

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN 34TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC) BRISBANE AUSTRALIA 2-10 AUGUST 2012

Arrangements for the 34th IGC are ramping up. All IUGS Commissions, Joint Programs, Task Groups, Initiatives, and Affiliated Organizations, are invited to participate in the 34th International Geological Congress in Brisbane, Australia 2-10 August 2012, and to promote the event to others.

Under the overall theme "Unearthing our past and future", there will be a very wide range of Symposia. The scientific program of AUSTRALIA 2012 will emphasise applications of the geosciences in addressing the Earth's major challenges: climate change, land and water management, mineral and energy supplies in a carbon-constrained world, mitigation of geohazards, and geoscience information and standards. We will also have strong sessions on biogeochemical evolution of the Earth, planetary geology, polar studies, coral reefs and many other topics.

There will be about 30-35 field trips to all States and Territories of Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere in the region, as well as a major exhibition. In addition, expert workshops are being planned on a number of important topics of interest to the developing nations, and more generally. These will include: carbon capture and storage, sustainable mining (exploration, environmental impact assessment, regulation and governance), mitigation of geohazards, and land and water management.

To secure slots in the IGC program, all interested groups are invited to register their interest as soon as they can on the IGC website at <<http://www.34igc.org/>>, through the "Register your interest" tab. Please indicate how your group plan to be involved - for example, convening symposia scientific program suggestions, exhibiting, holding business meetings, participating in workshop, etc.

IUGS FOUNDING FATHER: PROF. JOHANNES A. DONS (FEB. 26 1920 - NOV. 14, 2009)

Johannes A. Dons, IUGS' first Treasurer and one of its founding fathers, died in Oslo on Saturday, November 14, 2009. Born 1920, Dons was employed at the University of Oslo from 1948 until he reached retirement age in 1990. From 1959 he served as senior curator at the Mineralogical-Geological Museum (now part of the Natural History Museum, University of Oslo) and as the museum's director from 1974 to 1986. As well as being involved in numerous wide reaching scientific and outreach activities within Norway, he was one of the initiators of two international journals "Lithos" and "Lethaia" which were originally published by Universitetsforlaget (now by Wiley-Blackwell). He helped coordinate the Norwegian component of the 21st Session of International Geological Congress (IGC) - Norden, Copenhagen, 1960. Photos of J. Dons and other founding fathers may be found in this article on the beginnings of IUGS: <http://www.iugs.org/PDF/Roots.pdf>.

THE EARTH SCIENCE EDUCATION INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

Based on requests from African National Committees of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), the Director General of UNESCO announced a new Earth Science Education Initiative at the regional launch of the IYPE in Arusha, Tanzania on 8 May 2008. The overall intention of this Initiative is to support the development of the next generation of earth scientists in Africa who are equipped with the necessary tools, networks and perspectives to apply sound science to solving and benefiting from the challenges and opportunities of sustainable development. The IUGS is an Organizational partners in this Initiative. The initial program included five regional workshops to take place to scope the initiative by identifying capacities, needs and strategies: October 28-29, 2009, Assiut, Egypt; November 12-13, 2009, Luanda, Angola, November 26-27, 2009 Cape Town, South, Africa, December 9-10, 2009, Dakar, Senegal, February 1-2, 2010, Kinshasa, DRC. A Launch Conference will be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France in the Second quarter of 2010 where the compilations of recommendations from the five workshops will be discussed. The conference will gather participants of the five regional workshops and key international stakeholders. Keep up-to-date with progress at the website: <<http://www.earth-science-education-initiative-africa.org/>>.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT IUGS ACTIVITIES

The scientific work of the IUGS is carried out primarily by Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives, and Joint Programs. If you wish to be involved with any of the IUGS activities listed below, or wish to receive the relevant electronic newsletters, go to the website shown for contact details etc.

COMMISSIONS:

Commissions are established for broad scientific undertakings, the nature of which clearly requires long-term (~8-12 years) attention and funding.

Commission on Geoscience Education, Training & Technology Transfer (COGE) - <http://www.geoed.com.au/IUGSEducation/indexcomm.html>: COGE was established in 2004 to examine and develop programs to assist developed and developing countries to maintain, expand or introduce better earth science education, outreach and technology transfer within their country.

Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI): CGI's mission is to enable the global exchange of knowledge about geoscience information and systems. Their website <http://www.cgi-iugs.org> will be one of the most important ways that CGI will achieve its mission. The CGI is heavily involved in OneGeology and has a major initiative involving the development of GeoSciML - a GeoScience Markup Language (GML) schema for sharing geological information. Check the website for more information about GeoSciML, as well as downloads of GeoSciML materials.

