

# MINUTES



## INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES 68<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 27-29, 2015

Room 217 in the West Wing  
Vancouver Convention Center  
Vancouver, Canada

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
68<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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**Participants**

**IUGS Executive Committee:**

Roland OBERHAENSLI (RO; President), José P. CALVO (JC; 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** (attending parts of the meeting):

Peter BOBROWSKY (Geological Survey of Canada), Ollie BONHAM (Geoscientists Canada), Greg BOTHA (35<sup>th</sup> IGC), Qiuming CHENG (International Association for Mathematical Geosciences, IAMG), Mervin J. D'SOUZA (36<sup>th</sup> IGC), John CLAGUE (Association of Professional Engineers and Geologists of British Columbia), Stanley C. FINNEY (International Commission on Stratigraphy, ICS), Pierre FRANCUS (International Association for Sedimentology, IAS), Stephanie JOHNSON (Vancouver Convention Center), G. KIRKHAM (Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, CIM), David HUNTLEY (RFG2018 Conference), Brian MARKER (IUGS Publications Committee), Patrick MCKEEVER (UNESCO), Bill MERCER (RFG2018 Conference), Kombada MHOPJENI (Management and Application of Geoscience Information, CGI), Edmund NICKLESS (IUGS New Activities Strategic Implementation Committee, NASIC), Jim RYAN (Geological Survey of Canada), Magdalena SCHECK-WENDEROTH (International Lithosphere Programme, ILP), Michael SIDERIS (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, IUGG), SONG Sheng-rong (Geological Society Located in Taipei), David SPALDING (International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences, INHIGEO), Michiel VAN DER MEULEN (TNO-Geological Survey of the Netherlands), Jean VAVREK (CIM), Grant WACH (Initiative on Forensic Geology, IFG), WANG Xueqiu (Task Group on Global Geochemical Baselines, TGGGB), Sharla WASLINCHUK (Tourism Vancouver), WEN Jun (Assistant to the IUGS Treasurer), Vicki YEHL (Geological Association of Canada)

**IUGS Secretariat:**

WANG Wei (Director), Anne LIINAMAA-DEHLS (Executive Secretary), LI Wei (Secretary), GU Yanfei (Secretary), CHEN Zhu (IT Specialist)

## **1. Opening and Addresses**

Bill MERCER, Vice-Chair of the Resources for Future Generations (RFG) 2018 Conference, welcomed all the participants in the 68<sup>th</sup> IUGS Executive Committee (EC) Meeting and introduced the RFG2018 Conference to be held in Vancouver, Canada in 2018 to promote the IUGS research initiative—Resourcing Future generations - RFG. The RFG2018 Conference will be supported by the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM), the Geological Association of Canada and other related Canadian associations. He also acknowledged the generosity of Tourism Vancouver and Vancouver Convention Center for sponsoring the 68<sup>th</sup> IUGS EC Meeting.

Roland OBERHAENSLI (RO), IUGS President, sincerely thanked the Canadian hosts for sponsoring the 68<sup>th</sup> IUGS EC Meeting and welcomed all the participants in the meeting. He thanked the Canadian geoscience community for its great support to the IUGS research initiative RFG through the organization of the RFG2018 Conference and hoped considerable success for the event. He also recalled the contributions of Dr. Ian LAMBERT, former IUGS Secretary-General for initiating the RFG initiative, and formally welcomed the 2 new Councilors, Stephen JOHNSTON and Amel BARICH, to the IUGS EC.

A few Canadian hosts, Peter BOBROWSKY (Geological Survey of Canada), Stephanie JOHNSON (Vancouver Convention Center), John CLAGUE (the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia, APEGBC) and Jean VAVREK (CIM President) also delivered welcome addresses.

## **2. Discussion and Approval of Agenda**

Agenda approved.

## **3. 2014 Executive Committee and Bureau Meetings**

### **3.a. 67<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting Goa 8-10 February, 2014**

RO reported that the outcomes of the 67<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting had been published in the Minutes and the actions arising from the meeting had been mostly completed. RO reflected on the ongoing changes to the geosciences within UNESCO, with the proposed establishment of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP). He commented that cooperation with UNESCO on the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) was one of the priorities of IUGS and the two sides would renew the Agreement on the cooperation of IGCP. He recalled the successful election of a new IUGS Secretary General - Prof. José P. CALVO through electronic voting approved by the Council members. He also recalled the successful election of Prof. Niichi NISHIWAKI as a new Nominating Committee Member.

### **3.b. Bureau Meetings in Potsdam (18-19 August) and Beijing (20-21 October)**

RO reported that the actions from the Bureau Meeting in Potsdam had been almost completed. RO recalled that at the Bureau Meeting, the topic on the rejuvenation of IGCP projects was extensively discussed with the programme facing a low funding level due to the financial difficulties at UNESCO and IUGS. He mentioned that the 35<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (IGC) to be held in Cape Town, South Africa in 2016 had been formulating the scientific programmes with specific themes.

RO reported that a Bureau Meeting was held in Beijing on October 20, 2014 before the Bureau members went to Tianjin, China to attend the RFG Launch Event at the 2014 China Mining. RO mentioned that the Bureau members met with colleagues from the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC Organizing Committee and discussed about the preparations for the Congress. He mentioned that several actions from the Bureau Meeting in Beijing concerning IUGS membership issues were still pending.

## **4. Executive Committee Reports**

### **4.a. President's Report (Roland OBERHAENSLI)**

RO referred the EC to his submitted report. He recalled that IUGS went through major changes during the year of 2014 with the election of the new IUGS Secretary General. He thanked Jacques CHARVET and the IUGS Secretariat for the work they had done for the election. He also thanked the IUGS Secretariat, headed by Mr. WANG Wei, for the devoted work they had accomplished for the coordination and organization of IUGS EC and Bureau Meetings and other daily work.

He reported that he attended the ICSU General Assembly in Auckland and a GeoUnions meeting beforehand. Orhan ALTAN from ISPRS was reconfirmed as a member of the Executive Board of ICSU. He commented that geosciences in the Future Earth were still marginal and the programme proposal for RFG had not been granted by ICSU yet. He referred the EC to his detailed accomplishments during the year of 2014 in his submitted report.

