



NEWS AT A GLANCE

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!!!E-MAIL FRAUD ALERT!!!

Recently a scammer set up two (or several) fake Gmail accounts in order to impersonate two (or possibly more) prominent IUGS officials. You may forward any scam mails from people that you suspect are impersonating IUGS officers to our new address: secretariat@iugs.org. See also the [Gmail support page](#). They suggest you report the incident [here](#).

We hope that the issue will be resolved. In the meantime, be suspect of any unusual Gmail messages you receive from IUGS related officers. All victims of Internet fraud should consider contacting the police department in their country of residence.

Communicated by Wang Wei (Director of IUGS Secretariat) <secretariat@iugs.org>

IUGS–RFG WORKSHOP IN NAMIBIA MOTIVATES POLICY ACTION

In 2013, IUGS launched the Resourcing Future Generations (RFG) initiative to bring world attention to the challenges of sustaining resource supplies. The RFG initiative includes a diverse group of geoscientists, environmental and social scientists and economists, drawn from a range of institutions with diverse private and public experience in exploration, mining and mineral policy, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

During its most recent workshop held in Namibia, July 25–30, 2015, the group identified several global-scale interrelated challenges facing humanity: i) climate change; ii) sustainable development; iii) resource adequacy and diversity of supply. Attempts to address climate change and sustainable development necessarily involve an adequate and reliable supply of raw mineral materials but this issue has received minimal global policy attention. The workshop aimed to develop an expert consensus document to raise the profile of this issue to the highest level of international decision-making.

The expert group substantiated the following key premises to develop an action agenda:

- The 20th century was characterized by improvements in living standards for billions of people worldwide.
- This improvement was underpinned by a dramatic increase in utilization of



- water, energy and mineral resources.
- Recycling and substitution will play an important role but cannot eliminate the demand for primary resources in coming decades.
 - With a declining rate of mineral deposit discoveries, threats to global trade in mineral and accelerating demand for a range of mineral products, future supply cannot be assured.
 - With projections of further population growth to about 9 billion people by 2050, the world needs adequate supplies of mineral raw materials to fulfil the aspirations of this growing population. This was discussed in the context of meeting targets of sustainable development—without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This must be achieved through good governance of mineral revenues for social and economic development of minerals producing nations

During 5 days of sharing research, the experts group focused on the following key areas requiring action: supply and demand; the fact that mineral deposits are irregularly distributed and their location controlled by geology and thus that the value of mineral resources must be recognized and assessed in the contexts of other land uses such as mining, agriculture, forestry, water, habitats for fauna and flora, cultural and natural heritage as well as land for settlements and infrastructure; use of materials, energy and water; best practice in mining legislation and the outstanding role of Namibia's Geological Survey.

Discussion led to the immediate production of two short documents entitled *Resourcing Future Generations—A Global Effort to Meet the World's Future Needs Head-on*; and *The importance of geoscience data in attracting mining investment in Africa; Lessons from Namibia*.

Further research outputs and broader communiqués to address the problems in more detail are to follow.

The Namibian Geological Survey's Director, Dr. Gabi Schneider provided local interface and leadership for the workshop. The presentations of Mr. Veston Malango (CEO of the Chamber of Mines of Namibia) and his Excellency, the Minister of Mining and Resources, Mr. Obeth Kandjoze reflected the importance of these issues to one of Africa's leading mineral economies. With their personal and friendly attitude, all three representatives of the Namibian minerals sector provided the group an excellent opportunity for an open discussion. The workshop was held on the GocheGanas wilderness resort and was financially supported by IUGS, UNESCO and an ICSU grant to IUGS.

