



**International Union of Geological Sciences
International Geological Congress
Fifth Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council**

MINUTES

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

John Ludden, IUGS President opened the meeting by welcoming all the participants in the IUGS-IGC Council Meeting.

Daekyo Cheong, the President of the 37th International Geological Congress (IGC) and Vice President of IUGS extended welcome to all the participants of the Council Meeting and emphasized the importance of international collaboration in geosciences in terms of addressing major global challenges in sustainable development, climate and environmental change.

Bok Chul Kim, the Chairperson of National Research Council of Science and Technology of South Korea welcomed all the meeting participants. He encouraged collective work of international geosciences community to deal with global challenges, such as climate change.

Young-Seog Kim, the President of Geological Society of Korea reviewed the collaboration between Korean geologists and IUGS and expressed that Geological Society of Korea will be more involved in IUGS in future. Geological Society of Korea is planning to expand the fund for the participation of young geologists and students from developing countries to the 37th IGC.

2. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

a) Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda

Passed unanimously

b) Approval of the Order of Business

Motion to approve the Order of Business

Passed unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF IUGS-IGC COUNCIL, 28-30 OCTOBER 2020

Motion to approve the Minutes of the Extraordinary Session of IUGS-IGC Council, 28-30 October, 2020

Passed unanimously

4. REPORTS OF IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

a) President's Report

The IUGS President John Ludden reported that this period was hindered by significant disruption globally and the IUGS did not escape this, nonetheless the IUGS executive managed to innovate and kept activities moving throughout the period. The COVID pandemic hit the world in 2020 and IUGS was impacted in the cancellation of the 36th IGC which was due to take place in Delhi. Many participants had booked flights and hotels and paid registration for the conference and associated events. Some pre-conference field trips took place exemplifying just how critical our actions were with the local organising committee LOC. IUGS helped the LOC as best it could in reimbursing registrants. A virtual conference was held in March 2022.

The COVID epidemic also changed the way the IUGS executive worked. Our meetings were virtual and were interspersed with progress meetings through 2020 and 2021. The first in person (and virtual hybrid) executive meeting, the 77th IUGS Executive meeting, was held in Paris in March 2022. It made all the difference to meet the executive and other invited participants in person. As health concerns for travel were lessening the 78th Executive meeting in Belfast was even more successful and included a field trip to the famous Giant's Causeway. Finally, as had been promoted on the election of the new Executive we held a very successful meeting in Nairobi, Kenya and coupled this meeting with a workshop attended by many leading geological colleagues on creation of an action plan for IUGS in Africa - The actions identified are ambitious and involve our African colleagues and our commissions, task force and affiliated organisations. The challenge now is for IUGS to deliver on these proposed actions for Africa. Following this, the new IUGS Executive might consider how to undertake a similar action plan for South America and other regions where we need to develop our global reach.

IUGS' 60th anniversary (IUGS60) was in 2021 but was celebrated in 2022 as COVID interfered with our plans. Most of the events were virtual and included webinar discussions, debates, a film festival and many others. IUGS hired a professional organiser to help with the activities, which in my mind demonstrated the need for the IUGS executive to invest in professional help in key areas, rather than rely on volunteers. Some of the outputs from the IUGS60 are available on <https://www.iugs.org/iugs60>. The First Hundred IUGS Geological Heritage sites were launched as part of our anniversary celebrations at an event in Zumaia on the Basque coast of Spain in October 2022. This event culminated in the Zumaia declaration. It will be followed up by the next 100 sites and the recognition of key geocollections and heritage stones at the 37th IGC in Busan.

An outcome of the 60th anniversary events was the recognition of the need to significantly enhance outreach activities within IUGS through better promotion of our commissions, groups and enhanced links with affiliated bodies and the International Science Council, specifically with respect to providing a stronger voice to the geological sciences. IUGS supports "Young Reporters" program to involve more students and early career geoscientists to raise awareness of earth sciences.

The role of women in geoscience was part of the IUGS60 celebration and this was taken forward as part of the creation of an IUGS commission on Geoethics and in interactions with the International Science Council ISC. The Executive has insisted on a balanced slate of candidate for all new positions within the IUGS including all of its commissions. This has resulted in a complete overhaul of the IUGS commissions membership alongside a revision of the IUGS statutes.

Reports from all the IUGS commissions and working groups are included in this General Assembly which, despite the restrictions of the COVID period, all have remained active and enhanced their activities, often, but not only, through social media. The IGC 37th Busan meeting will see discussions on the International Stratigraphy Commission's decision on the definition of the Anthropocene. The Executive along with the Geoethics committee did review the process, but the discussion underlines the importance in making the appropriate decision, even if this can be disruptive in the community.

