

International Union of Geological Sciences

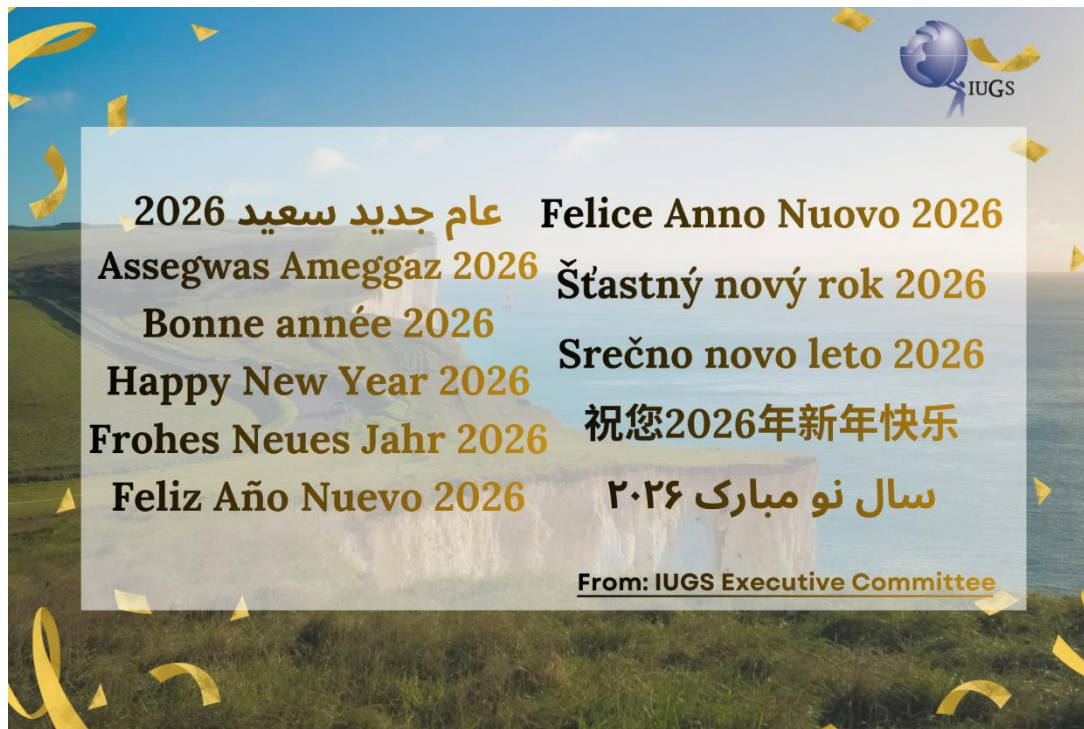
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**NEWS FROM IUGS
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

**NEWS FROM IUGS
MEMBERS**

**EVENTS IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH
IUGS**



Happy New Year 2026 wishes in the different languages spoken by the members of the IUGS Executive Committee

E-Bulletin at a Glance

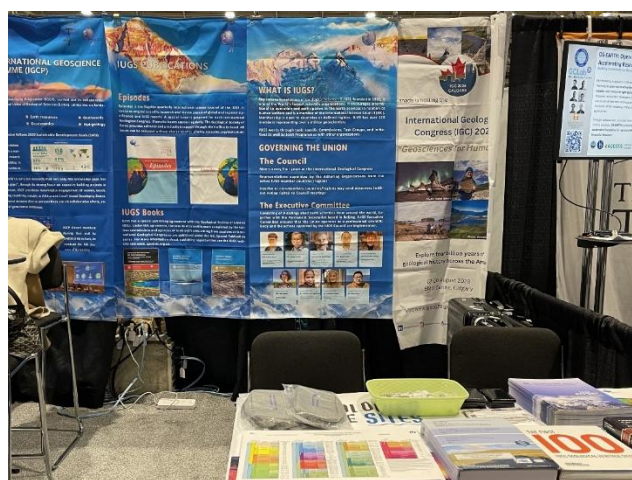
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I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1) IUGS @ AGU Fall Meeting 2025

IUGS was present at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting 2025 in New Orleans, USA, from 15 to 19 December 2025, through an exhibition booth organised by the Secretariat's office in Beijing.