Communicated by Roland Oberhänsli (IUGS President) on behalf of the RFG working group



Visit of government representatives to the RFG workshop in Namibia. From left to right: Dr. Gabi Schneider (Director of the Geological Survey of Namibia); Edmund Nickless (Chair of NASIC); Obeth Kandjoze (Minister of Mining and Resources), Roland Oberhänsli (IUGS President); and Veston Malango (CEO of the Chamber of Mines of Namibia)

IUGS DELEGATION AT DEBEERS HEADQUARTERS IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

In the aftermath of the Resourcing Future Generations (RFG) workshop on GocheGanas organized by the New Activities Strategic Implementation Committee (NASIC), a small delegation met the CEO of DeBeers at the Namib headquarters NAMDEB in Windhoek. Saleem Ali arranged this meeting. After a short presentation of IUGS and its RFG initiative president Roland Oberhänsli, Daniel Kali (Managing Director of DeBeers in Namibia) opened a discussion on the societal responsibilities of a company exploiting diamonds— intrinsically valuable but which will never be in reach of average Namib people. DeBeers is focussing its development path for Namibia on education as the top priority, which has a history of



IUGS–RFG experts and DeBeers CEO's during their visit to DeBeers in Windhoek. From left to right: Saleem Ali; Fabio Masotti; Ray Durham; Maria Amelia Enriquez; Daniel Kali; Leonard Apollus; and Roland Oberhänsli



supporting schools starting even before independence. This responsible approach by an industry located in Namibia fits excellently with the Namib governance strategy that was presented to the RFG group during the workshop. Before leaving, DeBeers Chief Geologist Leonard Apollus introduced the IUGS group of experts to the world of diamonds in southern Africa and NAMDEB marine exploitation.

In short, the two representatives of DeBeers expressed their interest in the RGF initiative and its multidisciplinary approach.

In the name of IUGS, I express my thanks and hope that RFG and the work of the members of our union may remain on the screen of Anglo-American and its subsidiary company DeBeers.

Roland Oberhänsli (IUGS President)

APPROVAL OF PORTLAND STONE (UK) AS A “GLOBAL HERITAGE STONE RESOURCE”

The major objective of the Heritage Stone Task Group (HSTG) of IUGS is the formal international designation, as a “Global Heritage Stone Resource” (GHSR), of those natural stones that have achieved widespread use and recognition in human culture (Cooper *et al.*, 2013).

As part of the GHSR designation process, a Check List (available at the [Task Group website](#)) to assist designation has been prepared, reviewed and published by the Task Group (see Cooper, 2015). Research papers have been encouraged and published nominating well-known natural stone resources as a GHSR. Hughes *et al.* (2013) have provided this summary reference data for Portland Stone. The nomination of Portland Stone from the United Kingdom has now been assessed by independent authorities chosen by the HSTG Board for its suitability as a GHSR. Following positive assessment, the approval of Portland Stone as a GHSR has been granted by the HSTG Board. This approval was favorably received by an open meeting of HSTG Correspondents held in Vienna, Austria in April 2015.

Portland Stone is considered to suitably fit the HSTG designation as it has been utilized since Roman times in England and since the Middle Age in the construction of major historic buildings including St Paul’s Cathedral, British Museum and Bank of England in London. Portland Stone was also the preferred building stone of Sir Christopher Wren, the famous architect. The international use of Portland Stone during the 20th century includes the United Nations building in New York City and the war graves of members of British and British Commonwealth forces.

Plans are now underway by HSTG to assess additional natural stones for the GHSR designation.

Communicated by Björn Schouenborg (HSTG President) <bjorn.schouenborg@cbi.se> and Barry J. Cooper (HSTG Secretary General) <barry.cooper@unisa.edu.au>.

References

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GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The President of the Geological Society, Professor David Manning, is delighted to advise that an appointment has now been made to replace Executive Secretary, Edmund Nickless on his forthcoming retirement. The new Executive Secretary will be Sarah Fray, who will be joining the Society from her current role as Director of Engineering and Technical Services at the Institution of Structural Engineers. Sarah is a Chartered Engineer and Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, with experience in geotechnical engineering, especially foundation design and tunneling. She has a wide understanding and considerable experience of the challenges and opportunities faced by organizations such as the Geological Society. The Geological Society welcomes Sarah to her new role, at the start of October. The President also takes this opportunity to sincerely thank Edmund Nickless for his long and loyal service to the Society.

On behalf of David Manning (President of the Geological Society)

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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