IUGS created the Deep Time Digital Earth (DDE) large science project in 2020 which was officially launched at UNESCO in autumn 2022. The advent of AI technologies makes it vital that IUGS considers its role carefully in this area. IUGS is the custodian of standards in geology and a consideration is ongoing on how IUGS help can maintain this role in a rapidly evolving science area with significant geopolitical influence.

IUGS has reviewed its involvement with the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) which is a jointly funded with UNESCO and other partners for more than 50 years. Both IUGS and UNESCO will be working on maintaining the IGCP but with more targeted activities initially in Africa following up from the “Ten Action Plan for Africa” meeting cited above.

The Impact Factor of *Episodes* is increasing steadily and the President expressed his appreciation to the Korean colleagues who are taking charge of the Editorial office of the journal.

Membership in IUGS will be discussed in the GA, but in general the IUGS income in this area has remained constant. The IUGS executive did however decide to cancel all activities with the Russian Federation. This includes receipt of membership fees, the potential of IGC38 being held in St. Petersburg and not accepting Russian Federation based members on IUGS committees. This action is geopolitical and targeted at the institutes funded by the Russian Government given the nature of the economic impact of the geological sciences.

IUGS funding will be discussed at the GA and the IUGS Finance Committee report is also available. It presents a positive view on IUGS transparency with respect to funding. It suggests that IUGS could spend more of its reserve on key actions.

The President commented that IUGS has come out stronger and surer of its role in defining the future of geological sciences as the economy and globe transitions into a low-C driven activity. The President thanked the members of the Executive and of all the IUGS Commissions and working groups, our affiliated organisations and the IUGS Secretariat for their support of the IUGS over this period.

Alecos Demetriades commented that it has been stated in the IUGS Statutes and Bylaws that IUGS is a non-governmental organization and IUGS' decision on ceasing cooperation with Russia doesn't comply with the Statutes and Bylaws and the IUGS President has exceeded the power that the Council has given to.

Motion to approve the IUGS President's Report

Approved as presented with one disapproval

b) Secretary General's Report on the Administration of the Union

The IUGS Secretary General Stanley Finney reported the administration of the Union as follows:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Following elections at the virtual Extraordinary Meeting of the IUGS-IGC Council on 28-30 October 2020, the following individuals served as IUGS Executive Committee officers:

President – John Ludden (United Kingdom)
Past President – Qiuming Cheng (China)
Secretary General – Stanley Finney (United States)
Treasurer – Hiroshi Kitazato (Japan)
Vice President – Hassina Mouri (South Africa)
Vice President – Daekyo Cheong (Korea)
Councillor (September 2018 – August 2022) – Silvia Peppoloni (Italy)
Councillor (September 2018 – August 2022) – Claudia Mora (United States)
Councillor (August 2020 – August 2024) – Jennifer McKinley (United Kingdom)
Councillor (August 2020 – August 2024) – Ludwig Stroink (Germany)
Councillor (August 2022 – August 2026) – Lola Pereira (Spain)
Councillor (August 2022 – August 2026) – Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte (Cuba and Germany)

One Councillor from Argentina elected in Cape Town for the term of 2022-2026 passed away before the term began. A by-election completed in November 2022 resulted in the election of Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte.

Following the election of the new Executive Committee, administrative meetings were held virtually in 2021 because of travel restrictions during the COVID pandemic. The convenience of virtual meetings, not needing to travel nor to incur expenses, led the IUGS Executive Committee to have regular virtual meetings. With the lifting of travel restrictions, the Executive Committee met in Paris in 2022 and annually since. The dates and locations of Executive Meetings since the 2020 Extraordinary Meeting of Council are:

75th EC Meeting (6 November 2020) Virtual
76th EC Meeting (22-24 February 2021) Virtual
Virtual Progress Meeting (19 May 2021)
Virtual Progress Meeting (29 November 2021)
Virtual Progress Meeting (19 May 2021)
77th EC Meeting (16-18 March 2022) Paris, France
Virtual Progress Meeting (5 October 2022)
78th EC Meeting (14-17 February 2023) Belfast, United Kingdom
Virtual Progress Meeting (3 July 2023)
Virtual Progress Meeting (10 November 2023)
79th EC Meeting (19-21 February 2024) Nairobi, Kenya
Virtual Progress Meeting (24 May 2024)

The Executive Committee meetings were open to observers. Representatives from various National Committees, local host government organizations, sister GeoUnions, IGC Committee members, UNESCO, and many others were invited to and were often present at these meetings. Decisions and discussions regarding budgets and other sensitive Union issues were held in-camera for elected EC members and representatives of the Permanent Secretariat.

