



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
 - 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
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NEWS FROM THE IUGS OFFICE

The IUGS is about to hold its annual Executive Meeting, in Goa India from February 8th-10th, 2014. Key items for consideration will be IUGS' proposed new initiatives, strengthening links with UNESCO and ICSU, and funding allocations for 2014.

After this meeting, President Roland Oberhaensli will visit Delhi where he will inspect the venue for the 36th International Congress. He will then travel to Paris for: meetings of the International Geoscience Program board, at which he will discuss options for the future of IGCP, in a context of UNESCO budget cuts and need for research related to IUGS' proposed major new initiative *Resourcing Future Generations* (RFG); a meeting with UNESCO leadership concerning IUGS' roles in a joint Global Geoparks initiative; the General Assembly and Bureau meetings of the Commission for the Geological Map of the World, which also has an interest in principle in RFG; and a discussion with ICSU leadership regarding GeoUnions' interest in collaborating in elements of RFG, potentially under the ICSU-led initiative *Future Earth*.

Recent postings on the IUGS website include the Union's Annual Report for 2012 a Power Point presentation outlining the concept and status of RFG, and the report on RFG recently submitted to the IUGS' Executive by its New Activities Strategic Implementation Committee.

Prof Hassina Mouri will be meeting Dr Edith Madela-Mntla, Director of the ICSU Regional Office for Africa (ROA) on January 31st 2014 in order to discuss cooperation between ICSU-ROA and IUGS as well as the plans for the Krusenberg II meeting on "Future Earth" initiative to be held in South Africa in May 2014.

NEWS FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD

YES News: Indian Chapter of YES Network participated in the 50th Annual Convention of Indian Geophysical Union (www.igu.org) organized at the Indian Geophysical Research Institute (CSIR-NGRI), Hyderabad, from January 08th-12th, 2014. The convention was inaugurated by Prof. Y.T. Lee, President of ICSU, and counted, among other invitees, Dr. Carol Finn, AGU President, and Dr. Alik Ismail-Zadeh, SG-IUGG. There were more than 50 YES members who participated in the convention; 22 of them presented talks on their ongoing research work. Two YES members were awarded the best poster prize, conferred by Prof. H.K. Gupta, IUGG President.

The YES Network will be represented by Dr. Amel Barich, VP in the *Mediterranean Days of Water Information Systems* in Rabat, Morocco on March 20th and 21st 2014 (<http://wismeday.amjgistes.org/>). This event, partnered by the YES Network, will include sub-themes such as Water GIS technologies, risk management, decision making and awareness, and series of international experiences shared by speakers from many countries in the Mediterranean region. Amel Barich will highlight the role of the YES Network in encouraging projects and working groups in this discipline, especially in the African continent.

The YES Network is also a partner in the Day for Earth Sciences in Africa and Middle East held following the theme "*Geoeducation, Geoheritage and Peace Building in Africa*

and Middle East", on March 19th–21st 2014, an initiative of the African Association of Women in Geosciences and the African Geoparks Network.

News From Japan: IUGS commission on *Geoscience for Environmental Management* – working group on man-made strata and geopollution 4th international symposium:

The IUGS Commission on *Geoscience for Environmental Management* includes seven Working Groups. One of these, which considers man-made strata and geopollution, held an international symposium at Itako, near Tokyo, Japan, on December 1st–2nd 2013, followed by a two-day field excursion. Man-made strata are important in many places, particularly urban areas, because they are often associated with pollution/contamination, health and safety issues, as well as ground instability. The symposium included presentations on these three aspects.

Prof. Hisashi Nirei (leader of the working group) introduced the event. Prof. Hassina Mouri (Algeria/South Africa) represented IUGS and IMGA, and gave an overview of medical geology issues. Dr Jonas Satkunas (Lithuania) described the purpose of the working group as well as the approach taken in assembling an inventory of geopollution sites in Lithuania. Dr Adriana Mezzano (Uruguay) reviewed recent work to identify contaminated sites in Montevideo. Dr Simon Price (UK) outlined recent work on the geology of the Anthropocene and drew links between, on the one hand, work to possibly define that term as a geological time unit and, on the other hand, investigations (by Prof Hisashi Nirei's team) of man-made strata. The participants were particularly impressed by the use of large peels to retain details of trail pit sections in man-made strata for future study. Dr Brian Marker (UK) described the administrative system for dealing with contaminated land in England.