IUGS activities and materials, including publications such as the IUGS Geological Heritage Series Book, the Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network, were displayed and reviewed at the booth. IGCP projects, IUGS Ten Action Plans for Africa, and the latest version of the ICS Chronostratigraphic Chart attracted several meeting participants. The 38th IGC, to be held in Calgary, Canada, on 12-20 August 2028, was also promoted at the booth.



II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

1) News from the Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

IUGS Manual of Standard Methods at the AGU25 annual meeting and other information

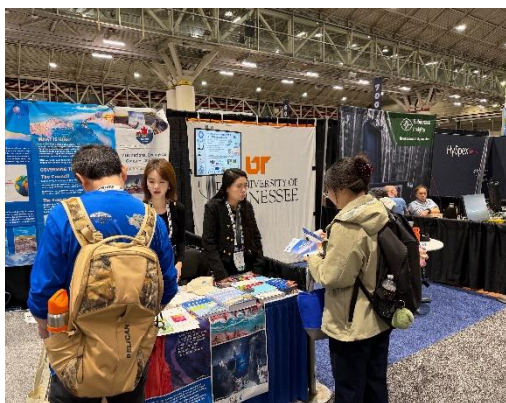
The [IUGS Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network](#) was displayed at the IUGS booth at the American Geophysical Union's 2025 Annual Meeting ([AGU25](#)) in New Orleans, U.S.A. (15-19 December 2025; see photos below). The AGU annual meeting attracts more than 20,000 participants from around the world; it is considered the largest annual gathering of earth and space scientists, educators, policymakers and communicators.

The display of the IUGS Manual of Standard Methods at two big global annual scientific events—the EGU General Assembly in Vienna (Austria) last spring, and the AGU Annual Meeting in the U.S.A. in the winter helps its widespread distribution enormously. The [Zenodo](#) website records 682 downloads of the Manual and 849 views from its publication date (September 2 2022) until December 31 2025; whereas, from the two [CGGB Publications](#) webpages, 267 people downloaded the Manual during the same period, making a grand total of 949 downloads.

On 24 September 2025, the CGGB Chair received the following message from the U.S.A. PhD student:
"I recently came across the 'Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical

Reference Network', which you edited. It has become a key reference for my work on the Amazon project, where I am conducting a paired watershed comparison between a watershed impacted by gold mining and one that is not." It is concluded that the Manual is reaching scientists outside our applied geochemistry community.

Two CGGB Steering Committee members, Gloria Prieto (in person) and Anna Ladenberger (online), participated in the meeting of the first session of the second term of the Governing Board and Academic Committee of the UNESCO International Centre on Global-Scale Geochemistry, which was held in Langfang (P.R. China) on 8 and 9 December 2025.



Left: IUGS booth in which the IUGS Manual of Standard Methods was displayed at the front row of the desk (third item from the right); Right: the second item from the left. Photographs by Mrs Mu Langfeng (IUGS Secretariat staff member).

2) News from the Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE)

COGE remains committed to advancing geoscience education worldwide by strengthening governance, fostering global engagement, and promoting inclusive education and outreach initiatives.

Governance, Membership & Global Engagement

COGE continued to strengthen its organisational structure, improving efficiency and transparency across its teams and preparing the Commission for new initiatives in 2026. We are pleased to welcome our new Regular Members, Xavier Juan (Spain) and María Julia Solari (Argentina), whose expertise promises to strengthen regional representation and engagement within the Commission. We also welcome Prof. Ramanathan Baskar (Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi) as the newly elected COGE Compliance Advisor, strengthening the Commission's governance framework and alignment with IUGS policies. His extensive experience includes leadership roles within the Geological Society of India, IGEO, and the IUGS Subcommission on Geocollections.

As part of its international engagement, COGE is a proud sponsor of [GeoSciEd X](#), to be held in Adelaide in 2026, reaffirming its commitment to global collaboration in geoscience education.

Education, Outreach & Capacity Building

COGE remains actively engaged in international education and outreach. Prof. Mónica Guzmán (Bolivia) contributed to the IWA Water and Development Congress & Exhibition 2025 in Bangkok, highlighting the fire–water nexus and linking local experiences with global discussions on resilience and capacity development.