### **4.b. Secretary General's Report (José P. CALVO)**

José P. CALVO (JC) reported that he had worked as the IUGS Secretary General for more than 5 months since his successful election in August 2014. He had remained in close contact with the IUGS EC members, IUGS bodies and the IUGS Secretariat. He attended the Bureau Meeting in Beijing on October 20, 2014 and assisted in the organization of the session on the IUGS research initiative - RFG at the China Mining. He remained in close contact with the organizers of the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC on the organization of the Congress and the proposed IUGS Bureau Meeting in Cape Town at the end of May 2015. He had been rendering assistance in the preparations of the IGCP Meeting to be held at UNESCO on Feb. 25-27, 2015. Most of the recent activities were focused on the

organization of the 68<sup>th</sup> IUGS EC Meeting.

In accordance with the actions from the IUGS Bureau Meeting in Beijing, JC had been dedicated to preparing a proposal in order to re-organize the structure of the IUGS bodies.

#### **4.c. Treasurer's Report (DONG Shuwen)**

DONG Shuwen (DS) reported that the current IUGS balance was US\$ 1,335,616.70, US\$ 930,219.47 of which was reserves in investment accounts. He reported that the total income and expenditures of IUGS in 2014 amounted to US\$ 416,140.38 and US\$ 433,809.48 respectively, which contributed to a deficit of US\$ 17,669.10. The membership fees were reduced from US\$ 435,935.40 in the year 2013 to US\$ 365,594.14 in the year 2014, with a decrease of US\$ 70,341.26. The decrease of IUGS membership fees in the year 2014 mainly attributed to the following factors: (1) Several Adhering Organizations (AOs) with high membership category, such as France, Italy and India, did not make the payment of their membership fees in 2014 and would likely pay in the early 2015; (2) The status of 10 AOs changed from "Active" to "Pending" and that of 2 AOs from "Pending" to "Inactive". It was suggested that the membership issues shall be actively dealt with by the IUGS EC.

#### **4.d. Permanent Secretariat's Report (WANG Wei)**

WANG Wei (WW), the Secretariat Director, reported that in the year 2014 the Secretariat prepared for the 67<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting (Goa, India on Feb. 6-11, 2014) and the 68<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting (Vancouver, Canada on Jan. 27-30, 2015), the IUGS events at China Mining Congress & Expo 2014 (Tianjin, China on Oct. 20-23, 2014), and the Bureau Meetings at Potsdam, Germany (Aug. 18-19, 2014) and Beijing, China (Oct. 20, 2014). For the IUGS events at China Mining, the Secretariat arranged an official meeting between IUGS and China Geological Survey (CGS), and facilitated the signing of the "*Agreement of Cooperation on Global Geochemical Mapping*" between the IUGS and CGS; assisted in organizing the RFG Session entitled "*Ensuring the Supply of Raw Materials for the Next Generation*"; and prepared a RFG and IUGS joint booth exhibition. The Secretariat updated the contact database and strengthened links with IUGS bodies; assisted in membership maintenance; improved the IUGS Information Management System; effectively administered the election of the new Secretary General and new IUGS Nominating Committee Member; distributed E-Bulletins monthly; designed and produced IUGS promotional items and other related work.

CHEN Zhu (CZ), the IT specialist from the Secretariat, reported a proposal to establish an IUGS APP.

#### **4.e. Optional reports by other EC members (eventual issues not covered elsewhere in the Agenda)**

Yujiro OGAWA (YO) reported that scientific papers from the IUGS sponsored Sendai

Workshop held in Japan on Oct. 19-20, 2014 had been published in *Episodes* (2014, Vol. 37, No. 4). He invited IUGS to support 2015 World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan in March, 2015. He mentioned that a symposium on education and capacity building of earth sciences towards geohazard prevention and reduction was planned to be held during the Conference.

YO suggested that an IUGS Task Group on Geohazards be established. YO asked for the permission to use the IUGS logo for the coming Sendai Disaster Conference and got approval from the IUGS EC.

## **5. Current Status of IUGS Initiative RFG (Edmund NICKLESS)**

Edmund NICKLESS (EN), Chair of the IUGS New Activities Strategic Initiatives Committee (NASIC), reported the background for the initiation of RFG, the members of NASIC, the goal and rationale of RFG. In 2013, NASIC published an article concerning RFG in *Episodes*, organized a Pardee Symposium at GSA 2013, published an overview brochure on RFG, organized the RFG session at China Mining 2014 and launched the RFG White Paper.

He reported that RFG would focus on minerals, energy and water resources, identified the main challenges including demand, discovery, extraction and social impact, and put forward ideas on how RFG could address these challenges. He proposed a plan for the future development of RFG: to arrange sessions to promote RFG at international meetings (GSA, Baltimore 2015; PDAC, Toronto 2016; 35<sup>th</sup> IGC, Cape Town 2016; RFG, Vancouver 2018); to convene a workshop of experts to further develop the White Paper by including sensitivity to externalities such as low or high energy price; to promote the RFG initiative to the IUGS EC, World Bank, UN, G8 & G20; to publish in 'policy' journals; to talk with industry; and to conduct public outreach.

## **6. IUGS-UNESCO**

### **6.a. Earth Sciences at UNESCO (Patrick MCKEEVER)**

Patrick MCKEEVER (PM), Chair of Earth Sciences Section at UNESCO and IGCP Secretary, reported that in the year 2014, 18 IGCP projects received financial support from UNESCO and IUGS, and 7 further projects received funding from Sweden. Scientists from 107 countries, including 27 African countries, were involved in IGCP. 15 new IGCP proposals were received in 2015.

Re-organization within UNESCO created a new Earth Science & Geohazards Risk Reduction Section and had been pushing forward the establishment of a new programme "International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme" (IGGP) suggested by IUGS during its 67<sup>th</sup> EC meeting in Goa, India in 2014, incorporating IGCP and Global Geoparks as its two pillars. He reported Global Geoparks (presently 111 with 17 applications in 2015) would greatly enhance the profile of Earth Science at UNESCO and would not cause any



financial costs to UNESCO. Draft Statutes of the proposed IGGP were presented to the Member States of UNESCO and the IUGS EC for revisions and approval. New partnership agreements were drafted and circulated to IUGS and GGN Association. Extensive discussions on the proposed IGGP Statutes would be conducted at the coming IGCP Scientific Board Meeting to be held on February 25-27, 2015. Final IGGP Statutes, Guidelines, Partnership Agreements and Financial Arrangements could be presented to 196<sup>th</sup> meeting of UNESCO's Executive Board in April 2015 and then the 38<sup>th</sup> UNESCO General Conference in November 2015 for ratification.

#### **6.b. IUGS-UNESCO IGCP (Roland OBERHAENSLI & Yildirim DILEK)**

RO mentioned that the election of the IGCP Bureau and the management structure of IGCP had been clarified in the newest version of the drafted IGGP Statutes and the clarified structure of IGCP was acceptable to IUGS. RO mentioned that an Ad-hoc Review (ARC) on IGCP was conducted in 2013 and thoughts should put on how to modernize IGCP scientific topics.