Commission on Geoscience for Environmental Management (GEM) - <http://www.iugs-gem.org>: GEM's primary mission is to encourage the integration of geoscience knowledge into policy and to help communicate geoscience concepts to a variety of interest groups including, policy makers, politicians, environmental organizations, government institutes, other science disciplines, and the general public. Their newsletters can be downloaded from the website or contact the Newsletter Editor Benjamin Mapani (bmapani@unam.na).

International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) - <http://www.inhigeo.org>: promotes ongoing research into the history of the earth sciences. It sponsors a major annual symposium with associated field activities. Their newsletters can be downloaded from their website.

International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) - <http://www.stratigraphy.org>: The ICS focuses on all aspects of stratigraphy and is the only organization concerned with stratigraphy on a global scale. Its nine Subcommissions each deal with different periods of the timescale. Subcommission websites can be accessed from the ICS home page. Stratigraphic charts etc. can be downloaded.

TASK GROUPS:

Task Groups are formal, project oriented activities with a prescribed structure under the Executive Committee, pursuing limited objectives of short duration, typically for no more than 4 years, and may in some cases be elevated to Commission status.

--The Task Group on Tectonics and Structural Geology (TecTask) represents an initiative of Earth Scientists dedicated to stimulate communication and coordination within the international science community and to provide information to the public. The group encourages innovative research and continued education in tectonics and structural Geology, the growth of intellectual capital, and hence the impact of our science on the wealth of the global society. TecTask reaches out to scientists and students, particularly those from developing countries, to share cutting edge research and development, and state-of-the-art training. See <http://www.tectask.org>.

--The Task Group on Global Geochemical Baselines (TGGB): The mission of this IUGS/IAGC (International Association of Geochemistry) Task Group is to prepare a global geochemical database, and its representation in map form, to document the concentration and distribution of chemical elements and species in the Earth's near-surface environment. This database is urgently needed by environmental and resource managers throughout the world. See: <http://www.globalgeochemicalbaselines.eu>.

JOINT PROGRAMS:

Joint Programs are scientific enterprises, principally of long duration, carried out in collaboration with one or more other organizations that share with the IUGS the responsibility for funding and(or) managing the activity. All funded entities annually submit to the IUGS Executive Committee a report summarizing their activities and accomplishments.

--International Geoscience Program (IGCP) The IGCP is a cooperative enterprise of UNESCO and the IUGS that provides several thousands of scientists from about 150 countries with a multi-discipline platform to exchange knowledge and methodology on geological problems of global importance. Established in 1972 as the "International Geological Correlation Program" it now continues as the "International Geoscience Program". Website at: http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=6304&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

--International Lithosphere Program (ILP) seeks to elucidate the nature, dynamics, origin and evolution of the lithosphere through international, multidisciplinary geoscience research projects and coordinating committees. A joint program of the IUGS and IUGG (International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics) it promotes multidisciplinary research projects of interest to both the geological and geophysical communities. Website: <http://sclilp.gfz-potsdam.de>.

--Geological Applications of Remote Sensing (GARS): GARS is an international co-operation programme jointly sponsored by UNESCO and the IUGS to: demonstrate the use of advanced remote sensing techniques for the solution of key geological questions; ensure the transfer of information and technology through co-operative research in the field in combination with educational programmes; and ensure wide dissemination of results. More information at the GARS Website: http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=6255&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html.

-- Isotopes in Geosciences (TGIG): The IUGS /IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) Joint Task Group on Isotopes in Geosciences strives to provide an authoritative recommendation based on a critical re-evaluation of data on half-lives and decay schemes of long-lived radioactive nuclides used by the geological and planetary science communities. A specific goal of the project is to reconcile current inconsistencies between values used in geological and planetary sciences and those used in the nuclear physics and chemistry communities. Website <http://www.iupac.org/web/ins/2006-016-1-200>

--International Geological Congress (IGC): The IGC is the flagship geoscience congress held every four years. The 34th IGC Will be held in Brisbane, Australia from 2-10 August 2012. Website: <http://www.34igc.org>

INITIATIVES:

Initiatives are informal, project-oriented activities organized under the Executive Committee with no prescribed structure, considerable freedom of operation, and no time limit on their duration.

--International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) - <http://yearofplanetearth.org>.

PUBLICATIONS, JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS

--The Electronic Journal of The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) is available at: <http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals>.

--The International Association of Hydrologists' "IAH Groundwater eNews" is available online at: http://www.iah.org/news_enews.asp.

