

MINUTES



**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
70th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

August 26-27, 2016

**The Board Room
Cape Town International Convention Center (CTICC)
Cape Town, South Africa**

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Participants

IUGS Executive Committee:

Roland OBERHÄNSLI (RO; President), José P. CALVO (JPC; Secretary General), DONG Shuwen (DS; Treasurer), Marko KOMAC (MK; Vice President), Yildirim DILEK (YD; Vice President), Hassina MOURI (HM; Councillor), Yujiro OGAWA (YO; Councillor), Stephen JOHNSTON (SJ; Councillor), Amel BARICH (AB; Councillor)

Observers:

Dolores PEREIRA (Member, IUGS Publications Committee), Edmund NICKLESS (IUGS New Activities Strategic Implementation Committee, NASIC), Greg BOTHA (Secretary General, 35th IGC), Jacques CHARVET (Chair, IUGS Nominating Committee), Richard VILJOEN (Co-President, 35th IGC), WEN Jun (Assistant to the IUGS Treasurer), William CAVAZZA (President, Finance Committee)

IUGS Secretariat:

WANG Wei (Director), LI Wei (Secretary), GU Yanfei (Secretary), XU Yaqi (Secretary), CHEN Zhu (IT Specialist)

1. Opening and Welcoming Addresses

R. Oberhänsli (RO), IUGS President, extended his welcome to EC members, IUGS Secretariat and guests including William Cavazza representing the Finance Committee, Jacques Charvet representing the Nominating Committee, Edmund Nickless representing NASIC and Dolores Pereira representing the Publications Committee. He expressed his gratitude to the 35th IGC Local Organizing Committee for hosting the 70th EC Meeting in Cape Town, South Africa.

2. Discussion and Approval of Agenda

JP Calvo (JPC) called for the approval of the Agenda.

Yildirim Dilek (YD) proposed to add a brief discussion on the Publications Committee legacy issue between item 6 and 7 so as to continue the unfinished discussion at the Bureau Meeting on August 25th. His proposal was accepted by the EC. Yujiro Ogawa (YO) was wondering if he should present his proposal for a Task Group of Geohazards under the Item 9 Reports on Commissions, Initiatives and Task Groups. JPC confirmed this. The Executive Committee then approved the Agenda with minor amendment by YD.

ACTION: EC to have a discussion on the PC legacy issue between the item 6 and 7 in the Agenda.

ACTION: Yujiro Ogawa to present the proposal for a new IUGS Task Group of GeoHazards.

3. Amendments and approval of Minutes of the 69th Executive Committee, Kunming 2016, and Bureau meeting in Madrid-Toledo (May 2015) - Status of Actions arising

JPC called for the approval of the Minutes. Without any comments or changes proposed by the meeting participants, Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Annual Administrative Affairs

4.a. Report from the President (Roland OBERHÄNSLI)

RO reviewed the conditions when IUGS was handed over to the current EC in 2012, including challenges that the current EC was facing then. As the President of IUGS, he expressed his intention to guide IUGS from the era of System Earth studies towards the era of Future Earth studies. This goal had been partly achieved over the past four years and there was space for continuing adaptation, modernization and restructuring of IUGS under a new EC.

RO expressed thanks to the Chinese National Committee for IUGS, Ministry of Land and

Resources of China and Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences for taking over the IUGS Secretariat in 2012. He appreciated the supports from Anne Liinamaa-Dehls, Peter Bobrowsky and colleagues from the US Geological Survey. He expressed his gratitude to William Cavazza, the former IUGS Treasurer (2008-2012), for his help in the transfer of financial administration from Italy to China, Ian Lambert, the former Secretary General (2012-2013), for his involvement and input in IUGS and Jacques Charvet, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, for the swift replacement of the new Secretary General. He also mentioned the strong support from the current EC.

RO reviewed the Union's organization over the past 4 years, the actions IUGS had taken to enforce the relations with the IUGS members, new progress of *Episodes* and the MOU with South Korea with respect to the host of *Episodes* from 2017. RO reported on the progress of the Resourcing Future Generations Initiative, RFG Symposium and talks given through out the world and mentioned that the second open call for RFG proposals had started.

RO reviewed the cooperation with UNESCO since 2012, pointing out that IUGS would support the International Geoscience and Geoparks Program (IGGP), the new scientific joint program between IUGS and UNESCO by serving as scientific board and reviewers for IGCP scientific program and providing lists of experts for all geology-related topics for UNESCO Geoparks & World Heritage sites.

RO pointed out that representation of IUGS on the world stage was crucial. EC members were not familiar with all world organizations due to their short serving terms and IUGS was in lack of the support of Adhering and Affiliated Organizations, so he recommended optimizing the liaison officer mechanism. RO informed that the geoscience's position in the International Council for Science (ICSU) was vague. ICSU attempted to change voting modes and putting scientific unions in a disadvantageous position and the full name of ICSU had been changed into "International Union of Sciences (ICS)".

RO informed that IUGS and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) kept positive and close contacts with each other. The idea of a joint IGC between IUGS and IUGG could be given by IUGG in 2019.

RO reviewed the cooperation with the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) as well as with the UNESCO International Centre on Global-Scale Geochemistry in Langfang, China.

4.b. Report from Treasurer (DONG Shuwen)

Dong Shuwen (DS) gave a report on the financial condition of IUGS from January 1st to June 30th, 2016. DS pointed out that the IUGS financial situation was optimistic. DS presented a table showing the balance of the reserve and current accounts as of 30 June, 2016 (*2015 shown in blankets*). Total balance as of 30 June was USD 1,276,320.86 (*USD*

1,262,176.56), including reserve account balance of USD 774,653.36 (*USD 860,917.63*) and current account balance of USD 501,667.50 (*USD 401,258.93*). DS noted that during the first half year of 2016, EUR 100,000 was transferred to IUGS' bank account in Beijing as income.

DS then presented a table comparing the income and outcome (June, 2016 vs. 2015). By the end of June, 2016, the net income was USD 123,508.57 (*USD 94,875.43*), total income was USD 401,027.34 (*USD 519,655.44*) and expenditure was USD 277,518.77 (*USD 424,780.01*). DS provided with the table which showed that the expenditure for IGCP over the first half of 2016 was USD 49,500.00 (7 projects) and USD 80,500.00 for 13 projects hadn't been paid yet.

The allocation table showed that the total 2016 budget was USD 398,170.00 with USD 277,518.77 paid. There were many IUGS scientific activities (OneGeology, TecTask, HSTG, TGGP, AAWG, Yes, RFG, IFG and 13 IGCP Projects) to be paid in the rest of this year.

DS provided a table detailing the special expense for 35th IGC. It showed that USD 27,951.45 had been paid and the total budget for 35th IGC is USD 178,000.00.

