



NEWS AT A GLANCE

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PRECAMBRIAN SUBCOMMISSION OF IUGS-ICS: DISSOLUTION AND RESTRUCTURING

During the IUGS 69th Executive Committee (EC) meeting in Kunming the EC decided, based on delivered reports and recommendations, to dissolve the existing Precambrian Subcommittee of the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS). EC jointly with the chair of ICS decided that it is imperative to take steps to recruit an outstanding specialist of Precambrian stratigraphy to serve as Interim Chair of the Subcommittee until the 35th IGC and to convene a new and full Subcommittee in Cape Town. This decision led to immediate action by the ICS and I as IUGS President, would like to express EC's and my personal thanks to ICS chair Stan Finney for his diligent and swift actions in assuring continuation of work within ICS, especially on the early stratigraphic stages such as the Precambrian. Bruce Eglington of the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, as a very knowledgeable and recognized authority on Precambrian geology agreed to serve as Interim Chair. He has taken up the task to recruit a full contingent of active members for the new Subcommittee who will be ratified during the 35th IGC.

UNESCO: INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE PROGRAMME (IGCP) COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) Council took place at the Fontenoy Building of UNESCO in Paris on 22-23 February 2016. The meeting included presentation of the new UNESCO Global Geoparks applicants. The IGCP Council is formed of representatives of the Earth Sciences Division of UNESCO who were headed by the IGCP Executive Secretary Patrick McKeever and the members of the IGCP Scientific Advisory Board, which is chaired by Dr. Patricia Vickers-Rich. Current members of the Board are Drs. George Gibson (Geodynamics), Andrej Gosar (Geohazards), Gil Mahe (Hydrogeology), Robert Moritz (Earth Resources) and Guy Narbonne (Global Change). The President of IUGS, Roland Oberhänsli, and the IUGS Secretary General, José P. Calvo, participated in the IGCP meeting.

On 22 February, the session mainly dealt with the report of the IGCP activities through 2015 and the evaluation of the active IGCP projects and new project applications. Thirty-two projects were evaluated of which 20 will be continued or newly funded. In 2016 UNESCO will lower its contribution to IGCP to 55,000 USD whereas IUGS will provide 70,000 USD. The budget of the IGCP programme will be completed by a 20,000 USD contribution from China.

UNESCO will sustain activities related to the IUGS Resourcing Future Generations initiative.



On 23 February, the Disaster Risk Reduction Unit of UNESCO presented a report that described straightforward lines and current actions of UNESCO in this field placing emphasis on development and outreach concerning early warning systems. Discussion on the report was of real interest for IUGS because the presence of Geohazards in the scientific programmes of the Union had recently increased through a recent proposal of creation of a Geohazards Task Group that should be ratified by the IUGS Council at the 35th International Geological Congress in Cape Town, 27 August – 3 September, 2016. This is clearly indicative of the convergence of the policies followed by IUGS and UNESCO. Other aspects discussed during the second part of the IGCP session were the timetable for selection of new representatives according to the new Statutes approved for the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme in November 2015 as well definition of the operational guidelines. These aspects will be developed during the next months.

On 24 February, there was a joint meeting of the IGCP Council, the IGCP National Committees, and the UNESCO delegations. Dr. Qunli Han, Director of the Ecological and Earth Sciences Division of UNESCO, welcomed all the participants. Main items presented during the session were: a) an overview of IGCP project assessments by the Scientific Advisory Board, b) reports by the IGCP National Committees, c) presentation of the projects dealing with mapping and assessing the environmental and health impacts of abandoned mines in sub-Saharan African countries, d) a report by the Commission of the Geological Map of the World, and e) aspirants for UNESCO Global Geoparks in 2016.



2016: INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

Local actions may increasingly have global consequences. The complex socio-economic development in an increasingly populated world makes issues of changes to everyone's business. The focus of the 2016 "International Year of Global Understanding" (YIGU) is thus, understanding how global and local processes interact on all levels. The international year is supported by the international scientific umbrella organizations ICSU (International Council for Science), ISSC (International Social Science Council), and CIPSH (International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences). The International Geographical Union (IGU) developed the YIGU. Along with other GeoUnions IUGS is a co-sponsor of the YIGU. The International Year was officially inaugurated on 2 February 2016 in Jena, Germany. The former German Federal Minister for the Environment and past Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Klaus Töpfer, delivered the keynote address.