Yildirim DILEK (YD) reported that an Ad-hoc Review Committee on IGCP was set up by IUGS in collaboration with UNESCO in 2013 and the report of the Committee put forward a number of recommendations in terms of IGCP scientific topics and administration structure. Due to the financial difficulties at UNESCO since 2013, some of the ARC recommendations were not effectively implemented and they remain outstanding. He commented that, under the proposed structure of IGGP, the scientific focus and missions of IGCP still remained a key issue and hoped that IUGS and UNESCO could work closely in defining hot science topics for IGCP.

#### **6.c. IUGS-UNESCO Geopark Network (Marko KOMAC)**

Marko KOMAC (MK) reported that apart from attending the GGN Bureau Meetings, IUGS had been making in-kind contributions voluntarily to the scientific evaluation of Global Geoparks. He mentioned that during the past years, a lot of efforts were made to formalize the relationship between UNESCO and Global Geoparks. In 2014, IUGS sent representatives to participate in 2 meetings of European Geoparks Network (EGN) and the GGN Conference. IUGS was represented at the Working Group Meetings on Geoparks held at UNESCO in 2014. He commented that the IUGS' role had been clarified in the newest version of the drafted IGGP Statutes, and the new version of Agreement between UNESCO and IUGS on IGCP would be addressed.

#### **6.d. Group on Earth Observations (GEO) – GEOSS (Marko KOMAC)**

MK reported IUGS was not actively and directly involved in GEO and commented that geology and geologists were not highly recognized in GEO. He suggested that IUGS should see itself involved directly in the infrastructure via OneGeology as OneGeology was used by GEO as a good practice for open data sharing.

## **7. IUGS Bodies: Annual Reports and Future Plans**

### **7.a. Commissions**

#### **7.a.1 International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) (Stan FINNEY)**

Stan FINNEY (SF), ICS Chair, referred the EC to the submitted report. SF reported that the major accomplishments of ICS included: GSSP proposal for base of Toarcian Stage (Lower Jurassic Series, Jurassic System) was approved by ICS and ratified by the IUGS EC. Based on recommendation of the Cryogenian Subcommission, revised numerical age for the base of the Cryogenian System (revised from 850 Ma to ~720 Ma) was approved by ICS; 2014 and 2015 versions of the ICS Chronostratigraphic Chart, which included revised numerical ages, were posted on the ICS website; 30 special technical sessions were organized for STRATI 2015, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Stratigraphy would be held in Graz, Austria on 19-23 July 2015, co-sponsored with SEPM (Society of Sedimentary Geology). About \$20,000 from the U.S. National Science Foundation was granted to Quaternary, Paleogene, Silurian, and Ediacaran Subcommissions; A \$50,000 grant proposal was written and submitted to the U.S. National Science Foundation to support a Joint ICS-NSF Workshop “Archiving the Stratigraphic Record” to be held in conjunction with STRATI 2015.

#### **7.a.2. Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE) (Amel BARICH)**

Amel BARICH (AB) reported COGE’s objectives, commissioners, interacting organizations, major activities & publications in 2014 and work plan for 2015. In 2014, COGE further pushed forward “the Geoscience Education Roadmap for Africa Project (GEO-ERA)”, and a progress meeting about GEO-ERA and other issues related to geo-education in Africa was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. A workshop on geo-education promoted by the COGE and the GSAf was held at the 25<sup>th</sup> Colloquium of African Geology (CAG25) held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. COGE and the International Association for Geoscience Diversity (IAGD) jointly organized a combined booth exhibition, the third of its kind, at the 2014 GSA Annual Meeting. Several COGE Commissioners actively took part in the 7<sup>th</sup> GeoSciEd Conference held at the University of Hyderabad, India on September 5-9, 2014.

#### **7.a.3 Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI)**

Kombada MHOPJENI (KM) presented a report under the item of “Affiliated Organizations” due to late arrival at the meeting.

#### **7.a.4. History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) (D. SPALDING)**

D. SPALDING (DS) referred the EC to the submitted report. DS reported INHIGEO’s strategies, objectives, current activities and planned activities in 2015. He reported that INHIGEO was currently engaged in the introduction of a new “Affiliated Association”

category formally linking national history-of-geology organizations to INHIGEO, and planning the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary INHIGEO history volume to be published via the agreement between IUGS and the Geological Society of London.

#### **7.a.5 Tectonics and Structural Geology (TecTask) (Yildirim DILEK)**

Yildirim DILEK (YD) reported that the two main activities of TecTask in 2014 included Outcropedia project and Tec-Task Web Portal, and TecTask was involved in the organization of the 29<sup>th</sup> HKT (Himalaya- Karakoram Tibet Workshop) held in Lucca, Italy on 2-4 September 2014 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Rock Deformation and Structures (RDS) at Dibrugh University, India on 29-31 October 2014. He reported that the next year focus of TecTask would be Africa.

#### **7.a.6 Geoscience for Environmental Management (GEM) (Brian MARKER)**

Brian MARKER (BM) reported GEM's aims, structure, major work in 2014 and work plan for 2015. In 2014, Annual Business Meeting and Workshop was held at Geological Association of Canada Annual Meeting in New Brunswick. Climate change adaptation seminars were held in Finland, Spain and Viet Nam. Capacity building and training events on alternatives to using mercury in artisanal gold extraction in Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ghana. Seminars on land subsidence and ground water were held in Thailand and China and major research proposal was submitted to CCOP etc. He mentioned that GEM would terminate in 2016 and a proposal for the establishment of a new commission "Geology of the Anthropocene" had been submitted to the IUGS EC for consideration.

#### **7.a.7 New IUGS Commissions (José P. CALVO)**

José P. CALVO (JP) made a series of suggestions on the readjustments of the IUGS bodies, including: (1) upgrade the Geoheritage Task Group with the establishment of a new Commission on Geoheritage and Geoparks, which would facilitate links between IUGS, UNESCO and IUCN and furthermore increase IUGS visibility through promotion of geoheritage protection, geosciences popularization and social economic development; (2) change of the name of TecTask to Commission of Geodynamics, Tectonics and Structural Geology; (3) an evaluation by an Ad-hoc Review Committee be conducted before the termination of the Commission of Geoscience for Environmental Management (GEM); (4) creation of a new Commission on Global-scale Geochemistry by upgrading the current Global Geochemical Baseline Task Group, which could provide substantial support to the RFG Initiative; (5) creation of a new Task Group on Geohazards; (6) substantiation of the Global Geoscience Professionalism (TGGGP) be conducted; (7) an evaluation by an Ad-hoc Review Committee be conducted on the activities of the Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG). (8) IGCP projects be re-organized in order to gain relevance of the scientific topics.