At the end of the report, DS pointed out that IUGS revenue of the next few months of this year included membership dues income of about USD 200,000 and UNESCO contribution of USD 50,000, and IUGS expenditure included expenses on IGCP projects, IUGS scientific activities (OneGeology, TecTask, HSTG, TGGP, AAWG, Yes, RFG, IFG) of about USD 144,000 and IGC expense of about USD 100,000.

4.c. Report from Secretary General (José P. CALVO)

José P. Calvo (JPC) reported on the meetings he prepared since the Kunming Meeting in February, 2016, including the IUGS Bureau Meeting in Madrid/Toledo in May 2016 and a series of IUGS business meetings and activities during the 35th IGC (Bureau Meeting, 70th IUGS EC Meeting, IUGS-IGC Council Meeting, EC Handover Meeting, IUGS Reception, Meeting with Affiliated Organizations, and IGCC Meetings). JPC also expressed his condolence to the sudden demise of Zhang Hongren, the Past President of IUGS (IUGS President from 2004 to 2008; IUGS Past President and Chair of IUGS Nominating Committee from 2008 to 2012).

JPC participated in the following meetings or activities: International Geoscience Program (IGCP) annual meeting at UNESCO, Paris in February, 40th Director's Workshop EGS in Brussels in March, ARC Meeting on Initiative on Forensic Geology in Manchester in April, Meeting of ICSU Unions in Paris in April, 40th Anniversary of the Spanish IGCP Committee in Cordoba in April, IAS Bureau Meeting in Marrakech in May. In addition, JPC paid a visit to Korea for inspection of the bidding venue in Busan in April.

JPC prepared the following documents: Minutes of the 69th IUGS EC Meeting, 2015 IUGS Annual Report, new IUGS brochure and flyer, Minutes of the IUGS Bureau Madrid – Toledo, Minutes of the ARC Meeting of Initiative on Forensic Geology.

JPC appreciated the cooperation of IUGS colleagues.

4.d. Reports from the Vice Presidents (Yildirim DILEK, Marko KOMAC)

Yildirim Dilek (YD) gave a report on his work since the 69th EC Meeting in Kunming. His report focused on the issue of *Episodes*. He presented the background information of the transfer of *Episodes* Editor's office from India to South Korea. YD drafted a new MOU specifically targeted for South Korea and made it available to Bureau members and South Korean colleagues. The final version of the MOU was ready to be signed by IUGS and South Korean colleagues during the 35th IGC. As of January, 2017, the *Episodes* editorial office will be operated by South Korean colleagues who will publish *Episodes* as an online journal. YD expressed his thanks to the colleagues from the Publications Committee and Yujiro Ogawa (YO) for the efforts they had made for one of the special issues of *Episodes*.

Following YD's report, YO pointed out that *Episodes* should be more international so as to serve the geological community throughout the world. RO agreed that IUGS needed to enforce the *Episodes* platform for enlarging communication among the international geological community. RO mentioned that in the new IGCP rules, IUGS had emphasized that those who apply for IGCP projects must submit an article to *Episodes* during his or her proposal time and this article could be a general one which brought about public's interest in geosciences. RO expressed his thanks to the PC and EC colleagues who had made contribution to the special issues of *Episodes*.

Marko Komac (MK) gave a brief report on his work from 2012 to 2016. He first reviewed work related to European Geoparks Network (EGN) and Global Geoparks Network (GGN). MK informed that GGN was recently restructured as UNESCO Global Geoparks (UGG) and IUGS was recognized by UNESCO as the geological knowledge support in the UNESCO Global Geoparks evaluation. MK was appointed as the IUGS representative in the UGG Council for 2016-2020 and he was responsible for the coordination of desktop geological reviews of aspiring UNESCO Global Geoparks applications. MK was also coordinating the geological reviews of IUCN World Heritage Site applications (6 evaluations by more than 30 geoscientists) and representing IUGS in various ad-hoc review committees to perform reviews on IUGS Task Groups and Initiatives and IGC 2024 bids. He participated in IUGS EC Meetings from 2013 to 2016 and supported IUGS Bureau with suggestions, comments and ideas as requested. He also mentioned his involvement in the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL), Global Earth Observation/Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEO/GEOSS) and OneGeology.

Jacques Charvet (JC) asked about the current situation of the European Geopark

Network (EGN). MK confirmed that EGN still exists but it needs more evaluators from other continents, not just from Europe. RO pointed out that IUGS was responsible for providing not only UNESCO the list of competent reviewers for Geopark evaluation, but also proper standards for the reviewer selection.

4.e. Reports from the IUGS Councilors

Amel Barich (AB) reported her work since the last EC meeting in Kunming. AB was involved in public communicating strategy, social media promotion, e-bulletin, rebuilding of IUGS website and the development of the IUGS APP.

Stephen Johnston (SJ) reported his work since the 69th EC meeting in two aspects, one was that he and Ogawa jointly finished a report on the earthquake happened to Kumamoto, Japan in April, 2016; the other was that he worked as the chair of the Episodes Best Paper Committee and concluded recommendations of the best paper candidates.

Hassina Mouri (HM) reported that she gave presentations about IUGS at several international conferences. HM made her best efforts to reactivate the membership of Algeria, but due to political reasons this was not accomplished; she would like to continue her effort on this issue anyway.

Yujiro Ogawa (YO) reported that from 2012 to 2016 he was involved in a number of international and domestic communications between IUGS and other geological institutions and individuals, closely focused on natural hazards and promoted meetings and other scientific activities. YO mentioned his papers on the tectonics of subduction zones and his editorial work for an encyclopedia of marine geosciences (Springer). He also presented the revised proposal of a new IUGS Task Group on GeoHazards. RO pointed out that it was high time for IUGS to start a task group on geohazards.

ACTION: Amel Barich to arrange interviews for EC members during the 35th IGC.

4.f. Report from the IUGS Secretariat (WANG Wei)

Wang Wei (WW) reviewed the preparation that the Secretariat made for the IUGS business meetings and activities to be held during the 35th IGC. The Secretariat prepared documentations for two EC Meetings and the Council Meeting and rearranged the text and photos for 32 posters which would be displayed at the IUGS booth during the 35th IGC Exhibition. The Secretariat prepared ballots and “yes”, “no” or “abstain” cards to be used at the Council meeting, a variety of IUGS gifts to be distributed at the booth, invitation letters of the IUGS reception and the certificates and stromatolites to be granted to IUGS award winners. WW mentioned that totally 61 boxes containing the above documents were transported to Cape Town by air or by sea.

5. Finance Committee (William CAVAZZA)

William Cavazza (WC) first expressed his sympathy to the casualty of the earthquake happened on August 24th in Italy.

WC's report presented the mandates of the Finance Committee regulated in the IUGS Statutes and Bylaws and the current FC members including:

- ◆ Danie Barnardo (Council for Geosciences, South Africa)
- ◆ William Cavazza (Univ. of Bologna)
- ◆ Maria-Glicia da Nobrega Coutinho (CPRM, Rio de Janeiro)

FC Objectives (FC feasible goals for Cape Town):

1. Arrange for the conduct of an independent external audit of IUGS finances;
2. Prepare a general report verifying the allocation of funds in relation to the strategic priorities and missions adopted by the Executive Committee;
3. Outline possibilities for increased funding.

