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European Geoparks Week 2014

The *European Geoparks Week 2014*, taking place in the period around May 23 to June 9, 2014, is a European-wide festival of Geoparks aimed at raising public awareness of geoconservation and promotion of the geological heritage as well as events aimed at informing the wide public, about geotouristic and educational activities in Geoparks.

More information on the event in each Geopark [here](#).

Publication: Landslide Standards

IUGS Executive wishes to highlight the important initiative of the JTC-1 Committee on Landslides, chaired by Prof. Luciano Picarelli and organized jointly by the IUGS-affiliated organizations: the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment, and the International Society for Rock Mechanics. A review of landslide classification was recently completed and published by Hungr et al.: "Landslides", *Journal of the International Consortium on Landslides*, Vol. 11(2), pp. 167-194, DOI:10.1007/s10346-013-0436-y, ISSN 1612-510X

It is now available at <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10346-013-0436-y>

Publication: Geoheritage Task Group

The Geoheritage Task Group published a new book by Londeix et al. "Stratotype Aquitanien", *Collection Patrimoine Géologique*, ISBN 978-2-85653-711-4 (in French).



More funds for global stratigraphic standards development

Shell, the global energy/petrochemical company, recently donated \$10,000 to the IUGS International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS). The ICS International Chronostratigraphic Chart is now a 5-storey mural decorating the building that houses the exploration geologists at Shell in The Hague, Netherlands.

See [here](#).

In addition, ICS's proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) resulted in a grant of \$75,000. Congratulations to Chairman Stan Finney, the Commission's executive and the thousands of stratigraphers worldwide for their continued work in establishing on this important Global Geostandard.

Please find the successful proposal [here](#).

IUGS Member Profile: Mongolia

The Geological Society of Mongolia (GSM) has been representing the interests of Mongolian geologists in IUGS since 1998. On April 4, GSM held the 5th Assembly of the Geological Society of Mongolia. 250 delegates attended, representing a broad range of organizations: universities, research institutes, the mining sector as well as other non-governmental and governmental groups. At the meeting, Prof. Ochir Gerel (Former IUGS Vice president 2008–2012) initiated new GSM members and presented a Honorary Member Prize to Mr. A. Gurragchaa. The Assembly re-elected Mr. T. Munkhbat as President, and approved a new five-year strategic plan.

During the 5th Assembly of the Geological Society of Mongolia, earlier this year, former IUGS Vice-President Prof. Ochir Gerel initiated twelve new members to the Society: Mr. L. Altangerel, Mr. Yo. Bulgantamir, Mr. S. Enkh-Amgalan, Dr. D. Sanjaadorj, Dr. Ch. Khurts, Prof. J.L Khamsuren, Academician O. Tumurtogoo, Prof. J. Byamba, Mr. G. Ankhbayar, Mr. Kh. Ganbaatar and Mr. A. Gurragchaa. All twelve received an "Honorary Member Prize."

More about GSM activities at <http://www.geosociety.mn>

Report on the 1st International Symposium in Medical Geology in Africa

The University of Johannesburg has been very proud to launch and host the 1st *International Symposium on Medical Geology in Africa* (ISMGAf), which was inaugurated by Prof. Tinyiko Maluleke, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Internationalization, and Prof. Annah Moteetee, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of Johannesburg. The program of the event consisted of a one-day symposium (oral presentations and discussions) and a two-day short course presented by Prof. Jose A. Centeno, a toxicologist from the Joint Pathology Center, USA, past Chairman of



the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA), and Dr. Mark Cave, Project Manager of the Geochemical Baselines and Medical Geology division from the British Geological Survey (BGS), United Kingdom. The event went very successfully with a total number of delegates more than what was expected, with up to 65 delegates (including 30 postgraduate students) coming from different organizations (including public health, universities, consulting and mining companies) representing 5 countries (including South Africa, Nigeria, Germany, USA and UK). The oral presentations by delegates covered a wide range of topics from sources and characterization of potentially harmful elements and compounds, to determination of geochemical backgrounds and development of comprehensive databases pertaining to medical geology, to the effects of geography in Africa. In addition, Dr. Madela-Mntla, Director of the International Council of Science (ICSU) Regional Office Africa (ROA) gave a presentation in which she highlighted the objectives of the "Future Earth" 10-year ICSU initiative. Considering the interest generated by this first event, we aim to develop further medical geology in South Africa and in Africa in general and to keep organizing this prestigious event in different countries on the African continent.

Finally, sincere thanks to our guest speakers Prof. Jose A. Centeno and Dr. Mark Cave for the excellent lectures, which generated very interesting and stimulating discussions and to the University of Johannesburg, the main sponsor of the event, the International Union of Geological Science (IUGS), the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA), the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) and the British Geological Survey, co-sponsors of the event for their very generous support.

Communicated by Prof. Hassina Mouri, Chair of the 1st ISMGAf and South African Chapter of Medical Geology, and IUGS Councilor

EGU2014: Press Conference on the Anthropocene

One of the most attention gaining IUGS activities, both in social media and the press, is the work done by the "Anthropocene" working group of the Quaternary Subcommission of the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS), which is itself IUGS' oldest commission. The working group convener, Jan Zalasiewicz joined a panel of experts at a press conference arranged by the European Geoscience Union, on Tuesday, April 29. The panel of the session entitled "The Anthropocene: are we living in the age of humans?" also included John Burrows (Univ. of Bremen), Tony Brown (University of Southampton), and Ronald Pöpl (Univ. of Vienna).

