
News at a Glance

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1. IGCP news and update



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

This year’s IGCP Council Meeting took place on 18-21 February 2019 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. IGCP Council presentations and the annual report are available from our website:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/international-geoscience-programme/igcp-council/>

The Council reviewed 21 new project proposals and assessed the progress of the 27 ongoing IGCP projects. Of these, nine new projects were approved for 2019. There are now 31 active IGCP projects.

<https://en.unesco.org/news/nine-new-projects-societal-relevance-join-international-geoscience-programme>

IGCP 2019 project proposal call is launched for new applications:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/international-geoscience-programme/proposal-submission/>

2. CGI Competition - Applying International Geoscience Standards

The IUGS Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI) has launched a competition on the application of CGI standards for geoscience data delivery. CGI will support the travel costs of successful applicant(s) to present (poster or oral) their research at the 36th International Geological Congress in New Delhi, India in March 2020.



How to enter

- Demonstrate how your project or research that you are working on showcases the use of CGI standards.
- Register for CGI membership.

The closing date for applications is 1st September 2019. For any questions regarding submissions, please email: CGIsecretariat@mail.cgs.gov.cn

Link to competition flyer:

http://iugs.org/uploads/Calls/CGI-IUGS_Competition_2020.pdf

3. TecTask “OpenTerminology”: a public debate regarding geological terminology for Geoscientists

Terminology is the base of communication between individuals. [¹Open Terminology](#) is a public wiki page produced by [²Tectask](#) (Fig. 1) that was promoted during the Yorsget conference in Montgenevre, France. The aim of this project is to boost the discussion on commonly used terminology for earth scientist working in Tectonics and Structural Geology.

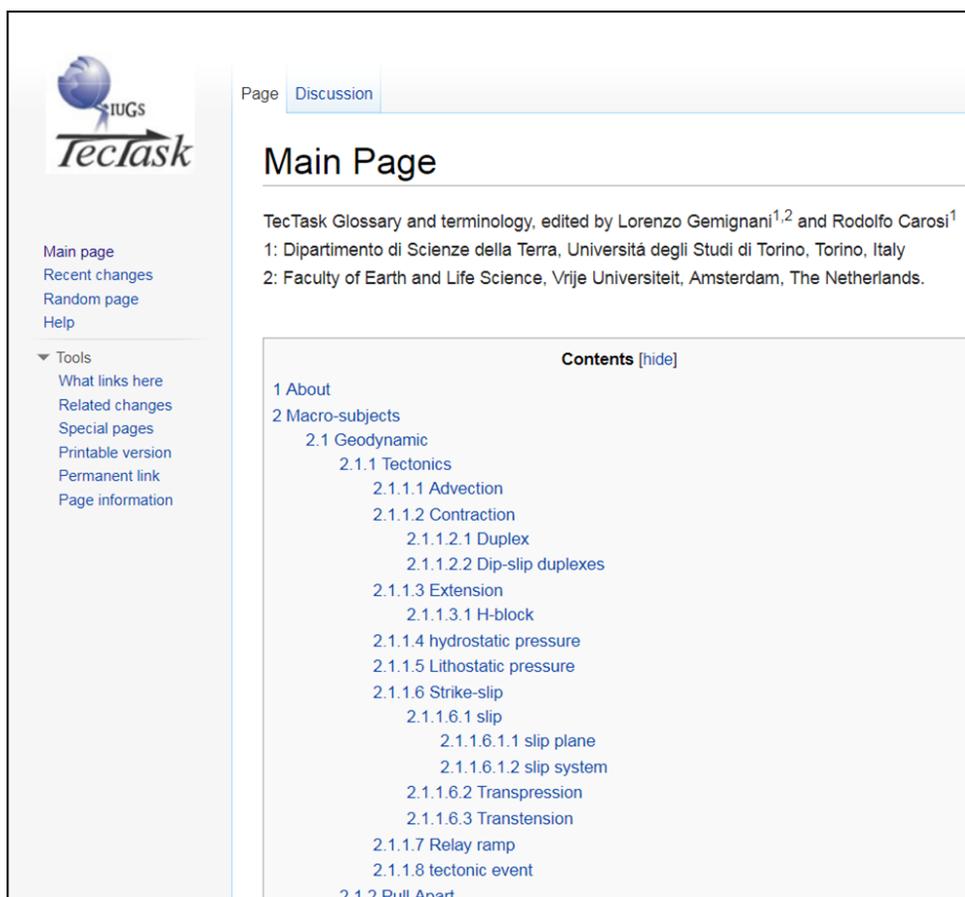


Fig. 1 – Example of main page index. The terms are organized following a hierarchy and divided in macro groups. By clicking on the term the user has access to the definition. In the term page, the user can select the discussion command to add its own comment.