GEFO IN ACTION EARTH SCIENCE WORKSHOP – LIBYA



Inspiring Secondary Students in Earth Sciences in the Benghazi Gifted Center



GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION FIELD OFFICER PROGRAMME

<https://iugscoge.org/>

Through the GEFO Programme, COGE Field Officer Salah El-Ekhfifi (Libya) delivered a workshop at the Benghazi Centre for Gifted Students, approved by the General Authority for Gifted Students, introducing secondary school students to key Earth Science concepts, including fossils, geotourism, and geoparks in the context of sustainable development.

As 2025 draws to a close, we extend our warmest wishes to the global geoscience education community and thank all partners and volunteers for their continued commitment. We look forward to strengthening collaboration in 2026.

Follow @iugscoge to stay informed about our activities and the evolving landscape of global geoscience education.

3) News from the International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits (IAGOD)

IAGOD 2026: 16th IAGOD Quadrennial Symposium – Porto, Portugal (30 August–2 September 2026)

Founded at the 22nd International Geological Congress in 1964 and approved by the IUGS in 1966, the International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits (IAGOD) promotes international cooperation in ore-deposit research. It advances the understanding of mineral systems to underpin a secure and responsible supply of mineral resources. Through its global Commissions and Working Groups—covering ore-deposit tectonics, ore-forming fluids, critical metals, industrial minerals, and sustainable mining—IAGOD supports knowledge exchange, training, and early-career development across both OECD and less-developed countries.

IAGOD's flagship Quadrennial Symposium will return in 2026 to Porto, Portugal. Hosted by the Faculty of Sciences, University of Porto, the 16th Symposium will focus on **"The Role of Geoscience in the Energy Transition"**. It will highlight how ore-deposit science, critical raw materials, and responsible resource development contribute to decarbonization and a greener economy. The meeting typically brings together 400–600 participants from academia, geological surveys, and industry.

A programme of 28 Scientific Sessions spans:

- **Critical Raw-Material systems** (Ni–Cu–PGE, carbonatites/alkaline rocks, pegmatites, lithium in the critical zone, coal-hosted critical elements, and emerging **CRMs**);
- **Major deposit types and mineral systems** (orogenic gold; epithermal–porphyry; VMS and sediment-hosted massive sulphides; IOA–IOCG);
- **Exploration and geometallurgy frontiers** (remote sensing and AI, automated mineralogy, geochemical vectoring and data-driven targeting, micro-analytical constraints on paragenesis).



Left: Field trips for IAGOD 2026. Geology and the volcanic landscapes of the Azorean islands, Between Granite and Grapes; Right: A field trip into the Heart of Vinho Verde's Terroir.

Workshops and field excursions to world-class districts—including the Iberian Pyrite Belt and the Panasqueira mines—are planned. We look forward to welcoming the global geoscience community to Porto, an Atlantic city with a UNESCO World Heritage-listed historic centre, for timely discussions on mineral resources and the energy transition.

Contact & website: iagod2026@inporto.events and <https://iagod2026.inporto.events/>.

4) News from the International Association of Medical Geology (IMGA) and the Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

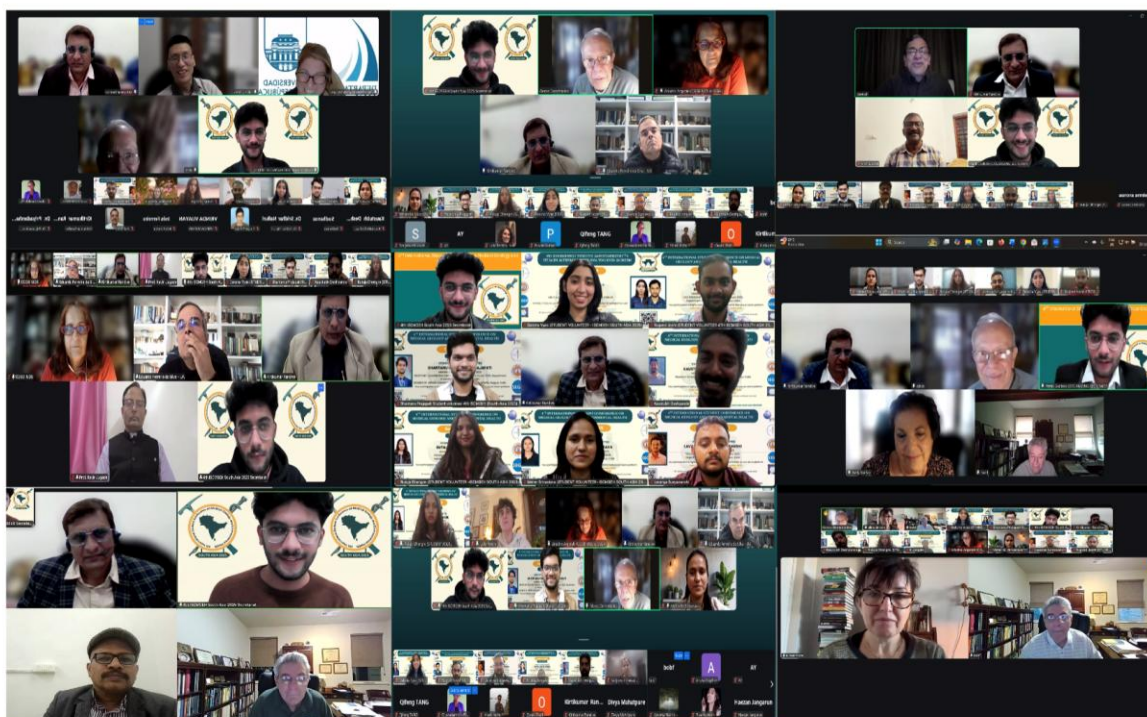
The 4th International Students Conference on Medical Geology and Environmental Health