## **7.b. Task Groups, Initiatives and Joint Programmes**

### **7.b.1. Global Geochemical Baselines (TGGGB) (WANG Xueqiu)**

WANG Xueqiu, TGGGB Co-Leader, reported TGGGB's history, chief accomplishments and publications in 2014, and work plan for 2015. He reported that the completed global-scale geochemical mapping covered 32 million km<sup>2</sup>, occupying 22% of the total land surface. In 2014, 3 training courses and 2 workshops were organized, and over 30 papers in English excluding those in other languages and 2 books were published. Preparations were underway for the inauguration of the UNESCO Category II Center – International Center on Global-scale Geochemistry in Hebei, China. The Center would include a global training centre, global sample archives, global data quality control laboratory, and global database centre. IUGS and China Geological Survey signed a *Cooperation of Agreement on Global-scale Geochemical Mapping* during China Mining 2014 in Tianjin, China on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. 2014. He put forward a proposal to establish a Chemical Earth, a virtual globe of Chemical Elements in the years of work ahead.

### **7.b.2 Geoheritage (GTG) (Peter BOBROWSKY)**

Peter BOBROWSKY (PB), Vice Chair of GTG, reported on GTG's main objectives, Steering Committee, key activities in 2014 and work plan for 2015. In 2014, a Symposium on Educational and Outreach was organized at the European Geological Union General Assembly in Vienna, Austria on April 27- May 2, 2014. 310 Geosites were listed online in the Geosite Database. As proposed in the Terms of reference, GTG began to set up a database dealing with the regulations occurring in different countries, and had succeeded to get regulations, besides those of UNESCO, for about 30 countries, among which 16 were documented in 2014, including Iceland, Norway, Belgium, The Netherlands, South Africa, Poland, Greece, Slovakia, Austria, Russia, China, Australia, South Korea, Papua New-Guinea and Malaysia. An international geoheritage conference organized by IUGS will take place in Toulouse, France in September 2015.

### **7.b.3 Heritage Stone (HSTG) (Brian MARKER)**

Brian MARKER (BM) reported HSTG's objectives, history, Board of Management, recent achievements and work plan for the future. HSTG's recent achievements included that Check Lists for "Global Heritage Stone Resource" (GHSR) and "Global Heritage Stone Province" were approved. A model GHSR nomination had been prepared for Portland Stone (UK) and also published in "Episodes". An "Interim or Standing List of potential GHSRs" had been maintained, as of January 2015 with 88 entries. A network of HSTG correspondents had been created, as of January 2015 with 224 geologists from 51 countries. Heritage Stone conferences were held in Vienna 2013, 2014, Kalamazoo (Michigan) 2013, Lincoln (Nebraska) 2014, Turin 2014 and Antalya (Turkey) 2014. Communications had been enhanced through the establishment of an International Newsletter in December 2014 in addition to the Heritage Stone Circular.

#### **7.b.4 Global Geoscience Professionalism (TGGGP) (Ollie BONHAM)**

Ollie BONHAM reported TGGGP's mission, history, objectives, member organizations, major activities in 2014 and work plan for 2015. In 2014, TGGGP talks and presentations were delivered at the Annual GAC-MAC 2015 Conference, AIPG and Arizona Hydrological Society "Water and Rocks: the Foundation of Life", IAEG Congress, GSA Annual Conference etc. Member Organization involvements included that European Federation of Geologists (EFG), together with PERC, arranged and hosted "MIN-WIN-WIN Establishing Europe-wide minerals reporting standards – the key to reducing risk and increasing opportunity", and EFG participated in four H2020 - earth resources policy development initiatives. TGGGP Executive participated in programme planning of the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC and planning RFG 2018. Pamphlet was designed and published and outreach continued.

#### **7.b.5 New IUGS Task Groups (Yujiro OGAWA)**

Yujiro OGAWA emphasized on the importance of building a bridge between geoscience and the general public. He suggested geoscience education for government civil servants and journalists who could play an important role in geohazard prevention and mitigation should be further strengthened. He welcomed suggestions and comments on the proposed establishment of a new Task Group on Geohazards.

#### **7.b.6 Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) (Grant WACH)**

Grant WACH (GW) reported IFG's objectives, committee structure, chief accomplishments in 2014 and work plan ahead. In 2014, IFG contributed to and completed over a number of capacity building, technology transfer, training, outreach and international collaboration events. Approximately 40 separate Forensic Geology events were organized and about 88 IUGS-IFG related publications were published. The first Forensic Geology Newsletter was published and circulated and '*A Guide to Forensic Geology*' was in progress. Currently, over 33 countries were represented in Geoforensic International Network (GIN), bringing together forensic geologists, geoscientists and police/law enforcement officers from around the world to develop and promote Forensic Geology.

#### **7.b.7 International Lithosphere Programme (ILP) (M. SCHECK-WENDEROTH)**

M. SCHECK-WENDEROTH, ILP Secretary, reported ILP's objectives, Bureau Members, major activities and publications in 2014, work plan for 2015 and Road Map for 2015-2020. In 2014, ILP Business Meeting was held at EGU 2014; ILP Task forces (TF) and regional committees held successful meetings & workshops and enlarged their networks (TF V: LAB workshop in Hainburg/Donau, Austria; TF VI: 2014: 9<sup>th</sup> annual workshop in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia cancelled; 10<sup>th</sup> annual workshop in Japan, October 2015; TF IX: ZIP (Zooming in between plates ITN project): FIELD TRIP Alps; TF X: A

position paper for the SP1 Task Force of the EERA Joint Programme on shale gas; Coordinating Committee TOPO-EUROPE: meeting Barcelona, 17-20 September 2014). ILP had significant input and visibility in several large meetings, such as EGU, AGU, GSA etc. A number of publications had been published by the ILP Task Forces.

#### **7.b.8 Isotope and Geochronology**

No representative was present at the meeting and no presentation was delivered.

#### **7.c. Open Discussion on Reports by Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives and Joint Programmes**

During this open discussion, the proposals by WANG Xueqiu, JC and YO regarding the restructuring of IUGS Commissions and the establishment of a new Task Group were welcomed. The ending of GEM was confirmed and discussions on the use of the term “Geology of the Anthropocene” were initiated.