Watch and listen to the full press conference [here](#).

More on the ICS Anthropocene working group [here](#).



EGU2014: HSTG Members report

Prof. Lola Pereira, Dr. Brian Marker, and Dr. Sabina Kramar, all from the Heritage Stone Task Group (HSTG) board convened a HSTG session on *Natural stone research and Heritage stone designation* at EGU2014, Vienna (Austria), on April 28, 2014. A total of nineteen oral and poster contributions were presented at this session. Rocks from eleven countries were presented as possible examples of Global Heritage Stone Resources. Some of them were related more to technical aspects and biodeterioration issues. Although there were less contributions than in last year's session, the audience was larger and more enthusiastic in knowing the different aspects of HSTG and the presented stones. We hope to expand the membership from this event.

Possibility for publication of those contributions in any of the IUGS-sponsored publications is being discussed among participants to the session and with IUGS Publication Committee.

More on the session programme [here](#).

Besides, a poster co-authored by Prof. Lola Pereira, Prof. Jesus Martinez Frias and Prof. Franco Mantovani was presented at this session as the first collaboration among the IUGS Heritage Stone Task Group, International Association for Geoethics, and Commission on Geoscience Education, Training and Technology Transfer. The poster presented the results of this collaboration during the ERASMUS Intensive Programme on Global Heritage that took place during the Summer of 2013 in Salamanca (Spain). It highlighted the importance of multicultural and international exchanges in educational programs (such as the Intensive Programmes) to promote the importance of prevention and diffusion of natural hazards and their consequences in architectonic, cultural and historical heritage. Implication of Geoethics in this important issue was the main conclusion. Other thirteen posters were presented at the session that was complemented by a two-minute pop-up presentation session. It was a very successful event and the conveners concluded with the idea of organizing an official EGU session on this thematic next year.

More on the session programme [here](#).

Poster by Pereira et al. available for download [here](#).

Geoscience Education Conference (September 5–9, 2014)

The International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO), IUGS Affiliated Organization, is preparing for its four-yearly international conference, which will take place September 5–9, 2014, at University of Hyderabad, India. The meeting circular states that "the main objective of the conference is to bring together leading academicians, scientists, researchers, graduate students and others whose mandate/interest is to promote geoscience education at the school-, college- and



university-levels and among the general public. The *7thGeoSciEd* will be a critical forum for discussion and exchange of ideas, expertise, experiences and knowledge concerning all aspects of geoscience education (i.e., teaching of solid Earth, oceans, atmosphere and astronomy). It is hoped that at the end of the conference, the participants would identify the hurdles in achieving IGEO's goal of 'promoting GeoScience education worldwide' and recommend steps to spread geoscience literacy and improve the way geoscience is taught in schools across the world."

For more information, please contact ineso555@gmail.com with copy to R. Shankar at rshankar_1@yahoo.com.

More on IGEO [here](#).

GSA Annual Meeting 2014: IUGS-sponsored session

Prof. Yujiro Ogawa, IUGS Councilor, and Dr. Peter Bobrowsky, from IUGS Nomination Committee, would like to advertise an IUGS-cosponsored session at the Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (October 19, 2014). This session, entitled *T11. Pan-Pacific Subduction Zone Hazards: Tectonic and Gravitational Effects* aims at summarizing recent work on tectonic and gravitational effects for natural hazards and disasters in subduction zones of Pan-Pacific and other regions, particularly on earthquakes, active faults, landslides, tsunamis, and related socio-economic implications.

Interested contributors are kindly invited to submit their abstract directly to the GSA as soon as possible [here](#).

Two new journals on the Anthropocene

Together with the ICS Working Group on the Anthropocene and the IUGS welcomes two new journals on the Anthropocene published by Sage and Elsevier. The first issue of *The Anthropocene Review* came out in April 2014. This Sage journal is issued 3 times per year and brings together peer-reviewed articles on all aspects of research pertaining to the Anthropocene, from Earth and environmental sciences, social sciences, material sciences, and humanities. The other new journal is simply called *Anthropocene* and is available through Elsevier. Finally, we remind readers of another transdisciplinary journal called *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene*, which is an open-access journal publishing since 2012.

More on *The Anthropocene Review* [here](#).

More on *Anthropocene* [here](#).

More on *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene* [here](#).



New Initiative on Forensic Geology Newsletter

IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) is now releasing its own newsletter to provide a summary and overview of "recent" global events in Forensic Geology, available [here](#). Any changes or articles to be included in future editions may be sent directly to Dr. Laurence Donnelly (<mailto:ldonnelly@wardell-armstrong.com>), Dr. Jennifer Mckinley (<mailto:j.mckinley@qub.ac.uk>) or an IFG Committee Member.

IFG is also proud to announce that IUGS will continue to fund IFG throughout 2014. If you would therefore like to be considered for contributory funding, associated with the international promotion and development of Forensic Geology, please submit an expression of interest to a IFG Committee Member.

More on IFG [here](#).

Amendment to publication of the Geoheritage Task Group (May 10th, 2014)

Amendment to IUGS Member Profile (May 6th, 2014)

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>
- 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>

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