

# International Union of Geological Sciences

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## NEWS FROM IUGS OFFICE

## NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

## EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS



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## I) NEWS FROM IUGS Executive Committee

### 1) Ending the Year 2025: A Message from the President



*"As we conclude 2025, I wish to convey my sincere gratitude, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to the entire IUGS community, including adhering members and organisations, commissions, task groups, initiatives, affiliated organisations, partners, and the many geoscientists whose efforts and contributions are essential to fulfilling the Union's mission. I sincerely value your ongoing support, dedication, and commitment. I look forward to continuing this journey with you as we guide the Union and the field of Geoscience towards a more integrated and impactful future. I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the IUGS Secretariat team for their dedication, professionalism, and diligent efforts, which have been instrumental in the seamless and efficient management of the Union's activities. The continued support from the Chinese Government for the Secretariat in Beijing has significantly contributed to the Union's smooth operation, and we are deeply grateful. Finally, please accept our earnest wishes for you and your families for a peaceful and joyful holiday season, as well as a healthy, fulfilling, and prosperous New Year 2026."*

Government for the Secretariat in Beijing has significantly contributed to the Union's smooth operation, and we are deeply grateful. Finally, please accept our earnest wishes for you and your families for a peaceful and joyful holiday season, as well as a healthy, fulfilling, and prosperous New Year 2026."

A detailed message reflecting on the year 2025 is available through the following [link](#).

### 2) IUGS President Named Vice Chair for the ISC-GeoUnions

On October 2, 2025, during its online progress meeting, the International Science Council (ISC) Geo- Unions Steering Committee unanimously approved the appointment of Hassina Mouri, a professor at the University of Johannesburg and IUGS President, as Vice Chair of the steering committee from 2025 to 2027. After this term, she will serve as Chair from 2027 to 2029.

The current Chair (2025-2027) is Giuliano Manara, a Professor in the Department of Information Engineering at the University of Pisa, Italy, and Vice President of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI).

The Geo-Unions Steering Committee includes leaders from ten international scientific unions that are members of the International Council for Science (ISC), focusing on Earth and space sciences. The goal of this group of scientific Unions is to promote science globally, facilitate communication, and coordinate the scientific activities of individual Unions. More information can be found at this [link](#).

### 3) IUGS President Attends 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of CCOP, Calls on East and Southeast Asian Countries to Deepen Global Geoscientific Cooperation

From November 2 to 7, Prof. Mouri, President of the IUGS, was invited to attend the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programs in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP), held in Vientiane, Laos, and to deliver a keynote address. Her speech emphasized the importance of IUGS's global platform and collaboration opportunities, aiming to strengthen connections within the geoscience community in East and Southeast Asia and to encourage more countries to join IUGS.

In her speech, Prof. Mouri clearly outlined IUGS's objectives, mission, and activities, as well as the benefits of becoming a member. She notably emphasized: *"East and Southeast Asia are a crucial region for global geoscientific research, with both abundant geological resources and complex environmental challenges. IUGS's global cooperation network can provide interdisciplinary and cross-border solutions for addressing regional issues."*

In response to regional cooperation needs, Prof. Mouri stressed the importance of promoting IUGS's scientific activities and collaboration mechanisms. Highlighting CCOP's regional role, she noted that both organizations are closely aligned in advancing geoscience to support sustainable development. As a regional intergovernmental organization with 16 member countries, CCOP's mission of "To work

together on advancing Geoscience for better lives on a future earth" aligns with IUGS's goal of "To promote international collaboration in Geoscience for the benefit of humanity." Moving forward, both sides will have many opportunities to collaborate in areas such as digital geoscience transformation and innovation, geological hazard management, sustainable resource use, and geopark development and management.

"Joining IUGS not only provides access to advanced international academic resources but also allows participation in shaping global geoscientific regulations, ensuring regional needs are heard on the world stage," said Prof. Mouri.