WC mentioned that an Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements of IUGS from 2012 to 2015 showed a positive opinion on IUGS financial statements.

By analyzing IUGS membership status from 2008 to 2015, WC pointed out that inactive members were all of category 1 to 3 and the 11 active members of category 6 to 8 contributed about 76% of the IUGS membership fees. WC mentioned that the political consideration should be a major issue of the next EC. WC presented a table of IUGS Financial Investment by December 31st, 2015 and reminded that IUGS should be careful to exchange the euro capital into US dollars as the exchange rate was in favor of US dollar.

WC made the following recommendations at the end of his report:

1. Financial investments could be improved;
2. Viable avenues for improving IUGS finances: publications, foundation, IGC;
3. New EC should be made familiar with previous documents on financial matters;
4. New EC should consider appointing the new FC right away with clear goals.

RO commented that WC's report was a good handover of IUGS legacy and provided a chance for IUGS to realize the importance of legacy. EN recommended making a collection of policy decisions and an introductory meeting to be held for the handover of important documents. RO mentioned that the outgoing President would remain in the EC and outgoing Secretary General stayed in EC for one more year.

DS raised a question about how to deal with members who had been inactive for years

and RO responded that inactive membership was a long term problem that the current EC had been spared no efforts to deal with over the past four years by terminating memberships of some inactive members and offering them with favorable terms of activating memberships, but this effort gained limited return. RO suggested IUGS should prepare to terminate the memberships of countries or regions who were not active in IUGS activities for many years.

ACTION: The status quo of IUGS membership should be informed to the next EC as a legacy of the current EC.

6. Report from the Publications Committee (Dolores PEREIRA)

Dolores Pereira (DP) first expressed her condolence to Italian people.

Convened in 2013, the current PC consisted of the following members:

- ◆ Yildirim Dilek (USA, representing the IUGS Executive), replaced by Amel Barich in 2015
- ◆ Peter Bobrowsky (Canada, Webmaster)
- ◆ Fareeduddin (India, Editor of *Episodes*)
- ◆ Zhenyu Yang (China)
- ◆ Dolores Pereira (Spain)
- ◆ Susana Damborenea (Argentina), resigned in 2013 and was not replaced due to shortage of funds
- ◆ Brian Marker (UK, Chairman)

DP reported major achievements of the Publications Committee (PC) from 2012 to 2016.

Episodes

In 2015, *Episodes* achieved the highest recorded impact factor 3.26, compared with 0.95 in 2012, and improvement in the number of submissions with now 60% rejection rate and improved quality, which reflected the efforts of the Chief Editor and his editorial team. PC revised guidance for authors, Editorial Board, guest editors of thematic/special issues and advertisers. PC developed a publication policy and ethics statement. The Editorial Board of *Episodes* reinvigorated with now 20 members. But about 10 more members were needed for optimum geographical and subject spread and gender balance. Modern editorial management system is needed to improve efficiency and audit trail and allow editor time to proactively seek content. All the published papers now have DOI numbers. Updated *Episodes* website gave access to all the papers from Volume 1 Number 1. A new MOU for 2017-2020 dealing with *Episodes* had been recently signed with Geological Society of South Korea.

Books

11 books were published from 2012 to 2016, with 3 more expected by the end of 2016. Online-first publication of 2 more commenced and high quality proposals were needed. IUGS could get one off payment of £1250 for each book published. MOU with the Geological Society London (GSL) required sets of 15 or more associated papers should be first offered to the GSL. PC aimed for good range of proposals from sessions at the IGC. It was also worth considering whether the special IGC issue of *Episodes* should be handled as a book in the future.

Outreach

A newly designed IUGS website constructed by the IUGS Secretariat would be ready soon.

Recommendations for Action

The Publications Committee urges IUGS Council and EC to: (1) Implement online-first and online-only publication of *Episodes* as a matter of urgency; (2) Secure an online submission, review and approval system for *Episodes* at the earliest opportunity; (3) Update the *Episodes* website to allow for print-on-demand sales; (4) Consider and, subject to any amendments, approve the Publications Policy and Ethics statement for *Episodes*; (5) Consider securing DOI numbers for all *Episodes* papers prior to December 2015; (6) Seek higher levels of submissions of reports and papers from IUGS and joint funded activities; (7) Consider whether, from 2020 onwards, the IGC issues of *Episodes* should be special issues additional to the normal 4 issues per year or be dealt with as books, wholly funded from the IGC; (8) Make a concerted effort to ensure that more book proposals should go to the GSL for first refusal.

RO invited questions from EC about PC's report. HM asked why the impact factor was negatively affected by the publication of the special IGC issue of *Episodes*. RO explained that different from other normal *Episodes* issues with high scientific values, this volume was presenting geological research countries or areas. DP also pointed out that the review of the papers in the IGC special issue was not controlled by the PC and this was the reason why the PC suggested that IUGS should deal with the special issue of *Episodes* as a book in the future.

YD asked about the budget for the Special issue of *Episodes* for the 35th IGC. DP responded that as the special issues were printed in South Africa, transport expense had been saved. RO pointed out that as the special issues were printed in South Africa and the 35th IGC shared relevant costs with IUGS in accordance with a favourable agreement so that IUGS only paid 5,500 USD for the special issue.

6.a. Legacy of the Publications Committee

RO mentioned that *Episodes* would be transferred from India to South Korea with the MOU between IUGS and South Korea to be signed during the 35th IGC, which was a fact to be presented to the new EC. The Bureau decided to finish the current PC before the new EC members starting their service to IUGS. RO informed that the Geological Society of Korea will assign a Managing Editor and two assistants who will be responsible for the operation of *Episodes* and Springer Publishing Company would deal with printing and supervision on editorial system. 28,000 USD would be paid to South Korea, the same as the amount paid to India.

YD (2012-2014) and AB (2015-2016) had served as members of the PC and Brian Marker will end his service for the PC in 2016. RO invited EC members to a discussion on whether the current EC should only make recommendations on or should decide the members of the new PC. YD suggested that the current EC should appoint the new PC Chair and Scientific Chief Editor of *Episodes* (a member of PC). RO mentioned that it had been discussed at the Bureau meeting on August 25th that the current EC would recommend YD as the Chair of the new PC. HM suggested the current EC to write a proposal with motivation. EN pointed out that to ensure the stability and continuity of the IUGS publication work, the new PC should reserve the majority of the expertise of the current PC and the recommendations should be made with this rationale. The final decision on the legacy issue of PC was to be decided by the EC members at the end of the day.

ACTION: EC members to make a decision on the legacy issue at a closed-door meeting at the end of the day.

