

E-Bulletin of the International Union of Geological Sciences (No. 37. March 2009)

New Secretary General of the International Commission for Stratigraphy

Professor Paul Bown, Department of Geological Sciences, University College London, has been appointed Secretary General of the IUGS International Commission for Stratigraphy for 2008 - 2012. Full Committee details at <http://www.stratigraphy.org/>

Discussion on possible redefinition of the Quaternary, Pleistocene, Neogene and Pliocene

Prof. Stanley Finney, Chair of the IUGS International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) has initiated discussion on possible redefinition of the Quaternary, Pleistocene, Neogene and Pliocene. The process for this discussion will take place by e-mail, and will be limited to ICS voting members. However others who are greatly interested in this issue and who may wish to have their opinions made known to the voting members can reply directly to Dr. Finney, and their views will be distributed to the voting members. Please send all comments in this discussion by email to Stanley Finney at scfinney@csulb.edu

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2007-2009 (Earth Sciences for Society)

The IYPE now has registered 78 countries with an IYPE National Committee to assist with promotion of its activities. Keep up to date on the IYPE via their website <http://yearofplanetearth.org>

PUBLICATIONS, JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS

--Episodes: the Journal of International Geoscience. Publication of Episodes is now moving from China to India - Current Issue
Vol. 31, No.4, December 2008. For contents see: <http://www.episodes.org/>

--The latest edition of The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics Electronic Journal Volume 9 No. 3 (1 March 2009) is available at: <http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals/>

--The Earth Portal <http://www.earthportal.org> provides a comprehensive resource for timely, objective, science-based information about the environment. The Earth Portal has three components: The Encyclopaedia of Earth, The Earth Forum, and The Earth News (a weekly newsletter that you can receive free of charge).

View the UNESCO World Heritage Centre e-newsletters "World Heritage Information" at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/newsletter/>

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

For a listing of forthcoming geoscience meetings, conferences, and workshops of interest check the Calendar section of the IUGS website. <http://www.iugs.org/Calendar.html>

16-20 March 2009: 1st Latin American and Caribbean Congress of Initiatives in Geotourism 4. Venue: Arts Center Omar Carreño, La Asunción, Isla de Margarita. See: <http://geoparques-congresolatino.blogspot.com/>

16-20 March 2009: Workshop on Geoscience Information in Africa (GIRAF) - at the Geological Survey of Namibia/Ministry of Mines and Energy, Windhoek, Namibia. Focuses on Spatial information for geology, hydrogeology/water, soil, natural hazards and energy resources. This GIRAF workshop is organised in cooperation with the Geological Survey of Namibia (GSN), the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), together with the IUGS Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI). The workshop is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Please register and state your interest as soon as possible on the web at: <http://www.giraf2009.org/>. Contact: GIRAF2009@bgr.de or Kristine.Asch@bgr.de

14-19 June 2009: The 9th International Multidisciplinary Scientific GEO-Conference & EXPO "Modern Management of Mine Producing, Geology and Environmental Protection" SGEM2009, Albena Complex, (near Varna city), Bulgaria. The new reality of global changes requires new knowledge concerning environmental, economics and social issues. The SGEM Geo-Conference and Expo considers the questions concerned with the geology and mine producing, oil and gas, geophysics, geodesy and mine surveying, photogrammetry and remote sensing, cartography and GIS, informatics, geoinformatics, micro and nanotechnologies and innovations, hydrology and water resources, air and climate, water and forest ecosystems, soils resources, renewable energy, nuclear technologies, ecology and environmental protection, environmental economics and legislation in accordance with the principles of sustainability. The overall objective of the SGEM Conference and Expo is "To contribute to the integration of environmental consideration into the decision-making process with the aim to ensure that present consumption will not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Full details on the SGEM website at : <http://www.sgem.org/>

6-10 July 2009: Colloquium on "Danger, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment to Reduce Disasters" will take place within the VII International Convention Environment and Development to be held at The Convention Palace, Havana City. The Colloquium will focus on: Danger, vulnerability and risks when faced with extreme meteorological events: approaches, indicators, methodologies, and new technologies; Risk management in small island states and coastal ecosystems: integration into planning and development of key production sectors; Reducing the risk of disasters and adapting to climate change: policies, strategies, research and management. See <http://www.cubambiente.com/> or <http://www.gulfbase.org/event/view.php?eid=7icoead>

9-13 July 2009: MAEGS 16 - Meeting of Association of European Geological Societies, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Theme "Geology for society: education and cultural heritage" Full details at: <http://bioge.ubbcluj.ro/maegs16/>

25-28 October 2009: First World Young Earth Scientists (Y.E.S.) Congress 2009, Beijing, China. Theme "The Young Earth Scientists for Society". This Congress will discuss the main topics of the IYPE: health, climate, groundwater, ocean, soils, deep Earth, megacities, hazards, resources, and life. It is aimed at young representatives from geological associations and institutions, young leaders in politics, and delegates from administrative bodies to meet at the congress to establish a worldwide network between future leaders and policy makers and future earth science advisors. Full details at <http://www.yescongress2009.org>

26-31 October 2009: International conference on GEOSCIENCE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT (GeoDev). Geoscientists from around the World are cordially invited to attend this international conference to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference is organized jointly by AGID (Association of Geoscientists for International Development), BGS (Bangladesh Geological Society), GSB (Geological Survey of Bangladesh), and IGEO (International Geoscience Education Organization). This Conference is intended for exchanging ideas, concepts and activities in the geosciences, and also for recommending ways and initiatives for sustainable global development - which is also the prime goal of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). Besides the host country so far the organisers have received responses from 23 countries - Albania, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Cuba, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tunisia, UK and USA. NOTE: The Registration Form and Abstracts for GeoDev have been extended to 31 May 2009. More information at: http://www.sociedadgeologica.org.mx/_files/First_Announcement.doc

12 - 16 April 2010: 4th International UNESCO Conference on Geoparks 2010 "Geoheritage Education for Sustainability". This event will be held in Southeast Asia's very first global geopark, Langkawi Geopark, MALAYSIA. Langkawi is one of the rare island geoparks in the world comprising 99 islands, possesses the region's oldest rocks and the most complete Palaeozoic geological history. See: <http://www.geoparks2010.com/>

With best regards,
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