--The "Earth Science India e-Journal" is now available on the web and can be viewed at <http://www.earthscienceindia.info/>. This open access quarterly e-journal is a not-for-profit website

under the umbrella of The Society of Earth Scientists and is devoted to the development of Earth/Environmental Sciences of India.

--The International Erosion Control Association (IECA) has their official journal publication "Erosion Control" available at: <<http://www.ieca.org>>.

--UNESCO Global Geoparks Network - keep up to date with current activities at <<http://www.globalgeopark.org/publish/portal1/tab59/>>

--The Earth Portal website includes a free weekly newsletter that you can view at: <<http://www.earthportal.org/news/>>.

--Earthscan, has a new journal "Environmental Hazards" addressing the full range of extreme geological, hydrological, atmospheric and biological hazard events. For more information see: <<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=37213>>. For Enquiries email to: journals@earthscan.co.uk.

--The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) Bulletin is now available on the website - both in high resolution (13 Mb) and low resolution (5 Mb). See: <<http://www.iuss.org/index.htm>>.

--ProGEO The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage publishes a quarterly newsletter ProGEO NEWS available online at <<http://www.progeo.se/index.html>>.

--The latest International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme NEWSLETTER can be downloaded at: <<http://www.igbp.net/page.php?pid=231>>.

--The National Ground Water Association (NGWA) of the USA hosts an ongoing series of events and educational courses. For information visit their website at <<http://www.ngwa.org/DEVELOPMENT/index.aspx>>.

--The book "PaleoParks - The protection and conservation of fossil sites worldwide" by Jere H. LIPPS & Bruno R.C. GRANIER (Special Editors) is available free. See: <http://paleopolis.rediris.es/cg/uk-bookmarks.html#CG2009_BOOK_03>.

--The Geological Societies Africa (GSAf) website has the Newsletters/Bulletins of Eastern Africa GSAf, Northern Africa GSAf, Southern Africa GSAf, and Western Africa GSAf. Go to: <<http://www.geologicalsocietyofafrica.org/news/newsletter/>> To receive the GSAf newsletters via email contact Dr. Abdelkader Saadallah at: kader@saadgeo.com. GSAf website: <<http://www.geologicalsocietyofafrica.org>>.

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>>.

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December 1-5, 2009. The 6th Symposium on the Atlantic Iberian Margin - MIA09. Geology Department, Oviedo University, Oviedo, Spain. See: <http://www.uniovi.es/mia09/index-ing.html>

December 3-4, 2009, "Geosciences 2009" the National Conference of the Bulgarian Geological Society. Sofia, Bulgaria. With international participation. Details at: <<http://www.bgd.bg>>.

December 3-4, 2009. 2nd International Workshop on Sinkhole Phenomena. Auditorium, ISPRA-Geological Survey of Italy, V. Curtatone 7, 00185. Rome, Italy. This workshop is free to attend and is open to all earth science related researchers. Online registration by 30 November 2009. Go to: <http://www.isprambiente.it/site/en-GB/Archive/Events/Documents/090520_sinkhole.html>.

December 10-13, 2009. National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Ground Water Expo and Annual Meeting. Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Convention Center Blvd. New Orleans, Louisiana (USA). The NGWA Expo, a conference as well as a trade show, brings together professionals from all

sectors of the ground water industry in one location to explore new solutions to new challenges. Web: <<http://www.ngwa.org/2009expo/index.aspx>>.

December 14-18, 2009. The Annual Fall meeting of The American Geophysical Union (AGU) to be held at the Moscone Convention Center, San Francisco, California, USA. This will include a special Convocation of Scientific Societies to discuss strategic alliances to achieve enhanced global networking among scientists in Earth, Atmospheric, Ocean, and Space sciences. Fall meeting website information: <<http://www.agu.org/meetings/fm09/>>.

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January 5-7, 2010. Fifth International Conference on Geology of the Tethys Realm. South Valley University, (Qena - Luxor, Egypt). Addressing: Precambrian and Phanerozoic Geology; Quaternary geology and Geo-Archeology; Basin analysis with emphasis on their petroleum, gas, minerals and water resources; Geophysical exploration; Environmental geology. Abstracts before 1st of December 2009. Full details at: <<http://www.tgs-international.com/>>.

February 4-7, 2010. 6th International Dyke Conference. held at Department of Geology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. Theme: "Dyke swarms: Keys for Geodynamic Interpretation". For more information see: <<http://idc6.igpetbhu.com>>. Contact person: Dr. Rajesh K. Srivastava, Professor of Geology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi 221 005, India. Email: 6idc2010@gmail.com, or rajeshgeolbhu@gmail.com.