Group photo featuring IUGS President, Prof. Hassina Mouri, Director of CCOP Technical Secretariat Yongzheng MA, representatives from 11 CCOP member countries, 5 cooperating countries, and 3 cooperating organizations, CCOP Honorary Advisers at the 61st CCOP Annual Session in Vientiane, Laos.

In his response, Mr. Ma Yongzheng, Director of the CCOP Technical Secretariat, stated that accurately aligning IUGS's global resources with regional needs will enhance geoscience development in East and Southeast Asia. Going forward, efforts will focus on fostering closer dialogue and cooperation between member countries and IUGS.

Founded in 1966, with its Technical Secretariat in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, CCOP is the only intergovernmental international geoscientific organization in East and Southeast Asia. It is dedicated to coordinating geoscientific research and planning in the region to support sustainable economic growth and improve people's quality of life.

Over 150 representatives from CCOP member countries and cooperating nations attended the **61<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of CCOP**. During the event, CCOP also hosted a thematic session titled "Geoscience Driving Sustainability and Resilience," where 57 scholars delivered oral presentations and participated in in-depth discussions on topics such as geological hazard management, digital transformation, sustainable resource use, and geological hazard monitoring and management.

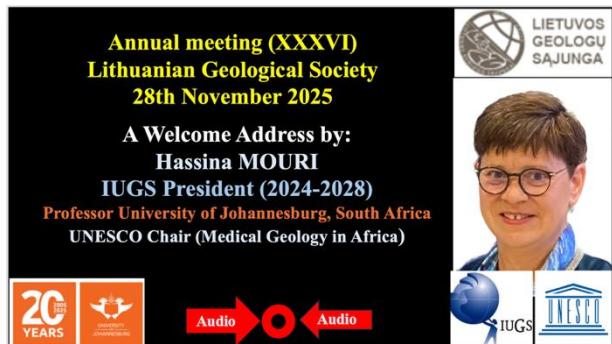
Along with the IUGS President, Dr. Weijun Zhao the IUGS Councillor and members of the IUGS secretariat also attended, showcasing the IUGS products and activities at an exhibition booth.



Group photo featuring IUGS President, Councillor, Dr. ZHAO, and the Secretariat staff members at the 61<sup>st</sup> CCOP Annual Session in Vientiane, Laos

#### 4) IUGS President invited to address delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Lithuanian Geological Society

On November 28, 2025, Prof. Mouri extended a warm welcome to the delegates at the opening of the XXXVI Annual Meeting of the Lithuanian Geological Society (LGS) through a video message. In her address, Prof. Mouri conveyed that the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is pleased to learn that the Lithuanian Geological Society (LGS) is the Adhering Organization, thereby representing the Lithuanian geoscience community within the union. She underscored that this development signifies more than mere formalities; it affirms the Society's ongoing commitment to scientific excellence and enhances its role within the international geoscience community. Prof. Mouri congratulated Dr. Jonas Satkūnas on his re-election as Chairman of the society and emphasized the importance of fostering closer collaboration with the Lithuanian geoscience community in the forthcoming years.



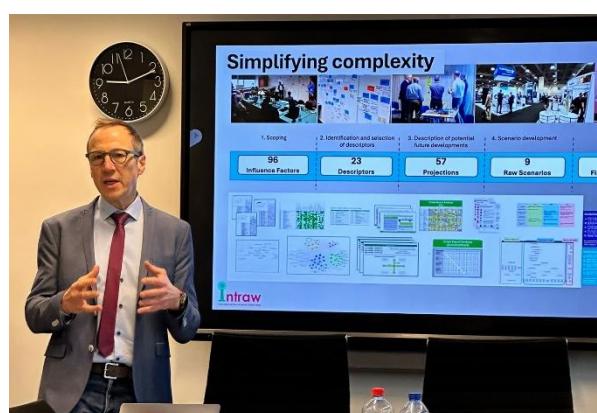
#### 5) IUGS – Vice President Prof. Marko Komac represented the Union at the 5<sup>th</sup> IPGC in Zaragoza from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November