Please visit the YIGU for more information <http://www.global-understanding.info/>.

35TH IGC: Abstracts Submission Closed – Registration and organizing your trip to Cape Town!

The world class line-up of plenary speakers includes:

Prof Chris Hawkesworth, University of Bristol
Ms Ruth Allington, GWP Consultants
Prof Bob Scholes, University of the Witwatersrand
Prof Michel Jebrak, University of Quebec, Montreal
Dr John Anderson, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
Prof Joe Cartwright, University of Oxford
Prof Thomas Graedel, Yale University
Prof Mustapha Meghraoui, Strasburg University



Abstracts: With almost 5000 abstracts received to date for the congress, abstract submissions are now officially closed. Thank you for all your submissions.

Accommodation: August/September is peak tourist season in Cape Town and we encourage delegates to pre-book early to avoid disappointment. Take advantage of the negotiated low rates for the congress. Book online: <https://allevents.eventsair.com/trust/35igcaccom>

Field trips: Bookings are now open, please visit the website for full itineraries and prices. <http://www.35igc.org/Verso/173/Field-Trips>

Registration: Take advantage of the **Early Bird** registration which closes 31 May – save and book now – <https://allevents.eventsair.com/35igc/register35igc/Site/Register>

Workshops and short courses – 26 professional development workshops can be booked when you register - <http://www.35igc.org/Verso/210/Professional-Development-Workshops-Short-Courses>



WOMEN IN GEOSCIENCE: ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT MOVEMENT IN THE GEOSCIENCE COMMUNITY

After recent alarming statistics on sexual harassment in the Geoscience community, several unions and earth science departments have reacted to denounce openly this phenomenon. A study from a survey by the American Geophysical Union based on the responses from 1112 earth scientists (Kogan & Laursen, 2011; Archie & Larsen, 2013) revealed that 12% of female Earth Scientists vs 1% of male Earth Scientists experienced sexual harassment in the last two years. On the other hand, 51% of female Earth Scientists vs. 6% of male Earth Scientists experienced sexual harassment at some stage during their career. Incidents reports by victims are still very few due to the lack of specialized help infrastructures, the active discouragement by superiors in seeking help and the fear of repercussions.

An article published by EOS entitled “Steps to Building a No-Tolerance Culture for Sexual Harassment” highlights the roles of scientific societies in responding to harassment and other workplace climate issues (<https://eos.org/opinions/steps-to-building-a-no-tolerance-culture-for-sexual-harassment>). Below are links and references to the studies published, with more details on statistics on this issue that needs to be firmly tackled in the Geoscience community:

Archie, T., and S. Laursen (2013), Summative report on the Earth Science Women’s Network (ESWN) NSF ADVANCE PAID Award (2009–2013), 149 pp., Ethnogr. and Eval. Res., Boulder, Colo.

(link:

http://www.colorado.edu/eer/research/documents/ESWNfinalReportALL_2013.pdf)

Clancy, K. B. H., R. G. Nelson, J. N. Rutherford, and K. Hinde, (2014), Survey of academic field experiences (SAFE): Trainees report harassment and assault, PLoS ONE, 9, e102172, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102172.

In the realm of the GeoUnions, a concerted action is currently under discussion.

YES NETWORK: ELECTIONS TO FORM THE NEW LEADERSHIP

The Young Earth Scientists Network is launching elections to form the new leadership structure. The full call can be found on the YES Network website: <http://www.networkyes.org/index.php/yes-election-2016>. Deadline for nominations is April 8th, 2016.



EPISODES: WEBSITE UPDATE AND MARCH 2016 ISSUE

Episodes Website

The IUGS Community should note that in 2015 the address of the Episodes website **changed when the site was upgraded**. The current address is www.episodes.org. The former address **does not work**. The link through the IUGS Website has already been modified.

