

## Global Stone Congress in Ilheus (Bahia), Brazil

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The Global Stone Congress (GSC) held its 6<sup>th</sup> session in Ilheus (Bahia), Brazil, from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of April. The aim of this Congress was to assemble international participants interested in natural stones, from geologist to architects, designers, engineers, representatives of research and teaching institutions and technological centers linked to the natural stone industry. More than 150 persons attended the Congress which included sessions on Architecture, Technology, Sustainability and Workshops for discussion and to promote debate on current challenges related to natural stones: <http://www.globalstonecongress2018.com.br/presentation.htm> ABIROCHAS and CETEM were the main promoters of the GSC. Maria Heloísa Barros de Oliveira Frascá, member of the board of the IUGS Heritage Stones Subcommittee (HSS), was one of the organizers. Several members of the HSS were invited as speakers, having the opportunity to promote the IUGS activities associated with natural stones. Some other HSS members participated in the Congress with IGCP-637 financial help.



Helois Frascá, Björn Schouenborg, Piero Primavori and Lola Pereira at the Global Stone Congress in Ilheus (Bahia), Brazil.

After the meeting, technical visits were organized to look at some important quarries in the state of Bahia: the blue granite of Potiraguá, known as Blue Sodalite, and the pegmatite of Macarani, cutting a strongly foliated biotitic paragneiss. These spectacular quarries are active in the extraction of the three stones for the dimension stone industry. SOMIBRAS (the Brazilian Mineral Association) and Ouro Campo are thanked for arranging the visits.



Global Stone Congress participants at the Blue Sodalite quarry and a close view of a block from the quarry. Approximate dimension of the block: 1 m<sup>3</sup>.



Macarani pegmatite, cutting the paragneiss.

A more extensive report on this Congress and field trip will be included in next HSS circular, available at our website: [www.globalheritagestone.com](http://www.globalheritagestone.com).

The Heritage Stone Sub-Commission is very thankful for the support from ABIROCHAS (and the kindness of Cid Chiodi) and CETEM (and the kindness of Nuria Fernández Castro) which enabled our successful session to take place at the Global Stone Congress in Ilheus.