### **8. International Geological Congress (IGC)**

#### **8.a. 35<sup>th</sup> IGC in Cape Town (Greg BOTHA)**

Greg BOTHA (GB), 35<sup>th</sup> IGC Secretary General, reported the preparations for the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC, which will take place in Cape Town, South Africa on August 27–September 4 2016. GB introduced current sponsorship from mining industries and the changes to the Local Organizing Committee, with Richard VILJOEN (Emeritus Professor, University of the Witwatersrand) and Mxolisi KOTA (Chief Executive Officer of the Council for Geoscience, CGS) as Co-Presidents and Greg BOTHA from CGS as Secretary-General. The proposed Scientific Programme of the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC included 3 major parts - Geoscience for Society (15 themes), Fundamental Geoscience (20 themes), and Geoscience in Economy (14 themes), all together 49 themes. The submitted Symposia shall be evaluated and modified at the end of May 2015. GB introduced that the Organizing Committee was now identifying Champions for each theme, which would be included in the Second Circular, and welcomed the IUGS EC, Commissions and Task Groups to recommend Champions for each theme and organize Workshops and Courses during the Congress. GB also introduced the efforts in preparing the modified field trips in South Africa, Namibia, Mali, Ghana, Botswana, Angola, Tanzania, etc.

#### **8.b. 36<sup>th</sup> IGC in Delhi (M.J. D’SOUZA)**

M.J. D’SOUZA, Director of the 36<sup>th</sup> IGC Working office-sum-Secretariat, reported on the preparations for the 36<sup>th</sup> IGC, which was to take place in Delhi, India on March 2-8 2020. He introduced that the Congress would be hosted by the Ministry of Mines (MoM) & Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India and actively supported by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). The Preparatory Committee of 6 people was chaired by Dr. Niranjana Kumar SINGH, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Mines of India.

The venue of the Congress would be India Expo Centre & Mart (IEML) in National Capital Region, Delhi, and the venue had already been approved by the IUGS Bureau. Prof. Ronald OBERHAENSLI, IUGS President and Dr. DONG Shuwen, IUGS Treasurer visited and delivered lectures at the Geological Survey of India and visited the proposed congress venue. He introduced a series of preparatory activities in 2014, including the organization of a number of workshops and brain storming sessions. The ongoing preparatory activities included formation of a legal entity, i.e., 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress Society (36IGCS), planning of field excursions of global interest and symposia themes, and promotion of the 36<sup>th</sup> IGC nationally and globally, etc.

### **8.c. International Geological Congress Committee (IGCC)**

RO reported that IGCC remained in contact at various meetings and through electronic means. The Bureau expressed the wish to organize an IGCC meeting at the end of May 2015 and hoped that Richard VILJOEN, the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC Co-President, would soon put up a call for the IGCC Meeting.

## **9. IUGS Membership**

### **9.a. Report on Membership Status (DONG Shuwen)**

DS reported that in the year of 2014, among the 120 IUGS Adhering Organizations (AOs), 63 were in active status, 11 pending and 46 inactive. While in the year 2013, 69 were in active status, 5 pending and 46 inactive. In 2014, the status of 2 AOs (Mongolia, the Netherlands) changed from inactive to active, 2 AOs (Bosnia and Herzegovina, France) from pending to active, 10 AOs (Albania, Argentina, Austria, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya and Peru) from active to pending, 2 AOs - (Guyana, Syria) from pending to inactive.

Meeting representatives made the following suggestions: (1) Apart from sending the invoices to IUGS AOs, the IUGS EC and Bureau should put more efforts in contacting AOs for membership payments; (2) The IUGS Bureau could make direct contact and personal touch with IUGS AOs for the payment of membership fees, for instance telephone calls etc; (3) More efforts should be made to win more African members to return active so that they could be better represented at the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC that will be held on the African continent. RO commented that the tasks of membership issues had already been assigned to the EC members and more follow-up efforts would be needed.

### **9.b. Reports from Adhering Organizations**

#### **9.b.1. The Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (Stephen JOHNSTON)**

Stephen JOHNSTON (SJ) indicated that the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences represented most of the Canadian earth science organizations. The Canadian earth science community in recent years had been actively engaged in geoparks development,

with the designation of a new global geopark Tumbler Ridge. Canada reinstated the Canadian National Committee for IGCP and the Canadian National Committee for IUGS during the past year to have more effective communications with IUGS and IGCP. Canadian geoscientists were now leading or co-leading 6 IGCP projects. The Canadian geoscience community had long been involved in IGCP projects and concerned about the future development of IGCP. SJ mentioned that Canada was now in the process of preparing for the organization of RFG2018 Conference and expressed concern about the application of Geological Association of Canada (GAC), one of the supporters of the RFG2018 Conference, for the affiliated status of IUGS.

RO responded that the application of GAC for the affiliated status of IUGS was still pending and further discussions among the EC on the application should be conducted with reference to the IUGS Statutes.

#### **9.b.2. The Geological Society located in Taipei (SONG Sheng-rong)**

SONG Sheng-rong introduced the Society's founding, membership, organization, main tasks, major activities in 2015, international collaboration network, and the tectonic settings of Taiwan. The annual tasks of the current Committee of the Society were mainly focused on organizing the Annual Conference of the Geological and Geophysical Societies in Taiwan, publishing Journal *Western Pacific Earth Sciences (WPES)* and nominating geoscience awards. In 2014, the Society hosted "2014 Conference on Earth's Environments, Paleoclimates, and Geohazards", "the Geodynamics and Environment in East-Asia (GEEA) 2014 Meeting" and other related academic conferences.

#### **9.b.3. The Geological Survey of the Netherlands (Michiel VAN DER MEULEN)**

Michiel VAN DER MEULEN introduced that the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences suspended the IUGS membership in 2010 and the Geological Survey of the Netherlands became an IUGS Adhering Organization in 2012 on behalf of the Dutch geoscience community. He introduced that the Netherlands Research School for Integrated Solid Earth Science (ISES) successfully operated from 1999 to 2014, and the restructuring of the Department of Earth Sciences at the Free University Amsterdam. The first Dutch UNSECO Geopark National Committee was underway. Seismicity induced by gas extraction raised controversy in the Dutch society. New laws on subsurface information and 3D spatial planning were in progress. Professional accreditation of geoscientists was underway.

#### **9.b.4. The United Kingdom National Committee to IUGS (Edmund NICKLESS)**

Edmund NICKLESS said that the Geological Society of London (GSL) was an Adhering Organization of IUGS and had been a category 8 member since 2007. He expressed concern about the lack of communications between IUGS and its members. He noted that some progress had been made in developing the main IUGS communication tools (*Episodes*, email bulletins, website, social media and the Annual Report) but there



remained considerable scope to do more and to use them more effectively. He suggested IUGS should develop an overall communications strategy, including publishing a readable, attractive Annual Review, expanding the electronic Newsletter, defining the scope and purpose of *Episodes*, etc. He suggested that *Episodes* could be developed into an appealing and accessible magazine reporting on initiatives around the world, current geologically relevant issues, IUGS news and so on. He also introduced GSL Annual Review and Newsletter as possible models for IUGS.