7. Report from the Nominating Committee (Jacques CHARVET)

Jacques Charvet (JC) reported the work of NC during this term in two parts: 1. Replacement of members during the term; 2. Nominating Committee meetings.

1. Replacement of members during the term

◆ New chair of the Nominating Committee

Jacques Charvet was appointed as the new Chair of the NC on July 4th, 2013.

◆ New Secretary General

A call for nominations was sent out in March 2014 with the deadline of April 30th, 2014. E-ballot with slate of 4 candidates was distributed among all active council members through June to July.

José P. Calvo was elected as the new Secretary General.

◆ Election of a 6th member of the Nominating Committee

A call for nominations was sent out on September 15th, 2014 and NC formed a slate of 3 candidates on November 10th, 2014. Electronic voting was implemented in December. The appointment of Niichi Nishiwaki was notified on 4 January 2015.

2. Nominating Committee meetings

◆ Preparing slate for the election of the Executive Committee

A call for nominations was sent out in March 2015 and a reminder was sent in September, 2015 with deadline of 31 January, 2016. Another call for nominations was restricted to positions of Secretary General and Treasurer with deadline on 10 April, 2016.

NC received 21 nominations, among which 19 were deemed eligible. 18 candidates were recommended in the slate.

◆ Preparing slate for the election of the Nominating Committee

NC called for nominations in September 2015 with deadline of 31 January, 2016 and sent a reminder on 28 February, 2016 with deadline of 15 April, 2016.

NC presented a slate of 10 nominations, including 5 nominations from the Council and 5 candidates added by NC.

RO invited questions on the report from the Nominating Committee. YD asked about “To what extent should the NC proactively look for potential candidates and go after certain people for certain positions? To what extent has the NC examined the qualifications of the potential candidates of IUGS President and contacted with the potential referees in support or otherwise?” JC answered that the NC was proactive in calling for nominations. The NC made efforts to find enough candidates (at least 2 candidates for each position except the position of Treasurer) for the EC election by emailing repeated calls and examined the qualifications of the candidates. RO mentioned that according to the IUGS Statutes and Bylaws, candidates for Bureau members should be financially supported by their own countries or organizations. JC responded that at the request of the NC, each Bureau candidate had presented document proving their own financial support.

8. Report from NASIC (Edmund NICKLESS)

Edmund Nickless (EN) reported that NASIC was outgrowth of the new strategic plan agreed by the IUGS-IGC Council in 2012 and established in February 2013 to develop the Resourcing Future Generations (RFG) Initiative. The initial scope of RFG was to include minerals, energy and water, all with implications on land-use. Following consultation with industry, the focus was on metals and minerals. The RFG initiative was announced in *Episodes* in 2013 and an 8-page brochure was produced and distributed. RFG symposia were held at GSA Pardee Conference in Denver 2013, at China Mining in Tianjin 2014 and at EGU in Vienna 2014. RFG was promoted on the IUGS and other organizations' websites. The RFG White Paper was launched at China Mining in October 2014. A RFG Workshop was held in Namibia in July 2015 and an 80-page report was published. Invited bids were put up for top-up research grant funds.

RFG raised awareness among some external publics, linked to IUGG and other geo-unions, attracted financial support from ICSU and UNESCO, reached out to the social sciences and engineers, made links to the UNEP International Resources Panel and

Horizon 2020 Forum project, sought to open a dialogue with policy makers in Germany and the UK. The first open call for research grant proposals was issued in April 2016 and closed in May 2016. Eleven applications were received and 6 were funded. The second open call for project proposals was issued on 1 October 2016 and would end on 31 December 2016. The second open call for project proposals was distributed during the 35th IGC.

NASIC planned to further promote RFG at EGU (Vienna, April 2017), Mines and Money (London, November 2017), RFG 2018 (Vancouver, June 2018). NASIC needed to attract more funding for the future development of RFG. The total funding for RFG included the following:

2013/14 \$30k from IUGS

2014/15 \$55k (\$15k from IUGS, \$30k from ICSU & \$10k from UNESCO)

2015/16 \$25k (\$15k from IUGS & \$10k from UNESCO)

AB asked how the EC could provide assistance for the future development of RFG and EN encouraged EC members to take every possible opportunity to speak about RFG. HM asked if RFG2018 was a regular inter-IGC meeting and SJ answered that there was no regular interim-congress event of IUGS so far, but interim-congresses could be a potential way of building more revenue for IUGS.

Welcome Address by Richard VILJOEN

Richard Viljoen (RV) gave a welcome address and made an introduction on the scientific activities and social events to be held during the 35th IGC. He expressed gratitude to IUGS's support and wished all an enjoyable stay in Cape Town.

9. Report on Commissions, Initiatives and Task Groups (José P. CALVO)

J.P. Calvo reported the status of the IUGS Commissions, Initiatives and Task Groups:

IUGS Commissions:

- Commission on Geoscience, Training & Technology Transfer (COGE):

Report 2012-2016 was submitted.

- Commission on History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

Report 2012–2016 was submitted and Terms of Reference was revised.

- Commission on Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI)

Report 2012–2016 was submitted.

- International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)

Report 2012–2016 was submitted.

- Commission on Tectonics and Structural Geology (TECTASK)

No report was submitted yet.

- Commission on Geoscience for Environmental Management (GEM)

Report 2012–2016 was submitted and the GEM Commission ended its activities in Cape Town.

IUGS Task Groups:

- Task Group on Global Geochemical Baselines (TGGGB):

Proposed to be upgraded to an IUGS Commission

- Task Group on GeoHeritage (TGG)

- Heritage Stone Task Group (HSTG)

TGG and HSTG are proposed to merge and be upgraded to an IUGS Commission

- Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism (TGGGP)

IUGS Initiatives:

- Forensic Geology (FGI)

ARC in Manchester, UK, April 2016

- Resourcing Future Generations (RFG) – Several activities

New IUGS Commission - IUGS Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines

JPC introduced that the IUGS Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines built on the previous work of the IUGS Task Group on Global Geochemical Baselines (TGGGB) (1997-2016). The objectives of the proposed new Commission are to promote and facilitate the implementation of harmonized sampling, sample preparation, quality control, and analytical protocols in geochemical mapping programmes. The Commission will be led by a Steering Committee consisting of two Co-Leaders, a Scientific Secretary and a Treasurer.

The Terms of Reference of the new Commission will be presented to the IUGS-IGC Council for ratification. Issues in relation to data access, coordination with the UNESCO Category II Center etc. were discussed.

New IUGS Commission - IUGS International Commission on GeoHeritage (ICG)

JPC introduced that Task Group on GeoHeritage (TGG) and Heritage Stone Task Group (HSTG) had been working intensively and fruitfully over the last years. The

establishment of an IUGS International Commission on GeoHeritage by merging the two Task Groups would enable the Union to take a true leadership role in raising the quality of public understanding of heritage stones and geosites around the world. The objectives of the ICG will involve the promotion of research, development and maintenance of inventories and the development of geological standards with specific reference to heritage stone and geoheritage in general. The task of IGC is to coordinate the two Subcommissions and promote collaborative activities.

