

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF THE HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE



**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY OF
GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES (INHIGEO)**

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To: IUGS Secretariat

**From: Barry J. Cooper
Secretary General, INHIGEO**

Date: 10 November 2008

Subject: ANNUAL REPORT, transmitted from INHIGEO to IUGS

PREAMBLE

The International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) is a Commission established by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and also affiliated with the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Sciences (IUHPS).

The task of INHIGEO is to promote ongoing studies in the history of geological sciences and to stimulate and co-ordinate the activities of national and regional organizations that have the same purpose. It achieves its objective by holding and promoting national, regional, and international symposia and the publication of individual and collective works.

The following Annual Report speaks to instructions provided from the IUGS Secretariat by email on 10 October 2008.

INTRODUCTION

INHIGEO had another successful year in 2008 as evidenced by recent publications and the staging of two symposia and associated field trips dedicated to the History of Geology that have been held during the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo during August (as detailed below).

MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD

There are currently 218 INHIGEO members from 46 different countries spread across six continents of which 22 have been elected in 2008.

At the recent INHIGEO Business Meeting, held in Oslo in August 2008, the following INHIGEO members have been elected Office Bearers and members of the INHIGEO Board for the period 2008–2012.

PRESIDENT

Silvia FIGUEIRÔA (Brazil)

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Barry COOPER (Australia)

PAST-PRESIDENT

Philippe TAQUET (France)

VICE-PRESIDENT (Asia)

Jiuchen ZHANG (China)

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David OLDROYD (Australia)

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Gerardo SOTO (Costa Rica)

VICE-PRESIDENT (North America)

Gregory GOOD (USA)

The minutes of the August 2008 Business Meeting will be published in the next Newsletter.

PUBLICATIONS / COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS

Publication productivity remained high in 2008. *The History of Geomorphology and Quaternary Geology*, edited by R. H. Grapes, D. Oldroyd and A. Grigelis, was published as Special Publication 301 of the Geological Society of London. It was the product of an INHIGEO conference, held in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 2006, and contains 19 papers prepared by 25 authors, most of whom are INHIGEO members.

Papers emanating from the 2007 INHIGEO Symposium that was held in Eichstätt, Germany, are currently being edited for another Special Publication of the Geological Society of London by INHIGEO member Dr. Martina Kölbl-Ebert (Germany).

INHIGEO members also provide important input into *Episodes*, the IUGS journal. Specifically this has involved contributions dealing with significant (or classic) papers of historical interest in geology as well as historical assessments of past International Geological Congresses. Currently one classic paper contribution and two IGC articles await publication. INHIGEO Members are also substantially involved in the book review section of the journal and Professor David Oldroyd does much work polishing the English for accounts of conferences written by people whose first language is not English. He is now a member of the Editorial Board.

The annual INHIGEO Newsletter has evolved into something much more than a simple newsletter, although INHIGEO members are reluctant to sanction a change in title. Originally a pamphlet (in English and Russian) of some 20 pages, the most recent issues have been bound volumes of 101, 112, 122, 124 and 135 pages. In addition to Commission news and the routine yet wide-ranging country reports, Newsletter Number 40 (regarding events of 2007, produced in 2008) contained 9 book reviews, an obituary, citations for recent awards, an interview, as well as a fascinating article entitled “An eighteenth-century ceramic model of a coal mine” by INHIGEO member for Portugal, Professor Miguel Telles Antunes.

The newsletter always contains full contact details of INHIGEO members, thereby facilitating communications between Commission members. As well as INHIGEO members, copies of the newsletter are sent to a selected group of institutions, including IUGS and IUHPS.

Communication within INHIGEO has flourished with email correspondence. As Secretary-General, I communicate with the INHIGEO Board (spread across five continents) at least once a month. All INHIGEO members are contacted by email several times each year with these communications focussing on forthcoming conferences and newsletter reports. Members who do not use email receive airmailed hard copies of all member correspondence.

2008 MEETING IN OSLO, NORWAY

Every four years, the major INHIGEO conference / field trip is held in conjunction with the International Geological Congress. Consequently our 2008 conference was held in Norway.

Within the umbrella of the 33rd IGC the historical presentations were grouped primarily around the two excellent symposia:

- History of exploration of the polar regions (IEH-05) – 6 papers, 1 poster
- General Contributions to history of geosciences (IEH-01) – 21 papers, 8 posters

The INHIGEO Norden membership organised an informative 5-day field excursion immediately prior to the Conference to examine the classic geological sections of the Oslo Fiord and Koster Islands. A full account of the excursion will appear in the next INHIGEO newsletter.

The only regrettable aspect of the meeting was the tragic accidental death in Greenland of scheduled excursion leader, Erik Schou Jensen, just prior to the event, on 14 July 2008. The Commission sent condolences and flowers to his family.

