
IUGS E-BULLETIN (NO. 62, MAY 2011)

34TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS 5-10 AUGUST 2012, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT. [SECOND CIRCULAR IS RELEASED](#)

The Second Circular of the 34th IGC 2012 Brisbane, Australia, [was released on Tuesday 24 May 2011](#). This is an important stage in the development of the 34th IGC. The Second Circular is being distributed electronically and posted on the IGC website at: <http://www.34igc.org>. Regularly visit the website for information updates. The Second Circular includes:

Scientific themes and symposia. The Organising Committee received literally hundreds of suggestions for symposia and scientific sessions and thanks go to all contributors. The Second Circular will include a full list of symposia and topics to be presented at the congress.

Call for abstracts. The Second Circular will include a call for abstracts and launch the on-line abstract submission system. Please note that abstracts can only be submitted via the on-line system and an abstract lodgement fee of \$40 (Australian Dollars) is payable. This fee is discounted for multiple abstract submissions.

Super Early Bird registration fee offer. Make sure you read about the Super Early Bird registration offer in the Second Circular. This significantly reduced registration fee (\$895 for single delegates, \$850 for 3 or more delegates to a maximum of 20 from the same organisation) will only be available until September 2011, or until 500 delegates register at this rate - whichever comes first. This offer represents the lowest cost registration fee that will ever be available for the 34th IGC.

Exhibition Space Release. At the 34th IGC the exhibition area will be known as the GeoSpace. The release of exhibition space sales will be made in the Second Circular.

GeoHost Scheme Launch. At the 34th IGC the GeoHost scheme shall consist of two programs, being the Training Workshop Program (TWP) and the Funded Delegate Program (FDP). There are specific criteria for each program and full details will be provided in the Second Circular. Applications for GeoHost can be made via an on-line process, which will be launched in the Second Circular.

Pre/Post Congress Tours. A revised list of all pre and post Congress tour offerings, together with descriptions of sites to be visited and duration of each tour, will be released in the Second Circular. Regularly visit the 34th IGC website at <http://www.34igc.org>.

IUGS TASK GROUP GLOBAL HERITAGE STONE RESOURCE

The Executive Committee (EC) of the IUGS at its last meeting held in Paris, France, 22-25 February, approved the creation of a new Task Group to work on Global Heritage Stone Resource. The aim of this Task Group is to advance a proposal that advocates high-level international recognition of natural stone resources that have achieved widespread use in human culture through designation of a "Global Heritage Stone Resource".

RATIFICATION OF THE GSSP DEFINING THE BASE OF THE LUTETIAN STAGE OF THE EOCENE SERIES

On 6 April 2011 the IUGS Executive Committee ratified the recommendation of the International Commission of Stratigraphy on the Global boundary Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) defining the base of the Lutetian Stage of the Eocene Series at 167.85 metres in the Gorrondatxe sea-cliff section (Basque Country, northern Spain – 43° 22' 46.47''N, 3° 00' 51.61'' W) at a dark marly level where the calcareous nanno fossil *Blackites inflatus* has its lowest occurrence.

IUGS 50th Anniversary - Young Scientists Essay Contest Winners

In celebration of the IUGS 50th Anniversary throughout 2011, a global essay contest was launched for early career geoscientist to express their views on the future of the geological sciences. Twenty nine (29) essays were submitted for the contest from 20 countries. IUGS will be honoring the best four essays by young scientist by highlighting their opinions on *The Future of the Geological Sciences* in the June issue of *Episodes*. The overall winning author will be provided with a travel

grant to attend the IGC in Brisbane 2012 to present her paper and receive an IUGS medal. **Contest winners are:** Gemma Venhuizen, The Netherlands (overall winner); Anne Carter Witt, United States of America; Tim Stahl, New Zealand; Nathan Barber, United States of America.

BIDS FOR THE 36TH IGC IN 2020

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the International Geological Congress Committee (IGCC) invite all Adhering Members to bid for the 36th International Geological Congress (IGC) which will be held in 2020. As decided by the IUGS/IGC Council the 34th IGC will be held in Brisbane, Australia on 5-10 August 2012, and the following 35th IGC will be held in Cape Town, South Africa in 2016. The possibility exists for the IUGS/IGC Council to decide in its next meeting (Brisbane, August 2012) the venue of the 36th IGC which will be held in 2020.