March 2016 issue of Episodes

The IUGS Community is diverse. Our journal aims to serve that wide range by alternating general issues with thematic issues (on topics of current interest). The March 2016 issue is general in nature. Of particular importance are: a paper on a rock-based definition of the Cryogenian Period which is, I think, essential reading for all who are interested in the late Proterozoic; and another on the important Seismo-Tectonic Map of Africa, a considerable achievement of IGCP Project 601 which Episodes is proud to be able to “show-case”. These represent significant achievements for IUGS and IUGS with UNESCO respectively.

Also concerned with active tectonics, is a paper on an area in the Zagros Mountains of Iran which focuses on the use of geomorphological features to characterize tectonic behaviour and which could be more widely applicable.

A progress report from IGCP Project 592 makes a significant step towards better understanding of juvenile crust, mantle magmatism and metallogeny of the Central Asian Orogenic Belt.

Two papers have climate interest (current, and past, respectively). One focuses on recent behaviour of ground water flow systems and variations in the Sudeten Mountains of south-west Poland, whereas the other concentrates on mapping by remote sensing of the palaeo-channel of the Saraswati River – one of the rivers of Rajasthan that was lost partly due to increasing aridity. Another water-related contribution, from IGCP Project 604, examines the classification of wetlands in the Iberian Peninsula and in parts of South America in terms of ecosystem services in relation to human well-being.

A paper on Cambrian Welsh Slate, which has been used widely as a high quality roofing material for many centuries, comes from the work of IUGS Heritage Stone Resource Task Group. Another contribution focuses on diversity issues by examining the important issue of the role of women in the geosciences drawing, in this case, on data from Spain.

Conference reports focus on the 9th International Earth Science Olympiad, and the 2015 meeting on Eurogranites, now in its 45th year, but also, the Future of Earth-Space Science and Education Conference in Trieste which our President attended and reported on elsewhere. Last, but not least, there is a discussion paper on new developments in geochemical exploration.

While individual issues of the journal cannot have something for every specialist it is hoped that this issue will provide something of interest to many. It is encouraging



that this issue has strong contributions from IUGS and IUGS-Joint activities. More please!

Brian Marker, Chairman, IUGS Publications Committee

Full contents:

Shields-Zhou, G; Porter, S and Halversen, G P - A new rock-based definition for the Cryogenian Period (circa 720 – 635 Ma)

Meghraoui, M and the IGCP601 Working Group - The Seismotectonic Map of Africa

Bocanegra, E; Manzano, M, Custodio, E, Cardoso da Silva Jr, G and Betancur, T - Comparing management actions in groundwater related wetlands with significant services to human welfare in Ibero-America

Buczyński, S and Staško, S - Groundwater Flow Systems in the Sudeten Mountains: a Study of the Kamieńczyk Catchment Area

Mehdi, S M; Pant, N C; Saini, H S; Mujtaba, S A I and Pande, P - Identification of palaeochannel configuration in the Saraswati River basin in parts of Haryana and Rajasthan through digital remote sensing and GIS

Aramand, Z and Arian, M - Active tectonics of Gharasu river basin by calculation of geomorphic indices and group decision with AHP in Zagros, Iran

Hughes, T; Horak, J; Lott, G and Roberts, D - Cambrian age Welsh Slate: A Global Heritage Stone Resource from the United Kingdom

Pereira, D and Díaz, C - Are women properly represented in scientific publication and research? Interim results from a Spanish case study in Earth Sciences

Safanove, I; Seltmann, R; Sun, M; Xiao, W; Dong, Y; Eyuboglu, Y; Pushkarev, E and Kruk, N - Juvenile crust, mantle magmatism and metallogeny of the Central Asian Orogenic Belt: progress report 2014 of IGCP592

De Mulder, E F J; Cheng, Q; Agterberg, F; and Goncalves, M - New and game-changing developments in geochemical exploration

Conference on the Future of Earth-Space Science and Education

Greco, R - 9th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO)

Kohut, M - Eurogranites – 45 years, still in progress: report from the annual 2015 meeting.



NOTES

- If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS e-bulletins, please <mailto:barich@geo.uni-potsdam.de>
- 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 <mailto:pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca>.
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-bulletin distribution list, please <mailto:iugs.beijing@gmail.com>.

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