RO appreciated Edmund NICKLESS' suggestions. Due to dramatic changes within the IUGS EC during the past year, IUGS was not very communicative and more efforts would be made to enhance its communications.

## **10. ICSU**

### **10.a. IUGS-ICSU relations (Roland OBERHAENSLI)**

RO commented that communications between IUGS and ICSU as well the GeoUnions had been direct and active. Orhan ALTAN from ISPRS was re-elected as a member of the Executive Board of ICSU to make Geounions represented and the voice of geosciences heard within ICSU. Efforts had been made to include RFG into the ICSU Future Earth Program. IUGS and IUGG were making joint actions to bring the lithosphere aspects into the Future Earth.

Some representatives made suggestions that the ICSU representative should be rotated within the GeoUnions more effectively and not every 6 years in ICSU (a single term of office for 3 years would give all 8 Geounions a chance to participate).

### **10.b. ICSU Grants Program (Roland OBERHAENSLI)**

RO commented that the GeoUnions had already discussed the proposition about applying for ICSU Grants Program so as to gain certain visibility of the GeoUnions within ICSU. The project proposal of RFG to ICSU had already been submitted but no exact feedback had been received up till then. RO would be in contact with NASIC and the EC on the status of the project application to ICSU.

### **10.c. IUGS-GeoUnions-IUGG relations (Roland OBERHAENSLI)**

RO commented that the GeoUnions had been in good contact with each other. He mentioned that IUGG had opened a permanent Secretariat in Potsdam and the working communications of the two unions had been direct and effective. The German National Committee signaled that it had been working on a bid for the 2024 IGC and intended to present the bid at the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC in Cape Town. The German bid was intended to hold a joint Congress, bringing together IGC and IUGG Congress. IUGS was supportive of the joint Congress and IUGG planned to discuss this at the IUGG meeting in summer.

Michael SIDERIS, IUGG Vice President, expressed support for the idea of the joint activities as proposed by Germany and also the joint Congress of the two Unions, which

would be conducive to improving the visibility of the two Unions. IUGG was ready to support IGCP projects. The competition was open with regard to the bid for the 2023 IUGG Congress. He made a proposal that IUGS and IUGG made a joint call for a joint Congress, which would give a better chance for a successful joint Congress. The election of the IUGG EC was to be completed in June, 2015 and hoped that the next IUGG EC could find an opportunity for joint funded projects of the two Unions.

Some representatives commented that AGU and GSA meetings were good mixture of geology and geophysics, which represented a good trend.

Patrick MCKEEVER thanked IUGG for expressing its support for IGCP projects and welcomed IUGG representatives to attend the brain storming sessions on the development of IGCP at the annual IGCP meeting to be held in Paris on Feb. 27, 2015.

RO commented that the suggestion for a common call of the joint Congress was feasible and on time schedule possible. Further discussions would be made among the IUGS EC and the IUGG annual meeting in June, 2015.

The IUGS Bureau briefly left the meeting venue to attend the Mineral Exploration Roundup and RO entrusted Vice President Yildirim DILEK to chair the meeting.

## **11. Publications – Outreach and Promotion**

### **11.a. Publications Committee (Brian MARKER)**

Brian MARKER reported that the Editorial Board of *Episodes* was under reorganization, 4 previous members continued and 10 new members secured. Actions had been taken to reverse late publication. The impact factor of *Episodes* had increased to 1.4 in 2014 from the low of 0.95 in 2012. Continued efforts should be made to secure high quality papers especially from IUGS activities, and alternating responsive and thematic issues had already been in the train for 2015 and 2016. Possibility of on-line publications was under discussion. A total of 48 articles had been published among the total submission of 69 articles. *Episodes* were now facing serious budgetary constraints.

With regard to the cooperation with the Geological Society of London on the book publications, effective communications had been maintained between GSL and the Publications Committee. The MOU between IUGS and GSL had been working well and adequately monitored and reported. Since the inception of the MOU, 31 titles were published - 7 in production and 7 accepted. New proposals from IUGS activities should continue to be submitted at about the same frequency (e.g. IGCP).

The priorities of the PC in 2015 and 2016 included:

- ◆ Secure DOI registration for all papers in *Episodes*;
- ◆ Maintain the timeliness of publication of issues of *Episodes*;
- ◆ Secure additional thematic issues of *Episodes* for 2015-2016 and further improve the impact factor;
- ◆ Debate, and advise on, the future nature and content of *Episodes* and need for

investment in modernization of review and online publication processes;

- ◆ Monitor the progress of *Episodes* and of books published by the Geological Society (London);
- ◆ Discuss and finalize and discuss a paper on publications policy and ethics.

Existing MOU of *Episodes* was due for renewal or replacement by the end of 2016. A review was suggested to be conducted in 2015 and recommendations be made to the Executive for decision by the time of the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC.

The meeting representatives made extensive discussions on the identity of *Episodes* and how to increase the influence of *Episodes*, from the aspects of editorial policy, publishing content, development plan etc.

Yildirim DILEK opened discussions on the future development strategy of *Episodes*. Suggestions from the meeting delegates for the future improvement of the *Episodes* were summarized as follows: (1) to appropriately and realistically define the identity and mission of the Journal; (2) to publish review papers on major progress of solid earth sciences and regional geology; (3) to attract more involvement of IUGS affiliated organizations and IGCP projects; (4) to reduce the yearly published issue and increase the quality; (5) to improve the capacity building of the Editorial Board etc.

#### **11.b. Website (Peter BOBROWSKY)**

Peter BOBROWSKY presented a Google Analytics report of the iugs.org. In the year of 2014 there were 23,743 users and 71,861 page views on the IUGS website, which marked a 10% reduction in visits to the website compared with the year of 2013. 79.4% users were returning visitors and the remaining 20.6% were new visitors. The most popular hits were publications, directory and calendar. The top 10 visiting countries were the U.S.A., China, India, Brazil, Nigeria, Germany, the U.K., Spain, Canada and Italy. He called for the IUGS EC and bodies to more actively contribute to the IUGS website to ensure its sustainability. He also proposed that the management of the website move officially by the next IUGS EC to an institute host/sponsor.

