

Candidate for IUGS Executive Committee

Position: Councilor (2024-2028)

Name: Absai Vatuva

Affiliation: Head of Geoscience Department
and Senior Lecturer, University of Namibia

Nominating Organization:
The Geological Survey of Namibia



Biography:

I was born and bred in Oilagati village, North of Namibia. My journey into the world of geosciences began with a profound curiosity about the natural world. Exploring the diverse landscapes and geological formations during extensive field trips of my underground studies sparked my lifelong passion for scientific exploration and discovery. My academic pursuits took me across continents, from Namibia to France funded by Areva, to China funded by the Chinese Scholarship Council, and to Spain through the Erasmus+ Mobility Exchange program. I hold a BSc degree from the University of Namibia (2008), an MSc from the now University of Lorraine (Nancy, 2010), and a PhD from China University of Geosciences, Beijing (2017). I delved deep into the field, focusing on mineral raw materials, tectonics, and structures in Namibia and South China, as well as geoparks and national policies. With over 30 publications, I contribute to advancing knowledge in geological resource exploration and management. As Head of the Geoscience Department since 2019 and Senior Lecturer at the University of Namibia, I mentor the next generation of geoscientists, emphasizing collaboration and inclusivity. Through my academic journey, research, and exchange initiatives, I've built a global network of collaborators and friends, fostering partnerships beyond borders.

Statement:

My commitment to international cooperation and interest in global initiatives in geosciences is evident in my trajectory of international collaboration and exchange. My aim in participating in the International Union of Geological Sciences Council is to advocate for broad-based scientific studies and equitable collaborations. This is my passion. I'm involved in projects like the Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE) and in efforts to establish UNESCO global geoparks in Namibia, promoting sustainable development and prosperity. I've spoken at various IUGS-related workshops, aiming

to foster inclusion, particularly for geoscientists from the Global South, to ensure their equitable participation in shaping the future of geosciences for sustainable development. Serving the geosciences community at this level is both a privilege and an honor, driving my dedication to advancing knowledge and fostering collaboration for the betterment of our planet and humanity. My academic journey is a brainchild of international initiatives, corporate social responsibility, and memoranda of understandings between institutions. In all these endeavors, I've developed a network of collaborators that I can leverage should I be elected as a Councillor on the IUGS Executive Committee. Therefore, I bring with me an appreciable wealth of lived experiences in fostering the dream for equal participation, shared responsibility, and thus complementing geosciences efforts for the prosperity of the planet and the people of the world.