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**Notes:**

- *If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS E-Bulletins please send them by email to: [iugsmouri@uj.ac.za](mailto:iugsmouri@uj.ac.za)*
  - *If you require information on international conferences, meetings ...etc. to be considered for inclusion in the calendar of events on the IUGS website, please send them by email to: [pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca](mailto:pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca)*
  - *To be added to, or removed from, the IUGS E-Bulletin distribution list, please e-mail to: [iugs.beijing@gmail.com](mailto:iugs.beijing@gmail.com)*
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## **NEWS FROM THE IUGS OFFICE**

### **News on the IUGS – UNESCO relations: A message from the IUGS President**

After the disastrous down ranking of geosciences during the 191<sup>th</sup> UNESCO Executive Board meeting, several initiatives by the IUGS, with strong support from other ICSU GeoUnions, have had a positive effect.

During the 192<sup>th</sup> EC Board meeting at UNESCO the Geoparks initiative was brought back to the agenda and the current status is that creation of a Category V advisory board is being considered, with the Director-General of UNESCO Ms Irina Bokova encouraging "... the holding of further discussions with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) to deepen mutual partnership and agree on joint support of the Geopark Initiative..."

This is certainly a step in the right direction, but it is far from sufficient. Within major international scientific institutions like UNESCO and ICSU, and more generally, the geosciences must be regarded as fundamentally important given their underpinning roles in understanding our Planet's processes and managing use of its water, energy, raw material and soil resources.

We are still far from this goal. Your ongoing assistance in bringing geosciences to the minds of authorities, national committee members, UN/UNESCO ambassadors, etc. will be most appreciated.

For now, however, we appreciate UNESCO's move and are prepared for further fruitful co-operation.

### **IUGS and European Geopark Network**

From the 2-7 September 2013, the European Geopark Network (EGN) (<http://www.europeangeoparks.org/>) had an Advisory (AC) meeting, Coordination Committee (CC) Meetings and the 12<sup>th</sup> EGN Conference, in the Parco Nazionale del Cilento e Vallo di Diano Geopark in Campania, Italy.

IUGS has a seat in the EGN AC and CC and is responsible for the geological part of the Geoparks' assessments and evaluation process.

Based on the evaluations of geological importance and management capabilities of applicants, four new Geoparks, Idria – Slovenia, Hondsrug – Netherlands, Sesia-Val Grande – Italy and Kula – Turkey, were admitted to the EGN family, which has now 58 members, including the two Geoparks that were admitted to the EGN in Spring 2013, Azores – Portugal and the Slovenian-Austrian cross-border Geopark Karavanke/Karawanken. The network is growing not only in numbers but also in professionalism, diversity and as the “Geoparks” brand among wider public. IUGS is also seen as a valuable EGN and GGN partner in the Geoparks evaluation process and as an organisation that plays an important role in advisory matters, especially in the area of the scientific aspects of Geoparks.

### **News on the IUGS initiative on Resourcing Future Generations (RFG)**

The IUGS' New Activities Strategic Implementation Committee is drafting its report on RFG, which is to be presented to the Bureau on 26 October in Denver, immediately before the GSA Annual Meeting.

The GSA Pardee Keynote Symposium on Resourcing Future Generations, convened by IUGS' Secretary General, Dr Ian Lambert, is scheduled for the afternoon of 29 of 29 October.

### **IUGS New Affiliated Organization and New Chair of IUGS-GEM**

On September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013, IUGS Council ratified the IUGS Executive Committee's decisions to (i) grant the status of Affiliated Organization to **EARTH SCIENCE MATTERS FOUNDATION (ESM)** and (ii) approve the request from the **GEOSCIENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (GEM) COMMISSION** to appoint a New Chairman, namely Prof Ben MAPANI.

Detailed information can be obtained from the official websites at: [www.earthsciencematters.org](http://www.earthsciencematters.org) and [www.iugs-gem.org](http://www.iugs-gem.org) respectively.

### **Earth Observation-Miners Workshop**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September a Workshop with the title “Minerals and Society: European Stakeholder Dialogue on Impact Assessment of Mineral Exploration and Exploration using Earth Observation”, organised by the Earth Observation (EO) - Miners project consortium, was held in Brussels to address the use of EO systems in locating mineral resources, their extraction and the potential environmental pressures.

The workshop brought together experts from various fields and officials from key institutions (European Commission, GEO, EuroGeoSurveys, IUGS). At the forum IUGS presented its Resourcing Future Generations (RFG) initiative, its goals and role in the ICSU's Future Earth initiative. In the discussion that followed presentations, the GEO representatives showed their readiness to address in the near future the issues of forming a new Societal Benefit Area (SBA) and Community of Practice (CoP) focused specifically on mineral resources, to put more emphasis on the in-situ data and ground truthing the EO systems. The major initiative and the support to achieve this goal will have to come from the GEO member countries. IUGS plans to use its Participating Organisation role in GEO to pursue this goal, which is central to RFG. The European

Commission representatives expressed their intention to eventually release and freely distribute the data gathered by the satellite constellations, developed and financed by the EC, as part of the Copernicus initiative. This could be well used by the mineral resources community for developing various applications of EO data.

