



NEWS AT A GLANCE

- Call for sessions, short courses and workshops for the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC)
 - Resignation of IUGS Secretary General, Ian Lambert
 - 67th IUGS Executive Committee Meeting in Goa, India (February 7–10, 2014)
 - IUGS President and Treasurer in Delhi: An IUGS lecture series?
 - President's Report on IGCP and CGMW Meetings, Paris (February 17–22, 2014)
 - New Commission on the Stratigraphy of Iraq
-

35th IGC — Call is now open!

Call is now open for sessions, short courses and workshops in the frame of the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC) in Cape Town (South Africa) 2016. Interested conveners are invited to submit sessions, short courses and workshops at: <https://www.allevents.co.za/ei/getdemo.ei?id=222&s=3F00S0JZ9>. IUGS Scientific Commissions, Task Groups and Affiliated Organizations are especially urged to send their proposals as soon as possible.

Three Main Themes have been identified for the 35th IGC: Geology in Society; Geology in the Economy; and Geology in Science. In each of these, there will be a number of Topics and each Topic will have a number of Sessions. Each Session will have a number of oral and electronic posters presentations in them. Session organisers will be responsible for vetting abstracts and for nominating persons to chair oral presentations. The submission of abstracts will start early in 2015. Session organisers are encouraged to solicit contributions.

Resignation of IUGS Secretary General, Ian Lambert

The resignation of the IUGS Secretary General, Ian Lambert, is effective immediately and is sadly due to health reasons. The entire IUGS Executive and Secretariat will miss his very efficient cooperation. Ian is the motivator for the IUGS new initiative “Resourcing Future Generations”. Many know already that Ian Lambert was the Secretary General of the 34th IGC in Brisbane. Many emails arrived to the Secretariat from across the globe, thanking Ian for his contributions to IUGS and wishing him a good and speedy recovery.

The Executive Committee has unanimously appointed IUGS Vice President, Dr Yildirim Dilek as Deputy (Acting) Secretary General for IUGS. Dr. Dilek will serve until Nominating Committee presents its suggestion(s) according to procedures described in the bylaws. The Nominating Committee, Chaired by Jacques Charvet, is expected to send out its call for nominations in the coming weeks. The process is expected to take a few months.



President's report on the 67th Executive Committee meeting in Goa

The National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) is to be thanked for the practical arrangements for this event, which they generously took on after our acceptance of the invitation from Indian National Academy of Sciences and the Indian National Committee for IUGS. This meeting allowed for a successive journey to Delhi to represent IUGS and give talks at the Centre of Excellence at the Indian Geological Survey (in Faridabad), and Delhi University, as well as to visit the venue for the 36th International Geological Congress to be held in 2020.

On the first day, besides from routine annual reports, two major topics were addressed: Geoethics issues and IUGS membership development. IUGS appreciated the positive cooperation of the two new Affiliated Organizations on ethics, under the guidance of IUGS Task Group on Professionalism, and recognized the successful symposia these groups held on ethics during several international meetings. IUGS Treasurer Shuwen Dong gave a detailed analysis of the development of membership and payment discipline that, unfortunately, revealed little change in the number of inactive/non-paying members. The second day of the meeting was dedicated to topics on 35th IGC in Cape Town, 36th IGC in Delhi, UNESCO and IGCP as well as the reports by on the new initiative "Resourcing Future Generations" by NASIC.

Danie Bernardo gave a concise outline for the preparations and future steps to be taken for the 35th International Geological Congress. The first circular will be out shortly and preparations of venue, the sponsoring activities and excursions have started. Unfortunately we learned that the chair of the scientific committee had withdrawn, therefore the IUGS Executive recommended immediate appointment of the new chair thereby activating the scientific committee without further delay. Together with the entire Executive Committee, we look forward to a successful congress in a fascinating part of the world.

The IUGS Executive Committee and representatives of the host organizations expressed their worries about International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). I relayed a request from Patrick McKeever to comment UNESCO's proposal to place Geoparks, an activity vital to the survival of Geoscience's in UNESCO, under the umbrella of IGCP. After intense discussion with the IUGS Executive and observers, the IUGS President compiled the answer to UNESCO. We informed Patrick that IUGS welcomed an umbrella structure at UNESCO but that IUGS does not want to include Geoparks activities into IGCP. IUGS envisages a two-column structure, which includes a scientific program such as IGCP, running parallel with an outreach program such as Geoparks. Both would be under an umbrella, which could be tentatively called, IMAGINE "International Geologic Initiative." At the same time, the IUGS offered close collaboration with UNESCO by continuing to offer the geological expertise of IUGS' officers and its networks of volunteers. Regarding the budget, the IUGS Executive signals its appreciation of the IGCP program by slightly increasing its allocation for 2014.