The page is open access and the terms are organized in groups following a

hierarchic scheme. Every term can be defined by a macro group that defines whether it is related to a mechanism, an analytical technique, etc. The available initial terminology and its hierarchic order could be discussed by any registered user. We aim at promote this glossary as a useful tool for the Earth Science community.

4. Task Group on Geohazards: Flash flood in the northern Vietnam

Geohazards, in particular landslides, debris flows, flash floods and rock falls, are increasing in intensity and frequency in the northern Vietnam, causing severe human and economic losses. Aiming for hazard reduction, the IUGS Task Group on Geohazards plans a cooperative project with Vietnam.

A meeting in Hanoi on cooperative project of geohazards and a preliminary field excursion in the northern Vietnam were held during 14 -16 March 2019. Participants to the meeting were from General Department of Geology and Minerals of Vietnam (GDGMV) and others all under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environments of Vietnam.

In the field we visited Son La, Muong La District about 300 kms to the north-west of Hanoi. There is a winding river running through steep mountain valleys. Along the river terraced paddy fields were developed. Flash floods along the river occurred August 2017 and a large amount of debris flowed and filled all narrow valleys. Then almost all houses and rice fields disappeared.



Fig. 2 – Photo of flash flood in Son La, Muong La District, August 2017 taken by the drone of GDGMV.

The flash floods are thought to be induced by local torrential rains. The road to the disaster area is paved and good but, as usual in mountain areas, it took 6 hours by car for the 300 km route from Hanoi. Now in the area, the mud flow deposits are disappearing and hard rocks remain. At the foot of numbers of scars of landslides on hill slopes local people are developing new rice fields by removing the rocks.

5. News from IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology

IUGS-IFG, Mexico, 2019

IUGS-IFG will endorse and support the 4th Iberoamerican Seminar on Forensic Geosciences, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, 28 October to 1 November 2019, in association with the ‘Reunion Anual de la Unión Geofísica Mexicana, (RAUGM)’. IUGS-IFG proposed a key-note presentation, series of knowledge transfer lectures and training in geophysics for ground searches and geological trace evidence. IUGS-IFG has been a key participant and co-organiser of previous Iberoamerican Seminars on Forensic Geosciences, held in Colombia, Brazil and Argentina.

Forensic Geology at the 36th IGC, Delhi, 2020

The 36th IGC, in Delhi, March 2020, will include a IUGS-IFG, ‘Session on Forensic Geology’. This will take place over three days and proposes; (a) a day of presentations divided into three themes. Theme 1: Forensic Geology; Police & Law Enforcement. Theme 2: Forensic Geology; Fraud and corruption in Minerals, Mining & Metals. Theme 3: Forensic Geology; Geoenvironmental & Geotechnical). Day 2 comprises a workshop for conference delegates on search and crime scene examination. Day 3 provides training for police, law enforcement and forensic scientists.

House of Lords Science and Technology Committee Inquiry into Forensic Science

In 2018, IUGS-IFG provided written evidence, on forensic geology, for the UK House of Lords Science and Technology Committee Inquiry into Forensic Science. This is in the final stages and the report will be available in the next couple of months. In the meantime, the UK Forensic Science Regulator has published her annual report. This outlines areas within the quality standard and service provision of forensic science at a high level and broad scale. This also notes there are gaps in forensic science research, which is a common theme from previous years, and available on the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/786137/FSRAnnual_Report_2018_v1.0.pdf

IUGS-IFG Web Site

The IUGS-IFG web site will be upgraded during 2019 and will be transferred to be hosted Queens University Belfast.



Fig. 3 – Members of IUGS-IFG (Dr Biplob Chatterjee, Dr Jennifer McKinley, Dr Laurance Donnelly and Dr Satish Kumar, Queens University Belfast), attending a meeting at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Delhi, India (Source: Laurance Donnelly).



Fig. 4 – IUGS-IFG presented with a plaque from the Mr Javeed Ahmed, Director, National Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science, Delhi, India (Source: Laurance Donnelly).



Fig. 5 – IUGS-IFG visit to the Organising Committee of the 36th International Geological Congress, Delhi, India (Source: Laurance Donnelly).