### **IUGS and OneGeology Program**

On the 22 October, an important, strategic OneGeology initiative meeting will be held at Riad Nejma Rue St Martin 75004 Paris. This meeting represents a turning point for the programme and it will address:

- 1) the current status of OneGeology initiative (technical development and governance status)
- 2) the future governance models (based on Consortium Agreement)
- 3) levels of partnership and ToRs, discuss the commercial input and opportunities
- 4) pertinent technical issues.

It is important that there be a good attendance at this meeting, which is being co-organised by National Geological Survey Organizations (NGSO) and international organisations, including IUGS.

Further information on this meeting can be found at the following link: [http://www.onegeology.org/meetings/consortium\\_meeting\\_2013.html](http://www.onegeology.org/meetings/consortium_meeting_2013.html), and a list of countries participants in OneGeology program can be found at: <http://www.onegeology.org/>

If you are a representative of a National Geological Survey Organization (NGSO) that partners with OneGeology, the IUGS Executive encourages you to send a representative this meeting. Alternatively, please communicate the importance of this meeting to your NGSO.

### **RECENT INFORMATION ON PUBLICATIONS**

#### **1) Newsletters & E-Journals:**

- The International Council for Science (ICSU) Newsletter can be accessed through: <http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/insight>
- The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) E-Journal can be accessed through: <http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals/>
- The Société Algérienne de Géophysique (SAGA) Newsletter can be accessed through: [www.sag.dz](http://www.sag.dz)
- The International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) E-bulletin can be accessed through: <http://www.igbp.net/>
- The Mineral Research & Exploration Bulletin (Turkey) can be accessed through: <http://www.mta.gov.tr/v2.0/eng/all-bulletins.php?id=145-down>
- The UN SPIDER e-bulletin since January 2013 can be accessed through: <http://www.un-spider.org/about/updates/un-spider-updates-january-2013>
- The European Federation of Geologists GeoNews can be accessed through

<http://www.eurogeologists.de/>

- The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage (ProGeo) Newsletter can be accessed through <http://www.progeo.se/>

## 2) Magazines

- EARTH magazine online can be accessed through: <http://www.earthmagazine.org/>

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **The 35<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress – Cape Town, South Africa 27 August to 4 September 2016: update**

The 35<sup>th</sup> IGC will be held in the Cape Town International Convention Centre (the CTICC) from 27 August to 4 September 2016.

A comprehensive Geohost programme, aiming to sponsor deserving students and young geoscientists from Africa and other developing countries to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC is planned under the leadership of Dr Jeanette McGill, Chair of the Geohost subcommittee of the local Organizing Committee.

Geo-heritage will be one of the key focus areas of IGC35 and a special publication on the topic in Africa will be part of the legacy of the Congress. The compilation of this publication is underway and formal Global Geopark status for several South African sites is sought as a legacy of the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC. Genevieve Pearson is the main coordinator of this important aspect of the event.

Planning for the scientific programme of the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC is in progress under the leadership of Prof Jay Barton. The following themes are under consideration:

- Geology in Science
- Geology in Technology
- Geology in Society

As with any IGC, field excursions are an integral part of the programme and many fascinating excursions to Geological sites in Southern Africa and the rest of the continent will be a highlight of the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC. Dr Chris Hatton is the main coordinator of this part of the Congress.

The Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) held a Conference, Geo-heritage 2013, in Oudshoorn in the Western Cape Province from 8 to 11 September 2013. The status of Geo-heritage in South Africa was discussed and Geo-heritage events associated with the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC was promoted at this event.

The 35<sup>th</sup> IGC will be promoted from a booth at meetings of the Divisions of the GSA and at an evening presentation during the Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) from 27 to 30 October 2013 in Denver, Colorado. Look out for us at this event and pay us a visit for further information on IGC 35- (South) Africa 2016!

We look forward to welcoming you to Cape Town, to South Africa and to Africa in 2016. It's truly time for Africa!

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Richard Viljoen, Co-President 35<sup>th</sup> IGC ( [richard.viljoen@vmic.co.za](mailto:richard.viljoen@vmic.co.za) )

Danie Barnardo, Secretary General 35<sup>th</sup> IGC ( [barnardo@geoscience.org.za](mailto:barnardo@geoscience.org.za) )

## Other 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/conferences posting requests/information directly to the IUGS Secretariat at [iugs.beijing@gmail.com](mailto:iugs.beijing@gmail.com), or to the IUGS Webmaster at: [pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca](mailto:pbobrows@NRCan.gc.ca) to be listed on the website of the IUGS.**

## NEED TO CONTACT A GEOSCIENCE ORGANIZATION 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

Prof Hassina MOURI

IUGS Councillor 2012 – 2016 I [www.iugs.org](http://www.iugs.org)

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