

NEWS AT A GLANCE

- Update on the 35th International Geological Congress, Cape Town (Aug.–Sept. 2016)
- World Parks Congress includes Geoheritage for the First Time
- YES Network is now legal
- David R. Oldroyd (1936–2014) Memorial

UPDATE ON THE 35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC)

Sixty-four years after the last IGC on African soil, the 35th IGC event will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from August 27 to September 4, 2016. This African event will focus the Geoscience world's attention on the advances in Earth Science research disciplines and geological mapping that have led to many amazing discoveries and fostered the mining boom across the continent.

The 35th International Geological Congress Foundation, a not-for-profit entity, is organizing this event through its Board and the Local Organising Committee comprising members seconded from the Council for Geoscience, the Geological Society of South Africa, major mining houses and from consultancies and other mining-related companies. The professional conference organisers are taking care of the logistical and on-site organisational aspects that will ensure a memorable meeting.



Get involved!

The [Scientific Programme](#) forms the heart of the 35th IGC event. The committee headed by Laurence Robb has promoted the core topics (“Geoscience for Society”; “Fundamental Geoscience”; “Geoscience in the Economy”), which are each being co-ordinated by three committee members. Theme champions have been identified to lead the 48 themes that define the technical programme. To date, 86 symposia have been proposed and allocated to the appropriate themes. As more symposia are submitted, the process of merging, splitting and re-naming will continue to reflect the sphere of delegate and sponsor interest. The cut-off date for submission of symposia has been extended to the end of May 2015. The call for abstracts will open on July 1, 2015 and end in January 2016.

Many international scientific societies are showing interest in attending and developing specific themes by sponsoring sessions and keynote speakers. It is likely that additional petroleum-related themes will also be included to attract scientists involved in the oil and gas fields on the East- and West African coasts. Workshop and short course proposals have been submitted, with some linked to themes in the Scientific Programme.

Initial plans have shown that there will be 35 session rooms available to cater for 3,150 oral presentations (three per hour) and 720 poster boards available each day with a total of 3,600 poster presentations possible.



Invest in the future of African geoscience!

The [GeoHost](#) programme is a critical component of the 35th IGC. This programme, led by Jeannette McGill, will benefit young scientists from low income, less developed countries by sponsoring their attendance and exposing them to technical short courses and the full scientific programme. In this regard, discussions have also been held with the YES Network. GeoHost provides an ideal opportunity for potential sponsors to capitalise on their human capital development mandates.

Geo-safaris

Many delegates are looking forward to the opportunity to visit superb geological sites across Africa. The thematic field trips offered will ensure that almost every geoscience interest is catered for. Mike Lynn and Chris Hatton are coordinating the 27 multi-day excursions currently being planned within South Africa. Ambitious field trips are also being offered in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Mozambique. The possibility of offering a post-congress field trip to Ghana is being investigated, subject to demand.

Find out more on the to-date [field trips](#)¹.

Exhibit to the world

The exhibition hall floor plan and shell scheme have been communicated to prospective exhibitors through the [interactive webpage](#). Some stands have already been booked to take advantage of the lower pricing ahead of the early bird deadline on December 31.

Join the 35th IGC on Facebook and Twitter

To broaden the exposure of the congress and draw upon a younger audience, the event is being communicated through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). There has been a sharp rise in the number of followers on the Twitter account. 'Like' or 'follow' us on social media and you could be in line to win a free congress registration¹.

Sponsors will derive global exposure from this event




The sponsorship committee have been active in contacting major and mid-tier mining and exploration companies, allied service providers and government institutions. The Congress offers tiered sponsorship opportunities, which are described [here](#).

Ensuring the event leaves a lasting legacy

The legacy of the Congress is being addressed by a Geoheritage programme that will publish a book comprising up to 60 papers that describe the geological superlatives across Africa. Another publication will describe the "Mineral Fields of Africa" with 29 papers covering precious, base and industrial minerals, coal and other energy minerals and precious/semi-precious stones.

¹More details will be provided in the Second Circular in January 2015.



The Second Circular, which shall be distributed in January 2015, will notably emphasise the call for courses that will attract scientists and enhance the value of the GeoHost programme, and cast further information on the field trips. Until then, get the latest news and information about approaching deadlines on:   

We look forward to hosting you in Africa!