#### **11.c. E-Bulletin (Anne LIINAMAA-DEHLS)**

Anne LIINAMAA-DEHLS reported that the IUGS E-Bulletin was prepared by Amaury POURTEAU, Post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Earth and Environmental Science Potsdam University, and was sent to 16,000 emails monthly by the Secretariat.

#### **11.d. Social Media (Amel BARICH)**

Amel BARICH (AB) reported that IUGS used social media for communications with the public, including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. As of January 2015, there were 2,497 followers and 2,265 posts on the IUGS Facebook page. There were 3 IUGS profiles on Twitter and the IUGSArchives was most active. There were 198 members on the IUGS LinkedIn page. AB suggested IUGS should develop a targeted communication strategy. The IUGS news and activities from the IUGS website, E-bulletin and *Episodes* could be

adapted properly and regularly for social media. An IUGS professional page on LinkedIn was suggested to be established to promote IUGS as a professional organization and to attract potential sponsors. As per the Twitter accounts, AB suggested to cancel the two dormant accounts and create a new one which will be the only official account of the IUGS. AB also suggested exploring more online platforms such as ResearchGate to promote IUGS publications and advertise Episodes and IUGS task groups' activities among geologists adhering to the platform.

#### **11.e. New Promotional Products (CHEN Zhu)**

CHEN Zhu introduced that the IUGS Secretariat designed several promotional products including IUGS notebooks, bags, promotional badges, etc. A suite of products including brochures, flyers, etc must be developed in time for the IGC in 2016.

### **12. IUGS Affiliated Organizations**

#### **12.a. Applications for Affiliations**

Besides the pending application of the Geological Association of Canada (GAC), no further applications were submitted to IUGS.

#### **12.b. Reports from Affiliated Organizations**

##### **12.b.1. International Association of Sedimentologists (IAS) (Pierre FRANCUS)**

Pierre FRANCUS reported that in the year of 2014, the number of IAS membership reached 1,765, covering 73 countries. IAS major publications included *Sedimentology*, *Basin Research*, *The Depositional Record* (new publication), IAS newsletter etc. The International Sedimentological Congress had been organized every 4 years (Switzerland 2014), attracting 800-1,000 delegates for each congress. The 20<sup>th</sup> International Sedimentological Congress would be held in Quebec City, Canada on August 13-17, 2018. From 2010 to 2014, IAS sponsored 42 conferences, awarded 464 travel grants to these conferences and 76 grants to post graduate research. IAS also organized summer schools and lecture tours.

##### **12.b.2. International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG) (CHENG Qiuming)**

CHENG Qiuming, IAMG President, reported IAMG's brief history, mission, structure and organization, major achievements in 2014, interaction with other international organizations, student grants, key and new research fields. In 2014, 400 articles were published in IAMG journals. The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual IAMG Conference held at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, India on October 17-20, 2014, had 365 abstracts submitted. IAMG had co-sponsored the GEOMAP Workshop in Olomouc, Czech Republic on June 17-20, 2014,

and organized a Statistical Analysis of Compositional Data session at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Boston, U.S.A. on August 2-7, 2014. IAMG also co-sponsored the workshop on Frontiers of Mathematical Geosciences held at China Geological Survey on October 8-10, 2014 (110 participants). The annual IAMG China Section meeting on Mathematical Geology and Geoinformatics was held in Xuzhou, China on October 10-12, 2014 (130 participants). During 2014, student and postdoctoral research and activities were financially supported by US\$ 37,500 mainly for research and travel grants.

#### **12.b.3. Commission for the Management and Application for Geoscience Information (CGI) (Kombada MHOPJENI)**

Due to late arrival at the meeting, Kombada MHOPJENI presented a report under the item of “Affiliated Organizations”, introducing CGI’s mission, Council organization and members, main achievements in 2014 and future work plan. In the year of 2014, the CGI website was redesigned, 3 CGI newsletters were issued and a new CGI LinkedIn group was established. CGI GeoSciML Standards Working Group (SWG) had made progress in finalizing the GeoSciML V4 data standard and documenting GeoSciML v4 data model. For CGI Geoscience Terminology Working Group (GTWG), 18 vocabularies required for the EarthResourceML had been adopted. For EarthResourceML (ERML) Standards Working Group, ERML V2 conceptual model was on trial in projects such as Minerals4EU project (26 European Union Geological Surveys) and in the implementation of INSPIRE Mineral Resources data specification, and ERML data standard was widely adopted in national and provincial Geological Surveys in Europe and Australia.

#### **12.b.4. International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) (Peter BOBROWSKY)**

Peter BOBROWSKY reported that IAPG’s goal was to widen the debate on problems of Ethics applied to the Geosciences. Currently IAPG had 580 members from 88 countries in 5 continents and 10 national sections. The European Federation of Geologists (EFG) and IAPG signed on 12 December 2014 a Memorandum of Agreement to collaborate in defining ethical problems. A new book entitled “*Geoethics, Ethical Challenges and Case Studies in Earth Sciences*” and a number of research articles were published. IAPG organized sessions at the EGU General Assembly 2014 and IAEG International Congress. IAPG was present at GSA Annual Meeting 2014, AGU Fall Meeting 2014 etc. Courses on geoethics for professionals and conferences on geoethics for the public were also organized.

#### **12.b.5. International Association for Geoethics (IAGETH) (Amel BARICH)**

Amel BARICH reported that IAGETH’s main objectives were to promote and encourage the advancement of Geoethics, to foster geoethical ways of thinking and acting, and to improve teaching and training in Geoethics. In the year of 2014, IAGETH comprised 44 National Chapters (6 more than the last year) coordinated and represented

by geoscientists and a Senior Advisory Board constituted by 13 internationally recognized experts. IAGETH was present at EGU 2014, GSA Annual Meeting 2014 and several other academic meetings. A number of articles related to geoethics were published by IAGETH.

### **13. IUGS' Committee**

#### **13.a. Nominating Committee (José P. CALVO)**

José P. CALVO introduced activities by the Nominating Committee: the election of the new IUGS Secretary General after the resignation of the former Secretary General Dr. Ian LAMBERT and election of a new member of the Nominating Committee after the resignation of Dr. Edmund NICKLESS. Approved by the Council through electronic voting, Dr. José P. CALVO from Spain was elected as the new IUGS Secretary General and Niichi NISHIWAKI from Japan was elected as the Nominating Committee member.

#### **13.b. Finance Committee (DONG Shuwen)**

The call for the nomination of members to the Finance Committee was sent out and no specific feedback had been received yet.