The bid process includes the following stages:

- 1) The IUGS/IGCC circulates this invitation to all IUGS National Committees to bid for the 2020 IGC.
- 2) Any country or group of countries wishing to host the 2020 session of the Congress informs the IGCC of its proposal. Bids are received by the IGCC until a fixed date (see below).
- 3) The IGCC evaluates the proposals received and makes a recommendation to the IUGS/IGC Council meeting to be held at the 34th IGC in Brisbane, Australia, August 2012.
- 4) If a given invitation is considered adequate and desirable, the IUGS/IGC Council at the 34th IGC in Brisbane, Australia, may consider the possibility of deciding the venue 8 years in advance of the Congress date. It should be pointed out that the IGC Statutes recommend a regional rotation system with an ordered sequence of continents in order to ensure the global character of the Congress.

Deadline for reception of proposals is 30 October 2011. For additional information email the IUGS Secretariat at: iugs@usgs.gov

IUGS-UNESCO IGCP PROGRAMME - NEW IGCP PROJECTS

Project 591: THE EARLY TO MIDDLE PALAEOZOIC REVOLUTION. Leaders : Bradley D. Cramer (USA), Živile Žigaitė (Lithuania), Thijs R.A. Vanderbroucke (France), Kathleen Histon (Italy), Renbin Zhan (China), Guillermo L. Albanesi (Argentina), Michael J. Melchin (Canada), Mikael Calner (Sweden)

Project 594: IMPACT OF MINING ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN AFRICA*. Leaders: Bohdan Kříbek (Czech Republic), Ewa Cukrowska (South Africa), Benjamin Mapani (Namibia), Imasiku Nyambe (Zambia)

Project 596: CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY PATTERNS IN THE MID-PALEOZOIC*. Leaders: Peter Königshof (Germany), Thomas J. Suttner (Austria), Iliana A. Boncheva (Bulgaria), Nadezhda G. Izokh (Russia), Phuong Ta Hoa (Vietnam), Thasinee Charoentitrat (Thailand), Johny A. Waters (USA), Wolfgang Kiessling (Germany)

Project 597: AMALGAMATION AND BREAKUP PANGAEA: THE TYPE EXAMPLE OF THE SUPERCONTINENT CYCLE. Leaders: J. Brendan Murphy (Canada), J. Duncan Keppie (Mexico), Cecilio Quesada (Spain), Bill Collins (Australia)

Project 598: ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN KARST SYSTEMS*. Leaders: Zhang Cheng (China), Augusto Auler (Brazil), Jiang Yongjun (China), Martin Knez (Slovenia), Bartolome Andreo-Navarro (Spain), Yuan Daoxian (China), Chris Groves (USA)

Project 599: THE CHANGING EARLY EARTH*. Leaders: Jaana Halla (Finland), Kent C. Condie (USA), Roberto Dall'Agnol (Brazil), Mudlappa Jayananda (India), Martin J. Van Kranendonk (Australia), Hugh Rollinson (UK), Gary Stevens (South Africa), Jin-Hui Yang (China)

Project 600: METALLOGENESIS OF COLLISIONAL OROGENS*. Leaders: Zenqian Hou (China), David Leach (USA), Jeremy Richards (Canada), Richard Goldfarb (USA)

Project 601: SEISMOTECTONICS AND SEISMIC HAZARDS IN AFRICA*. Leaders: Mustapha Meghraoui (France), Vunganai Midzi (South Africa), Atalay Ayele (Ethiopia), Djillali Benouar (Algeria)

Project 604: GROUNDWATER AND WETLANDS IN IBERO-AMERICA*. Leaders: Emilia Bocanegra (Argentina), Gerdon Cardoso (Brazil), Emilio Custodio (Spain), Teresita Betancur (Colombia), Marisol Manzano (Spain)

Project 606: ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH IMPACTS OF MAJOR AND ABANDONED MINES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA*. Leaders: Theo C. Davies (South Africa), Benjamin Mapani (Namibia)

*(Sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)

DATE CHANGE - THE IGCP SCIENTIFIC BOARD MEETING AND 40TH IGCP ANNIVERSARY EVENT

The dates of these events at UNESCO, Paris, have been changed to 20-24 February 2012

The new dates for these events are as follows:

- 22 Wednesday (p.m.) - 24 Thursday Scientific conference
- 20 Monday - 21 Tuesday: Annual IGCP Scientific Board meeting
- 22 Wednesday (a.m.) The 40 Years celebration event and Exhibition
- 24 Friday: Geologic fieldtrip of Paris

Enquiries contact Marie-laure FABER email: ml.faber@unesco.org

eGY AFRICA – BETTER INTERNET CONNECTIVITY FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN AFRICA.