Communicated by Greg Botha, Secretary General of the 35th-IGC Foundation

WORLD PARKS CONGRESS INCLUDES GEOHERITAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME

For the first time ever, the [World Parks Congress](#) has included [Geoconservation issues](#) in its programme in Sydney, Australia. Until very recently, the values of Geoheritage have largely been overlooked in protected areas management. However, during the Congress, members of [IUCN's Geoheritage Specialist Group](#) and [ProGEO](#) clearly highlighted the wider values and importance of geoheritage for nature conservation and the benefits for society. Margaret Brocx, Roger Crofts, Enrique Díaz-Martínez, John Gordon, Vic Semeniuk and Kyung Sik Woo gave oral presentations, presented posters or led sessions in order to promote geoheritage and the objectives of IUCN's Geoheritage Specialist Group and ProGEO.

Geoheritage represents the history of the Earth and the evolution of life recorded in its rocks and landforms. It includes iconic geological features and landscapes such as Uluru (Ayers Rock) in Australia and the Grand Canyon in the USA, and also many other less well-known localities that illustrate the Earth's dramatic history of plate movements, volcanic eruptions and climate changes. The great variety of rocks, landforms and soils arising from these events provides the foundations for life on Earth. Our future existence and the survival of many species depend on the conservation of these non-living parts of nature and on a better understanding of geological history and processes.

The last Geoheritage session at the Congress, in particular, highlighted the role of Geoheritage in reaching conservation goals in protected areas.

Discover photographs of sites and landscapes of Geoheritage value at: <http://www.igme.es/patrimonio/galeria/>

For more information, please contact Dr. Enrique Díaz-Martínez, ProGEO Vice-President, e.diaz@igme.es

YES NETWORK IS NOW LEGAL

The Young Earth-Scientists (YES) Network was formed as a result of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) in 2007 and held its first meeting in Oslo during the 33rd IGC. YES has been active ever since, holding its most recent international Congress in Dar-es-Salaam with support of the Minister of Mining and Energy (Tanzania) Prof. Sospester Muhongo, as well as other national and international organizations. However, registering as a legal entity was put on hold until the timing was right and they had found suitable host. Thanks to the support of



the EuroGeoSurveys and its Secretary General Luca Demicheli, YES Network was registered as an official organization on November 18, 2014 in Brussels. Officers of this global network of young and early career Earth scientists look forward now to growth of its membership, which will help in the implementation of its projects, all under its motto “Promoting Earth Science for Society”.

Are you a young geologist, passionate about this dynamic Earth, and would like to be part of this dynamic global network? Find out more about the YES Network, and how to become a member at www.networkyes.org

DAVID R. OLDROYD (1936–2014) MEMORIAL

On November 7, the IUGS community lost an outstanding colleague and friend. The world has lost an exceptional geohistorian. David R. Oldroyd (1936–2014) held two terms as Secretary General for the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) and continued on as Vice-President and coordinator of geo-history articles for our journal *Episodes* up to early 2014. David was a prodigiously active author, editor and reviewer, who amounted to some 62 refereed journal articles, 21 refereed essay reviews and book chapters, 37 encyclopedia articles, and 113 book reviews. He also authored 6 books (which were widely translated) and edited 4 more. His editorial work involved journals, encyclopedias and dictionaries. He was the Editor of the journal *Earth Sciences History* from 2008–2013.

A letter of condolence has gone out from the IUGS President to his wife Jane Oldroyd and their two sons. He will be missed.

Those who did not know David can read more about him [here](#).

NOTES

- If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS e-bulletins, please <mailto:amaury@geo.uni-potsdam.de>
- Please check the IUGS [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming scientific meetings this coming month. If you require information on international conferences, meetings, etc. to be considered for inclusion in this Calendar please <mailto:pbobrows@nrcan.gc.ca>
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-bulletin distribution list, please <mailto:iugs.beijing@gmail.com>

Prepared by:
Amaury Pourteau
Post-doctoral researcher

Institute of Earth and Environmental Science
Potsdam University – Germany

+49 331 977 5846
amaury@geo.uni-potsdam.de
<http://www.iugs.org>