1. General remarks

1.1. Establishment of the award

A prize to be called the STENO Award was created and agreed by the IUGS Executive Committee (EC) and Council during the 34th International Geological Congress (IGC) in Brisbane, 2012, to be awarded for the first time during the 35th IGC Opening Ceremony in Cape Town in 2016. Due to the fact that the Danish Geological Society traditionally distributes a STENO prize it is necessary to rename the IUGS award as the IUGS Émile Argand Award.

1.2. Rationale for naming the award

Émile Argand (1879 – 1940) was born in Eaux-Vives near Geneva, Switzerland. He started working as a draftsman, then began studies in medicine but was soon attracted by geology under the influence of Prof. Maurice Lugeon at the University of Lausanne. Émile Argand quickly developed an understanding Alpine tectonics. In 1911, he secured a geology professorship at the University of Neuchâtel and published a memoir on the structure of Western Alps. His studies enabled him to improve knowledge of structural geology, as well as metamorphism and stratigraphy, of this key reference region in central Europe. Later, Émile Argand advanced from regional problems in Europe to geology on the planetary scale by accepting the challenge to prepare a geological map of Eurasia. The resulting map became famous leading to Argand receiving the Spendiaroff Prize in 1913. After the publication by Alfred Wegener of his fundamental paper on continental drift in 1915, Émile Argand became a resolute supporter of that hypothesis. He used it as a framework to explain Eurasian structural development in his inaugural address to the Brussels International Geological Congress in 1922. In 1924, Émile Argand finished his masterpiece entitled “La Tectonique de l’Asie” in which he clearly developed modern ideas about tectonics following Alfred Wegener’s theory. Thus, the geologist Émile Argand was a key scientist in promoting new explanations of the folded and buckled strata of the Alps as well as undertaking the pioneering application of modern tectonics to the vast continent of Asia.
2. The award

2.1. Awardee profile

The **IUGS Émile Argand award** is intended to honour an active senior geoscientist of high international recognition and an outstanding scientific record (in the top 10%-20%). His/her work should have included: at least one major discovery that has been strongly influential in the understanding of Earth System Science; and/or leading a large scientific project, or projects, that have contributed significantly to establishing basic principles or ground breaking observations for understanding Earth System Processes and/or has heralded new interdisciplinary developments for resourcing of energy, ore deposits or groundwater with possibly major impacts on socioeconomic issues.

2.2. Conditions

a) Nominees may or may not be involved in the Union’s activities, and may be from any Nation.

b) Eminent and ground breaking scientific achievements should characterize the **IUGS Émile Argand Award** recipient (teaching, administration and other services excluded).

c) Active IUGS officers cannot be nominated.

2.3. Awarding procedure

The award is made only at the discretion of the EC and applies to all scientific disciplines represented by the Union.

2.3.1. Call

Every four years and one year prior to an International Geological Congress, the award will be advertised through the IUGS E-bulletins, IUGS webpage, the journal EPISODES and elsewhere.

2.3.2. Nomination

Nominations can be made by anyone in the IUGS community and should be forwarded to the EC not later than 3 months after the call.

Nominations shall consist of a formal letter, no more than 3 pages in length summarizing the case for an award, plus two one page letters of support, the nominee’s CV and a list of the nominee’s list of publications.
A letter of acceptance of the candidate to be nominated shall be required. Up to three external reviewers can be suggested by the nominating person or organization but the EC is not constrained to using them when considering the application.

2.3.3. Selection

The EC shall select the recipient, with the help of an ad-hoc panel of not more than five external experts (AHEEP). The EC make a decision on the recipient at the first EC meeting in the year of the relevant IGC.

All members of the panel of external experts shall evaluate all candidates.

Nominees who are not accepted for the award can object if they consider that proper procedures have not been followed, but not on grounds of the selection criteria or the awardee selected. EC and the AHEEP have one month to respond to any complaint. The decision of the EC is final.

2.3.4. Delivery

The IUGS Emile Argand Award shall be regularly awarded during each IGC opening ceremony with a short laudatio and presentation of a medal by the IUGS president followed by a keynote lecture prepared and presented by the awardee.

2.4. Allocation

The recipient of the IUGS Emile Argand Award shall be presented with an IUGS medal and also an award of 15,000 US $. The money will be used to implement scientific activities of the new earth-scientist generation, which can be achieved by supporting specific research, through a lecture series program or any other choice of the recipient that is agreed with the EC.