### **14. RFG 2018, Vancouver, Canada (Bill MERCER)**

Bill MERCER introduced the background for the initiation of the RFG 2018. In 2012, the Canadian IGC 2020 Bid Committee developed the idea of hosting an inter-congress international conference to IUGS, focusing on natural resources. In 2013, IUGS formally endorsed the concept of the first IUGS organized inter-IGC meeting to be held in Canada in 2018. In 2013, the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences formally endorsed the proposal and in 2014, Canada presented the concept of inter conference based on the IUGS Resourcing Future Generations (RFG) initiative. The Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (CIM) would be the lead organization supporting logistics and financial side of the conference. The Geological Association of Canada and the Mineralogical Association of Canada had agreed to partner with CIM to deliver the conference. The Geological Survey of Canada has endorsed the event and already appointed an official representative onto the Committee. The Executive Committee of 12 people had been set up, with Kendra JOHNSTON (Chair of Roundup 2015-2016) as Chair and Bill MERCER (Past President of PDAC) as Vice Chair. The main themes of the conference would be minerals, energy and water. Further actions would be focused on advancing agreements with Vancouver entities, formulating formal agreements between the associations involved, bringing in other associations (energy, geotechnical), forming Technical Sessions Committee and planning field trips, etc

### **15. Next EC Meeting**

Regarding the fact that 2016 IUGS envisages high expenditures for IGC, it was suggested that the next EC be held in China in a Geopark in order to minimize travel expenditures for the Secretariat and to mark a welcome to the new UNESCO structure of IGGP.

RO closed the meeting by thanking the Canadian hosts for organizing and sponsoring the meeting and also thanked the many meeting representatives for their attendance.

To read the 2014 written reports of the IUGS bodies, please log on the following website: <http://iugs.org/index.php?page=activities>

Attachment:

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
68<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 27-29, 2015**

Room 217 in the West Wing  
Vancouver Convention Center  
Vancouver, Canada

**ACTION LIST**

Item	Description	Date	Status
EC68Act_01	Roland OBERHAENSLI to inform Publications Committee that Amel BARICH will serve as IUGS liason	Feb.	
EC68Act_02	Roland OBERHAENSLI to send a letter to Councillor Y. OGAWA informing him that the EC has endorsed the task group on geohazards ready to be established in March 2015, and approved the use of the IUGS logo for their upcoming meeting to be held during the 3 <sup>rd</sup> United Nation World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Sendai, Japan	Feb.	
EC68Act_03	Yildirim DILEK and Amel BARICH to establish a "Strategic Action Committee" to review Episodes (see MoU regarding regular quadrennial review) and to look into the options for the future development of Episodes	Mar.	

	so as to leave a legacy for the next EC		
EC68Act_04	Amel BARICH to produce into draft a coherent social media and communications strategy for IUGS	April	
EC68Act_05	New Bulletin formatting to be considered by Secretariat, AMAURY and PC, which does not require costs. Various suggestions to be presented to the EC	April	
EC68Act_06	José P. CALVO to ask the Director of the IUGS Secretariat ,WANG Wei, about whether it is feasible for the Secretariat to take over the IUGS website	Feb.	
EC68Act_07	If the reply from the IUGS Secretariat is positive, the Secretariat to present a proposal for a new format of the Website to be hosted in China	April	
EC68Act_08	IUGS Secretariat to use the template of the GSL to produce the IUGS Annual Report	April	
EC68Act_09	IUGS Secretariat to send a proposal for the outline of the IUGS Annual Report for 2013-2014 to be published electronically and in hard copies in limited editions	Feb.	
EC68Act_10	Roland OBERHAENSLI to write Dr. Reynaldo CHARRIER to formally support Sociedad Geológica de Chile to participate in IGCP	Feb.	
EC68Act_11	Roland OBERHAENSLI to contact Denis GAPAIS regarding the Antoine Luminier 3d photographs, and inform that IUGS will endorse the project	Feb.	
EC68Act_12	Roland OBERHAENSLI to meet with IUGG for a brain storm and to begin discussions to see whether it is feasible for the two Unions to put forward a common call and convene a Joint Congress	Mar.	
EC68Act_13	IUGS Secretariat to revise and send reactivation letters signed by the Bureau to inactive members in hard copies	Mar.	
EC68Act_14	Roland OBERHAENSLI to follow up on the Bureau and IGCC meeting arrangements to be hosted in Cape Town, South Africa at the end of May, 2015	Feb.	
EC68Act_15	José P. CALVO to write to IUGS Commissions and Task Groups to identify champions for the 35 <sup>th</sup> IGC particular themes where this is lacking (Hassina Mouri to send up-to-date table)	Feb.	
EC68Act_16	EC members to assist the Scientific Committee of the	Feb.	



	35 <sup>th</sup> IGC to define key scientific topics and designate corresponding speakers for each topic		
EC68Act_17	DONG Shuwen to consider how the IUGS Reserves can be tapped to support flag ship activities like RFG, and report back to the Bureau	Mar.	
EC68Act_18	Hassina MOURI to continue to serve as the IUGS liason for the International Geological Congress in Cape Town	Feb.	
EC68Act_19	José P. CALVO to contact the Geological Association of Canada (GAC), which has applied for affiliation, informing that the EC supports the application, and GAC has been approved as an IUGS Affiliated Organization pending ratification by Council	Mar.	
EC68Act_20	Stephen JOHNSTON to draft amendments to IUGS Statutes to propose a term on IUGS Affiliated Organizations and forward to EC for consideration	Nov.	
EC68Act_21	José P. CALVO and IUGS Secretariat to send formal letters to IUGS bodies thanking them for sending the Annual Reports and providing feedbacks with the comments of EC members included (if any)	Feb.	
EC68Act_22	IUGS Secretariat to forward Secretary General the example letters of thanks to IUGS Bodies	Feb.	
EC68Act_23	IUGS Secretariat to work closely with the Treasurer's assistant to send 2015 allocation letters	Feb.	
EC68Act_24	Roland OBERHAENSLI to contact the Ben MAPANI, Environmental Science of the Anthropocene, regarding how this proposal should be modified before sending to Council	Feb.	
EC68Act_25	IUGS Secretariat to contact presenters for CGI, IAMG, IAS about providing a possibility of brief report to IUGS for use in IUGS material and to provide to PDFs of the powerpoints presented in Vancouver	Feb.	
EC68Act_26	José P. CALVO to contact TGGGB on the proposal for the Task Group being upgraded to a new Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines, with the creation of a Subcommission/Working Group on Isotopes	Feb.	
EC68Act_27	Roland OBERHAENSLI to encourage TGGGB to submit project proposal to ICSU on global-scale geochemical baselines	Mar.	