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**To: Professor Wang Wei
Director, IUGS Secretariat**

**From: Associate Professor Barry Cooper
INHIGEO Secretary-General**

Date: 18 November 2015

**Subject: 2015 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2016 GRANT REQUEST
Transmitted from INHIGEO to IUGS**

PREAMBLE

INHIGEO is an ongoing Commission established by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) in 1967. It is also a Commission affiliated with the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST).

The specific objective of INHIGEO is to promote studies on the history of geological sciences from an international context and to stimulate and co-ordinate the activities of national and regional organizations that have the same purpose. It achieves its objective by holding and promoting national, regional, and international symposia and the publication of individual and collective works.

INHIGEO provides an important link with geology-historians in countries where limited financial resources render it difficult to maintain contact with recent scholarship and publications pertaining to the development of the geosciences. The regular dissemination of INHIGEO's Annual Record (which is made available online, and which is sent to selected individuals or institutions in print form (on request) amounts to a no-cost annual journal in this field, with emphasis on information that facilitates international communication among scientists and scholars with interests in the historical and philosophical dimensions of the geological sciences.

The following Annual Report and IUGS Grant request responds to an email received from the IUGS Secretariat on 1 October 2015.

INTRODUCTION

INHIGEO has had another productive year during 2015.

Our annual conference was held, 24-27 June 2015, at the Geoscience International Conference Centre, Beijing, China. This was the 40th INHIGEO conference and it attracted 120 participants.

The 2015 issue of the “*INHIGEO Annual Record*” contains a record 212 pages. The “*INHIGEO Circular*” also continues to be issued on a quarterly basis. All correspondence is sent to members electronically and both Annual Record and Circular are available on the INHIGEO website.

Nine regional organisations and one international society with similar aims to INHIGEO were accepted in the newly established “Affiliated Association” category.

Plans are progressing smoothly to produce an INHIGEO 50th anniversary publication in 2017.

MEMBERSHIP, BUSINESS MEETING AND BOARD

As of 15 November 2015, there are 290 INHIGEO members from 57 countries. This is unchanged over the past year. Even though there were several new INHIGEO members it was balanced by several sad passings.

A formal Business Meeting of the Commission took place at the Geoscience International Conference Centre, Beijing, China on Thursday, 25 June 2015. The minutes of this meeting have since been confirmed by the INHIGEO Board and have been published in the September 2015 INHIGEO Circular.

Current members of the INHIGEO Board for the period 2012-2016 are:-

PRESIDENT	Kenneth TAYLOR (USA)	VICE-PRESIDENT (Australasia/Oceania)	Michael JOHNSTON (New Zealand)
SECRETARY-GENERAL	Barry COOPER (Australia)	VICE-PRESIDENT (Europe)	Martina KÖLBL-EBERT (Germany)
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VICE-PRESIDENT (Asia)	Jiuchen ZHANG (China)	PAST SECRETARY-GENERAL (<i>ex officio</i>)	Kennard BORK (USA)
		EPISODES COORDINATOR (<i>ex officio</i>)	Karen COOK (USA)

Regular communications within the INHIGEO Board are facilitated by regular email reports by the Secretary-General, Editor and President.

In 2016, the INHIGEO Board will be renewed at the Business Meeting scheduled during the 35th International Geological Congress in Cape Town, South Africa.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

A proposal to establish an “Affiliated Association” category was approved at the 2014 INHIGEO Business Meeting.

Inaugural nominations for the new category were subsequently accepted in conjunction with the 2015 membership ballot and the following were accepted.

International:	History of Earth Sciences Society (HESS)
Argentina	Comisión Argentina de Historia de la Geología (Argentine Commission on History of Geology)
Australia	Earth Sciences History Group, Geological Society of Australia (ESHG)
Austria	Austrian Working Group, History of Earth Sciences (AWGHES)
China	Committee on the History of Geology, Geological Society of China
France	Comité Français d'histoire de la Géologie (French Committee on the History of Geology)
Japan	Japanese Association for the History of Geosciences (JAHIGEO)
Serbia	Serbian Geological Society (Srpsko geološko društvo - SGD) – History of Geology Division
United Kingdom:	History of Geology Group (HOGG), Geological Society of London
Venezuela	Sociedad Venezolana de Historia de las Geociencias (Venezuelan Society for the History of Geosciences)

PUBLICATIONS / COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS

Papers presented at the 39th INHIGEO Symposium held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in California, USA were published as Volume 34, No 2 of the journal, *Earth Sciences History*, in October 2015.

The *INHIGEO Annual Record* has remained a substantial publication compiled by Editor, Wolf Mayer. This is usually accompanied by the newsletter of Japanese INHIGEO delegation (JAHIGEO).

INHIGEO Annual Record 47, issued in June 2015, contained 212 pages, including reports on historical research in 29 countries, 11 book reviews, 9 memorials and obituaries, citations for recent awards, historical articles, as well as conference reports and Commission news.