Associate Professor Marko Komac delivered concluding remarks on behalf of IUGS, its members, and the Executive Committee at the 5<sup>th</sup> IPGC ([https://www.5<sup>th</sup>-ipgc.com/](https://www.5th-ipgc.com/)), which the Union supported as an international partner organisation. At this event, critical geoscience-related issues were discussed, ranging from research results and their applications to the latest technological developments in the field, to the geo-ethical issues and challenges the profession faces in this turbid world. In addition, on 7<sup>th</sup> November, IUGS co-organised with the European Federation of Geologists and INTRAW Observatory a Spotlight session titled "Navigating the Path for the Green Transition".



#### 6) IUGS - Vice Prof. Marko Komac President presentation at the Raw Materials Week in Brussels

IUGS- Vice President Associate Professor Marko Komac had the privilege to discuss the relevance of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) in the domains of ethical, social, and responsible exploration, mining, and related activities at the Raw Materials Week that the European Commission organised in Brussels from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025. A vibrant community of policymakers, industry players, and fellow geoscience experts from the CRM sector provided a platform for engaging and fruitful discussions.



## II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

### 1) News from the [Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines \(CGGB\)](#)

#### Participation in webinars and Congress

The [Geochemistry Expert Group](#) of the [Ibero-American Association of Geological and Mining Surveys \(ASGMI-GEG\)](#) organised the third webinar in the series “**Geochemical Information for Social Service**”, entitled “**Generating Geochemical Information for Society: Sample Analysis**”, held on November 12–13, 2025, and coordinated by the Geological Survey of Ecuador.

The [ASGMI-GEG](#) webinar brought together more than 86 participants and featured distinguished speakers from international organisations, as well as experts in geochemical sample analysis from Latin America, Spain, and Portugal. Alecos Demetriades (CGGB Chair), Anna Ladenberger (Senior Geochemist at the Geological Survey of Sweden & CGGB Steering Committee Councillor), Philippe Négrel (Chair of the EuroGeoSurveys Geochemistry Expert Group), and Jinfeng Bai (Laboratory Director, Institute of Geophysical and Geochemical Exploration, Langfang, China), among others, shared their expertise through outstanding presentations. David Cohen (IUGS Treasurer) was unable to join but sent his presentation with notes. All presentations are available from a dedicated [pCloud folder](#).

This event provided a valuable opportunity for applied geochemists to exchange knowledge on analytical quality control, analytical methodologies and techniques, and standard procedures. It also highlighted the available analytical capabilities in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The discussion sessions emphasised the importance of producing reliable and high-quality geochemical data to support diverse applications, including global geochemical baselines, mineral resource assessment, environmental and health studies, and broader sustainable development goals.

On 5 November, Iván Martín delivered a presentation on the [IUGS Manual of Standard Methods](#) during the [5<sup>th</sup> International Professional Geology Conference \(IPGC\)](#), which took place in Zaragoza (Spain).

IUGS and CGGB supported the South Asia edition of the virtual [4<sup>th</sup> International Student Conference on Medical Geology and Environmental Health](#), which was coordinated by the [Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University](#) in India from 24 to 29 November 2025. The session chairs were very pleased with the excellent oral and poster presentations of the postgraduate students. The CGGB chair delivered a workshop lecture with the title “[Preparing manuscripts for publication in International Journals: Instructions for young researchers](#)”.



ASGMI webinar logo (left) and logos of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Student Conference and supporting organisations (right).