April 6-9, 2010. 13th Quadrennial IAGOD (International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits) Symposium "Giant ore deposits down-under". Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia. Includes pre- and post conference fieldtrips. Details at: <<http://www.alloccassionsgroup.com/IAGOD2010>>.

April 11-15, 2010. National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Ground Water Summit and 2010 Ground Water Protection Council Spring Meeting. The Westin Tabor Center, 672 Lawrence Street, Denver, Colorado, USA. This year's annual vent with the theme "Groundwater for a Thirsty World," will focus on groundwater's role as a global resource. <<http://www.ngwa.org/summit2010/index.aspx>>.

April 11-17, 2010. The 5th Conference of the African Association of Women Geoscientists. Grand-Bassam, Cote D'Ivoire. Theme: "Women & Geosciences for Peace" - organised by The African Association of Women Geoscientists (AAWG). For Circulars see: <<http://www.aawg.org/AAWG/spip.php?rubrique20>>.

April 26-28, 2010. 1st International Applied Geological Congress. Department of Geology (IAGC), Faculty of Sciences Islamic Azad University - Mashhad Branch (IAUM) Mashhad-Iran. Theme "New Directions of Investigations in Earth Sciences and Related Subjects". Abstract submission deadline: 15 September 2009. Email: info@iagc.ir; See <<http://www.iagc.ir>> <<http://www.iagc.ir>>.

April 26-30, 2010. INTERPRAEVENT 2010 International Symposium in PacificRim. Taipei, China. The main topic of the symposium "Natural Disasters Mitigation Including Floods, Storms, Debris flows, Mass movements and Earthquakes etc." Deadline for submission of full-paper manuscript 30November 2009. Abstracts submitted on the web at:<<http://congress.interpraevent.at/>> or see: <<http://interpraevent2010.nchu.edu.tw/index.aspx>>.

May 21-23, 2010. Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM) Field Conference on "Microbial Mats in Siliciclastic Sediments from the Archean to Present "Denver, Colorado, and Dinosaur Ridge, Denver, USA. Abstract submissions start 1 September 2009 and closes 1 December 2009. Visit the website at: <http://www.sepm.org/activities/researchconferences/microbial/microbial_home.htm> Convenors: Nora Noffke <nnoffke@odu.edu> and Henry Chafetz <hchafetz@uh.edu>.

May 26-29, 2010. 15th Congress of the Geologists of Serbia with international participation. Belgrade, Serbia. Organised by the Serbian Geological Society, the Faculty of Mining and Geology, and the Association of Geological Engineers and Technicians. The Congress events will include plenary sessions, oral and poster sessions, panel discussions, special sessions and field trips. Deadline for

Congress Application 1 November 2009, and for abstract submissions 1 December 2009. For information see: <<http://www.nsgd.org/>> and <<http://www.nsgd.org/15Congress2010/English.htm>>

June 3-6, 2010. International Geobiology Conference 2010 (ICG2010). China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China. Sponsors include: ICS, IPA, IGCP507, IGCP555, IGCP572, NSFC etc. Abstract submission deadline 10 December 2009. Full details at: <<http://www.geobiology.net.cn/2010meeting>>.

June 13-18, 2010. Goldschmidt 2010 - "Earth, Energy, and the Environment. Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. The Goldschmidt Conference is the premier international meeting for geochemistry; Full details at: <<http://www.goldschmidt2010.org/index>>.

June 20-25, 2010. The 10th International Multidisciplinary Scientific GeoConference & Expo (SGEM 2010) will be held at the Flamingo Grand Congress Centre, Albena Resort Complex, Bulgaria. Theme "Modern management of mine producing, geology and environmental protection". Information and online registration at <www.sgem.org>. Secretariat Bureau Tel: +359 2 975 3982, E-mail: sgem@sgem.org or sgem@stef92.com

July 1-14, 2010. INHIGEO Symposium 35 - Madrid-Almadén, SPAIN. The International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences Annual Conference. Theme: History of Research in Mineral Resources. The conference language will be English. Scientific Sessions 5-10 July, 2010. First Circular is now available at <www.sedpgym.org/inhigeo2010> or <www.colegiominas.com/download/fichero_portada/sgpym.doc>. First response deadline is 30 October 2009. Abstract deadline 30 April 2010. Conference Secretary: José Eugenio Ortiz Menéndez, email: joseeugenio.ortiz@upm.es See: <<http://www.inhigeo.org>>.

July 10-18, 2010. The 8th International Conference of INZA on the Occurrence, Properties and Utilization of the Natural Zeolite "Zeolite2010", Sofia, Bulgaria (including field-trip). See: <<http://www.zeolite2010.org>>.

