

History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

Objectives:

The primary objective of the Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) involves promoting studies in the history of geological disciplines. In so doing, the Commission endeavours to stimulate and coordinate the activities of regional, national, and international organizations having shared purposes. The Commission also works to foster the publication of individual and collective works that illuminate the history of the geological sciences.

Strategies:

- Meet with regularity, usually once each year, including years of the International Geological Congress (IGC), to conduct a major symposium on the history of geology. This typically includes a multi-day field component, with the production by the Commission of printed guidebooks.
- Produce an annual Newsletter that incorporates information from the officers, national reports, book reviews, conference reports, and a variety of news items and illustrations that promote sharing of professional insights.
- Correspond with INHIGEO Board members (President, Secretary-General, 5 regional Vice-Presidents, and Past-President), and occasionally with the entire membership, concerning issues of relevance to the study of the history of the geosciences.
- Make an effort to record the history of IGC meetings and relevant IUGS activities.
- Work with various publishing houses and journals, including EPISODES, to promote publication of symposia proceedings and a variety of contributions to the discipline.

News and Activities:

1. 2007 Conference

"The Historical Relationship of Geology and Religion", Late July and Early August 2007; Jura-Museum, Eichstätt, Germany. Organizer and contact: Dr. Martina Kölbl-Ebert, Director, Jura-Museum; e-mail: koelbl-ebert@jura-museum.de.

The meetings, presentations, and field trips were a great success. A full account will appear in the INHIGEO Newsletter No. 40, to be produced in April 2008. Selected papers are to be published in a Special Publication of the Geological Society of London.

2. 2008 Conference

INHIGEO activities will be tied to the 33rd International Geological Congress (IGC), to be held in Oslo, Norway (5-14 August 2008).

Current plans are to conduct at least three INHIGEO symposia or technical sessions:

- "History of Exploration in the Polar Regions" (Cornelia Lüdecke and Naja Mikkelsen as co-conveners);
- "General Contributions to the History of Geoscience" (Jens Morten Hansen and David Oldroyd as co-conveners); and

- "450 Years of Geological Reasoning and Scientific Sustainability" ((Jens Morten Hansen and David Oldroyd as co-conveners).
- The possibility of running a pre-conference field trip devoted to the history of metamorphism is being pursued. It will likely include a trip in the Oslo Fjord.

Accomplishments

Interested persons are welcomed to request the INHIGEO Annual Report for a given year. Please contact the Secretary-General.

Kennard Bork

Secretary-General INHIGEO, 2004-2008

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