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## REPORT ON THE IGCP–GEOPARK MEETING AND ITS IGGP UMBRELLA, PARIS

The Geopark community, supported by about 50 Member States and representatives of the International Geoscience Program (IGCP) and IUGS, finalized the new statutes for the International Geopark Geoscience Program IGGP at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, February 24–27. This new structure was proposed by IUGS and UNESCO Member States to gather the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and the IGCP as two pillars under a joint umbrella, the IGGP.

The GGN remains mostly independent of the IGCP but has asked IUGS for support in reviewing the geoscientific aspects in applications and revisions for UNESCO Global Geoparks (see below the “Call for Experts to Evaluate GGN application”). IUGS welcomes this sign of confidence in assuring high scientific standards.

During the discussion of the IGGP statutes, the IGCP and IUGS community stipulated that the name “International Geoscience Program”, its acronym “IGCP” and its logo shall be kept. This was supported by Member States and accepted by the Geopark community and thus is now in the IGGP statutes that will be submitted to the UNESCO Executive Board. Further to the statutes of IGGP, the Geopark guidelines were finalized and accepted by the delegates.

The International Geoscience Program IGCP has an independent structure from Geoparks, retaining a high-standard independent Scientific Council with 6 ordinary members plus the UNESCO Director General as well as IUGS Secretary General as ex-officio members of the board (without right to vote). The Council shall be responsible for evaluating proposals as well as advising the UNESCO Director General and the IUGS President on strategy, planning and implementation of the IGCP. An IGCP Bureau consisting of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur of the IGCP Council as well as the UNESCO Director General and the IUGS Secretary General shall make the final decisions on IGCP project proposals and levels of funding, and hold joint coordination meetings with the Bureau of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN).



During the IGCP–IUGS program evaluation meeting, over 40 projects were reviewed, of which 35 were attributed a grant. This year, UNESCO, IUGS, China, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) were able to support the program. SIDA started an Africa-oriented IGCP action under the auspices of Felix Toteu from the UNESCO Nairobi office. Proposals related to the IGCP–SIDA call were evaluated separately but still by IUGS experts of the IGCP evaluation team. During the brainstorming discussion that followed the evaluation meeting, new thoughts for the bylaws for the IGCP were presented and collected. The UNESCO Secretariat, IUGS and the IGCP board will work jointly with members of the IGCP National Committees.

### UNESCO SUPPORTS IUGS' RFG INITIATIVE

UNESCO signaled that the IUGS' initiative on Resourcing Future Generations (RFG) will be supported. Details could not be finalized during the IGCP, Geopark and IGCP meeting.

### NEWS FROM THE YES NETWORK

#### Call for papers: Special Issue of YES Congress 2014

The YES Network and editors announce that the deadline for submission of articles to the special issue from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Young Earth Scientists Congress (Dar Es salaam, Tanzania, 2014) in the *Journal of African Earth Sciences*, was extended to March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The title of this issue is "Contributions to the Global Earth Sciences Integration", following the main scope of the YES Congress.

Deadlines are March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for manuscript submission and August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for acceptance.

More on the [YES Network blog](#).

#### YES Network "Women in Geoscience" Survey: Your Opinion Matters!

The YES Network is running a [survey about women in Geosciences](#) and they would like to have your opinion. The survey comes in the context of a [global initiative launched by the UK Chapter](#) of the International Association for Geoethics (IAGETH) to commemorate its newly formed Commission on Gender and Geoethics (CoGG). The YES Network will contribute to its first special issue, with the hope to give an insight from its perspective about this topic. It will also help to define challenges facing the YES community around the world, and work towards reducing gender gaps in Geosciences.

Please take a few minutes to [complete it](#) and feel free to share your further ideas and suggestions to improve it and/or to contribute to the empowerment of women in this discipline, especially the early-career ones.

More information is available [here](#).



### **YES Network Session at IGU Regional Conference, Moscow (August 2015)**

The YES Network is planning to hold a joint session with the C12.16 Commission on Geoparks at the International Geographical Union Regional Conference in Moscow, Russia, August 17–21, 2015. The session is under the theme: “Geoheritage, A Recorder of the Global Change along the Silk Road for Future Sustainable Development”.

More on the meeting on the [IGU Conference Website](#).

More on this session [here](#).

### **CALL FOR EXPERTS TO EVALUATE GLOBAL GEOPARK APPLICATIONS**

The [Global Geoparks Network](#) (GGN), supported by UNESCO, provides a global platform of active cooperation between experts and practitioners in geological heritage. Under the umbrella of UNESCO and through regional network partners, significant national geological sites gain worldwide recognition and visibility through tourism as well as best practices within the scientific and education community. GGN continues to expand each year, currently comprising 111 Global Geoparks in 34 countries. In 2014, 17 new applications were submitted to UNESCO and these are now under evaluation.

IUGS is a partner with UNESCO and the Global Geopark Network and assists in finding geoscientists who are willing to evaluate the geological sections of each new Geopark application for their international significance. IUGS is currently seeking reviewers for the geological sections of each of the seventeen (17) Geopark applications for 2015. These aspiring Geopark applications are: Beaujolais (France); Belogradchik (Bulgaria); Celestienne, Lesse and Lomme (Belgium) (application in French); Dunhuang (PRC China); Golden Geopark of Lapland (Finland); Grevena Tethys (Greece); Imbabura (Ecuador); Izu Peninsula (Japan); Lochaber (Scotland); Mons (Belgium) (application in French); Mount Apoi (Japan); Pollino (Italy); Shouf Jezzine (Lebanon); Sitia (Greece); Toba (Indonesia); Troodos (Cyprus); Zhijindong (PRC China).

Please contact IUGS VP Marko Komac ([marko.komac@geo-zs.si](mailto:marko.komac@geo-zs.si)) for further analysis if you are an expert (or wish to suggest one) in the field of geoscience relevant to one of the aspiring Geopark applications and are willing to examine the application file and complete a short evaluation form regarding the significance of the geological heritage under consideration.

For additional information on the Geopark applications, please download the abstracts [here](#).

### **40<sup>TH</sup> INHIGEO CONFERENCE, BEIJING (JUNE 24, 2015)**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) will be held on June 24–27, 2015, at the Geosciences International Conference Center of the Chinese University of Geoscience in Beijing.



To submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations, please complete the form and sent it to [inhigeo2015@163.com](mailto:inhigeo2015@163.com)

Read more at: <http://www.bjgicc.com>

The 2<sup>nd</sup> circular can be downloaded on the [INHIGEO Conference website](#).

## STRATI2015 CONGRESS, GRAZ (JULY 19–23, 2015)

STRATI2015, the [2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Stratigraphy](#), which is sponsored by the IUGS International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS), will be held on July 19–23, 2015 in Graz, Austria. The technical program will range from the Archean to the Holocene, across all techniques and applications of stratigraphy and the discoveries that the stratigraphic record reveals about the Earth system. In addition, it will also serve as the primary venue for ICS business, for ICS sub-commissions to meet, and awarding the ICS stratigraphy prizes. Abstracts should be submitted by April 24. The meeting will be preceded and followed by numerous [field trips](#) in Central Europe.

More on the congress on [its website](#).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Circular is available [here](#).

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### 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>

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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](mailto:amaury@geo.uni-potsdam.de)

<http://www.iugs.org>