The 4th ISCMGEH South Asia 2025 was held online from 24th to 29th November 2025. This edition marked a significant milestone in the series of ISCMGEH conferences, following the tradition of earlier chapters in Latin America (2021), Africa (2022), and Europe (2024). The South Asian chapter was hosted by the Post Graduate Department of Geology, RTM Nagpur University, Nagpur (India). The conference was organised under the auspices of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) was supported by several international organisations, including the Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH), the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA), the IUGS–Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (IUGS–CGGB), and the International Environmental and Health Sciences Consortium (IEHSC). Springer Nature sponsored the event. The South Asian edition drew an exceptional response, with over **600 participants from 27 countries across South**

Asia and other regions of the world. The six-day conference featured 72 oral presentations, 48 poster presentations, and two specialised workshops. A dedicated e-poster wall was developed for the participants on the conference website <https://iscmgeh-southasia.com>. Two workshops arranged for young researchers were conducted by Prof. Robert Finkelman (USA) and Dr Alecos Demetriades (Hellenic Republic), providing valuable training and guidance. Keynote addresses were delivered by distinguished experts, including Prof. Rajasekhar Balasubramanian (Singapore), Prof. Srilert Chotpantarat (Thailand), Prof. M. Santosh (China), Prof. Shaji E. (India), Prof. José Centeno (USA), and Prof. Ravin Jugade (India). The technical sessions were chaired by eminent scientists from all around the Globe. The conference was hosted by Mr Pratik Godbole (Organising Secretary) under the guidance of Prof. Kirtikumar Randive (Conference Chair). Outstanding oral and poster presenters were awarded with e-hampers and certificates, and a selection of the ten best presenters were awarded with a one-year IMGA membership.



Announcement of the 4th International Student Conference and supporting organisations.



Several screen-captures of the online sessions (By Mr. Pratik Godbole)

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

INHIGEO Anniversaries – New Contribution

Occasion: Early Micropalaeontologist Died 110 Years Ago

Author: Martina Kölbl-Ebert (GERMANY)

Title: Clara Ehrenberg (1838–1915): Early Female Micropalaeontologist

By the time Clara Ehrenberg (1838–1915) was a one-year-old, her father, Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg (1795–1876) was already a full professor at the University of Berlin in Germany and a pioneer of a new field of research, micropalaeontology. Clara, the youngest daughter, never married, and as age took its toll on her father's health, she became his assistant and researcher in her own right.

For more information, visit: <https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>.



Clara Ehrenberg (1838–1915).

6) News from the Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

Paper Cited in UNODC Report

A paper published by Laurance Donnelly and Duncan Pirrie on 'Crimes Associated with Geological Materials: Mining, Minerals, Metals and Fossils' published in 'Geology Today', Volume 40(4), July 2024 on the [website](#), has been cited in a report by UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) on 'Minerals Crime: Illegal Gold Mining' available at https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Crimes%20on%20Environment/ECR25_P2b_Minerals_Crime.pdf.

