

NEWS AT A GLANCE

- IUGS President's New Year Wishes
- IAGETH Statement about the Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- Nominations for the IUGS Executive Committee Closes Soon!
- 35th IGC Abstract Submission Closes Soon!
- *Episodes*: December Special Issue on Ophiolites

IUGS PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR WISHES

"Dear colleagues,

I would like to express my feelings and best wishes for 2016 to all of you. May you enjoy geology at its best and in good health.

The past year has seen human disasters with mass movement of people out of Africa and the Middle East but at the same time mass movement of parts of our planet that stroke with catastrophic results all over. On the other hand, the COP21 Climate Conference in Paris positively showed that global political consensus is possible.

For IUGS, 2015 demonstrated that Geosciences, resource politics, and land- and water use issues all gained public awareness. In this general trend, it was possible to reestablish Geosciences within UNESCO, now jointly with risk- and disaster research. In the frame of 'Resourcing Future Generations' (RFG), a multi-disciplinary expert workshop was held and the IUGS Initiative gained broad visibility, be it at the economic meeting in Davos or the one pager produced for the Paris Climate Conference.

For 2016, IUGS shall of course focus on its 35th International Geological Congress (IGC) in Cape Town but, at the same time, reflect on rejuvenating and financing its major scientific program IGCP and promote RFG further to have this socio-economic aspect of Geosciences sustainably embedded within the IUGS structure. As the IUGS President, I look forward to an initiative on risk and disaster proposed by our Japanese colleagues that shall be presented to the Council during IGC. A major task for IUGS will be geoscience literacy. IUGS must put a stronger focus on education. Knowledge on the features of our Planet, its materials and resources, its dynamic processes and its enormous potential to liberate energy in earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides must be disseminated through public awareness. Geosciences should be taught starting from primary school level. After all, it is the geosphere of our planet that provides the base for life and human development."



Roland Oberhänsli, IUGS President



IAGETH STATEMENTS ABOUT THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Scientists play (and will play) a vital role for Society, which is not only based on the generation of scientific knowledge, but also in taking into account and facing societal and ethical issues.

After a great number of scientific studies, it has been globally recognized that Climate Change and its effects are real and serious, and that it is crucial to reach global agreements, developing and implementing concrete and effective actions to minimize the most critical impacts on people.

Geoethics deals with the way of human thinking and acting in relation to the significance of the Earth as a system and as a model. Abiotic nature has its own dynamic evolution and its regularities and laws need to be known and understood in order to improve any forecasting and mitigation of important catastrophes and climate changes. For these reasons, we congratulate global leaders for taking a historic step in Paris to combat Climate Change, and also applaud the recognition of the need to safeguard the integrity and conditions of our atmosphere, oceans and, in general, the whole planet for our future generations.

Thus, in the framework of our interdisciplinary links, the [International Association for Geoethics](#) (IAGETH) supports the content and spirit of cooperation envisioned in the Paris Agreement. It is our ethical duty to provide the scientific grounds and warnings about all societal and ethical aspects, which are involved in the connections between Nature with human actions and activities.

We realize the Paris Agreement is just a first step, but it is the needed beginning of a consensual understanding of the main issues, paving the way for further specific actions. IAGETH urges its members and call the geoscientific community to help the public to better understand the Paris Agreement.

Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías, IAGETH President

NOMINATIONS FOR THE IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CLOSES SOON!

The geoscientific community is reminded to consider active participation in the International Union of Geological Sciences by serving on the next Executive Committee. Nominations are invited for all positions: President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Councilor. Details regarding nominations can be found on the [IUGS website](#).

Complete nomination packages must be sent directly to Prof. Jacques Charvet (Chair of the Nominating Committee) before the deadline of January 31, 2016. Successful candidates will be elected during the General Assembly in Cape Town as part of the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC).



35TH IGC ABSTRACT SUBMISSION CLOSES SOON!

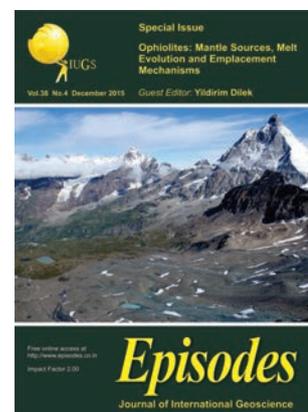
This is a final reminder to interested participants that abstract submission for the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC) in Cape Town, South Africa closes on January 31, 2016. This congress has an informative and educational program proposed covering all key aspects and topics within the geosciences as well as an exciting list of field excursions and short courses. GeoHost opportunities for eligible participants are available.



