

## **THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR CLOSURES**

The International Polar Year 2007-2008 (IPY), the largest polar research and education venture ever undertaken, formally come to a close at a ceremony in Oslo on Saturday 12 June the final day of the IPY Oslo Science Conference. The IPY sponsors, the International Council for Science (ICSU) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), thanked the many thousands of participants who made the IPY a spectacular international success, before passing the baton onto those who will secure the legacy of this important initiative including the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and the WMO Executive Council Panel on Polar Observations, Research and Services. The IPY success story has been captured in a summary report "Understanding Earth's Polar Challenges: International Polar Year 2007-2008" from the ICSU-WMO Joint Committee, which oversaw the implementation of the IPY. For more information on IPY see the websites: <http://ipy-osc.no/article/2010/1276298669.27> and <http://ipy-osc.no/>

## **SEISMOLOGISTS INDICTED FOR MANSLAUGHTER**

Six of Italy's top seismologists are being investigated for manslaughter for not warning the city of L'Aquila about an earthquake that struck on April 6, 2009. The magnitude 6.3 earthquake caused 308 deaths and 1600 injuries, and left more than 65,000 people homeless. On 3 June 2010 the L'Aquila Prosecutor's office indicted the scientists, some of them members of the "Commissione Grandi Rischi" (Commission for High Risks), together with some civil protection officials for manslaughter. The charges are for failing to provide a short term alarm to the population before the earthquake struck. Information about the findings of an International Commission on Earthquake Forecasting for Civil Protection that was established following the earthquake can be found on the IASPEI website at <http://www.iaspei.org/>. Readers may also like to examine the "open letter" at [http://www.mi.ingv.it/open\\_letter/](http://www.mi.ingv.it/open_letter/)

## **GWP SURVEY ON ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

The Global Water Partnership (GWP) (<http://www.gwpforum.org/>) is conducting a survey for those who are, in one way or another, involved in or study a scheme, that rewards ecosystem services (such as watershed protection, biodiversity protection or carbon sequestration). Fair, effective and efficient benefit-sharing schemes to the providers of the ecosystem services are essential if biocarbon is to significantly contribute to climate change mitigation. Next to the positive effect on mitigation, important benefits for poverty reduction, livelihood improvement and climate change adaptation can be expected for successful approaches. However, information about successful benefit sharing schemes is scarce (particularly for carbon projects), and the experiences from the few projects that are ongoing are not available in a structured way. This survey attempts to close some of the information gaps in order to see which lessons can be learned so far, where the main challenges lie and what can be done to develop appropriate benefit sharing for carbon sequestration schemes in the future. The results of this survey will have considerable policy relevance and will be presented at the appropriate fora (e.g. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC COP). If you wish your contribution will be acknowledged in any publication resulting from this study, and it could result in future research collaborations. To access the survey go to: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GWPforum\\_benefitsharing](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GWPforum_benefitsharing)

## **AAPG NEW OFFICE IN SINGAPORE**

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) now has an office in Singapore (<http://asiapacific.aapg.org>) that is networking with CCOP and working towards providing industry events in the region. The AAPG Singapore's first GTW (Geosciences Technology Workshop) on "Pore Pressure and Related Issues – Special Focus: Asia Pacific" will be held in Singapore 27-29 October 2010 with an evening Icebreaker Reception on 27 October. The AAPG is currently seeking speakers

see: <http://www.aapg.org/gtw/PorePressureSingapore/index.cfm> Registration of the event is expected to be in early August. Enquiries Adrienne Pereira, Programmes Manager AAPG-Asia Pacific Region - Singapore email: [APereira@AAPG.org](mailto:APereira@AAPG.org)

### **IGCP – 2010 CALL FOR NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS**

As outlined in detail in IUGS E-bulletin No. 52 The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) - formerly International Geological Correlation Programme - a joint endeavour between the IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has issued its 2010 call for new project proposals. IGCP projects are approved for a period not exceeding five years. Individual projects are reviewed annually after the second year and may be terminated if performing poorly as identified during a review. The deadline for submission and receipt of new project proposals to the IGCP Secretariat is 15 October 2010. For details go to the website: [http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=6304&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=6304&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

### **CALL FOR ARTICLES - EPISODES THE IUGS QUARTERLY JOURNAL**

Dr. Mudlappa JAYANANDA, the Editor for Episodes welcomes short, innovative, scientific articles, as well as items dealing with geological sciences and society. For guidance on contributions etc. visit the web address at <http://www.episodes.org/Files/Guidance.htm> Spectacular geological photographs for the magazine cover, etc. are also welcome. To submit your papers, or to make any other enquiries, contact Dr. JAYANANDA at email: [episodes.editor@gmail.com](mailto:episodes.editor@gmail.com). Back issues of "Episodes" from 1978 to 2008 are available on-line at <http://www.episodes.org/backissues.htm> and the latest back issues will be available shortly on the Indian website for Episodes.