A project entitled “eGY Africa – better Internet connectivity for research and education institutions in Africa”, lead by IUGG and supported by IUGS has been awarded by ICSU. It is considered that IUGS CGI Commission will be well positioned to assist and collaborate in the project given a long standing history of cooperation with various countries in Africa. Similarly, the existing IUGS – UNESCO partnership and their interest in Africa will further enhance the output of the proposed project. The project was also supported by CODATA and ICSU ROA.

ICSU REGIONAL OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ICSU ROLAC)

On 1 March 2011 ICSU ROLAC was relocated in Mexico City, under the sponsorship of the Mexican Academy of Sciences. A new website may be visited at the following address: <http://www.icsu.org/latin-america-caribbean>, where there is detailed information on the scientific priorities for the region, and on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 4-6 June 2012.

5TH INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE OLYMPIAD (IESO 2011) SEPTEMBER 2011, ITALY.

This year, the 5th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2011) will be held in Modena, Italy, from the 5th to the 14th of September 2011 with the theme "Earth Science Renaissance: science, environment and art". Italy was the first European country to take part, with a full selected team, in the Taiwan games in 2009, and, now, it is the first to host the IESO in Europe. Italy strongly believes in encouraging friendship among people from different countries, promoting international cooperation, exchanging ideas and materials on earth science and improving geoscience education in secondary schools. IESO 2011 offers a unique opportunity to encourage students' interest in the theme topic. Respecting nature and our planet is a value that the organisers wish to inspire in all participants. 2011 also marks Italy's 150th unification anniversary. For this reason, the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia together with the Ministry of Education are all the more proud to have the opportunity to organize the Olympiad this year. Registration deadline 11 June 2011. Details on the website at: <http://www.ieso2011.unimore.it/>

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN "VALID" SURVEY

VALID (The Value of Geo-Information for Disaster and Risk Management) is a sub-project of the "United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response - UN-SPIDER" (<http://www.un-spider.org/about>). VALID activities are directed primarily to the end users of geoinformation products for disaster management (practitioners, planners and decision-makers, affiliated to public disaster management bodies, international organizations and NGOs). VALID is calling for people involved in such activities to participate in their Benefit Analysis and Stakeholder Assessment survey as outlined below.

In July 2010, the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS) and UNOOSA/UN-SPIDER published "Geoinformation for Disaster and Risk Management – Examples and Best Practices", a compilation of case studies that provides information on what can be done with geoinformation in support of disaster and risk management – methods, systems, applications, experiences. As a next logical step it is planned to provide information on what is the value of geoinformation – an evaluation of benefits. With the publication of VALID, it is intended to give evidence of the economic, humanitarian and organizational benefits of applying geoinformation in all phases of disaster management, based on analyses of representative cases, and on an expert stakeholder assessment. A publication to that end would further help:

- to raise awareness in the political and programmatic environment,
- to set priorities in research and development, and
- to provide orientation for geoinformation access and delivery.

As a first step, the editorial team would like to narrow down the list of reference products for the stakeholder assessment to a limited number of relevant products. For this purpose, an online survey has been developed aimed at selecting from the list on the web at <http://www.un-spider.org/VALID-stakeholder-assessment-I> those ten products that you consider most useful for your work in disaster management. Participating in this web based survey will take no longer than a couple of minutes and will enable the editors to compile a reference set for the detailed stakeholder assessment that corresponds to the working realities of the end users of geoinformation products for disaster

management. This poll survey will close on Sunday, 5 June 2011, at midnight Central European Time. For more information about the publication project please go to: <http://www.un-spider.org/about/portfolio/publications/valid>. Please forward this information about the VALID survey to any colleagues who are involved in any aspects of disaster and risk management.