BBC YouTube Report on Illegal Sand Extraction

A BBC report on YouTube provides details of the billions of dollars made by illegal sand extraction and the associated environmental impacts. IUGS-IFG, in association with the British Geological Survey (BGS) and the Geological Society of London Forensic Geoscience Group (GSL-FGG), will hold a one-day conference on illegal sand mining at GSL headquarters, London, on 18 March 2026.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ASGA9IBJTY>.

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/events/the-global-challenge-of-sand-mining-international-conference/>.

Brazilian Federal Police, Illicit Gold and Traceability

On 2-5 December 2025, the BFP (Brazilian Federal Police) organised a seminar on illicit gold and traceability, with a focus on the Yanomami Land in the Amazon. This also aligns with projects in Europe and South Africa on mineral and gold traceability, and the IUGS-IFG Special Project on mining crime.

Fabio Salvador, IUGS-IFG Officer for Latin America, salvador.fass@pf.gov.br.

Session on Forensic Geology Accepted by the Japan Geoscience Union (JpGU)

Forensic geology has been accepted as a session at the 2026 joint meeting of the Japan Geoscience Union (JpGU) and the American Geophysical Union (AGU), in collaboration with the Geological Society of Japan (JGS), Society of Geomagnetism and Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences (SGEPSS) and the Japanese Society of Geo-pollution Science, Medical Geology and Urban Geology (PMUG). The submission of abstracts will open on **15 January 2026 at 14:00** and close on **17 February 2026 at 17:00**.

https://www.jpgu.org/meeting_e2026/.

Ritsuko Sugita, National Research Institute of Police Science, sugita@nrips.go.jp.

Noriko Kawamura, Japan Coast Guard, kawamura-noriko@jcga.ac.jp.

Libby Stern, FBI Lab, lstern@fbi.gov.

Laurance Donnelly, IUGS-IFG Chair, laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com | geologist@hotmail.co.uk.

Molecular Tracking for Commodities

The 13th Annual Precious Metals Conference, held by the Dubai Multi Commodities Centre, revealed a molecular identification system for traceability. Developed by SMX, this embeds chemical markers into metals and minerals that survive melting, refining and transport, providing an alternative to traditional paper-based verification.

<https://www.morningstar.com/news/accesswire/1112743msn/the-smx-technology-driving-dubais-precious-metals-proof-based-takeover>.

7) News from the IUGS Task Group on Submarine Geohazards (TGSG)

Session and discussion in terms of submarine geohazards in CCOP, Laos

The 61st CCOP Annual Session and 85th Steering Committee Meeting were held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Vientiane, Laos, from 2nd to 7th November 2025. CCOP stands for the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programs in East and Southeast Asia. It is an intergovernmental organisation that promotes and coordinates geoscience projects, workshops, and other activities, intending to foster economic development and improve living standards in East and Southeast Asia.

CCOP was established in 1966 under the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). Initially, it focused on joint marine exploration, coordinating the planning, research, and survey planning, and its implementation. Its activities were primarily funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Currently, CCOP comprises 16 member countries, 14 cooperating countries and 16 collaborating organisations, including IUGS.

In recent years, CCOP member states have experienced disasters such as the 2025 Myanmar earthquake and other recent geological disasters. TGSG plans to collaborate with CCOP to compile information on these land and seafloor geological disasters and study ways to mitigate damage.

On November 5, TGSG held a hybrid Thematic Session 4, titled "Submarine Geohazards Risk and Reduction and Myanmar Earthquake of 2025" (details are available on our website at <https://iugs->

tgsg.com/). Subsequently, on November 7, TGSG delegates visited the National University of Laos to invite them to become members and discuss potential collaborative research. Through such international exchanges, we aim to raise awareness of TGSG's activities and attract more collaborators to work with us.



Left: Thematic Session 4: Submarine Geohazards Risk and Reduction and 2025 Myanmar Earthquake



Right: TGSG representatives at the National University of Laos

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#introd>

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.
 - **Language:** Kindly make sure your text is corrected 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. Wei Jun ZHAO (IUGS Councillor) Shenyang Centre, China Geological Survey, China
Email: wilsonwjz@outlook.com

Dr. Farnoosh Farjandi (IUGS Councillor) Geological Survey of Iran, Iran
Email: farnooshfarjandi@gmail.com
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