The INHIGEO website at www.inhigeo.org continued to provide immediate information for members on activities and publications as well as general information about the Commission for the public.

All dedicated INHIGEO conferences also have a separate conference website.

In addition, members were briefed on current INHIGEO activities via the quarterly *INHIGEO Circular*, which is issued via email in March, June, September and December.

2015 INHIGEO MEETING - BEIJING, CHINA

The 40th INHIGEO Symposium was held at the Geosciences International Conference Centre of the China University of Geosciences (Beijing), 24-27 June 2015. It was organized jointly by China University of Geosciences, the Committee of the History of Geology of Geological Society of China and Institute for the History of Natural Science, CAS. There were 120 participants from 14 countries.

The overall conference theme was “Geology and the Development of Economy and Society”. The symposia topics included:

1. Research into the geological sciences and technological development
2. History of mining development
3. Conservation of geological relics
4. Biographies of geologists

A mid-meeting excursion (one day) visited the Peking Man Site Museum in southern Beijing. A 3-4 day post-meeting field trip visited Mount Tai, Temple of Confucius, mining areas and areas in Shandong Province.

**2016 INHIGEO MEETING – 35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS,
27 AUGUST – 4 SEPTEMBER 2016, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

The 41st INHIGEO Symposium will be held in association with the 35th International Geological Congress, in Cape Town, South Africa. Under the “History of Geoscience” theme the following symposia are planned:

1. General contributions on the history of geology
2. Historical studies of Gondwana
3. Local (indigenous) understanding of geology
4. History of fossil man investigations
5. History of geology over the past 50 years

It is also hoped to organise a field trip that caters primarily for INHIGEO members, otherwise a general day excursion focusing on history of geology will be recommended to INHIGEO members.

INHIGEO’s 50th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE AND PUBLICATION 2017

From 12-18 September 2017, INHIGEO is planning to commemorate its 50th anniversary with a conference in Yerevan, Armenia, the site of the inaugural INHIGEO meeting in 1967. Current conference themes being considered are:

1. 50 years of INHIGEO
2. Development of geological ideas and concepts
3. History of geology in Armenia
4. Ancient knowledge of stone and metals
5. Studies of historic and prehistoric evidences of seismic and volcanic activity
6. General contributions and biographies of famous geologists

Both mid-conference and post-conference field trips are being planned to geological sites, historical sites, archaeological sites, geological museum and the Armenian Museum of Ancient Manuscripts

For the anniversary it has also been decided to produce a 50th anniversary publication that will consider the history of INHIGEO including its founding and development. A second part of this publication will place the study of the history of geology into a wider context, while a third part will include studies and reviews on the history of geology in countries and regions.

The volume will be published by the Geological Society of London as part of their Special Publications series, in line with the publication agreement between IUGS and the Geological Society of London. Approved papers are required by the INHIGEO Editor and the Geological Society of London by 1 December 2015.

Given the significance of INHIGEO’s 50th Anniversary, it is anticipated that a special invitation will sent to the IUGS President to participate in our 2017 conference.

FUTURE INHIGEO CONFERENCES

- *INHIGEO Symposium 43* will be held in Mexico in 2018.
- *INHIGEO Symposium 44* will be held in Como/Varese, Italy in 2019
- *INHIGEO Symposium 45* will be held in New Delhi, India in 2020 in association with the 36th International Geological Congress

BUDGET ISSUES, FINANCIAL SITUATION, IUGS GRANT REQUEST

INHIGEO has operated during 2014-2015 in a positive financial position. We do however depend on a major grant from IUGS and a significantly smaller grant from the IUHPST as our sole source of income, without which the Commission could not operate.

Fortunately, members of the INHIGEO Board contribute much time and effort voluntarily in support of the Commission. Institutional employers also provide significant assistance.

For 2015, IUGS awarded INHIGEO \$US4000. Significantly the Australian Dollar dropped to 0.70 US Dollar in the latter half of the year.

Our accounts in Australian Dollars for the period October 2014 –October 2015 have been:

Operating expenses

- Conference support
- Young scholars support
- Newsletter production
- Website maintenance
- Mail, office supplies
- International bank transfer fees \$A3894

Secretary-General Travel Allowance \$A2000

Expenses for the coming year remain unpredictable, given the fluctuating state of world currencies and potential expenses associated with the INHIGEO Symposium 41 in Cape Town, South Africa. Extra support for students, post-doctoral researchers at an early stage in their careers, and possibly representatives from third world countries, to attend our annual conference may be anticipated.

As a consequence INHIGEO respectfully requests that an annual grant of \$US4000 from IUGS be maintained in order to maintain the same level of activity during 2016.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly indebted to members of the INHIGEO Board as an ongoing source of advice and assistance. INHIGEO also could not operate successfully without its members volunteering to organise and host the annual conferences that are held at various locations around the world.

Sincerely Yours,

Barry J. Cooper,
Secretary-General
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