

IUGS E-Bulletin #2 (January 2003)

IUGS Colleagues:

Welcome to the International Union of Geological Sciences' second E-Bulletin and the first for 2003. All the best for the upcoming year! Our thanks to the several positive replies received regarding the first E-Bulletin. Again we invite recipients to distribute this information freely and widely. Further we encourage Affiliated Organizations and National Committees of the Union to contribute relevant information to the E-Bulletin. The E-Bulletins will be available on the Union's website (<http://www.iugs.org>). Please visit the website for the latest updates in IUGS activities.

In this issue the IUGS Executive Committee is also pleased to include a status report regarding the IUGS Strategic Action Plan. The IUGS EC welcomes your comments and advice on our progress for this very important item.

In this issue:

- **IUGS Electronic Voting**
- **International Year of the Planet Earth**
- **IUGS President travels in 2002**
- **IUGS Working Group on Global Geochemical Baselines**
- **ICSU Grants Available**
- **GSA Engineering Geology Division**
- **Association of European Geological Societies meeting in 2003**
- **International Geoscience Education Organisation meeting in 2003**
- **History of IGCP – Australian Involvement**
- **Geological Society of South Africa in 2002**
- **NEW Web links to several IUGS adhering bodies**
- **IUGS' Strategic Action Plan Status Report**

IUGS Electronic Voting

We are pleased to announce that electronic voting has now been officially approved and established for the IUGS family of member countries. This is a significant step forward into the 21st century for managing IUGS affairs that require member country approval. Traditionally IUGS tabled all voting issues at the quadrennial IGC Congress resulting in lengthy delays to resolve critical issues as well as crowded agendas for the Business meetings at the IGC. The EC thanks all member countries that supported this transition to a more efficient method to decide IUGS matters. During 2003, member countries should be prepared to receive requests for voting on a number of critical matters.

International Year of Planet Earth

The Project leader of the Year (2004-2007), Dr. Henk Schalke (henkscha@worldonline.nl) met with the Chinese Ministry of Land and Resources to prepare the announcement of the Year by China in the UN-system. The Scientific Programme Committee has some 18 members, specialists from all over the globe, who will meet January 30 and 31 in Paris. Together they will develop an exciting Science

Programme with some 6 to 8 topics of a supra-regional, holistic character, with human impact and outreach potentials and accessible to developing countries. A first flyer is produced which will be disseminated widely. An electronic copy of that flyer can be delivered through the IUGS Secretariat (iugs.secretariat@ngu.no). An Outreach programme Committee is in development now. Any suggestions? Please address to the Project Leader or to the IUGS Secretariat.

IUGS President travels in 2002

Prof. Ed de Mulder spent a considerable portion of his time traveling throughout the world on behalf of IUGS during 2002. Two notable recent trips included:

His participation in the annual session of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) in Yogyakarta (Indonesia), October, 2002. In 2001 CCOP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IUGS on a joint approach in promoting the geosciences in the region. CCOP fully supports the International Year of Planet Earth and both parties will develop a plan for implementation before their next meeting in spring 2003.

The annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) October, 2002 provided many good opportunities for the President to interact with our Affiliated organisations. Apart from the GSA, he met with representatives of AGI, SEPM, IGEO, IAEG, IPA and IAMG. In addition, meetings were held with representatives of the Association of Women Geoscientists (AWG), the USGS and with the chairman of the UK National Committee. He met with representatives of various Publishing Houses discussing options for outsourcing our non-serial publications. Together with the International Geological Congress (IGC) the Union displayed a very attractive booth at GSA. This booth enjoyed a good attendance and the new IUGS' flyer was available there for the first time.

(NOTE: all travel expenses incurred by the President, Treasurer, Secretary General and Permanent Secretariat are borne by the home countries of the officers. IUGS is not responsible for their travel costs).

IUGS Working Group on Global Geochemical Baselines

This working group has been very active in 2002 and reports that 1/12th of India has now been sampled, pilot studies are underway in Brazil and Colombia, 80% of the USA is now complete, sampling within Japan is expected to be completed in two years, and discussions are underway with Mexico for geochemical mapping issues. Significant development with the 11 country members of CCOP for a geochemical mapping project was reported. In Europe, sampling has now been completed within all countries participating in FOREGS. For more information about this WG please contact Mr. Shaun Reeder at the BGS (s.reeder@bgs.ac.uk).