August 1-6, 2010. The 19th World Congress of Soil Science, Brisbane, Australia. Theme "Soil Solutions for a Changing World". Papers must be submitted using the on-line process no later than 31 October 2009. See: <http://www.19wcss.org.au/>.

August 8-13, 2010. AGU Joint Assembly, Iguassu Falls, Brazil. All topics of the Earth Sciences will be covered: Earth, Oceans, Atmosphere, Space & Planets. This "Meeting of the Americas" is co-sponsored by the Brazilian Geophysical Society, IASPEI, and many other Latin-American organizations. Sessions/Workshops can be proposed until December 2009. Abstracts will be accepted in February-March 2010. More information at: <<http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja10>>.

August 29-September 4, 2010. SEISMIX 2010. The 14th International Symposium on Deep Seismic Profiling of the Continents and their Margins. Cairns, Australia. Major sponsors - Geological Society of Australia, Geoscience Australia, and IGCP 559, Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University. Contact <Seismix10@ga.gov.au>. For further information see: <<http://www.earthscrust.org/earthscrust/seismix2010.htm>>.

August 30-September 2, 2010. STRATI 2010 The 4th French Congress of Stratigraphy. Paris 6 (UPMC), France. (The main official language will be English). This international event is hosted by the University Pierre and Marie Curie. Website (construction) at <<http://paleopolis.rediris.es/STRATI2010/>>. Additional information available at <<http://strati-info.blogspot.com/2009/02/strati-2010-4-eme-congres-francais-de.html>> and <<http://www.univ-brest.fr/geosciences/CFS/>>.

August 30-September 3 2010. 6th Quadrennial Conference of the International Geoscience Educators Organisation (IGEO) Johannesburg, South Africa. See: <<http://web.wits.ac.za/NewsRoom/Conferences/GeoSciEd>>.

September 15-18, 2010. International Conference on Geoevents, Geological Heritage, and the Role of the IGCP. Caravaca de la Cruz, Spain. Jointly organized by the Spanish Committee for the IGCP, and the European Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage. Sponsored by the Caravaca de

la Cruz Municipal Council. For further information, please visit
<<http://www.ugr.es/~mlamolda/congresos/geoevents/>>.

September 23-26, 2010. 19th Congress of the Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association (CBGA 2010). Thessaloniki, Greece. More information, including the Second Circular can be obtained at:
<<http://www.cbga2010.org> <<http://www.cbga2010.org/>>. Send your questions to: info@cbga2010.org.

September 26-October 1, 2010. 45º Congresso Brasileiro de Geologia. Bethlehem, Para, Brazil. - The 45th Brazilian Congress of Geology with the theme "Development and Global Change: The Importance of Geosciences". Information at: <<http://www.45cbg.com.br/>>.

September 30-October 9, 2010. Society of Economic Geologists 2010 Conference(SEG2010). Keystone Resort, Colorado, USA. "The Challenge of Finding New Mineral Resources: Global Metallogeny, Innovative Exploration, and New Discoveries." Pre-and post field trips and short courses planned. Contacts /abstract dates etc. <<http://www.seg2010.org/>>.

November 15 -17, 2010. 6th Nepal Geological Congress. Kathmandu, Nepal. More than 450 participants from 56 countries are expected to participate in this congress on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Nepal Geological Society. For more information, including the First Circular with Pre-registration Form and Abstract details, see <<http://www.ngs.org.np/>>.

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January 8-14, 2011. South Africa 2011 - the 23rd Colloquium of African Geology (CAG23) theme "Together in Africa for a leading role in Geosciences". University of Johannesburg, South Africa. The CAG is being held for the first time in South Africa. Scientific contributions in all aspects of geosciences are very welcome with particular emphasis on new methodologies and applications to the benefit of the society. For details see: <<http://www.cag23.co.za/>>.

April 8-11, 2011. IV Cuban Earth Science Convention. Convention Palace, Havana, Cuba. Full details at: <http://www.cubacienciasdelatierra.com>.

August 1-5, 2011. 10th International Congress for Applied Mineralogy (ICAM2011). Trondheim, Norway. Please regularly check for updates and register your address on the ICAM mailing list at <www.icam2011.org> or contact: secretary.icam2011@ngu.no.

August 22-26, 2011. 25th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS2011). Rovaniemi, Finland. Jointly organized by the Geology section of the Finnish Association of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, the Geological Survey of Finland, the Institute of Geosciences-University of Oulu, the Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG), and with support from professionals in the mineral exploration industry. Deadline for abstracts 31March 2011. Full details at: <<http://www.iags2011.fi/>>.

With best regards,

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