
News at a Glance

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IUGS BUREAU MEETING, MADRID – TOLEDO, 16 – 20 MAY 2016

The IUGS Bureau held its Spring meeting in Madrid and Toledo, central Spain on 16 – 20 May 2016. The meeting was hosted at the Department of Petrology and Geochemistry of the Universidad Complutense of Madrid (UCM). IUGS President, Roland Oberhänsli, IUGS Secretary General, Jose P. Calvo, IUGS Treasurer, Dong Shuwen, and the members of the IUGS Secretariat Wang Wei, Anne Liinamaa-Dehls and Xu Yaqi attended the meeting. On May 16, the IUGS Bureau members participated in a fieldtrip dealing with the metamorphic rocks cropping out in the Somosierra Range, north of Madrid. The fieldtrip was led by Ricardo Arenas and Sonia Sánchez (Dept. Petrology and Geochemistry – UCM), who are deeply thanked. Early in the morning on May 17, the IUGS Bureau met the President of UCM, Prof. Carlos Andradas who was really interested in the IUGS activities and the situation of Geology at an international scale.

The agenda of the IUGS Bureau meeting being held at the Faculty of Geological Sciences of the Universidad Complutense of Madrid and then in the city of Toledo was focused on three main topics besides usual business items. One of the central topics was the new Memorandum of Understanding for the publication of the journal Episodes. A second main topic was information from the IUGS Nominating Committee. Last, but a very relevant topic, dealt with organization aspects of the 35th International Geological Congress to be held in Cape Town, August 28 – September 3, 2016. The timetable for IUGS business meetings during the congress was updated and aspects such as the organization of the IUGS-IGC Council Meeting, awards, voting systems for the new IUGS Executive Committee and for the venue of the 37th IGC were discussed in detail. The IUGS booth management and related matters were also dealt with.

The IUGS Bureau meeting ended in Madrid on May 20. This is the last but one meeting of the current Bureau, the final is programmed in Cape Town on August 25, 2016.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: UNESCO AND IUGS ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE PROGRAMME (IGCP)

UNESCO and IUGS are looking for new members to join the Council of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP).

The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) is a 45-year long joint-venture between UNESCO and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The IGCP has long been recognized globally amongst geoscientists as one of the most successful models for promoting international scientific cooperation in geosciences for individuals sharing a global vision for research. The programme continues to provide opportunities for strong collaboration, capacity building for developing countries and recognition by international peers. If you are aware of excellent scientists, who have an exemplary track record in a particular field of research and a passion for international collaboration, please suggest to them to IUGS so that they might apply to join the IGCP Council. There is no limit to the number of nominations an organization can submit. We especially encourage nominations from female researchers or researchers based in African, Asian or Latin-American countries.

The purpose of this call is to invite nominations for six new candidates to become member of the IGCP Council. All nominated candidates must complete the application form digitally, include a digital copy of their CV (specify publication record, international collaboration and other related activities), a list of their 10 most important publications during the last 10 years and a motivation letter. All documents should be provided in English. This information should be sent directly to the IGCP Secretariat in UNESCO (these should be sent to m.patzak@unesco.org and copied to ka.heirman@unesco.org) before the 30th of June 2016.

RATIFICATION GSSP ALBIAN

The proposal for the Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) defining the base of the Albian Stage (Cretaceous System) was ratified by the IUGS Executive Committee on April 2016. The ratification was requested by Prof. Paul R. Bown, Secretary General of the International Commission on Stratigraphy after a long, thorough debate by experts from several countries. The vote of the Full Commission was made on December 2015.

The Global Stratotype Section and Point for the base of the Albian Stage (Cretaceous System) was proposed in the outcrop of the Marnes Bleues at the Col de PreGuittard in Drome, France, at the 37.4 m level (the zero datum being the topmost limestone of the Faisceau Fromaget) with the first occurrence of the planktonic foraminiferan *Microhebergella renilaevensis* Huber and Leckie, 2011).

EPISODES BEST PAPER AWARD AND 2015 IMPACT FACTOR

Best Paper Award

During each International Geological Congress (IGC), the IUGS makes various awards for distinguished contributions to geosciences over the four years between Congresses.