ICSU Grants Available

Research grants through ICSU are once again available. Interested members should carefully read the Programme Statement to meet all requirements prior to submitting the application forms. The Grants Programme is strictly reserved for ICSU members and we request that you do not diffuse the information and application forms to individuals or

institutions outside the ICSU family. The Statement and Schedule for 2004 as well as application forms for the ICSU grants are available through the IUGS Web site <http://www.iugs.org>.

GSA Engineering Geology Division

The latest issue of your EGD Newsletter is now available online on the EGD website at <http://rock.geosociety.org/egd/index.html> For more information regarding the EGD please contact the secretary Robert Fakundiny (rfakundi@mail.nysed.gov) or EGD Newsletter Editor Jerry DeGraff (fishlake@worldnet.att.net)

Association of European Geological Societies meeting in 2003

The first circular of the 13th Association of European Geological Societies Meeting (MAEGS-13, 9 - 13 September 2003, Hannover, Germany) is now available. For more information contact the Secretary Jens Wiegand (jens.wiegand@uni-essen.de) or view the website: <http://www.bgr.de/index.html?veransta/maegs13>

International Geoscience Education Organization Meeting in 2003

One of IUGS's most recent affiliated bodies, the IGEO, will be holding the 4th International Meeting August 10-14, 2003 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. For more information about this meeting contact Chris King (cjhking@btinternet.com) or visit the website for GeoSciEdIV: <http://www.geoscienced.org>

History of IGCP – Australian Involvement

This year celebrates the 30th anniversary of the UNESCO-IUGS International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP), which has involved about 500 major international research projects. Sir Kingsley Dunham, in his Presidential address to The Geological Society, in 1985 (Proc. GSL) considered that the history of IGCP has "probably evolved more converging lines and deeper birth pangs than most". Significantly, Australians and Australian-based geologists were also instrumental in formulating the idea and concepts for such a research programme back in the mid 1960s and they tried with varying success to get their ideas across to the IUGS, nearly succeeded in the run-up to the fateful 1968 Prague IGC but then their contribution was subsequently almost forgotten. In the light of this Dr. Susan Turner been awarded a small grant from the Australian Government to consider the history and outcomes of Australian involvement in IGCP. If any geologist has any memories or correspondence of that time (mid sixties to early seventies) regarding the early proposal or early involvement in the planning of an IGCP, especially a copy of the first proposal, please contact Dr Turner (SueT@qm.qld.gov.au).

Geological Society of South Africa in 2002

The GSAf hosted its 19th Colloquium of African Geology in Morocco (March), and a Workshop on GeoEnvironmental Hazards and Disasters in Africa in Nairobi (June), as well as participated in the 11th Symposium of the International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits in Windhoek (July), the 2nd International Conference on the Geology of Africa in Assiut (October) and the Association of African Women Geoscientists in Cape Town (October). For more information please contact the Secretary

General Dr. Imasiku Nyambe (inyambe@mines.unza.zm) or view the website at: www.elsevier.nl/locate/gsa

Web links to several IUGS adhering bodies:

Algeria Office National de Recherche Géologique et Minière-ORGM
<http://www.orgm.com.dz>

Argentina Asociación Geológica Argentina-AGA
<http://157.92.20.135/aga/raga.htm>

Belize Ministry of Natural Resources, Belize
http://www.mnrei.gov.bz/contact_us.asp

Botswana Geological Survey of the Republic of Botswana
<http://www.gov.bw/government/geology.htm>

Burkina Faso Bureau of Mines and Geology of Burkina Faso-BUMIGEB
<http://www.bumigeb.bf>

Burundi Dept. Geologie Mineralogie
<http://www.univ-tlse2.fr/gril/Buja.html>

Chile Sociedad Geologica de Chile SGCH h
<http://www.sociedadgeologica.cl>

Colombia Colombian National Committee for IUGS
<http://www.ingeomin.gov.co>

Cuba Academia de Ciencia de Cuba
<http://www.cuba.cu/ciencia/acc/>

Ecuador La Dirección Nacional de Geología DINAGE
<http://www.mineriaecuador.com>

France Comité National Français de Géologie-CNFG
<http://www.cig.ensmp.fr/cnfg>

Georgia Republic Georgian National Committee of Geologists
<http://www.acnet.ge/dearth.htm>