The new Commission will consist of two Subcommissions:

Heritage Stone Resource Subcommission

Heritage Sites and Collections Subcommission

The President and Secretary General of each Subcommission will form the Board of the ICG, and will alternate as Commission President and Secretary General for a 2 year period. The Commission plans to publish a joint Annual Report and funding from IUGS will tend to be divided equally between them. The Terms of Reference of the new Commission will be presented to the IUGS-IGC Council for ratification.

ACTION: JPC to present the Terms of References of the IUGS Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines and IUGS Commission on GeoHeritage at the 4th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council Meeting for ratification.

New IUGS Task Group - IUGS GeoHazard Task Group

IUGS GeoHazard Task Group was requested to present a concise Terms of Reference in 2 to 4 pages, including the governance, background, objectives and other key information of the task group and it would be submitted to the Council for ratification.

ACTION: Yildirim Dilek to assist Yujiro Ogawa in preparing a concise Terms of Reference that would be discussed at the 4th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council Meeting for ratification.

10. Report on the Status of IUGS Membership and Ratification of New Members

10.a. Adhering Organizations

Dong Shuwen (DS) reported that despite the slowdown in the global economy, IUGS membership income was basically stable and in particular the member structure had been improved.

DS presented a table showing the membership status from 2012 to June 2016. The total number of members (120) did not change, but the number of active members had been decreased from 86 to 73 due to the global economic slowdown and financial difficulties in some member countries/regions. During the past four years, 10 members reinstated their

status from Inactive to Active and one member rejoined IUGS and one withdrew.

DS then presented a table showing current member status by category. IUGS had 68 category 1 members (27 active, 41 inactive), 17 category 2 members (14 active, 3 inactive), 16 category 3 members (13 active, 3 inactive), 8 category 4 members (8 active, 0 inactive), 0 category 5 members, 2 category 6 members (2 active, 0 inactive), 4 category 7 members (4 active, 0 inactive) and 5 category 8 members (5 active, 0 inactive). China had upgraded its membership category from 7 to 8 in 2013.

With regard to the membership fees income since 2012, DS showed that income increased from USD 301,070 (USD 258,484 for current year and USD 42,686 for previous years) in 2012 to USD 448,322 (USD 348,474 and USD 99,848) in 2015. By the end of June, 2016, IUGS had received membership fees of USD 226,578 (USD 226,578 and USD 50,607). Members of category 7 and 8 contributed most of the membership income of IUGS.

DS then presented the detailed IUGS income from 2012 to 2016. By the end of June, 2016, the total income was 401,027.34, including membership income of USD 277,184.27, UNESCO contribution of USD 6,967.00 and other income of USD 116,876.07.

The Treasurer provided following suggestions on the maintenance of IUGS membership: 1) Consider the necessity to maintain such a large number of members and the way to deal with members who haven't been participating in the activities of IUGS for long time; 2) Current focus should be placed on developing the stable relationship with the active members, and actively improving and promoting the pending members to become active members.

At the end of his report, DS expressed gratitude to UNESCO, Indian Government, Canadian Government and Chinese Government for the financial support they had provided for EC meetings, IUGS Secretariat, Bureau Meetings and other IUGS activities.

RO mentioned that some IUGS members were facing difficulty in persuading the domestic fund providers. WC pointed out that national committees or adhering organizations needed to cultivate sound relationship with the paying body. HM suggested holding training programs, short courses and workshops to increase African countries' willingness to participate in IUGS activities and their awareness of the benefits of being a member of IUGS.

10. b. Affiliated Organizations (Stephen JOHNSTON)

Stephen Johnston (SJ) informed that two Affiliated Organizations declared as "defunct" this term:

- Association of European Geological Societies (AEGS)
- Balkan Geophysical Society (BGS)

And IUGS welcomes the following new IUGS Affiliates since 2012:

International Association for Geoethics (IAGETH)
International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG)
Geological Association of Canada (GAC)
Earth Science Matters (ESM)

11. Relations IUGS-UNESCO (Roland OBERHÄNSLI)

RO informed that the International Geoscience and Geopark Program (IGGP), a new cooperative program between IUGS and UNESCO, was running with its governance structure to be finalized. The two pillars of IGGP, namely International Geoscience Program (IGCP) and UNESCO Global Geopark (UGG), would run independently. MK was the IUGS representative in the Geopark pillar. RO had provided his comments on the Board Members of IGCP.

RO mentioned that the past four years witnessed the sound communication and cooperation between IUGS and Patrick McKeever, the Chief of the Global Earth Observation Section of UNESCO and Secretariat for IGCP. IUGS was working together with Patrick to find sponsors for IGCP programs and RO hoped that the next EC would maintain a good relationship with Patrick.

12. Relations IUGS-ICSU (Roland OBERHÄNSLI)

RO informed that International Council for Science (ICSU) holds General Assembly every three years as well as several interim meetings. ICSU comprises National members and Union members. ICSU previously had a voting system where the national and scientific union representatives voted separately and final voting results were finalized through comparison and reassessment of the two sides' voting at a joint meeting. Last year, ICSU presented a new type of voting system where only national representatives had the right to vote. Having discussed with other EC members, RO wrote a letter expressing objection on the new system. RO's objection and that from other scientific unions were accepted by ICSU. ICSU had changed its full name from "International Council of Scientific Unions" to "International Council for Science".

RO mentioned that ICSU GeoUnions was composed of IUGS, International Union of Radio Sciences (URSI), International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and other scientific unions dealing with earth and space sciences. Orhan Altan from Turkey is the only ICSU Board member who is involved in geosciences. IUGS and colleagues from GeoUnions took the effort to signal where geosciences could add significant input and increase the awareness of geology in ICSU and the society as a whole. A document was distributed to ICSU as well as Future Earth authorities without any significant feedback or acknowledgment. The pressure for including geosciences concepts in the ICSU activities

had been maintained. RO suggested appointing IUGS liaison officers with scientific background to ICSU and other international organizations and occasions.

WC mentioned that as an interface between scientific world and politicians, ICSU implements influential scientific programs and cultivating link with ICSU could be extremely useful. HM pointed out the importance of working closely with regional officers of international organizations and motivating them to interact with IUGS. EN suggested identifying important organizations to be linked with and appointing permanent representatives to those organizations. AB mentioned that IUGS and ICSU had sound communication in public media. RO commented that IUGS should appoint its liaison to ICSU and make full use of the affiliated organizations to represent IUGS in various ICSU activities.

ACTION: The new EC to be encouraged to build up a mechanism of appointing liaison to ICSU and other major international organizations.