### **AFRICAN - ARABIAN GEOPARKS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The African Geoparks Network (AGN) was initiated during the 5th Conference of the African Association of Women in Geosciences (AAWG) held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in May 2009. The AGN aims to identify, promote, and advise on the importance and preservation of geological sites in Africa and Arab regions in collaboration with other stakeholders. This initiative is supported by UNESCO, IUGS, and GSAf. In that Framework, the AAWG and the AGN in collaboration with UNESCO Cairo Office is organizing the First International Conference on African and Arabs Geoparks, 21-28 November 2011, in El Jadida, Morocco. The conference also aims to launch the Arabian Geopark Network. All researchers in the fields of geoheritage, geotourism, conservation, environment and sustainable development to policy makers, economists, geopark and local community administrators and leaders, NGOs, business operators and individuals with interest on geoheritage development are invited to participate and contribute to make this event a success. To download the first circular go to: <http://www.aawg.org/AAWG/spip.php?rubrique42>

### **34TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC) BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA, 2012**

Do you want to suggest, or participate in, a particular session topic, or wish to exhibit/sponsor at the 34th International Geological Congress in Brisbane, Australia from 2-10 August 2012 (<http://www.34igc.org/>). The organisers are keen to receive your suggestions. Also to get your name on the list for future announcements you are invited to register your interest now at the IGC website <http://www.34igc.org/expression-of-interest.html>, through the "Register your interest" tab. By registering your details you will be amongst the first to be advised when IGC registration opens in 2011. Registrations received within the first 100 days of the Early Bird registration opening will be in the running to win a free airfare (economy class) to Australia. Also visit the website to check out some of the wide range of scientific tours/field-trips currently being planned in Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia etc. Go to the "Congress Field Trips" tab on the front page of the IGC website at <http://www.34igc.org/> The IUGS invites the IUGS Commissions, IGCP Projects, and Affiliate Members to participate actively (with specific sessions, etc.) in the next IGC

## **NEED TO CONTACT A GEOSCIENCE ORGANIZATION SOMEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD?**

See the Directory of Geoscience Organizations of the World website: <http://www.gsj.jp/Intl/Dir/a.htm>

## **RECENT INFORMATION ON PUBLICATIONS, JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS**

Book--"Minerals, Critical Minerals, and the U.S. Economy". National Research Council of the National Academies. National Academies Press, Washington, D.C. 264 p. ISBN-10: 0-309-11282-6; ISBN-13: 978-0-309-11282-6. This book was developed at the request of the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Mining Association. See: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12034#description](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12034#description)

Book--"Landscapes on the Edge: New Horizons for Research on Earth's Surface". National Research Council of the National Academies. National Academies Press, Washington, D.C. 180 p. ISBN-10: 0-309-14024-2; ISBN-13: 978-0-309-14024-9. This book was developed at the request of the U.S. National Science Foundation, and identifies 9 grand challenges and 4 high-priority research initiatives in the field of Earth surface processes that address our understanding of geopatterns, the influence of landscapes on climate and tectonics, the effects of chemical erosion and weathering of bedrock and soil, transport laws for erosion and landsliding, the interaction of ecosystems and landscapes, and landscape resilience and sustainability under the influence of humans. For further information on the book, or a video, go to: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12700#toc](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12700#toc)  
<http://dels.nas.edu/Materials/Videos/Landscapes-Edge>

Book--"Computational Methods for Geodynamics" by Alik Ismail-Zadeh & Paul Tackley. Published by Cambridge University Press. Written as both a textbook and a handy reference, this text deliberately avoids complex mathematics. It describes all the numerical methods typically used to solve problems related to the dynamics of the Earth and other terrestrial planets – including lithospheric deformation, mantle convection and the geodynamo. Details on the website at:

<http://www.cambridge.org/catalogue/catalogue.asp?isbn=9780521867672> For the book's contents listing see: [http://www.mitp.ru/~aismail/cup\\_book.htm](http://www.mitp.ru/~aismail/cup_book.htm)

-- Annual Report of The Global Water Partnership (GWP) of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) "GWP in Action 2009 can now be downloaded at:

