16 September 2020

To all registered participants of the 36th IGC,

The impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the 36th IGC was immediate and significant, and the IUGS Executive Committee is very aware of the costs to all of you in time and money. We have tried to work with the Secretary General of the 36th IGC to obtain reimbursements of all fees to delegates, as shown in a copy of our latest correspondence (following pages). We strongly encourage the leadership of the 36th IGC to immediately and fully reimburse delegates and national committees for all fees paid to the Congress.

We are aware of the inconveniences caused by covid-19 in conducting normal business, however, it is important to make a good faith effort to make these reimbursements.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the IUGS,

Sincerely,

Stan Finney
Secretary General IUGS
17 August 2020

Dr. Ranjit Rath
Secretary General of 36th IGC
Director General - Geological Survey of India

Dear Dr. Rath,

I forward to you the following resolution that was approved unanimously by the IUGS Executive Committee.

“The Executive Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences is concerned that despite assurances that conference registration and other fees already paid for attendance at the 36th International Geological Congress - originally to be held in March 2020 - would be refunded as stated on the website under “Refund Policy”, it understands that many registrants have not yet received any reimbursement. Some registrants have received repeated assurance of reimbursement, but receipt dates have come and gone without action. This is causing considerable damage to the reputation of both the IGC and the IUGS, and may ultimately harm participation in the IGC, rescheduled for August 2021, and subsequent IGs or IUGS events.

The IUGS EC understands that recent changes in the IGC leadership may have caused organizational turbulence. Nonetheless, a further delay in the refund process is now considered unacceptable. Unless the 36th IGC LOC provides written assurance by 11 September 2020 that all outstanding fees have been reimbursed, regrettably the IUGS Executive Committee will have no option than to reconsider its endorsement of the 36th IGC.”

Sincerely,

Stanley C. Finney
Secretary General - IUGS
Re: questions on refunds

DR RANJIT RATH <dr.ranjitrath@gmail.com>
Mon 9/14/2020 12:25 PM
To: Stan Finney <Stan.Finney@csulb.edu>
CAUTION: This email was sent from an external source.

Dear Prof. Finney,

Thank you very much for bearing with us in these trying times due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic.

As you would recall the notified refund policy does not include the registration fees collected during submission of the abstracts. Further, the notified refund policy also entails that all the charges (foreign currency conversion charges during remittance and refund, bank transaction charges during refund, applicable taxes etc.) are to be borne by the delegates.

Though refund of fees to four delegates have been initiated; Having reviewed the extant policy, I have taken up the process to explore feasibility of revisiting the refund policy so as to address the above concerns. I assure you that we will resolve the issues and the process of refund will commence shortly.

As for the accommodation charges, refund of the booking amount seems to be not very encouraging. Therefore, we are reaching out to the Hotels for a possible extension of validity of reservation till August 2021. However, due to the ongoing lockdown scenarios; responses from the Hotels are still awaited. We will shortly revert on the same.

Looking forward to your support and a successful organisation of 36th IGC during August 2021 with a restructured context and content.

Best Regards,
Dr. Ranjit Rath
SG-36th IGC

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:26 PM Stan Finney <Stan.Finney@csulb.edu> wrote:

Dear Dr. Rath.

The IUGS EC will meet on Tuesday to discuss the status of refunds from the 36th IGC. Two questions are asked in preparation. How many refunds have been made? Why are refunds not being made now for hotel payments made through the Congress website?

Sincerely,
Stan Finney
Stanley C. Finney,
Secretary General, International Union of Geological Sciences
Professor, Department of Geological Sciences
California State University - Long Beach
Long Beach, CA 90840
Stan.Finney@csulb.edu