoire. Theme: "Women & Geosciences for Peace" - organised by The African Association of Women Geoscientists (AAWG). Deadline - reply to the 1st Circular by 30 June 2009. To download the First Circular go to: <<http://www.aawg.org/AAWG/spip.php?rubrique20>>.

April 26-28, 2010. 1st International Applied Geological Congress. Department of Geology (IAGC), Faculty of Sciences Islamic Azad University - Mashhad Branch (IAUM) Mashhad-Iran. Theme "New Directions of Investigations in Earth Sciences and Related Subjects". Abstract submission by 15 September 2009. E-mail:info@iagc.ir See <http://www.iagc.ir>

April 26-30, 2010. INTERPRAEVENT 2010 International Symposium in Pacific Rim. Taipei, Taiwan. The main topic of the symposium "Natural Disasters Mitigation Including Floods, Storms, Debris flows, Mass movements and Earthquakes etc." Deadline for submission of full-paper manuscript 30 November 2009. Abstracts submitted on the web at: <<http://congress.interpraevent.at/>> For more information see: <<http://interpraevent2010.nchu.edu.tw/index.aspx>>

July 5-11, 2010. INHIGEO 2010 Annual Meeting. Almadén-Iberian Pyritic Belt, Spain. Theme: "History of Mining and Mineral Resources". Details available by the end of 2009. See <http://www.inhigeo.org>

July 10-18, 2010. The 8th International Conference of INZA on the Occurrence, Properties and Utilization of the Natural Zeolite "Zeolite 2010", Sofia, Bulgaria (including field-trip). See: <http://www.zeolite2010.org>

August 1-6, 2010. The 19th World Congress of Soil Science, Brisbane, Australia. Theme "Soil Solutions for a Changing World". Papers must be submitted using the on-line process no later than 31 October 2009. See: <http://www.19wcss.org.au/>

With best regards,
Colin Simpson
IUGS Councillor
simpsons@grapevine.com.au