



The 34th International Geological Congress (IGC) AUSTRALIA 2012

**Brisbane, Australia
2 – 10 August 2012**

Oceania Invites You

The 34th International Geological Congress (IGC), or AUSTRALIA 2012, will be held in Brisbane, Queensland, from 2 – 10 August 2012. The IGC has a high profile and a tradition dating back to 1878, and is generally held every four years. The event will be of considerable interest to all people involved in geoscience, be they in universities, industry, government or the broader public. The scientific sponsor of the IGC is the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

AUSTRALIA 2012 Organisation

By agreement with the IUGS, the Australian Geoscience Council (AGC), the peak representative body of eight geoscience-related societies in Australia, is underwriting AUSTRALIA 2012. As the national geoscience and geospatial information agency, Geoscience Australia (GA, see www.ga.gov.au) is making considerable contributions towards AUSTRALIA 2012 in the form of financial and in-kind support. GA is providing the President – Dr Neil Williams – and the Secretary General – Dr Ian Lambert. GA is also contributing to promotions of AUSTRALIA 2012, and providing personnel for the delivery of several products for the event.

A Brisbane-based Professional Conference Organiser (PCO) – Carillon Conference Management – has been appointed to work with the Organising Committee. Queensland Events is providing financial support.

Delegate Information

The venue will be the state-of-the-art Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC), which will readily hold more than 7,000 delegates.

Regional participation will be maximised by integrating meetings of the major Australian and regional geoscientific societies into AUSTRALIA 2012. Efforts are also being made to attract a range of international groups to hold meetings timed close to, or during, the IGC.

The registration fee in Australian dollars, to be set in 2011, is anticipated to be not much above that for the 33rd IGC held in Oslo in 2008.

Scientific Program

A wide-ranging scientific program is being planned for AUSTRALIA 2012. All traditional IGC topics will be well catered for – the interests of the IUGS and its affiliated organisations will be reflected. The overall theme will be ‘Unearthing our Past and Future’, encompassing the crucial contributions of geoscience in meeting societal needs and sustaining planet Earth.

Australia’s experience in developing a strong and sustainable mineral and energy resources sector will underpin an emphasis on future mineral and energy supplies. Linked to this will be climate change and its impacts on land and water management. Another special focus will be on understanding and mitigating geohazards, which present challenges for various countries in the region. Yet another feature will be broad-ranging geoscience information and standards sessions.

There will be plenary ‘theme-of-the-day’ sessions, symposia on a wide range of geoscientific topics. In addition there will be expert workshops and short courses designed to appeal to delegates from developing countries and others.

A long list of possible subjects has been prepared through Technical Committee, however, Symposia suggestions are still being sought for the Congress. To help minimise overlap between symposia, with consequent small audiences, we are planning:

- a limit of one oral presentation per delegate, although an individual will be able to co-author several oral papers;
- symposia will be convened by selected local geoscientists working closely with international representatives of groups affiliated with IUGS;
- to accord poster sessions a high profile; and
- organise plenary sessions so as to avoid overlap with other symposia and business meetings.

The IGC organisers are endeavouring to maximise delegate participation in 2012 by the alignment of affiliated gatherings with the congress. In acknowledgement of that, some Australian societies have elected not to have their normal scientific business meeting in 2012, but to focus their efforts on the IGC. Others are looking into

conducting their normal meetings within the IGC, with enhanced international participation.

To broaden the messages of the Congress to the general public, public lectures, student events and media engagement opportunities will be organised. A Communications and Outreach Strategy prepared for AUSTRALIA 2012 is available at the IGC website through the IGC Outreach Program tab.

Nomination of Symposia Themes and Convenors

The AUSTRALIA 2012 Technical Committee is currently drawing together a tentative program for the plenary sessions which will start each day, and approximately 200 disciplinary and inter-disciplinary symposia.

Your inputs are sought. Please forward suggestions for topics and the names of potential convenors to IUGS Councillor Colin Simpson at simpsons@grapevine.com.au by 31 December 2009.

Field trips

The 34th ICG is planning approximately 30 pre- and post-Congress field trips, which offer diverse opportunities to see the fascinating geology of the region. Collectively, these field visits will take in all Australian states and the Northern Territory. Field trips are also being planned to New Zealand, Malaysia and New Caledonia/Vanuatu, while trips to Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Indonesia are under consideration. There will also be a range of one day tours available during the conference.

Exhibition

A large GeoExpo (trade show) is expected to occupy two exhibition halls. International exhibitors will also include geological surveys, professional/learned societies, scientific publishers, consultants and technical services/products providers.

It is planned to have a major petroleum and minerals industry exhibition in one of the halls for half of the Congress, during which the major minerals and petroleum symposia will also be held.

Further Information

The www.34igc.org website is the key information outlet for AUSTRALIA 2012.