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

To download any individual IUGS E-Bulletins issued since October 2002 go to:

<http://iugs.org/index.php?page=e-bulletins>

The Young Earth-Scientists YES Network Newsletter are online at: <http://www.networkyes.org/index.php/news/>

The Geological Society of Africa (GSAf) Newsletters can be downloaded from the Home page of the Society at: <http://www.geologicalsocietyofafrica.org> (Note: the GSAf website information was incorrect in the previous e-bulletin)

The April edition of "ICSU Insight" the Newsletter of the International Council for Science (ICSU) is the first edition of the "new look" newsletter that has been integrated into the new ICSU website and will keep you up to date with ICSU global and regional activities, latest publications, and events. View the newsletter at: <http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/insight/newsletters-2011/insight-april-2011>

EuroGeoSurveys is an organisation of 32 European Geological Surveys which aims to address European geoscience for society. See their EuroGeoSurveys Newsletters at: <http://eurogeosurveys.org/newsletters.html>. To automatically receive the issues of the Newsletter, you can register online at: <http://www.eurogeosurveys.org/newsletters-subscription.html>

The European Federation of Geologists newsletter GeoNews can be downloaded from:

<http://www.eurogeologists.eu/index.php?page=175>

In order to automatically receive the next issues of the Newsletter, please register here:

<http://www.eurogeosurveys.org/newsletters-subscription.html>

The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) latest electronic

E-Journal is on their website at: <http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals/>

ProGEO News - the newsletter of the European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage can be downloaded from: <http://www.progeo.se/>

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is a committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU), and it is charged with the initiation, promotion, and co-ordination, of scientific research in Antarctica. SCAR also provides international, independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty system and other bodies. To download the recent issues of the SCAR Newsletters go to: <http://www.scar.org/news/newsletters/issues2011/>

The latest copies of the GEOETHICS NEWS newsletter can be downloading from the Geoethics website at:

http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics_Planetary_Protection/

For the Global Water Partnership Monthly Newsletter "NewsFlow" go to:

<http://gwpforum.us1.listmanage.com/subscribe?u=2e4d7bb2bd4f7590eb7d7929e&id=8e059efa29>

The International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme website is at: <http://www.igbp.kva.se/> and their News archive is at:

http://www.igbp.kva.se/?view=news_archive

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

NOTE the listings of forthcoming meetings shown below will normally be included in an IUGS E-Bulletin only once and then they will appear on the IUGS website. To see the IUGS listing of forthcoming geoscience meetings, conferences, and workshops, go to the Calendar section of the IUGS website at:

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

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September 5-9, 2011. IAMG 2011, Annual conference of the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences. University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria. Theme: "Mathematical Geosciences at the crossroads of Theory and Practice". NOTE - Extended article submission deadline is May 23. See: <http://www.iamg2011.at/>

September 5-14, 2011. IESO 2011 - The International Earth Science Olympiad. Modena, Italy. Theme "Earth Science Renaissance: science, environment and art". Registration deadline 11 June 2011 See: <http://www.ieso2011.unimore.it/>

October 1-4, 2011. 3rd International Symposium on the Geology of the Black Sea Region (3rd ISGB). Bucharest, Romania. The symposium is discussing the main geological and tectonic issues related to the Black Sea basin and surrounding areas. All earth scientists working on, or interested in, the geology of the Black Sea region are invited to attend. Registration is now open. NOTE the abstracts and early registration fee deadline closes on May 31. First circular and details at: <http://www.isgb.eu>

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June 4-6, 2012. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is envisaged as a Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The Conference will result in a focused political document. More details above. Note that several events are planned in 2011 and 2012 in the run-up to Rio+20. Seewebsite: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/>

July 15-22, 2012. 9th International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry (ISEG). Aveiro, Portugal. The ISEG is jointly promoted by the University of Aveiro (Portugal), the International Association of Geochemistry (IAGC), SEG - Society of Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEG) and the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA). The ISEG website is being developed at: <http://9iseg.web.ua.pt>. Email contact: geo-9iseg@ua.pt.

August 5-10, 2012. 34th International Geological Congress (IGC) in Brisbane, Australia. The primary IUGS conference that is held every 4 years. Congress website at: <http://www.34igc.org/>

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January 8-14, 2013. The 40th Anniversary of the Geological Society of Africa (1973-2013). Theme "40 Years of GSAf (1973-2013): Earth Sciences Solutions to African Development Challenges" will be conducted at the United Nations Economic Commission Conference Center (UNECA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Geosciences and Mineral Engineering Association (EGMEA) will organize this joint conference and will distribute the first circular shortly. Details will be posted on the websites at: <http://www.geologicalsocietyofafrica.org/> and <http://www.egmea.org.et/>

With best regards,
Colin SIMPSON
IUGS Councillor
simpsons@grapevine.com.au

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