One of these is for the best paper in the IUGS Journal “Episodes”.

A panel was convened to consider all substantive papers from the June 2012 until March 2016 issues. It was chaired by Councillor Stephen Johnston (Canada) and the four members were Adriana Niz (Argentina), Bruce Eglington (Canada), Jonas Satkunas (Lithuania) and Laurance Donnelly (UK).

IUGS thanks them for their considerable efforts on this task; it was not easy as there were many excellent papers. The members short-listed 3 papers each on the basis of scientific quality, clarity and innovation. They then compared lists and agreed upon a final 3 nominations. This top 3 list was submitted to the IUGS Executive Council which is responsible for making the final choice.

The announcement of the best paper will be made during the 35th IGC in Cape Town.

Episodes 2015 Impact Factor: a significant success

Episodes has reached its highest impact factor in the past 24 years. The new data released show that the 2015 Impact Factor is **3.263** (2014 IF: 2.000) while the 2015 Rank is **Q1** (2014 Rank: Q2).

GEOLODÍA: SPAIN'S NATIONAL GEOLOGY DAY

Geolodía (‘Geo-Day’) is an initiative that has been organized in Spain since 2005 to try to bring geology closer to the general public through the observation of landscapes and rocks in the field. Nearly 10,000 people participated on 6 and 7 May

2016 in 54 field excursions guided by about 500 volunteers from all Spanish provinces.

Conducting the excursions during the same weekend lends greater media visibility to the activity, allowing geology to become a news focus. Geolodía is becoming very popular in Spain, especially with people fond of nature. Geolodía is coordinated by the Geological Society of Spain with the collaboration of other scientific and professional associations and institutions. It is mostly funded by the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT). The good results of the initiative deserve attention and it should be extended to many other countries. (This article was written based on paragraphs of that published in www.geolsoc.org.uk/geoscientist; see more details in issue of May 2016 of that webpage)

TOUR DE FRANCE: GEOLOGY BROADCASTED – CALL FOR COMMENTS

As the « Tour de France » is approaching, the national geological community was mobilized to identify significant geological features during the event.

After a failed first attempt at attracting the attention of the organizers (despite the efforts in gathering and compiling information from the geological community), this year, direct contact was established with France2, the national channel which broadcasts the Tour de France, and with Eric Fottorino, one of the Tour de France journalists, who welcomed the initiative. A call for information is therefore out to support it. Contributions can be sent to Patrick Wever at Patrick.DeWever@wanadoo.fr.

Note that the “Tour de France 2016” will run from Saturday July 2nd to Sunday July 24th 2016. This 103th Tour de France will have 21 stages and will cover a total distance of 3,519 kilometres.



EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP: NATUREUROSTONES

The European Innovation Partnership in the frame of Critical Raw Materials at the EU level has been approved: NATUREUROSTONES. Members of the Heritage Stone Task Group (HSTG) lead this project.

The main objective of NATUREUROSTONES is to build an inter-disciplinary network to provide a range of information on natural stones as raw materials from different sources, in a harmonized and standardized way, in the form of a Europe-wide database of natural stones - the NATUREUROSTONES Database. This will encourage activities of the natural stone sector in recovering after the economic crisis affecting this sector. Exploration, extraction, processing and recycling, trading, development, skills and education are the different areas that will benefit from this consortium. The goal is to strengthen Europe's position on the forefront of natural stone research, within the European Union Raw Materials Knowledge Base. The final, specific objective is to develop a database to supply the information to the interested parties in a harmonized and interoperable way.

The network will collaborate with international groups working on natural stones taking advantage of the already established collaborations through the link of some of the partners with the HSTG, a working group within the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). It will also generate synergies within the frame of the initiative Resourcing Future Generations.

For more information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/eip-raw-materials/en/content/building-harmonized-european-database-natural-stones-use-construction-and-restoration>



NOTES

- If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS e-bulletins, please mail to barich@uni-potsdam.de or amel.barich@gmail.com.
- 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 mail to: peter.bobrowsky@canada.ca
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