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36th IGC-LOC

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Subject: Refund of Registration & other fees towards the 36th International Geological Congress

Dear Members & Colleagues,

Given the widespread continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated uncertainty, IUGS and the 36th IGC-LOC have been constrained to revisit the twice rescheduled 36th IGC planned initially for March 2020 and then the latest during August 2021. In the prevailing scenario and near future, owing to the global health crisis, the risks of attracting a global audience to a physical meeting are simply too high. Therefore, a wider consultation process means that organising the event in its present form and structure is not feasible.

We understand this will be upsetting to all those delegates who were hoping for the meeting to go ahead and especially for all those who have invested considerable time in organising the meeting.

The 36th IGC LOC has already reimbursed some of the registration amounts and has held all contributions to the following registrations in separate bank accounts. These are: meeting registration, field trip registration, Ge-Expo registration, sponsorship, abstract fees and short-course registrations. The 36th IGC LOC have already started the process and will continue to reimburse these amounts to the delegates without levying any transaction charges & banking fees. These transaction charges are being debited to the 36th IGC as a liability.

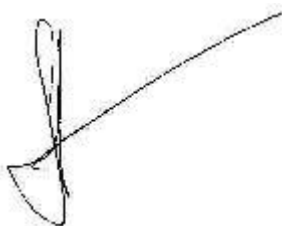
However, in some of the cases the refund process is not getting through to members due to incorrect / insufficient account details of the delegates. Therefore, the 36th IGC LOC has requested that the IUGS national delegations, where possible, help them in arranging these reimbursements, where the bank account information for the transfers is required and they will communicate a list of registrant's country by country, with the IUGS acting as an intermediary in forwarding the information, and with the 36th IGC LOC ultimately remitting the fees.

It is considered that any third-party arrangements for hotels, transfers and travel are not part of the reimbursement, and are part of the liability of the 36th IGC LOC, as are payments to the conference venue, caterers, publishers, vendors and the PCO.

Both IUGS and the 36th IGC LOC are in continuous engagement to revisit the structure and format of 36th IGC with a basic tenet for resolution of this crisis-laden event owing to COVID-19. Given that the 37th IGC planned to be organised in Busan is scheduled during 2024, we will work out a schedule and thematic event and apprise the geoscience fraternity shortly.

The inconvenience caused is deeply regretted and we assure that remittance of registration & other fees is a commitment of 36th IGC LOC, which might take a longer time due to the processes involved and the constraints of COVID-19. Kindly bear with us.

Your sincerely



Professor John Ludden CBE



Dr. Ranjit Rath