

## NEWS AT A GLANCE

- IUGG Conference on the Future of Earth- and Space Science Education, Trieste
- Santonian GSSP Inaugurated at Olazagutia, Spain
- IUGG Approved by UNESCO

## IUGG CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EARTH- AND SPACE SCIENCE EDUCATION, TRIESTE

A conference on Future of Earth-Space Science and Education (Future ESSE) was held in the Abdus Salam International Centre of Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste (Italy) November 2–6, 2015. ICTP is governed by UNESCO, IAEA, and Italy, and is a UNESCO Category 1 Institute. The conference was organized by our sister union IUGG and was followed by the annual meeting of ICSU's GeoUnions from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Roland Oberhänsli, President of IUGS, was invited to present a note on Resourcing Future Generations (RFG), the relationship to Earth and Space Science and educational issues related to RFG.

The conference was attended by 22 lecturers and 21 invited students and early career scientists from Asia, Africa and Europe. Speakers came from various NGOs and GeoUnions. The first day focused on disaster risk reduction while the second was devoted to climate change topics. The third day dealt with mathematical and physical issues. The fifth day considered RFG, remote sensing, mapping and cartography while the final day was taken up by space science and astronomy aspects.

The conference gave rise to a declaration on the Future of Earth and Space Science Education, which is reproduced [here](#).



Conference on Future of Earth-Space Science and Education (Future ESSE)  
2 - 7 November 2015  
Miramare, Trieste - Italy

## SANTONIAN GSSP INAUGURATED AT OLAZAGUTIA, SPAIN

November 27, 2015 was a special day for the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). A new Global Stratotype Section and Point, an international geostandard, was formally inaugurated: the GSSP that defines the base of the Santonian Stage (Upper Cretaceous Series, Cretaceous System), and it is located in a quarry at Olazagutia, in Navarra, Spain. This quarry is owned by the company Cementos Portland Valderrivas, and is actively worked. Following negotiations, the company transferred to the government of Navarra the part of the quarry with the GSSP.

The Instituto Geológico y Minero de España (IGME) and the Government of Navarra placed a fence around the wall of the quarry with the GSSP and erected a plaque and educational panels. The ceremony began with signing of a formal agreement that guarantees that the GSSP will be preserved and will remain accessible to scientists wishing to study it. More than 30 persons attended the ceremony, including Manuel Ayerdi Olaizola (Deputy President of the Government of Navarra), Jorge Civis Llovera (Director of IGME), José Antonio García Martínez (representative of Cementos Portland Valderrivas), and Stan Finney (Chair of ICS). The ceremony included the placing of a 'golden spike' in the section at the level of the boundary. Everyone in attendance took part in hammering in the spike. Of most importance, the efforts of the Santonian boundary working group of the ICS Subcommittee were recognized. The working group was represented by Prof. Josep Pons of the University of Barcelona. It was a special day for those of the working group who had investigated the section at Olazagutia and prepared the [formal proposal](#) that was approved by the Subcommittee on Cretaceous Stratigraphy and the IUGS, and then ratified by the IUGS Executive Committee. Prof. José Calvo (IUGS Secretary General), attended the ceremony and participated in the driving of the 'golden spike'. The base of the Santonian Stage is now marked by a symbol for the 'golden spike' on the [ICS International Chronostratigraphic Chart](#).



*Upper left:* José P Calvo and Stan Finney. *Right:* Authorities from the Government of Navarra, IGME, Cement factory, and ICS–IUGS participating in the Golden Spike ceremony

## IGGP APPROVED BY UNESCO

On November 17, 2015 UNESCO Council approved the new geoscience program International Geoscience and Geopark Program (IGGP). The IGCP Science Program will thus be continuing under its traditional logo with a new spirit. It will be one of IUGS and UNESCO's efforts to find sponsors for this program.

On November 10, when representatives of IUGS and Geoparks were able to address the UNESCO commissions, support from the plenum was very high as expressed during almost one hour by many country representatives. In the end the resolution passed unanimously without further discussion: With such a high degree of well preparedness the struggle for Geosciences at UNESCO came to a good end.

I would like to thank Patrick Mc Keever, Head of UNESCO Earth Science Division, for his open and constructive manner in collaborating with IUGS to secure the future of Geosciences in UNESCO.

Communicated by Roland Oberhänsli, IUGS President.

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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>.
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