



Secretary General Report on IUGS Bureau Meeting, Sendai, Japan, 12-14 November 2018

(by Stanley Finney, Secretary General IUGS)

IUGS Treasurer Hiroshi Kitazato organized a meeting of the IUGS Bureau held 12-14 November 2018 in Sendai, Japan at Tohoku University in the International Research Institute of Disaster Sciences (IRIDeS). Besides the IUGS President, Secretary General, and Treasurer, Vice Presidents Kristine Asch and William Cavazza attended. The meeting was supported by Dr. Ma Yongzheng, the new Director of the IUGS Secretariat, and Secretariat assistants Situ Yu and Langfeng Mu.

Major Topics and Actions arising from the meeting include:

- 1) Considerable revision of the IUGS awards. New Terms of Reference were prepared and are in review for approval by the EC. Decision was made to have medals cast for each of the three awards to be presented at the 36th IGC. The awards ceremony is intended to be a special event at the Congress and a special recognition of the medalists. Call for nominations for the awards ought to be out early in 2019.
- 2) The Secretary General provided a review of the IUGS Publications Committee, which since July has been chaired by Prof. Dolores (Lola) Pereira.
 - a) The IUGS E-Bulletin is very well received in its new format. Its excellent editorial leadership by IUGS Vice President Kristine Asch has now transferred to IUGS Councilor Silvia Peppoloni. The editors carry a heavy workload in ensuring that contributions meet guidelines and standards. The goal is to keep the audience of ~16,000 recipients, particularly members of national committees to IUGS, informed of the work of the constituent groups of IUGS and of the work of the EC on a regular monthly basis.
 - b) The Journal of International Geoscience Episodes now has online first publication with free access. The website (<http://www.episodes.org/>) will soon be revised to highlight the link to publication online first articles. For now, they are under the link for Archives.
 - c) The IUGS Social Media outlets, particularly Facebook but also Twitter and others, are now ably managed by Dr. Gurmeet Kaur, Assistant Professor of Geology at Panjab University, in India. Amel Barich, previous social media manager, gave considerable support during the transition, and Dr. Kaur is now regularly posting achievements and activities of the IUGS constituent groups. These posts are viewed by a worldwide audience that is composed predominately of young people. The posts of the latest version of the ICS International Chronostratigraphic Chart with the newly ratified Holocene subdivisions received more than 120,000 views during the three weeks after first appearing. The Social Media outlets and E-Bulletin compliment each other in disseminating widely IUGS news.
 - d) The IUGS website serves as an important archive of information on and links to IUGS, its constituent groups, its adhering members and affiliated organizations, its documents, and its news. The Publications Committee has considered changes to the website as a means of updating it. These changes will begin once the PC forwards its recommendations to the IUGS webmaster Giuseppe Di Capua.

- 3) The IUGS Nominating Committee forwarded to the Secretary General files on six candidates for the vacant position of IUGS Councilor 2018-2022. These files and a ballot have been sent to the members of the Council for their vote by e-mail ballot.
- 4) The IUGS Finance Committee, as reported by Vice President William Cavazza, has seriously evaluated the finances and expenditures of IUGS with regard to support of IUGS activities, future priorities, opportunities and considerations.
- 5) The EC ratified seven Heritage Stone Resource Proposals: Globigerina Limestone, Jacobsville Sandstone, Lede stone Welsh Slate, Piedra Mar del Plata, Komarden Serpentine, and Lioz. The EC also approved a design for ratified Heritage Stone Resources for posters to be placed with local government agencies or communities and for educational purposes.
- 6) The Bureau discussed plans for meetings of the IUGS EC, the IUGS-IGC Council, and the IUGS constituent groups at the 36th IGC in New Delhi, India in March 2020. The second circular for the Congress with important information on field excursions ought to appear soon. Calls for Bids for hosting the 38th IGC in 2028 will go out early in 2019.
- 7) The 2019 IUGS Executive Committee Meeting will be in Beijing, China, 27 February to 2 March. It will be preceded by a meeting of the Bureau on 25 February and on 26 February by the first day of the three-day forum on the Deep Time Digital Earth (IUGS-DDE) program, which IUGS will recognize as a Big Science Program. IUGS President Qiuming Cheng and Past President Roland Oberhansli have developed this program. Its goal is to establish a Joint International Research Center for Deep Time Digital Earth in China to serve as a data hub for networking. It will be supported by several Chinese academies, universities and the Geological Survey of China. Starting funds have been secured from the Chinese Natural Science Foundation, the Academy of Science, and China Geological Survey.

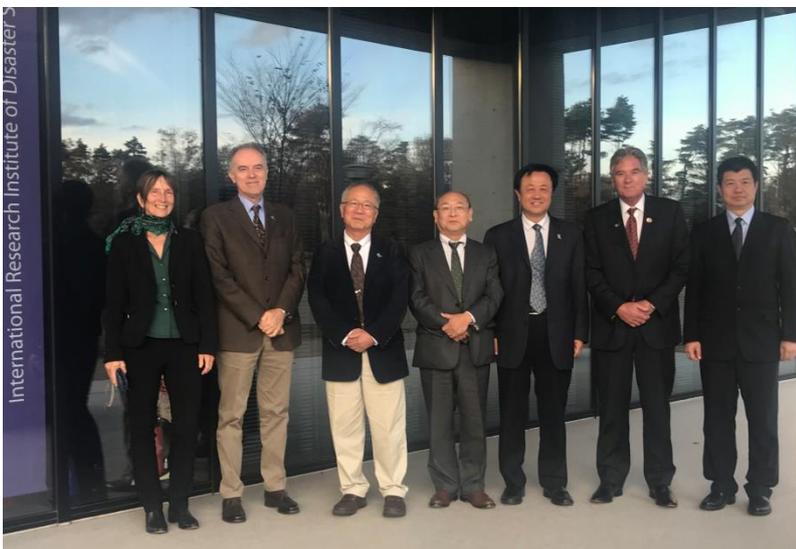


Figure 1 - Outside the International Research Institute for Disaster Sciences, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan. (L-R) IUGS Vice President Kristine Asch, IUGS Vice President William Cavazza, IUGS Treasurer Hiroshi Kitazato, former Director of Geological Survey of Japan Dr. Eikichi Tsukuda, IUGS President Qiuming Cheng, IUGS Secretary General Stan Finney, and Director of the IUGS Secretariat Ma Yongzheng.

Hard work through the first day and much of the second day of the Bureau Meeting was followed by a 4-hour symposium on Geohazard Risk Reduction - Geological Sciences for Science and Society. It was organized with the Science Council of Japan and IRIDeS. After a welcome by the Director, Dr. Fumihiko Imamura, various scientists associated with IRIDeS and the IUGS Task Group on Geohazards gave presentations on the 2011 tsunami that devastated the Sendai Plain, on understanding risk reduction from tsunamis, and disaster mitigation research. The Symposium was followed by a reception hosted by members of the Japanese Committee to IUGS,

where we conversed at length over excellent food and beverages.

Dr. Kazuhisa Goto of IRIDeS led an excursion to the Sendai Plain on 14 November. The Bureau members, Secretariat staff, and students from the Philippines visited sites that demonstrated the

impact of the 2011 tsunami at the Sendai airport, at Hiyoriyama Hill, and Yuriage Elementary School. We saw the stratigraphic record of earlier tsunamis that inundated the plain, and we toured the many major engineering efforts underway to mitigate destruction from future great tsunami.