Guatemala Sistema Nacional de Instituto Geographico -SNIG
<http://www.ign.gob.gt>

Indonesia The Indonesian Association of Geologists-IAGC
<http://www.iagi.or.id>

Iran Geological Survey of Iran-GSI
<http://www.gsi-iran.org>

Jamaica Mines & Geology Division-MGD
<http://www.minesandgeologyjamaica.com>

Korea, South Korean National Committee for IUGS
<http://www.gskorea.or.kr>

Malaysia Minerals and Geoscience Department Malaysia-JMG
<http://www.jmg.gov.my>

Namibia Geological Survey of Namibia
<http://www.gsn.gov.na>

Pakistan Geological Survey of Pakistan
<http://www.gsp.com.pk>

Peru Instituto Geologico Minero y Metalurgico-INGEOMET
<http://www.ingemet.gob.pe>

Philippines Mines and Geosciences Bureau
<http://www.mines-denr.ph>

Saudi Arabia Ministry of Petroleum & Mineral Resources
<http://www.mopm.gov.sa>

Sweden Swedish National Committee for Geology-SCNS
http://www.sgu.se/hotell/natkom/natkom_s.htm

Syria National Council for Geology and Mineral Resources
http://www.mopmr-sy.org/geology_mineral.htm

Tanzania Mineral Resources Division-MRD
<http://www.africaonline.co.tz/madini>

Thailand Department of Mineral Resources, Ministry of Industry-DMR, MOI
<http://www.dmr.go.th>

Turkey National Representative Ctte for IUGS of Turkey NRC-IUGS/IGCP-TURKEY
<http://www.mta.gov.tr>

U.K. The Geological Society
<http://www.geolsoc.org.uk>

Venezuela National Institute of Geology and Mining
<http://www.ingeomin.gov.ve>

(**NOTE:** the IUGS Web site at <http://www.iugs.org> provides a more complete list of all relevant web addresses for members, affiliate organizations, individuals, etc. in earth sciences)

IUGS' Strategic Action Plan Status Report (31 December 2002)

A first draft of the Strategic Action Plan was prepared in April '01, eight months after endorsement of the Strategic Planning Committee's Recommendations by the IUGS Council in Rio de Janeiro. At a special IUGS EC meeting held in Yichang in September '01, many of these were addressed and by the next EC meeting in Lower Hutt, in February '02, over 90% of the actions proposed in the Plan were completed. In summer '02, IUGS Councilor Jane Plant edited the Plan and prepared it for print. Next, the Plan was put on the IUGS website. In the Bureau in Iceland June '02, it was agreed to print the Plan together with the Mid-Term Vision document, by then in preparation. Both documents are due to be printed by spring '03 after final discussion in the EC meeting in Namibia, February '03. This Status Report informs on progress in the 11 task groups created to implement the 32 Recommendations by the Strategic Planning Committee.

Task Group 1: Develop new science directions and review existing science activities in the Union

Advised by the task group the EC terminated the ABRD and created two new bodies: The Committee for Research Directions (CRD) and Ad-Hoc Review Committees (ARC's). The CRD consists of 9 members, 2 of which are representatives from affiliated bodies. The Committee is chaired by Edward Derbyshire and had its first meeting in February '02. They recommended 3 big Sciences issues. Two of these may be addressed by the International Year of Planet Earth. ARC's have no fixed membership. In April '02 COMTEC was the first Commission to be reviewed. The ARC proposed to close

COMTEC and to create a new Committee on this topic. EC members were positive. Work of this task group is complete.

Task Group 2: Develop an IUGS Grant Programme

A report with operational mode was developed by the task group and accepted by the EC. Although the work of the task group was considered complete the IUGS Grant policy is not in place yet. This is due to lack of clarity on the precise research niche for bottom-up projects to be funded by the Union and to the top-down vision of the CRD suggesting IUGS to fund their priority topics. As Science Programmes will be a major issue in the International Year connections with the IUGS Grant Programme might evolve. This topic is tabled for discussion in the next EC meeting in Namibia.

