

## IUGS E-BULLETIN #4

Welcome back from the field! This fourth IUGS E-Bulletin provides you with a few news worthy items of information regarding IUGS family activities since last spring. We encourage all our activity leaders, members and affiliated organizations to contribute relevant information to the E-Bulletin. This E-Bulletin and the previous three bulletins are now available at <http://www.iugs.org>. Please visit the IUGS website regularly for the most up-to-date listing of IUGS related activities.

In this issue:

- **Free IUGS Publications!**
- **IUGS President meets with the Ministry of Land & Resources in China**
- **IUGS successful in two ICSU Grants**
- **Young Scientist Session at 32<sup>nd</sup> IGC**
- **Groundwater Group joins IGCP**
- **IUGS Bureau meets with the IGU**
- **Episodes Impact Factor Rising Fast!**
- **First IUGS Book with New Publisher Accepted**
- **Meetings with IUGG**
- **International Permafrost Association**
- **Association of European Geological Societies**
- **Congress IAG –ALHSUD 2004**

### **Free IUGS Publications!**

The IUGS will be distributing all its in stock publications at no cost during the upcoming 32<sup>nd</sup> IGC in Florence, August 2004. Participants to the Congress are invited to attend the booth early to obtain copies of limited edition publications; individuals will be responsible for their own shipping costs. The move by IUGS to an outside publisher (see E-Bulletin #3) precludes the need to continue to warehouse older serial publications.

### **IUGS President meets with the Ministry of Land & Resources in China**

On July 7<sup>th</sup> Ed de Mulder met with Vice-Minister Shou of the Chinese Ministry of Land & Resources (MLR). They signed a new MOU between IUGS and MLR to continue to support EPISODES. At the same time they discussed progress on proclaiming IYPE by UN. China reiterated its full support for IYPE and will host its launch.

### **IUGS successful in two ICSU Grants**

IUGS was extremely successful this year for its role in securing full or collaborative funding from ICSU for 2004. Suzanne Leroy (INQUA) will be the principal scientist managing a US\$100,000 Category I grant on “Dark Earth” for which IUGS was the lead applicant. IUGS was a supportive Union to the International Astronomical Union (principal applicant) for a second US\$100,000 Category grant entitled “Near Earth Objects – Impact on Human Society”. This is an unprecedented and incredibly positive recognition of earth science initiatives by ICSU. Hopefully the trend will continue.

### **Young Scientist Session at 32<sup>nd</sup> IGC**

A special session is now being planned for the 32<sup>nd</sup> IGC featuring exceptional young scientists (<35 years of age) from affiliated organizations and other IUGS bodies. A formal call for nominations will be released soon. The intent of this session is to provide a venue for young scientists to express their own disciplinary needs and vision for earth sciences into the new century. What do the youth of geology see for the future?

### **Groundwater Group joins IGCP**

Intensive discussions between IUGS and the UNESCO Water Division resulted in an expansion of the International Geoscience Programme with the creation of a 5<sup>th</sup> group. This new group acting at the same level as the existing four Working Groups will focus on groundwater. UNESCO's Water Division is prepared to cover all costs involved with the upcoming projects in this group and with the meetings of the Scientific Board members dealing with this group. Effectively this would mean a substantial increase of the number of projects annually accepted (from about 38 to some 45) and of the number of members of IGCP's Scientific Board (from 16 to 20). The Terms of Reference for this arrangement are in progress.

### **IUGS Bureau meets with the IGU**

The IUGS Bureau met with the leadership of the International Geographical Union (IGU) in Rome June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. This meeting aimed at cooperation in issues of mutual interest. Many items were discussed, including cooperation in ICSU, Geoscience and Health, Urban geoscience, Groundwater, Geo-Indicators, Geochemical Atlas, and the International Year (IYPE). Regarding IYPE, IGU agreed to become a full partner in IYPE and will advise their EC to supply \$15k in 2003 and in 2004. Many follow-up activities arose and a second meeting is planned for February.

### **Episodes Impact Factor Rising Fast!**

Our international journal, Episodes, has shown considerable improvement in the past few years. For 2002 the journal had an Impact Factor of 0.941 and cited half-life of 5.6. These very impressive values place the journal in a respectable position near such other journals as AAPG Bulletin, Can Jour of Earth Sciences and Jour Volcanol Geoth Res. We encourage our members to continue publishing in Episodes (now distributed to 117 countries).

### **First IUGS Book with New Publisher Accepted**

We are pleased to announce that the book entitled: Environmental Catastrophes and Recovery in the Holocene, edited by S. Leroy and I. Stewart from Brunel University has been accepted by the Geological Society of London to be the first publication under our new management.

### **Meetings with IUGG**

Ed de Mulder participated in part of IUGG's EC meeting July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Sapporo. He presented the progress of IYPE to the group; IUGG approved full IYPE partnership and a financial contribution of 15 k\$ for 2003 and 2004. Both parties agreed to coordinate IGY+50 activities and IYPE. IGY+50 should include a conference possibly followed by

publication of a series of books by each organization, and links with other initiatives as IYPE, International Polar Year (IPY), an International Heliophysical Year and an electronic Geophysical Year. Preparations for the conference and most of the other initiatives are in an early stage. Since July 9<sup>th</sup> Uri Shamir is the new IUGG President, Joann Joselyn stays on as SG, Tom Beers is the new VP and Harsh Gupta stays on as Bureau member. Perugia (Italy) is the venue for the next IUGG General Assembly in 2007.

### **International Permafrost Association**

The 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Permafrost met in Zurich, Switzerland, July 21-25, 2003. Approximately 300 representatives from 24 countries participated. A total of 230 papers were published and an additional 97 extended abstracts were published and available for poster presentations. Jerry Brown was elected the new president of IPA. The Council approved the invitation from the University of Alaska Fairbanks to convene the 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Permafrost in Fairbanks, Alaska, in early summer 2008. Interim permafrost meetings are planned for Tyumen, Russia in May 2004, and in China in 2006 to highlight the construction of the Qinghai-Tibet railroad. More information is available at [www.geodata.soton.ac.uk/ipa/](http://www.geodata.soton.ac.uk/ipa/)

### **Association of European Geological Societies**

Founded in Dubrovnik in 1987, the prime purpose of the AEGS is to strengthen links between Geological Societies in Europe, through periodic meetings of the European Geological Societies (MAEGS) that first started in 1975. Recent news: in honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AEGS (1975-2000) the Chronicle of AEGS was published in 2001; last meeting of MAEGS-13 was held 8-15 September 2003 in Hannover on the theme "Geosciences and the European Water Framework Directive". For more information about AEGS visit the homepage: [www.aegs.de](http://www.aegs.de) or contact Jens Wiegand (AEG Secretary) at [jens.wiegand@uni-essen.de](mailto:jens.wiegand@uni-essen.de)

### **Congress IAG –ALHSUD 2004**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Announcement & Pre-registration form for the XXXIII IAH - 7<sup>o</sup> ALHSUD Congress which will be held from 11 - 15 October 2004 in Zacatecas, Mexico is now available. All persons dealing with groundwater and related sciences as well as those engaged in social, economic and political aspects of groundwater are definitely invited to participate in the various activities of this congress. Please visit the following site for more details: <http://www.igeograf.unam.mx/aih/>

Please send all IUGS E-Bulletin correspondence directly to:

Dr. Peter Bobrowsky

Vice President, International Union of Geological Sciences

Geological Survey of Canada

601 Booth Street

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0E8

Telephone: +1 (613) 947-0333

E-mail: [pbobrows@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:pbobrows@nrcan.gc.ca)