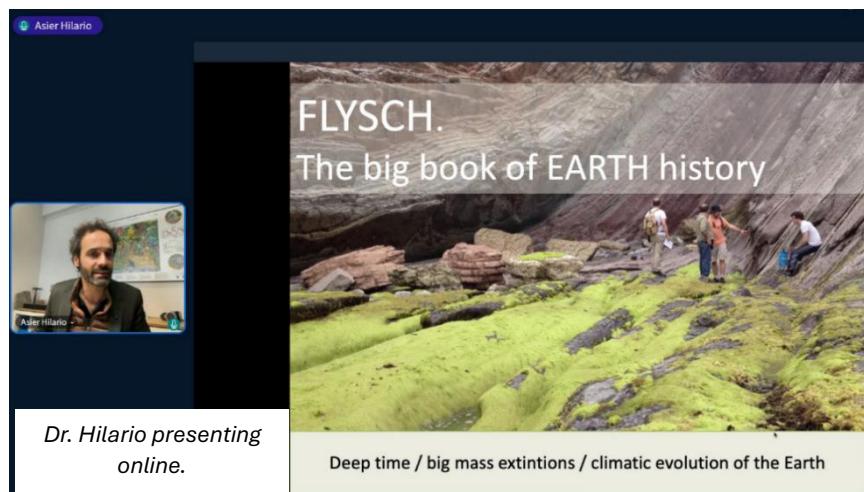
## 2) News from the IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage

Seminar by Dr. Asier Hilario in **International Recognition of the Memory of the Earth** at the Institute of Geosciences, Heidelberg University – 12 November 2025, Invited by Prof. Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte,

On 12 November 2025, the Institute of Geosciences at Heidelberg University hosted a livestream lecture by Dr. Asier Hilario Orús, scientific coordinator of the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark and Chair of the IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage.

In his talk, "*International Recognition to the Memory of the Earth*," Dr. Hilario outlined how geological heritage has been identified and valued worldwide—from UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Global Geoparks to the IUGS-designated Geological Heritage Sites. He emphasized the growing role of IUGS in promoting Earth literacy and strengthening geoscience education.

A central focus of the lecture was the Flysch of the Basque Coast, one of the most continuous and scientifically significant stratigraphic archives known, recording more than 60 million years of environmental and climatic change. Dr. Hilario also extended an open invitation to visit the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark. In line with IUGS's educational mission, the Institute of Geosciences will organize a student field excursion to Zumaia in October 2026, providing hands-on training in stratigraphy, sedimentology, and geoconservation in one of Europe's most iconic geological settings.



## 3) News from the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

### a) INHIGEO Anniversaries – new contribution

Occasion: Époques in Auvergne – 250 years ago

Author: Kenneth L. Taylor (USA)

Title: Nicolas Desmarest's field examination of Auvergne volcanic products yields three distinct epochs, 1775.

On 15 November 1775, at the autumn public assembly of the Royal Academy of Sciences in Paris, Nicolas Desmarest (1725–1815) presented an account of some results from his field researches amidst the extinct volcanoes of Auvergne, in south-central France. It was the first report in which he placed special emphasis on the historical interpretation of the province's volcanic productions. Please open the link to know more: [link](#)



N<sup>o</sup><sup>s</sup> DESMAREST  
(Géologue)  
Membre de l'Académie des Sciences,  
Né à Soulaine (Aube) le 16 Septembre 1725.  
Mort à Paris le 28 Septembre 1815.

Nicolas Desmarest (1725–1815), wearing the garb of the Institute de France. Engraving by Ambroise Tardieu.

## b) Award to an INHIGEO member

Geological Society of America – October 2025 Mary C. Rabbitt History and Philosophy of Geology Annual Award



INHIGEO member **Renee M. Clary (Mississippi State University, USA)** was the recipient for her contribution to the History of Geology of the 2025 Mary C. Rabbitt History and Philosophy Award of the Geological Society of America, presented at the annual meeting held in San Antonio, Texas, 19-22 October 2025. The Award is presented annually by the Geological Society of America's History and Philosophy of Geology Division to an individual for exceptional scholarly contributions of fundamental importance to our understanding of the history of the geological sciences and candidates are from a worldwide pool. See: [link](#)