Task Group 3: Get IUGS involved in new or in existing science programmes

The task group identified current science programmes appropriate for IUGS to participate in and partners to cooperate with in new programmes. By appointing an EC member (Jean-Paul Cadet) to coordinate this work, the task group completed its work. In the mean time a new entry is being developed in IGBP and the outlines for a major joint science project are in preparation for submission to ICSU in '04. For more joint programmes a closer future relationship with IUGS is considered. The International Year may serve as a promising vehicle for new and joint programmes.

Task Group 4: Get IUGS more involved in technology transfer and in education

This task group started by preparing outlines for a new Commission. In the mean time the International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO) became affiliated to IUGS. In discussion with IGEO it is now proposed to merge efforts in the field of technology transfer and education and to bring this under IGEO wings. This matter will be discussed in the EC meeting in Namibia. The work of the task group is considered complete.

Task Group 5: Make IUGS more visible

The group developed a long list of potential actions. These were accepted by the EC in Lower Hutt. In the mean time a new professional booth was made and successfully demonstrated in GSA, Denver together with IGC. A flyer and an electronic bulletin were produced. In addition, the first IUGS Annual Report will be printed by early February 2003. A portable poster was produced and a decision on a new logo is expected by the end of January. As the International Year of Planet Earth has a major outreach component this will substantially contribute to make IUGS more visible. In addition, IGC has given IUGS a prominent position on their circulars. With the appointment of an EC member (Peter Bobrowsky) the work of the task group was complete and the EC will proceed with further visibility actions as appropriate.

Task Group 6: Professionalize IUGS' publications

This task group was taken over by the Committee for Publications. Tony Berger chaired a meeting in Washington DC, July 2002. An inquiry on outsourcing IUGS publications was disseminated among publishing houses. The EC will select the winning publishing house in Namibia. With a professional publishing house and by requesting IGCP and other IUGS supported projects to publish in the new series, IUGS hopes for a revival of their

non-serial publications. It is expected that some financial revenues will be generated for IUGS (see task group 7). In addition, a new publication policy was developed and already partly implemented for EPISODES. The IUGS website works very well and is regularly supplied with new material.

Task Group 7: Generate more financial income for IUGS

This task group met in Washington DC in July 2002 and discussed a strategy for fund raising. The group produced a document with proposals to generate more income. Apart from reshuffling the IUGS membership fee system and royalty collection from IUGS publications, particularly IUGS science programmes and commissions may profit from the activities proposed in the International Year. With this one-time meeting and the report the work of the task group was considered complete.

Task Group 8: Develop guidelines for IUGS' commissions

This group completed a document with guidelines on operational affairs for IUGS commissions, working groups, task groups and committees. Among other issues these guidelines determine the duration of such bodies and the terms of office. The guidelines were approved by the EC and the work of the task group is now completed.

Task Group 9: Merge IGC and IUGS

This task group produced a document as input for a meeting of the IGC Steering Committee in October 2002, in Florence. Except for three items (merger versus integration, status of Congress Committee, and position of external advisors in the CC) this document was endorsed by the Committee. IUGS Council members have been approached to inform them on this important item for the next Council meeting. Much work has been done by this task group already but its task will not be completed before IGC in Florence.

Task Group 10: Improve relations with affiliated organisations

This task group made an inquiry among a number of geoscientific bodies affiliated to the Union. This resulted in a long list of recommendations to improve the mutual relationship. Several of these recommendations were put in practice already, such as involvement of affiliated organisations in the CRD, attendance in more of their meetings, involvement of affiliated bodies in IGCP's Scientific Board, publication of information on affiliated organisations in the Annual Report, and provision of free publicity in EPISODES. These actions were well received by our affiliated bodies. In contrast to before the number of affiliated organisations is now increasing. Although still more can and will be done the activities of the task group are considered complete.

Task Group 11: Improve relations with adhering organisations

This task group produced a Strategy Document showing benefits of IUGS membership for nations or regions. This document also shows ways how IUGS may improve its relationship with its adhering bodies. Some of the recommendations have been implemented since, such as more personal contacts and meetings, improved communication through the IUGS electronic bulletin, a new information flyer, electronic voting, the IUGS Annual Report (as per February 2003), production of an operational

model for adhering organisations and active involvement in the International Year of Planet Earth.

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