13. Current Status of OneGeology (Marko KOMAC)

Marko Komac (MK) made a brief introduction of OneGeology, including its historical facts, structure, membership status and objectives. MK pointed out that the 35th IGC was a milestone turning point of OneGeology as the decision on whether OneGeology would be in the transition to sustainable operation with self-sufficient financing was going to be made at the end of this IGC. Without major financial support by Belgium Geological Survey (BGS) and Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM), OneGeology must double its membership income so as to continue its operation. For IUGS, this equals to a membership fee increasing from 5,000 to 10,000 Euros. MK asked the EC members to consider and approve the IUGS 2016 budget amendment with the purpose to pay the raised membership fee.

RO said that OneGeology was a valuable portal of IUGS and he invited the whole EC to discuss about whether to raise IUGS's contribution to OneGeology. SJ proposed that IUGS should continue the current rate of funding (5,000 Euros) and ask for more information about the users of OneGeology as a condition for the possible increase of financial support by IUGS in future. EC voted on SJ's proposal: MK abstained, other EC members agreed to the proposal.

ACTION: DS to keep the IUGS budget for OneGeology in 2017 at the current rate (5,000 Euros) before the Handover Meeting with the new EC.

6.a. Legacy of the Publications Committee - EC members only

The EC members had a closed-door discussion on the legacy issue of the PC. The whole EC agreed to recommend Yildirim Dilek, Amel Barich and Dolores Pereira to continue to serve the next PC.

ACTION: RO to write a letter to the new EC, recommending Yildirim Dilek, Amel Barich and Dolores Pereira to serve the new PC.

14. International Geological Congress

14. a. Memorandum of Understanding 36th IGC

RO informed that the MOU with IGC is usually signed during each IGC meeting. He had some mail contacts with the Indian counterparts before the 35th IGC, but the MOU with the 36th IGC has not been finalized yet. The MOU probably will be signed during the EC handover meeting on 2nd September or before. Greg Botha (GB) explained how the MOU affects IGC to a great extent and highly recommended that the revenue that IGC owed to IUGS should be stipulated in the MOU whether with an absolute number or a percentage.

ACTION: MOU with the 36th IGC should be finalized and signed later after consultation with the Indian counterparts.

14. b. 37th IGC in 2024

Richard Viljoen (RV) reported that he and Roland would jointly write a short objective note on behalf of the IGC Committee. On the morning of 28th August, there will be the IGCC meeting where all bidders will give their presentations.

ACTION: RV and RO jointly write a short objective note on behalf of the IGCC.

RO informed that the IGCC would have to make a recommendation to the Council according to the bylaws. All the four bidders have proven their capabilities to hold such a large conference even with up to 6,000 to 7,000 participants. It is a consensus that the security issue should not be mentioned at all in the IGCC report, given the unforeseeable 8 year's change. It is the duty of IGCC to check feasibilities of all IGC bidders and inspections that South Korea and Russia have been finished already. RO suggested that recommendations should be made based on the presentations to be given on 28 August and the bidding documents. Moreover, RO elaborated on each bidder's strength and weakness respectively. He also emphasized the importance of the field trip programs, main reason for many people to choose to participate in IGC rather than AGU and EGU. Only three persons out of each bidding delegation were invited to the IGCC meeting on the 28th August. IGCC will not express any preference and recommend all the four bidding countries. The bidding documents are available on the official website of IUGS and 35th IGC.

JPC informed participants for the IGCC meeting, including Chair and Secretary General of the 35th IGC, representatives from the two previous IGCs, IUGS Bureau members, and representatives from the 36th IGC.

14. c. International Geological Congress Committee

RO emphasized on the composition of the IGCC, including representatives from the previous two IGCs, Chair and Secretary General of the current IGC, and IUGS Bureau members. And it is a thoughtful move to invite representatives from the 36th IGC so as to provide them a good opportunity to get familiar with the whole process. Neil Williams and Ian Lambert will not attend the IGCC meeting due to healthy problems. Arne Bjørlykke who has rich experience in IGC and IUGS related issues finally plans to come.

RO pointed out that the average age of scientists running the scientific program for the EGU in Vienna is 35 years old. Further measures should be taken to involve more young scientists in IGC undertakings.

YD asked GB to share highlights and difficulties during the whole preparatory period of the 35th IGC. GB informed that 5,000 abstracts in total had been submitted and reviewed by 180 theme champions and 750 applications have been submitted for the GeoHost program. From the very beginning, the LOC of the 35th IGC decided not to charge any abstract submission fee because many people from the less developed countries have strict financial systems. And there were many abstracts from people who did not intend to come and/or had the fund to come. For the GeoHost, only 60 applicants have been funded to attend the congress. Many people wait for invitations on whether they receive funding or not and then they will seek other funding channels, resulting in many delays. For example, 750 accepted abstracts remained unpaid till the deadline. GB strongly suggested that the next IGC LOC should reserve enough time to deal with all those delays and complicated problems. He also brought up another problem. Some theme champions, as an innovative idea take a lot of responsibilities, were recommended based on merits and expertise, but never register online.

Dolores Pereira (DP) recommended that each abstract submission should be charged with fees. Otherwise more abstracts will be submitted while their submitters will not come, and the convener will suffer. RO pointed out the problem of ineffective connection of the registration system and abstract submission system. HM mentioned that abstract submission fee only covered printing of abstracts and did not guarantee attendance to the event. RV added that feedback of theme champions is quite important for future IGCs.

14. d IUGS Participation at 35th IGC

14. d. 1. IUGS Exhibition

With 72 square meters, the largest booth that IUGS has ever had and 32 posters of different sizes are designed for the booth. A TV will be equipped on the main wall to show different videos about geoparks and the IUGS 50th anniversary. The Secretariat has contacted many affiliated organizations requesting for displaying materials in advance.

Then Wang Wei elaborated on size, contents and design of each poster. A variety of IUGS gifts will be distributed to all the participants at the booth, including T-shirts, polo shirts, hats, magnet sticks, pens, rulers and mouse pads etc. DP asked whether there will be persons in the IUGS booth in charge of introducing and answering questions from booth visitors.

ACTION: JPC will send emails to colleagues from IUGS commissions, task groups and affiliated organizations who own posters in the IUGS booth informing them to stay in the booth for explaining as long as possible.

RV informed that there was a special volume of *Episodes* contributing to the Resourcing Future Generation for the 35th IGC and asked about the best way to distribute this volume. After discussions consensus was reached that some volumes will be distributed at the registration and a pile of *Episodes* could be put at the IUGS booth as well. The IUGS stand can be used for selling the commemorative book but the whole process should be managed by the IGC staff themselves.

ACTION: A pile of *Episodes* will be put at the IUGS booth for distribution.

ACTION: RFG materials will be displayed by the IUGS secretariat at the booth where all the takers should leave their names and emails.

14. d. 2. IUGS Reception

RO informed that the IUGS reception will be held at Artscape, only 5 minutes' walk away from the CTICC. All the adhering delegations are invited, but number of invitees for each delegation is fixed. As it is quite expensive, IUGS has offered 150 tickets in total.