On ground instability, Dr Takayuki Kawabe (Japan) presented tectonic subsidence, erosion, sedimentation and ground deformation features and processes in the Sendai Plain. Dr He Qingcheng (PR China) described examples of groundwater and soil pollution, as well as instances of land subsidence and flooding, in China. Prof Roy Shlemon (USA) exposed investigations of rupture of the ground surface by faults during earthquakes in California. Dr Chul-jae Cho (Japan) introduced an innovative paper on ground deformation at Osaka Castle.

A major part of the meeting was devoted to problems associated with the Tohoku Earthquake of March 11th 2011, and covered two aspects. Firstly, the liquefaction/fluidization of man-made deposits in land reclaimed from rivers and the sea, which led to subsidence damage to buildings but also the release of pollutants from some sites. Dr Osama Kazaoka (Japan) spoke on groundwater ejection and sand volcanoes formation during the Tohoku Earthquake, illustrated by a remarkable video record of the event filmed near Tokyo Bay. Prof Kunio Furuno (Japan) reviewed similar processes beside the Tone River near Kozaki Town, Chiba.

Secondly, were presented interim results on radioactive plume monitoring from the severely-damaged Fukushima-daiichi nuclear power plant, which has presented a

significant health hazard over extensive areas in northern Japan. Roy Shlemon (USA) presented a paper on the impact of the Fukushima-daiichi event on the future of nuclear power provision in California.

On the first day of the field excursion, participants visited the Fukushima area where officials from the Japan Atomic Energy Agency briefed them on the “*F-Trace Project*” in which detailed investigations are being carried out on contamination patterns and the radio-nuclides behaviour. They then visited the Oga Dam Lake, 14 km away from the damaged reactor, where the river basin is being subjected to detailed studies of radiation patterns, notably from caesium 134 and 137 and the course of contaminants as a result of rain and river run-off. The participants also saw remediation being undertaken.

On the second day, the group visited a site of surface fault rupture at Dai, near Iwaki City, and later a site of radiation plume monitoring at Tsukuba Mountain in Chiba Prefecture. The day ended with the examination of a site that had experienced liquefaction/fluidization during the 2011 earthquake in an infilled former meander of the Tone River.

The Proceedings of the Symposium will be published during 2014 and it is also intended that a number of papers linked to the event will be submitted to Episodes in 2014–2015. The next event for this working group as well as the other six working groups of IUGS–GEM will take place alongside the Conference of the Geological Association of Canada and Mineralogical Association of Canada at Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada on May 21st–23rd 2014.

Group on Earth Observations (GEO) – renewed for another 10 years:

During the Geneva Ministerial Summit held on February 15th–17th, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) received approval to continue for a second decade. GEO was launched on July 31st, 2002 after a call from the G8 and the 2002 World Summit for coordinated efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System. GEO counts 90 national members and about 77 participating organisations (including IUGS and EuroGeoSurveys). GEO’s mandate is to drive the interoperability of the many thousands of space-based, airborne and in-situ Earth observations around the globe. See also Geopress release:

http://www.earthobservations.org/documents/pressreleases/pr_20140117_geneva_ministerial.pdf.

RECENT INFORMATION ON PUBLICATIONS

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
- 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/>

Magazines

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The 35th International Geological Congress in Cape Town, South Africa is now only two years and half hence. We look forward to hearing the progress report from Danie Barnardo, Secretary General, LOC at the IUGS EC meeting in Goa, in February 8th–10th, 2014.

All other forthcoming events are listed on the IUGS website (<http://www.iugs.org>) and will remain published until the event concludes. The website was very active during the last months, according to our record 72 new events were recently posted. 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, or to the IUGS Webmaster at: 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

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