

IUGS Task Group Global Geoscience Professionalism (TG GGP)

TG GGP news for the IUGS E-Bulletin, 14th December 2018

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Task Group for Global Geoscience Professionalism has considerably extended its membership basis since its foundation in 2012. From initially 4 members, it has grown its membership to 16 associations in 2018. These include the:

- American Institute of Professional Geologists, AIPG
- Australian Institute of Geoscientists, AIG
- European Federation of Geologists, EFG
- Geoscientists Canada, CCPG
- Colegio de Geólogos de Bolivia
- The Geological Society of South Africa, GSSA
- Masyarakat Geologi Ekonomi Indonesia, MGEI
- Colegio de Geólogos de Chile
- National Association of State Boards of Geology, ASBOG
- Sociedad Colombiana de Geología
- South African Council for the Natural Scientific Profession, SACNASP
- Association of Greek Geologists
- Geological Society of London, GSL
- Hungarian Geological Society
- Official Spanish Association of Professional Geologists, ICOG
- Professional Association of German Geoscientists, BDG

The IUGS Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism is currently drafting its strategy for the upcoming three years (2019 to 2021). With this aim it has held two online meetings, on 22 October and 10 December, overcoming, as usual, geographical distances and different time zones to collaborate on geoscience professionalism.

Events participation:

4th October 2018

Ruth Allington (Chair of the IUGS Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism) was a keynote speaker at the 5th Slovenian Geological Congress (http://www.geozs.si/5SGK/index_en.html) with a presentation entitled “Breaching the boundaries between Science and Profession - An imperative for geoscience in the service of society”.

Organised by the Geological Survey of Slovenia ([GeoZS](#)) and the Slovenian Geological Society ([SGD](#)), the event which has been attended by more than 200 participants was, apart from exchanging new research results, also focused on the importance of geoscience for the wider society and its development.

Ms Allington's presentation was a shorter, updated, version of a plenary lecture at the 35th IGC in Cape Town (2016). She introduced and/or reminded an audience of geoscientists largely drawn from academia of the underpinning concepts of professionalism (competence, integrity, accountability and high ethical standards). She offered the following '3 pillars' definition of professionalism for academia:

- Sound geoscience knowledge and application of theory
- Exceptional ethics
- Good judgement; delivering teaching, training and research only in the areas of geoscience in which they are both appropriately qualified and suitably experienced.

She went on to seek to persuade the audience that professionalism should underpin all their teaching, training and research activities rather than be seen as something only relevant and suitable for geoscientists working in applied/commercial fields, and to describe, through posing three fundamental questions, a virtuous circle that is driven by a shared notion of professionalism:

- Without understanding the skills and expertise needed by 'industry', how can educators prepare students for the workplace?
- Without understanding societal needs, how can researchers design research which is truly relevant to those needs?
- Without access to high quality graduates and excellent underpinning fundamental and applied research, how can geoscientists in 'industry' or public service deliver their expertise effectively?

9th December 2018

Dr. John W. Williams, one of the United States representatives on the Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism (TG-GGP) presented with his colleague Dr. Randy Kath a poster on their research: Need For Academic Professional Ethics Training To Prepare Candidates To Take The National Association Of State Boards Of Geology (ASBOG®) National Licensing Examinations at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Washington.