JPC reported on details about the preparatory work for the IUGS reception. Invited guests include 76 delegates, 20 IUGS officers, 10 IGC and RFG members, 15 members from the EC and Secretariat, 8 candidates, 12 special guests and 10 reserve quotas. The IUGS awards except Emile Argand will be given during the reception. Adhering members between Category 1 and Category 4 are entitled to send 1 or 2 delegates while the others between Category 5 to Category 8 are entitled to send 3 delegates. Delegates of affiliated organizations will not be invited because there will be an affiliated organization meeting on the day next to the reception. DS brought up the question that many national receptions had been overlapped and suggested that EC members should be designated to different invitations on behalf of IUGS. RO guaranteed his participation in receptions held by the 36TH IGC and some bidding countries such as Germany, Russia and South Korea.

ACTION: IUGS officers should be designated to attend overlapping receptions.

14. d. 3. Affiliated Members Meeting

JPC informed that the meeting with IUGS affiliated members had been shorted into 1 hour. The participants for the meeting include about 30 officers from IUGS affiliated organizations and members from the EC and Secretariat. If more than one officer from the affiliated organizations have come to the 35th IGC and want to attend this meeting, IUGS will include them as the total budgeted number of participants is around 50. Some snacks and soft drinks will be provided during the short meeting. JPC reported on the agenda with a welcome speech by RO. At last, Roland expressed his gratitude if EC members could be present at the meeting and motivate affiliated organizations to be more actively involved in IUGS activities.

14. d. 4. IUGS Awards at 35th IGC

IUGS awards enjoy a time-honored history. RO noted that the EC didn't find out an award named Steno Award as legacy of the last EC until last year. In the preparatory process he found that there had been already an award named Steno in Denmark and then the whole EC decided to change the name into Emilie Argand. Judith McKenzie was selected as the winner of Emilie Argand for her work on dolomite formation. McKenzie's research ideas and findings have been a significant contribution to determine the dynamic exchange between the biosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere and lithosphere throughout time, creating bridges to our understanding of the interactions between Earth and biosphere in modern and ancient environments. Another outstanding point in her career is the fact that she has been scientifically active and a tireless promoter of international ocean research drilling programs (ODP&IODP). She has been president of both the IAS and the Geochemical Society.

YD brought up the question whether retired scientist was qualified for the award. RO explained Judith McKenzie was an emeritus professor in Europe who was running a geo-biology laboratory and still doing teaching work. YD highly recommended that criteria for the award should be clearly defined.

ACTION: The current EC should clearly define criteria for the award as a legacy for the new EC.

James Harrison Award for a non-IUGS officer who has been actively involved in and made contributions to IUGS will be given to Dr. Jean-Paul Cadet. *Episodes* Best Paper Awards will be conferred to Dr. Gianni Balestro, Dr. Andrea Festa, Dr. Yildirim Dilek, and Dr. Paola Tartarotti. IUGS Science Excellence Awards on Stratigraphy will go to Prof. Dr. Andrew D. Miall who will be presented by Prof. Stanley Finney. The other three awards winners will not attend the IUGS reception and their certificates will be sent through post, including Dr. Steve Richard, winner of the IUGS Science Excellence Award in Geoscience Information, Emer. Prof. Martin Rudwick, winner of the IUGS Science Excellence Awards in History of Geology, and Prof. Dr. Bruce Edward Hobbs, winner of the IUGS Science Excellence Award in Structural Geology.

15. 4th Ordinary Session of the IUGS – IGC Council

15. a. IUGS-Strategic Plan

RO informed that this EC had followed the strategic plan by the former EC on several points and it will depend on the next EC to decide whether to develop new strategies and implement the Strategic Committee or to do restructuring of the committee proposed by the current EC. He pointed out that an independent think tank of the former EC was quite important. However the new ideas should be developed after the existing initiatives are fully established. EN proposed that funding should be taken into account and new initiative should be within three persons who should meet once half a year.

15. b. IGC-IUGS Statutes

JPC reported the proposed amendments to the IUGS Statutes and Bylaws made during the 69th EC Meeting in Kunming, China in 2016.

Amendment I to the IUGS Statutes:

Text of the current articles	Text of the current articles with changes marked in red	Text of the new articles
<p>16. Active international scientific organisations may apply for affiliated status, if they are willing to support the aims and objectives of the Union. Approval of an application by the Executive Committee is subject to ratification by the Council.</p> <p>17. As appropriate, Affiliated Organisations shall be supported by the Union in matters of international and interdisciplinary cooperation. The Union may give, within the limits set by a fair distribution of its resources, financial support to the activities of Affiliated Organisations.</p> <p>18. The Council, on recommendation of the Executive Committee, may</p>	<p>16. International scientific organisations may apply for affiliated status, if they are actively involved with IUGS activities. Approval of an application by the Executive Committee is subject to ratification by the Council. Affiliated status is maintained for the life of the joint project, or for a maximum of 5 years. If they are actively involved with IUGS related activities, organizations can apply for renewal of their affiliated status.</p> <p>17. As appropriate, Affiliated Organisations shall be supported by the Union in matters of international and interdisciplinary cooperation. The Union may give, within</p>	<p>16. International scientific organisations may apply for affiliated status, if they are involved with IUGS activities. Approval of an application by the Executive Committee is subject to ratification by the Council. Affiliated status is maintained for the life of the joint project, or for a maximum of 5 years. If they are actively involved with IUGS related activities, organizations can apply for renewal of their affiliated status.</p> <p>17. As appropriate, Affiliated Organisations shall be supported by the Union in matters of international and interdisciplinary cooperation. The Union may give, within</p>

dissolve the affiliation of an Organisation which has been inactive as an IUGS member.	the limits set by a fair distribution of its resources, financial support to the activities of Affiliated Organisations.	the limits set by a fair distribution of its resources, financial support to the activities of Affiliated Organisations.
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Rationale for the proposed amendment: Affiliated Organizations (AOs) should be actively involved in IUGS life. There are many cases of AOs that were not in touch to the Union for years, resulting in absence of annual reports or any information; even some affiliated organizations disappeared without any communication to IUGS. The amendment tries to ensure closer relationships between the AOs and IUGS.