BUDGET ISSUES and FINANCIAL SITUATION

INHIGEO has operated during 2008 in a positive financial position. We do, however, depend on IUGS for our major source of income without which the Commission could not operate. Fortunately members of the INHIGEO Board contribute much time and money voluntarily in support of the Commission. Institutional employers also provide significant assistance. The University of New South Wales has covered our mailing costs for 2008 but this has not been guaranteed for 2009, though it will probably still be forthcoming.

Our Income (in US Dollars) for 2008 has been:

IUGS (promised but not yet received, 10/11/2008)	\$4500
IUHPS	\$1490

Our Expenses (in US Dollars) for 2008 (until 10/11/2008) have been:

Newsletter Production	\$1564
Sec-Gen Expenses	\$1000
Miscellaneous office/services	\$166
Bank Fees	
(incl. account transfer to Australia)	\$29

Expenses for coming year are unpredictable. We may support keynote speakers to attend our conference in Calgary. And it is likely that there will be additional expenses associated with establishment of a website.

For this reason, we respectfully request that our annual grant be maintained at \$US4500 for 2009. Over the next 12 months we expect that our budgetary position will become clearer.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The incoming INHIGEO Board is in the pleasant position of having annual conferences planned for the next four years. These are:

Symposium 34 – Calgary, Alberta, CANADA, 10–19 August 2009

The twin themes of this conference are:

1. Historical development of the petroleum industry

Focus topics

- Early drilling techniques
- Historical development of early hydrocarbon discoveries

- History of Oil Sands and other non-conventional hydrocarbon reserves
- Founding Fathers of the Petroleum Industry
- Petroleum industry's most significant moments during the 20th century
- Society and oil a historical context

2. The discovery and development of major fossil sites

Focus topics

- Discovery of the Burgess Shale
- History of fossil lagerstätten.
- The Canadian dinosaur rush
- Historical development of vertebrate ichnology
- History of Dinosaur Provincial Park
- First nations discoveries of large fossil vertebrates.

A mid-conference field trip to Calgary museums and archives is planned.

A post-conference excursion to the Royal Tyrell Museum, the Burgess Shale and the Canadian Rockies.

Symposium 35 – Madrid and Almadén, SPAIN, 2010

The primary focus will be on the history of mining and mineral resources with pre-conference and post-conference excursions.

Symposium 36 – Toyohashi, JAPAN, 2011

Multiple Themes will include:

- History of Island Arc Studies,
- Geology and Mythology
- Pre-modern thought concerning natural resources and disasters

Symposium 37 – Brisbane, AUSTRALIA, 2012 (34IGC)

Draft plans for a field trip have been prepared.

Symposia topics have not yet been developed.

Further Symposia Proposals

A tentative proposal to have a meeting in the Netherlands in 2012 or 2013 has been made by the Commission's local membership.

In addition we have commenced discussions with the Government of Armenia for support of a 50th INHIGEO anniversary conference in 2017 in Yerevan, the birthplace of INHIGEO.

Secondary Sponsorship in 2009

During 2009, INHIGEO will also be a secondary sponsor for:

- XXIII International Congress of the History of Science and Technology, Budapest, Hungary, July 2009 – Theme: Ideas and Instruments in social context
- IAGA Conference, August 2009 – Theme: Von Humboldt's Legacy after 150 years

INHIGEO ACTIVITIES FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Publication</u>
Symposium 29	Florence (2004)	The Origins of Geology in Italy, <i>Geological Society of America Special Publication SP-411</i> (2007)
Symposium 30	Prague (2005)	<i>Earth Sciences History</i> , 2007 <i>Centaurus</i> (2006)
Symposium 31	Vilnius (2006)	Contributions to the History of Geomorphology and Quaternary Geology <i>Geological Society of London Special Publication 301</i> (2008)
Symposium 32	Eichstätt (2007)	Historical Relationship between Geology and Religion <i>Geological Society of London Special Publication (forthcoming 2009)</i>
Symposium 33	Oslo (2008)	Individual submissions to <i>Earth Sciences History</i>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have only held the position of INHIGEO Secretary General since August 2008 and as such I am deeply indebted to predecessor, Professor Kennard Bork (USA) for the prosperous state of INHIGEO affairs. Professor Bork remains an ongoing source of advice and assistance. In addition, the support of the outgoing INHIGEO Board under President Phillipe Taquet (France) in facilitating the current healthy state of INHIGEO is acknowledged.

The ongoing contribution by Professor David Oldroyd (Australia, past INHIGEO Secretary-General and current Vice-President - Australasia/Oceania) in most publication efforts is also much appreciated. He has recently been appointed Editor of the international journal *Earth Sciences History* and in this position is able to encourage INHIGEO Members to get their work published.

Sincerely Yours

Barry J. Cooper

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