[http://www.gwpforum.org/gwp/library/GWP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2009.pdf](http://www.gwpforum.org/gwp/library/GWP_Annual_Report_2009.pdf) or you may order hard copies of the 2009 Annual Report from the Secretariat - email Helene at: [helene.komlosgrill@gwpforum.org](mailto:helene.komlosgrill@gwpforum.org) "Water Talk" the official newsletter of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) is published twice a year. To download copies go to the Publications tab on their website at: <http://www.gwpceeforum.org>

--The North Caucasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (the State Technological University) (Russia) has started to issue a new scientific journal "Sustainable Development of Mountain Territories". The journal focuses on: Geographical, ecological, medical, biological and recreation aspects; Engineering and technological aspects; Social-political, cultural and law problems; and Economic aspects, and is issued 4 times a year. See <http://www.en.naukagor.ru/>

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

For a listing of forthcoming geoscience meetings, conferences, and workshops of interest check the Calendar section of the IUGS website at:

<http://iugs.org/index.php?page=calendar&phpMyAdmin=2c9f06db78f0953a55b10dcfdc5907f6>

For previous E-Bulletin Meetings, dates and websites: <http://iugs.org/index.php?page=e-bulletins>

September 5-9, 2010. International Mine Water Association IMWA 2010 Symposium. Cape Breton University, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada. Theme "Mine Water & Innovative Thinking". Final notice at: <http://www.IMWA2010.info>. Conference Secretary: Amy KOKOSKA: [amy@IMWA2010.info](mailto:amy@IMWA2010.info)

October 5-7, 2010. The Fourth International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa and Capacity Building (Training) Workshop (ICQAHEA-2010). Bamako, Mali. Organised by

UNESCO Bamako Cluster Office in collaboration with partners. The Conference (5-7 October 2010) theme "Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa: Setting a Sustainable Agenda for a New Decade." Workshop (8-9 October 2010) theme "Capacity Building (Training) Workshop on New Strategies for Institutional Accreditation and Development of Quality Assurance Policies for Higher Education in Africa" For details see <http://www.unesco-bamako.org/conferences/English-index.htm>

October 18-23, 2010. The CCOP Technical Secretariat, in cooperation with the Government of Indonesia, has the honour to invite you to "The 47th CCOP Annual Session", at the Sintesa Peninsula Hotel, Manado, Indonesia. The CCOP Annual Session will provide a forum for presentation and discussions of CCOP programmes and activities, and fostering regional cooperation for development among the Member and Cooperating Countries, and Cooperating Organizations. Check CCOP events at <http://www.ccop.or.th/eventall.asp#> Second circular at [http://www.ccop.or.th/47as/47as\\_2nd-circ.pdf](http://www.ccop.or.th/47as/47as_2nd-circ.pdf) also download at [http://aapg.informz.net/aapg/archives/archive\\_859963.html](http://aapg.informz.net/aapg/archives/archive_859963.html)

October 27-29, 2010. AAPG Singapore's first Geosciences Technology Workshop on "Pore Pressure and Related Issues – Special Focus: Asia Pacific." The GTW is currently seeking speakers. For details see: <http://www.aapg.org/gtw/PorePressureSingapore/index.cfm>

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January 8-14, 2011. 23rd Colloquium of African Geology (CAG23) with the theme "Together in Africa for a leading role in Geosciences". University of Johannesburg, South Africa. The CAG is being held for the first time in South Africa. Scientific contributions in all aspects of geosciences are very welcome with particular emphasis on new methodologies and applications to the benefit of the society. Deadline for late registration and abstract submission is 30/09/2010. Updates at: <http://www.cag23.co.za/> NOTE: GIRAF, OneGeology, and AEGOS are each planning to hold a workshop at CAG 23 and the possibilities of combining these three workshops into a Super-Workshop are being considered. To assist planning for CAG23 please advise by email [Kristine.Asch@bgr.de](mailto:Kristine.Asch@bgr.de) if you are planning to attend CAG 23 or if you are prepared to give a presentation of Geoinformation issues in your countries.

November, 21-28. 2011. First International Conference on African and Arab Geoparks. El Jadida, Morocco. To download the first circular go to: <http://www.aawg.org/AAWG/spip.php?rubrique42>

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August 2-10, 2012. "34th International Geological Congress" (IGC) in Brisbane, Australia. The primary IUGS conference that is held every 4 years. See the Congress website at: <http://www.34igc.org/>

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To view back issues of the IUGS E-Bulletin go to <http://iugs.org/index.php?page=e-bulletins>

With best regards,  
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