Please refer to the [IGC website](#) for details regarding abstract submission.

EPISODES: DECEMBER SPECIAL ISSUE ON OPHIOLITES

The IUGS Publications Committee is delighted to announce the important December 2015 thematic issue of *Episodes* (Vol. 38, No. 4). The issue, guest edited by IUGS Vice-President Yildirim Dilek, focuses on ophiolites, a dynamic and fascinating area of current research that is illuminating: structural and geochemical makeup of ancient oceanic lithosphere; fluid–rock interactions and biochemical cycles in crustal and mantle evolution; and the nature and distribution of former plate boundaries. This journal issue is not only for ophiolite specialists. It will be of interest to all geoscientists who are working to understand the detailed dynamics of the oceanic crust and orogenic belts.



It is now clear that ophiolites have a diversity of internal structures, geochemical compositions and emplacement mechanisms that can be explained in terms of different tectonic settings of magmatic construction of oceanic lithosphere. Recent studies have shown that many ophiolites display compositional and geochemical heterogeneities at different scales that are not consistent with steady-state magmatic accretion at spreading centers. Analysis of these differences allows better reconstruction of geological events and geodynamic processes.

Papers in this issue highlight recent findings and new interpretations on the mantle sources, melt evolution and emplacement mechanisms of varied ophiolites in southern Tibet, the western Alps of Italy, Chilean Patagonia, the Indo-Burma plate boundary in NE India and the Variscan Galicia suture zone in the NW Iberian Peninsula. Two papers deal with the occurrences of chromitites in ophiolitic peridotites and their petrogenetic evolution in Western Cuba and the geological occurrence and geochemical characteristics of diamonds and other ultrahigh-pressure (UHP) minerals in ophiolitic mantle peridotites and podiform chromitites from four different orogenic belts in the world. We hope that you will enjoy these papers as much as the editors did.



Contents of the *Episodes* Special Issue (December 2015, Vol. 38. No. 4) [\[link\]](#)

“Ophiolites: Mantle Sources, Melt Evolution and Emplacement Mechanisms.”

Guest Editor: Yildirim Dilek

Preface

Ophiolites: Mantle Sources, Melt Evolution and Emplacement Mechanisms [\[link\]](#)

Y. Dilek

Articles

Continental Margin Ophiolites of Neotethys: Remnants of Ancient Ocean-Continent Transition Zone (OCTZ) Lithosphere and their Geochemistry, Mantle Sources and Melt Evolution Patterns [\[link\]](#)

E. Saccani, Y. Dilek, M. Marroni & L. Pandolfi

OIB- and P-Type Ophiolites Along the Yarlung–Zangbo Suture Zone (YZSZ), Southern Tibet: Poly-Phase Melt History and Mantle Sources of the Neotethyan Oceanic Lithosphere [\[link\]](#)

G. Yang & Y. Dilek

Pre-Alpine Extensional Tectonics of a Peridotite-Localized Oceanic Core Complex in the Late Jurassic, High-Pressure Monviso ophiolite (western Alps) [\[link\]](#)

G. Balestro, A. Festa, Y. Dilek & P. Tartarotti

The Taitao Ophiolite–Granite Complex, Chile: Emplacement of Ridge-Trench Intersection Oceanic Lithosphere on Land and Origin of Calc-Alkaline I-Type Granites [\[link\]](#)

K.-C. Shin, R. Anma, T. Nakano, Y. Orihashi & S.-I. Ike

Structure and Petrology of the Nagaland–Manipur Hill Ophiolite Melange Zone, NE India: A Fossil Tethyan Subduction Channel at the India–Burma Plate Boundary [\[link\]](#)

Fareeduddin & Y. Dilek

Variscan Ophiolites in NW Iberia: Tracking Lost Paleozoic Oceans and the Assembly of Pangea [\[link\]](#)

R. Arenas & S. Sanchez Martinez

Al- and Cr-Rich Chromitites from the Eastern Havana–Matanzas Ophiolites (western Cuba) [\[link\]](#)

A. I. Llanes Castro, J. A. Proenza, F. Zaccarini, G. Garuti & M. S. C. Pacheco Sarlabous

Diamond-Bearing Ophiolites and their Geological Occurrence [\[link\]](#)

J. Yang, P. T. Robinson & Y. Dilek

Obituary

In Memory of Anders Wikstrom (1937–2015) [\[link\]](#)



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:pobrows@NRC.gc.ca>.
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-bulletin distribution list, please <mailto:iugs.beijing@gmail.com>.

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