Amendment II to the IUGS Statutes:

Text of the current article	Text of the current article with marked changes in red	Text of the new article
42. The role of the Nominating Committee is to prepare lists of potential candidates to serve on the next Executive Committee. At each ordinary session, the Council appoints a Nominating Committee consisting of six members nominated by the previous Nominating committee, members of which are precluded from serving on the new Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee in sending forward a list of candidates for election identifies all nominations received, both eligible and ineligible and stating the grounds on which any nominations have been deemed ineligible.	42. The role of the Nominating Committee is to prepare lists of potential candidates to serve on the next Executive Committee. At each ordinary session, the Council appoints a Nominating Committee consisting of six members nominated by the previous Nominating Committee, members of which are precluded from serving on the new Nominating Committee. The composition of the Nominating Committee should be balanced in terms of gender and geographic distribution of its members. The Nominating Committee in sending forward a list of candidates for election identifies all nominations	42. The role of the Nominating Committee is to prepare lists of potential candidates to serve on the next Executive Committee. At each ordinary session, the Council appoints a Nominating Committee consisting of six members nominated by the previous Nominating Committee, members of which are precluded from serving on the new Nominating Committee. The composition of the Nominating Committee should be balanced in terms of gender and geographic distribution of its members. The Nominating Committee in sending forward a list of candidates for election identifies all nominations received, both eligible and ineligible and stating the

	received, both eligible and ineligible and stating the grounds on which any nominations have been deemed ineligible.	grounds on which any nominations have been deemed ineligible.
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Rationale for the proposed amendment: Similar to other IUGS bodies, the Nominating Committee should be as much as possible balanced in terms of gender and likewise be representative of the different countries and/or regions. The amendment places emphasis on this aspect that lacks in the present articulate.

EN suggested that for item 42 the wording “should be balanced in terms of gender and geographic distribution of members” be changed to “should reflect gender diversity and geographic distribution”. RO replied that the statutes cannot be changed at the moment because any statutes change should be brought up three months before the Council Meeting. JPC added that about 15 minutes were scheduled in the agenda during the Council Meeting in case the IGC statutes will need amendments as well.

ACTION: The above amendments will be submitted to the Council for ratification.

ACTION: Time for the IUGS and IGC statutes change should be shortened for scheduling more time for the bidding process.

15. c. Election of Officers

In the Nominating Committee’s report, there are 21 nominations, among which 2 have been deemed as ineligible. Names and reasons for the 2 ineligible nominees have been included in the report as well. Then RO elaborated on all the candidates, including two President candidates and two Secretary General candidates. He proposed that the election should be started with the President candidates’ presentations and then followed with voting and counting. The results of the President election should be announced after the presentations of the Secretary General candidates and before the voting of Secretary General. Roland brought up the question that how to proceed if none of the five Vice President candidates gets 50% votes.

EN proposed preference voting. After discussions on the voting system, a consensus was reached that preference voting by ranking is too complicated and may cause some confusions. In the end, the EC decided to stick to the former process, that is, each delegates should make two crosses on the voting ballots. After the counting of the first round, one candidate with the least votes will be dropped out. The same process will be adopted for the Councilor’s voting.

JC explained that the Nominating Committee was not obliged to recommend all the nominees even though they were eligible. Pricilla Grew is one nominee for President but

not recommended by the Nominating Committee to the Council. YD asked if there were any specified guidelines or criteria about who would be qualified to serve as the IUGS President. JC answered that scientific proficiency and achievements, experience in international organizations and knowledge of IUGS had been taken into consideration when the Nominating Committee decided on the list of candidates.

RO noted that there should be three persons in charge of vote counting as scrutineers. The Secretariat will be responsible for printing and distributing ballots.

ACTION: The EC should propose three scrutineers in charge of vote counting to the Council.

Jesús Martínez-Frías will not be present at the Council Meeting and his presentation as a Vice President Candidate should be given by someone on his behalf.

ACTION: Time for signing the *Episodes* MOU is changed from 19:30 on 27 August to 8:30 on 28 August in the Boardroom where the 70th IUGS EC meeting was held.

15. d. Candidates for the Nominating Committee

JC introduced the slate of the Nominating Committee (2016-2020). There are 10 members nominated for the next Nominating Committee as follows:

ALLINGTON Ruth	UK
CHAVES Hernani A. F.	Brazil
DONG Shuwen	China
FEDONKIN Mikhail A.	Russia
GHASSEMI Mohammad Reza	Iran
KOMAC Marko	Slovenia
MAPEO Read Brown M.	Botswana
OKAY Aral I.	Turkey
O'REILLY Suzanne Y.	Australia
SINGHVI Ashok Kumar	India

Gender balance, disciplinary diversity and geographical distribution were taken into consideration by the Nominating Committee. The two female nominees were nominated by the Nominating Committee rather than other organizations. YD pointed out that the slate was not disciplinary balanced as there were so many structural geologists in it. He also emphasized the effects of disciplinary expertise on selecting NC candidates. RO suggested that all the EC members should take the message back and try their best to make adhering and affiliated organizations be more aware of the importance of the NC.

JC added that the Chair of the NC should be chosen by the Council after the voting according to the Statutes. The NC recommended RO, Past President, to be the Chair of the NC as a common practice. However, this should be ratified by the Council.

ACTION: Election of the new Chair of the Nominating Committee should be ratified by the Council.

WC pointed out that he hadn't got much information about the candidates who were deemed as ineligible. And for the benefits of the IUGS in the future, he suggested the NC be more transparent and clarify the criteria for the selection of members of the NC. JC explained that the slate was a collective and democratic decision according to the Statutes, but the NC was not obliged to explain why someone was deemed as ineligible. As an independent organization, the NC is not responsible to the EC. YD recommended that the NC shares more information with the EC. RO added that criteria for the NC candidates should be pinned down and all the EC should thank the NC for their efforts in having more candidates than ever before.

15. e. Selection of venues of the 37th IGC in 2024

RO informed that each bidding committee would be given 30 minutes in total at the Council Meeting. The voting will follow the 2-hour presentation. The scrutineers for the bid voting will be the same as those for the EC voting. The four bidders are listed in alphabetical order on the ballots in order to avoid any injustice.

16. Preparation of the 71st EC Meeting, Cape Town, 2 September, 2016

The 71st EC Meeting will be a one-hour handover meeting to be held at 13:15 on 2 September. RO highly recommended that all the current EC members be present at the handover meeting in order to show respect for the new EC. Terms of Reference plus the Minutes of the 70th EC Meeting and the Minutes of the 4th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council Meeting will be passed on to the new EC later.

ACTION: Bureau members and the Secretariat will finish the Terms of Reference. This document together with the Minutes of the 70th EC Meeting and those of the 4th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council Meeting will be passed as a legacy on to the new EC within one month after the 71st EC Meeting.

JPC introduced several items that would be discussed during the handover meeting, including the MOU, ICSU issues, and Geopark evaluation. He will provide a precise agenda for the handover meeting and send it to all the participants via email. He also committed that he would maintain contact with the newly elected Secretary General and will provide on SG working experience to him as soon as possible. The Publications Committee should send a delegate to the handover meeting as well.

17. Any Other Business

RO closed the meeting by expressing his sincere thanks to all the participants for their efforts made during the past four years. He much appreciated that the IUGS experience had enriched his academic career in a profound and interesting way. JPC also expressed his gratitude to all the IUGS colleagues during his short but precious experience within IUGS. Other EC members expressed their thanks as well.

The EC meeting finished at 17:30.