*Renee M. Clary receiving the award from David Spanagel.*

## 4) News from the IUGS-Commission on Geoethics (CG)

### c) New book published in the Springer Briefs in Geoethics series

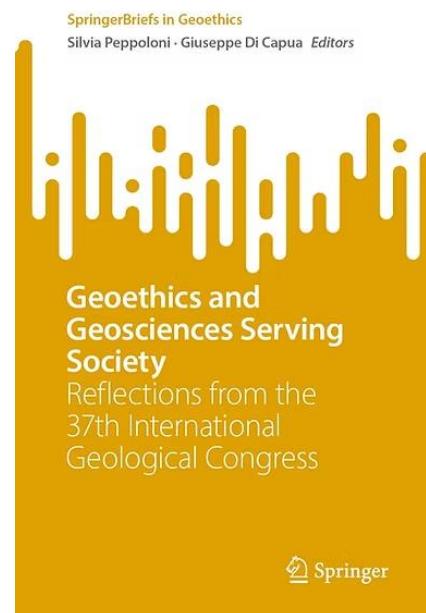
Peppoloni S. and Di Capua G. (2025). *Geoethics and Geosciences Serving Society: Reflections from the 37<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress*. Springer. See: [link](#)

Drawing from the session “Geoethics at the Heart of All Geoscience: Serving the Public Good” at the 37<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (IGC), contributors share insights and expertise, outline methodologies and strategies, raise critical questions, propose best practices, and present case studies addressing the ethical, social, and cultural dimensions of geoscience. This diversity supports a pluralistic, interdisciplinary approach that fosters dialogue and collaboration.

Table of contents:

- Introduction
- The Future Challenges of Geoethics: Navigating Technology, Sustainability, and Social and Professional Responsibility
- Valuing Diversity in Geological Interpretation: A Warning from History
- Towards Integrating Indigeneity and Geoethical Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand
- Operational Ethics for Researching Geohazards
- Geoheritage, Geotourism, and Geoethics as Support for Rural Development: A Case Study from Sundarbans Wetlands..., India
- The Anthropocene Event as a Holistic Foundation for Earth Governance
- Red Planet, Green Ethics: Navigating the Moral Terrain of Terraforming Mars
- Geoscience Diplomacy at the Edge of the Continental Shelf

More: [link](#)



### d) AI in the Geosciences Conference 2026: The Call for Abstracts is open (deadline: 5 January 2026)!

The IUGS Commission on Geoethics (CG) and the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) will contribute to this event, which will take place at The Geological Society, London (UK), and

online on 4-5 June 2026. Among convenors: Paul Cleverley (CG - Task Group on AI in Geosciences), Silvia Peppoloni (IAPG President; CG Chair), Giuseppe Di Capua (IAPG Secretary General; CG Treasurer).

Alongside cutting-edge research, the event will tackle crucial topics around ethics, transparency, education, and responsible innovation, creating space for discussion, collaboration, and professional development. More: [Link](#)



*Flyer of the conference*

## 5) News from the IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE):

The IUGS-COGE continues to strengthen its global network and advance impactful geoscience education initiatives worldwide. Key highlights for November underscore our commitment to governance, global partnership, and recognition of excellence:



### a) Governance & Strategic Integration

Following a critical survey and Terms of Reference revision, COGE has enhanced its organizational structure to boost efficiency and transparency among all their teams. As a result, the GEFO Programme is now strategically integrated within the Subcommission on Education, Outreach, and Policy (EOP). The Commission is also welcoming new Regular Members from Colombia and Argentina, further enriching our expertise and international scope in the Latin American.

### b) International Engagement

COGE is expanding its global partnerships for 2026, securing and planning collaborations with key international entities like the SEAMEO QITEP in Science, the Earth Science Teachers Association (UK), the International Council of Associations for Science Education, Geology for Global Development, and the European Federation of Geologists, Education Section. A new Memorandum of Understanding with REDCITIA (Argentine Network of Geoeducators) strengthens joint geoscience education initiatives across the LAC region. We continue supporting the IAEG Peru for the 2026 Geoscience Olympiad and we are also a strategic partner/collaborator for the GOESCIED X to be held in Adelaide next year.

