

Bulletin of the International Union of Geological Sciences (No. 36. February, 2009)

IUGS Executive Committee Meeting Sydney Australia

Some of the major decisions reached at the Sydney meeting 11-15 January 2009 were:

* The IUGS is interested in producing a 50th anniversary volume about the Union in time for its anniversary in 2011. Draft TOR for the proposed anniversary volume will be developed.

* After many years of support and hard work China will cease the publication of the IUGS journal "Episodes" in 2009. At the EC meeting in Oslo expressions of interest were received from both India and the USA to take over the task. After considering the 2 proposals in details the Executive Committee accepted India's proposal for future publication of "Episodes".

* The Executive Committee will work with the Secretariat of the IGC35 to include specific sessions on international standards at the 2012 Congress.

New Executive Director for ICSU

After 7 years as Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU) Thomas Rosswall has retired. In his retirement he has been accepted to chair the Board of the CGIAR-ESSP Climate Change Challenge Programme that will address the links between climate change, agriculture and food security. Thomas' new e-mail is thomas.rosswall@gmail.com.

Professor Deliang Chen will take over as the ICSU Executive Director from 1 February 2009. Professor Chen is an internationally renowned climate researcher and is currently Professor of Physical Meteorology and August Röhss Professor of Physical Geography at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. (For a full CV of Professor Chen see: <http://rcg.gvc.gu.se/dc/>)

The Franklin Institute 2010 Bower Award and Prize. Call for Nominations in Earth Systems Science

The Franklin Institute invites nominations for candidates for the 2010 Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science. This Award and Prize is presented in a predetermined field of interest chosen each year. The theme of the 2010 Bower Award for Achievement in Science is **Earth Systems**. The Franklin Institute seeks nominations of individuals who have made significant scientific contributions to our understanding of the interrelationships among Earth Systems leading to increased predictability of natural or human-induced changes on the planet. Nominations should recognize efforts that encompass various earth systems and processes, including: the Earth's interior, lithosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and atmosphere, biogeochemical cycles, and Earth history. Nomination deadlines are as follows: Notice of intent to nominate is encouraged: February 28, 2009. Complete Nomination: April 30, 2009. For more information on nominating a candidate visit: www.fi.edu/franklinawards/call.html

Update. Earth Learning Idea (ELI) - Innovative Earth-related teaching ideas

ELI was developed as an internet-based support network for teacher trainers and teachers of earth science across the globe, by providing educational resources that will promote interactive teaching and the development of investigational and thinking skills, whilst provoking educational debate –

minimising costs by using voluntary effort and commitment wherever practicable. ELI was established in 2007 as a run-up to the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) with its primary activity in the 2008 IYPE. By early November their website had over 8500 visits from 115 countries. The response was so encouraging that ELI will continue the project into 2009. See the Earth Learning Idea website at: www.earthlearningidea.com.

International Earth Science Olympiad 2009 (IESO 2009)

Since 2007, IESO, an event of competition and cooperation in Earth science among young students worldwide, has been organized to increase public awareness and promote Earth science education. During the event, participants compete in written and practical examinations and cooperate in field works forming international teams. Participants also share the culture

and geology of each country with friendship. IESO is also an important activity of IGEO (International Geoscience Education Organization). Following Korea (1st IESO), and the Philippines (2nd IESO) the 3rd International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2009) will be held during September 14-22, 2009 at the National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan. The IESO 2009 Local Organizing Committee would like to cordially invite your country to send a team with at least one mentor and two secondary students next year to Taiwan to participate in this exciting event. The Taiwanese government (Ministry of Education and National Science Council) has been fully committed to funding the third IESO. The local organizer will cover all the expenses including accommodations, local transportation, field trips to the Chi-Chi earthquake site, tours and etc., but excluding international airfares. You can find more information on IESO 2009 in the website <http://www.ieso2009.tw/main/home/home.html>. For online registration http://www.ieso2009.tw/main/home/1b_registration.html. For any additional inquiries, please contact Chun-Yen Chang Chairman, IESO 2009 Local Organizing Committee (email: changcy@ntnu.edu.tw.)

NEW PUBLICATIONS, JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS

--Episodes: the Journal of International Geoscience. Current Issue
Vol. 31, No.4, December 2008. For contents see: <http://www.episodes.org/>

--The Geological Society of London has issued a new book "Communicating Environmental Geoscience" edited by D Liverman, C P G Pereira, & B Marker. This book was produced by the Working Group on Communicating Environmental Geoscience of the IUGS Commission on Geoscience for Environmental Management (GEM). For details on the book see:
<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/publications/bookshop/page4220.html>

--New Journal of Mediterranean Earth Sciences (JMES)
The JMES takes the place, expanding and enlarging areas of interest, of a historical journal of the SAPIENZA University of Rome, Geologica Romana. Its main objective is to highlight the numerous basic and applied researches that are carried out in academic institutions and research centres of the Mediterranean area. The language of the journal is English. Website:
<http://tetide.geo.uniroma1.it/sciterra/riviste/JMES/jmes.htm>

--Though the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY)2007-2008 formally ended on December 31st, 2008, exactly 50 years after the IGY ended formally in 1958, the mission and goals of eGY are being carried forward through several national and international organizations. See:
<http://www.egy.org/index.php>

--The latest edition of The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics Electronic Journal Volume 9 No. 1 (1January 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 Encyclopedia of Earth, The Earth Forum, and The Earth News (a weekly newsletter that you can receive free of charge).

--The latest newsletter of the International Geographical Union (IGU) can be found at <http://www.homeofgeography.org/> under IGU-HOME e-Newsletters

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>

10-12 March 2009: The UN Conference on Climate Change (COP15), "Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions", will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark. See: <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/>

16-20 March 2009: Workshop on Geoscience Information in Africa (GIRAF) - at the Geological Survey of Namibia/Ministry of Mines and Energy, Windhoek, Namibia. Focusing on Spatial information on 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

6-11 July 2009: 7th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology (ANZIAG), Melbourne Convention and exhibition Centre, Australia. Theme "Ancient Landscapes - Modern Perspectives". The International Association of Geomorphologists and the Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group invite all geomorphologists and others interested in geomorphology to participate in the conference. Call for papers now open. <http://www.geomorphology2009.com/default.asp>

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 www.yescongress2009.org

26-31 October 2009: Geoscience for Global Development(GeoDev), Dhaka, Bangladesh. Organized jointly by the Association of Geoscientists for International Development (AGID), Bangladesh Geological Society (BGS), Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB), International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO). Download first Circular at: http://www.sociedadgeologica.org.mx/files/First_Announcement.doc

5-7 November 2009 World Science Forum 2009, Budapest, Hungary. Organised by The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in partnership with UNESCO, ICSU, and the European Commission. With a focus on "Knowledge and Future" it will not only mark the tenth anniversary of the 1st World Conference on Science, but will give us a strategic vision of the future of science in the global society of the 21st century. See: www.sciforum.hu.

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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