
IUGS E-BULLETIN NO. 82 - FEBRUARY 2013

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NOTE: This issue of the IUGS' E-Bulletin is shorter than normal because our focus for the last month has been on the 66th Annual Executive Committee Meeting. In this issue we present only news from the IUGS office. Other news will be published in future issues.

NEWS FROM THE IUGS OFFICE

➤ Message from the President and Secretary General:

The IUGS Executive held their annual 2013 meeting from 19-22 February, at UNESCO, Paris. The new Executive worked collectively to ensure an enjoyable and productive meeting. Important matters considered included:

- Budget allocations for 2013, which entailed trimming of many requests to fit within the funds available;
- Options for new IUGS activities, with a focus on “Resourcing Future Generations”. A New Activities Strategic Implementation Committee, comprising eminent geoscientists from around the world is being established to provide detailed recommendations.

The Executive considered annual reports from IUGS' Commissions, Task Forces, Initiatives, Adhering Organisations and Affiliated Organisations. It discussed ad hoc reviews of the International Geoscience Program (IGCP) and Geoscience for Remote Sensing (GARS) Program, which are both joint activities with UNESCO.

The IGCP Scientific Board and IGCP Bureau, which includes IUGS Secretary General Ian Lambert, met the same week at UNESCO. Ongoing and new projects were ranked and financial allocations agreed upon for 2013.

➤ GSA Pardee Keynote Symposium:

A proposal was accepted by the GSA Program Committee to convene a Pardee Keynote Symposium on “Resourcing Future Generations: What needs to be done in the short-term to secure the resources needed in the long term?” This will introduce the proposed new IUGS activity, a conceptual outline of which follows.

There is much activity internationally aimed at discovering new mineral and energy resources in the short and medium term, but less focus on what needs to be done now to address the challenges faced in finding the vast mineral resources that will be required to meet the needs of the burgeoning global population and the aspirations of emerging nations.

By drawing on its strengths and membership, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is launching an initiative aimed at guiding mineral exploration in the longer term = a high proportion of which will be in developing nations with limited geoscience capacity. Evaluations by USGS and others of the potential for undiscovered mineral resources have concluded that there are many underexplored regions, which have good mineral potential, as far as can be assessed from the generally limited information available.

The IUGS has very broad international membership and strengths in running international collaborative projects, geology, maps, education/training, data management, remote sensing and geoscience professionalism. These mean it is ideally placed to enhance relevant geoscience capacities where needed.

The formative Global Geoscience Initiative (GGI) includes a resources component, which has a medium term perspective, and there have been “in principle” discussions about collaboration between IUGS and GGI in the Resourcing Future Generations initiative. Further, the GSA, SEG, SGA, IAGOD and other societies affiliated with IUGS will be invited to consider involvement. There is also an opportunity to develop “Resourcing the Future” under the major new global flagship initiative, being developed through an alliance led by the International Council for Science (ICSU), which will focus international research and funding under “Future Earth”.

This keynote session will set the scene by considering demand and supply scenarios beyond 2030 and summarising some constraints, which will need to be overcome to secure adequate supplies. It will discuss how these constraints can be addressed, including through: (i) building geoscience capacity as a means to get better geological information and enhanced assessments of mineral resource potential in many "promising" regions of the world; (ii) pursuing enhanced applications of satellites for exploration and assessments of environmental conditions through influencing specifications and research on data acquired (particularly through GEO/GEOSS). A “Future Resources Summit”, in 2014 in China, will bring together international experts from government agencies, academia and industry. This will involve detailed discussions with a view to maximising interest and involvement, reaching agreement on priority activities and funding arrangements.

➤ **Commemoration Ceremony Dr. Wissam Al-Hashim (Vice-President of the International Union of Geological Sciences - 1996-2002):**

On 12 February 2013 a ceremony was held in the Burlington House, home of the Geological Society in London, to commemorate Dr. Wissam Al-Hashimi who was kidnapped, tortured and brutally killed by terrorists in August 2005, in Baghdad, Iraq. Dr. Eduardo de Mulder represented the President of the International Union of Geological Sciences.

Dr. Wissam Al-Hashimi was Vice-President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) from 1996-2002. In addition, he was the President of the Geological Society of Iraq and the Secretary-General of the Arab Geological Association (AGA) since 1993. Dr. Al-Hashimi was an engineering geologist by profession with significant experience in underground construction. So that others could learn from his expertise, he was invited to contribute to the First International Conference on Sustainable Development and Management of the Subsurface, held in Utrecht, The Netherlands in 2003. His written contribution about the underground city of Al-Najaf in Iraq was presented in a recently published book “*Sustainable Development and Management of the shallow Subsurface*” by E F J De Mulder, H R G K Hack and C C D F Van Ree. This book was dedicated to Dr. Wissam Al-Hashimi and to his legacy for the global geoscientific community.

A full article on the event will be published in the next issue of *Episodes*.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

All forthcoming events are listed on the IUGS website (<http://www.iugs.org>) and will remain published until the event concludes. To see the IUGS listing of forthcoming geoscience meetings, conferences and workshops, go to the Calendar section of the IUGS website at:

<http://iugs.org/index.php?page=calendar&phpMyAdmin=2c9f06db78f0953a55b10dcfdc5907f6>

The IUGS website lists more "geo" related events than any other website devoted to such information. Analysis of the IUGS website statistics indicates that the "IUGS Calendar" section is one of the most frequently visited elements of our website with regular hits from over 160 countries. The IUGS is pleased to continue this service to help promote all "geo" related events.

Please email your meeting posting requests/information directly to the IUGS Secretariat at iugs.beijing@gmail.com, or to the IUGS Webmaster at: pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca

NEED TO CONTACT A GEOSCIENCE ORGANIZATION SOMEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD?

The Directory of Geoscience Organizations of the World produced by the Geological Survey of Japan includes web links to national geological surveys as well as state and provincial geological surveys at: <http://www.gsj.jp/information/gsj-link/dir/index.html>

The geology.com website with news and information about geology and earth science also lists geological organizations and agencies: <http://geology.com/groups.html>

With best regards,

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