### c) Geoscience Educator of the Month (GEM)

Our November GEM is Dr. Tanja Reinhardt (South Africa). Her outstanding contributions to geoscience education include creative, hands-on approaches like energetic science shows, unique Tsunami and Periodic Table exhibits, and the development of specialized resources for visually impaired learners. A leader in IGEO and GSSA, her work impacts over 13,500 students and teachers annually through workshops and science centre training, setting a high standard for outreach in the Global South.



**GEOSCIENCE EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH (GEM)**

**MAJOR: CREATIVE GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

- Developed South Africa's first Periodic Table showcasing real elements (rocks/minerals).
- Created displays like the Tsunami model and designed specialized models for visually impaired learners.
- Two-time awarded 'Best Workshop Presenter' at the SciFest Africa for geology workshops.

**HOBBY: TRAVELLING THE WORLD AND CREATIVE SCIENCE EDUCATION**

**GET TO KNOW OUR #GEMS BY VISITING THE COGE WEBSITE**

<https://iugscoge.org/>



**Tanja Reinhardt**



### d) EOP and EDI efforts

COGE-EOP presents

**LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS AND THEIR ROLE IN GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**



**27 NOVEMBER, 2025**

Time: 14:00 (GMT) 22:00 (AWST)

**PAUL CLEVERLEY**  
Chair of the AI Ethics Task Group of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics

Moderator:  
Sandra Villacorta  
IUGS-COGE Chair

<https://iugscoge.org/>

 Microsoft Teams

COGE hosted a key webinar on the use of Artificial Intelligence tools in Geoscience Education, featuring Prof. Paul Cleverley (UK). The session explored opportunities and challenges of Large Language Models in teaching and research, emphasizing ethical AI use, critical thinking, and domain expertise, while reaffirming the value of field-based learning. The recording will be available on our YouTube channel.

Additionally, our new [EDI page](#) highlights initiatives fostering inclusive participation and collaboration across the global geoeducation community.

Stay tuned for upcoming webinars and activities on our [website](#), and follow @iugscoge on social media to learn about new opportunities, success stories, and the evolving landscape of geoscience education worldwide.

### III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS



Rome, Italy: 28-29 April 2026  
 MENA EARTH Science Congress  
<https://www.ierek.com/events/mena-earth-science-congress-mesc#introduction>



Nairobi, Kenya: 2-4 DEC 2025  
 Geo-digitalization for sustainable development goals and 3<sup>rd</sup> Youth Innovation Forum of Digital Earth

## IV) OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

- 1) INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS: Please adhere to the guidelines below when submitting your news for publication in the E-Bulletin:
  - Number of words: Maximum 300 words with links to the other sources for more details about the activities.
  - Font and Size: (Heading 1: Roboto 16, Heading 2: Roboto B12, Heading 3: Roboto-Regular 12, Heading 4: Roboto B 11, and Body: Roboto 11)
  - Photographs: Maximum two high-resolution (inserted in the text with caption) and attached as JPG to your email. Please clearly acknowledge the authorship of all submitted photos!
  - Language: **Please make sure your text is thoroughly checked for language.**
  - Deadline for submission to Editors: We kindly request to submit your news by the end of each month. For example, news of June is supposed to be published in 1st week of July. Submit your news to the Editors:

Dr. Farnoosh Farjandi (IUGS Councillor), Geological Survey of Iran, Iran

Email: [farnooshfarjandi@gmail.com](mailto:farnooshfarjandi@gmail.com)

Dr. Weijun ZHAO (IUGS Councillor), Shenyang Centre, China Geological Survey, China

Email: [wilsonwjjz@outlook.com](mailto:wilsonwjjz@outlook.com)

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