6. The training of IUGS/IGEO Field Officers

Two International Union of Geological Sciences/International Geoscience Education Organisation (IUGS/IGEO) Field Officers have been appointed and trained alongside four new European Geosciences Union (EGU) Field Officers. Yamina Bourgeoini in Morocco and R. Baskar in India will now be offering workshops in their own countries to train school teachers and geopark volunteers in interactive geoscience teaching strategies. For information on their availability, contact: chris@earthlearningidea.com

More details at:

https://iugs.org/uploads/Reports/IUGS-COGE_FieldOfficersTraining.pdf



Fig. 6 - R. Baskar

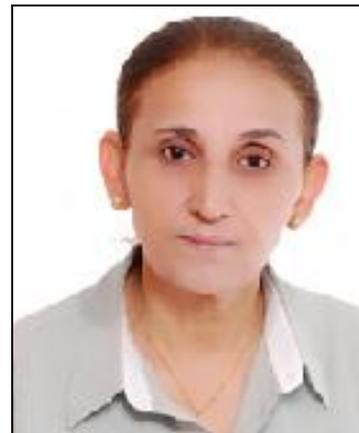


Fig. 7 – Y. Bourgeoini



Fig. 8 and 9 - Training

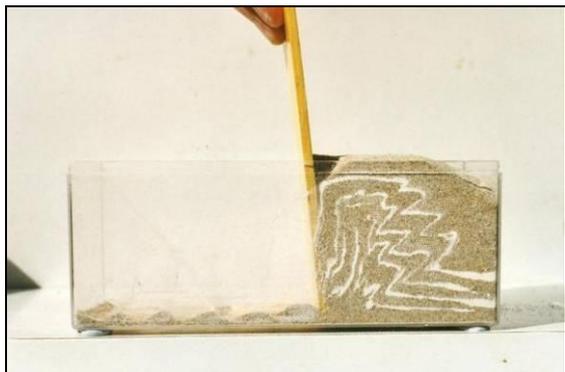


Fig. 10 - The deformation of sand and flour layers in a small plastic box

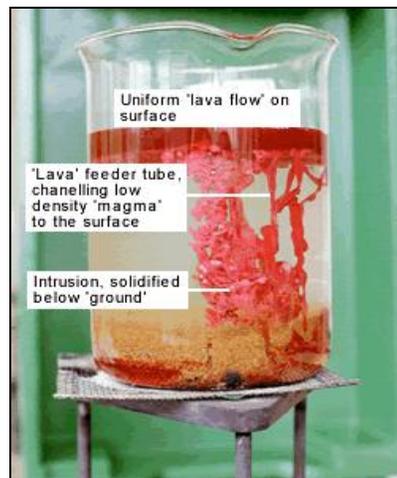


Fig. 11 - The results of a 'wax volcano' 'eruption', showing 'intrusions' and 'lava flows'

7. News from Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism

In the issue of March 2019 of its "Geobulletin", the GSSA - Geological Society of South Africa, member of the IUGS Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism (TG-GGP) (<https://tg-ggp.org/>) has published an article entitled: "The PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS portfolio of the GSSA".

Read the full article at: <https://www.gssa.org.za/wp-content/uploads/GBMarch2019WEB.pdf>

8. IUGS INHIGEO Anniversaries: April 1719: Mairan places the question of the Earth's 'central fire' on a new footing



300 years ago, J.-J. Dortous de Mairan stirred up renewed debate over the possibility that the Earth contains an internal heat reservoir, in a paper presented to the Paris Academy of Sciences. That the Earth has within it a 'central fire' was an idea embodied in conjectural theories that had been put forward by a number of physical theorists, notably

Descartes and Leibniz. Mairan's approach to the problem was through a climatological question: do measured differences in winter cold and summer heat at a given latitude conform with the supposition that the Sun is Earth's only source of heat? Through an elaborate series of calculations Mairan argued that the Earth must have some additional, intrinsic heat resource. His arguments were exploited by 18th-century advocates of Earth's *feu central*, but they remained controversial throughout the century.

Read more at:

https://iugs.org/uploads/Reports/Anniversaries_INHIGEO_April_2019_Taylor.pdf



Fig. 12 – Portrait of J.J. Dortous de Mairan. From a painting by Louis Tocqué, engraving by Étienne Ficquet. Author's collection.



EDITORS' NOTES:

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

IUGS wishes to better co-ordinate 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](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Google+](#).
- Check the IUGS website: <http://www.iugs.org/>

Edited by:

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