Following the discouraging topic on the status of Earth Sciences at UNESCO, and within ICSU, the Executive were cheered by Edmund Nickless' excellent presentation on the work of the IUGS New Activities Strategic Implementation Committee (NASIC). The status of preparation of IUGS's new initiative "Resourcing Future Generations" (RFG) was presented.



Dr. Nickless highlighted relations to industry and brilliantly pointed to possible pitfalls that must be kept in mind if IUGS is to follow this initiative. In a nutshell, a very positive vision on RFG was presented with the recommendation of NASIC to follow up. The Executive Committee finally approved this during its closed session and NASIC will continue its endeavours with RFG and provide a white book related to RFG. RFG will also be used for a joint proposal to be submitted in partnership with other geological unions to the International Council of Science.

IUGS President and Treasurer in Delhi: Model for an IUGS Lecture series?

After the Executive Committee meeting in Goa, the IUGS Treasurer, Dong Shuwen and the IUGS President travelled to Delhi to give talks at the "Centre of Excellence" at the Indian Geological Survey. The lectures on "Resourcing Future Generations" and "The SinoProbe program" were attended by more than 100 people and were followed by lively discussion. Before visiting the venue for 36th IGC 2020, IUGS President gave a talk at Delhi University on the "Use of petrologic tools for geodynamic interpretations". The Bureau anticipates that scientific talks in connection to Executive Committee meetings, as suggested by meeting hosts, could be a start of an IUGS lectures series.

Finally the visit to the 36th IGC venue, 25 km from downtown Delhi, revealed modern facilities that can host more than 6000 participants. By 2020, a new metro line will be available and the hotel capacity in the vicinity will be increasing to cover the accommodation needs in 2020. The Congress Centre also hosts an artisanal fair where all Indian states and regions present their crafts, and offers large areas of meeting space, restaurants and food shops, indoor and outdoor, to assure the social and individual gatherings. Having viewed firsthand the fast-developing Noida township, the Bureau is convinced that the Indian colleagues will organize a memorable 36th Congress in 2020.

President's report on the IGCP and CGMW meetings in Paris, France (February 17–22):

During the IGCP meeting, UNESCO made it clear that the IUGS' proposal of not merging the IGCP science program and the UGGI Geopark initiative but bringing them under a joint UNESCO–IUGS umbrella was preferred by many countries in the UNESCO boards. IUGS has to acknowledge first the efforts of Patrick McKeever (UNESCO/IGCP Executive Secretary) who managed to raise the support from this side considerably so for 2014 the program can continue as foreseen. With the chair of Patricia Vickers–Rich, the scientific committee of IGCP delivered a good project evaluation and a successful general assembly. During the bureau meeting of IGCP it was agreed to take the opportunity of reengagement within UNESCO to reshape IGCP and create a fit science program for the future. As President, I had several occasions to introduce IUGS' Resourcing Future Generations initiative to IGCP and CGMW. The initiative was recognised as a move in the right direction and I was encouraged that IUGS should continue with it. CGMW greatly recognised ICS committees' work on the stratigraphic charts, and appreciated the fact that the Chart serves as a mural at Shell in The Hague. With the sponsorship the chart, some maps and software for stratigraphic correlation was produced and distributed. The software will be placed on different web sites and will be publicly available in due time.



New Commission on the Stratigraphy of Iraq

With the support of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, our colleagues from Iraq installed a Commission on Stratigraphy of Iraq in order to integrate new data gathered over the last decades and to adapt the stratigraphy of Iraq's territory to the rules of the International Commission on Stratigraphy. IUGS welcomes this activity and wishes our colleagues success in their endeavour. Details are published in: *Iraqi Bulletin of Geology and Mining*, 9–1, 2013. The Iraq NC members present at the CGMW meeting in Paris would like to state that abstracts and, in near future, the full papers of the *Iraqi Bulletin of Geology and Mining* are available online at: <http://www.iasj.net/iasj?func=issues&jld=225&uiLanguage=en>

NOTES

- Due to reorganization within IUGS EC, Prof. Hassina Mouri is taking new charges and is no longer responsible for the e-bulletin. From this issue onwards, she is replaced by Dr. Amaury Pourteau (amaury@geo.uni-potsdam.de). IUGS President, Prof. Roland Oberhänsli, would like to thank Prof. Mouri for her efficient work with the e-bulletin.
- 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>
- If you require information on international conferences, meetings, etc. to be considered for inclusion in the [Calendar of Events](#) 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>

Prepared by:

Amaury Pourteau

Post-doctoral researcher

Inst. für Erd- und Umweltwissenschaften
Universität Potsdam – Germany

+49 331 977 5846

amaury@geo.uni-potsdam.de

<http://www.iugs.org>