The Executive Committee of IUGS met in 2022, 2023, and 2024 at the expense of the Union.

BUREAU

The day-to-day management of the Union was handled by the IUGS Bureau (President, Treasurer and Secretary General) who are also part of the EC, as defined in the current Statutes and Bylaws. In contrast to past terms when the Bureau met in person and thus incurred travel costs and time, meetings of the Bureau since 2020 have been informal; matters are handled primarily through e-mail and online meetings.

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

The IUGS Secretariat is hosted within the premises of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS, No. 26, Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China) under the Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China. Since the relocation of the Secretariat to Beijing in December 2012, the Chinese government has been providing tremendous and stable financial and logistical support for the smooth operation of the Secretariat. The China Geological Survey (CGS) strongly supports the renewal of the MoU and the continued operation of the IUGS Secretariat in China. The current Permanent Secretariat is led by Ma Yongzheng (Director). Staff members include Li Wei, Situ Yu, Gu Yanfei, Xu Yaqi, Mu Langfeng and Yang Chen.

IUGS is very well supported by the staff of the IUGS Secretariat, whose support is at the highest professional level. It includes a diversity of tasks. The Secretary General expressed his gratitude to the IUGS Secretariat staff members.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Union is through an Adhering Organization. These are typically national/regional organizations such as geological surveys, national academies of sciences and geological societies.

The Union recognizes 123 Adhering Organizations; thus the IUGS supports the largest number of member countries of all Geo-Unions. IUGS recognizes Active members as those Adhering Organizations with dues paid in full in contrast to Inactive members with dues outstanding for three or more years. The number of Active members has declined over eight years from 80 in 2012 to 73 in 2016 and to 63 now with two pending members. This is of concern to the EC and has resulted in the Executive Committee reaching out to inactive members and to readjustment of the unit subscription rate. In 2018, the IUGS EC approved Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nepal, and Uganda for provisional membership; however, only Myanmar has paid the membership subscription and remained Active, but the other three have not and are inactive.

In 2023, the status of Bangladesh changed from Pending to Active and that of Greece and Mexico Inactive to Active. Guyana changed from Active to Pending. Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam changed from Pending to Inactive. Russia was dropped from Active status, and Iran is restricted from paying the membership fee.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

An Affiliated Organization is an international, non-governmental, scientific, autonomous organization that has obtained affiliation within the Union for the representation of scientific interests and, through the Union in the International Science Council, for collaboration in arranging scientific meetings, and for planning and undertaking geosciences activities. The IUGS is in the enviable position to be affiliated with a significant number of specialized organizations, societies and groups that serve many Earth scientists and focus on important niches and subjects within the discipline. Such organizations apply formally to the Union for official recognition as

Affiliated Organizations. As with Adhering Organizations, the status of Affiliated Organizations requires the official ratification by the Council.

In 2018 and 2019, the Executive Committee approved as IUGS Affiliated Organizations the following:

Geology for Global Development (GfGD)
International Research Center on Karst (IRCK)
Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH)

They were to be ratified by the IUGS-IGC Council at the 36th International Geological Congress in March 2020, but could not be. However, they will be presented for ratification by the IUGS-IGC Council at the 37th International Geological Congress in August 2024. The three following organizations will also be put before the Council. They were approved by the IUGS Executive Committee in 2023 and 2024.

Global Geopark Network (GGN)
Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS)
International Association of Structural Geology and Tectonics (IASGT)

The Affiliated Organization declared as “defunct” this term is:

Italian Federation of Earth Sciences (FIST)

As a sequence, with ratification of the provisional members as IUGS Affiliated Organizations, the total number will be 60.

COMMITTEES

The following official IUGS Committees were active in the past 3+ years:

Nominating Committee (NC)
Finances Committee (FC): only in Mid 2024
Ad hoc Review Committee (ARC)

The Nominating Committee (NC) reports directly to Council and not the Executive Committee. During this term, the Nominating Committee was chaired by Qiuming Cheng (China). The remaining members of the NC included Suzanne Mahlborg Kay (USA), Kristine Asch (Germany), Anna Nguno (Namibia), Jorge Gomez Tapias (Colombia), and Jose Pedro Calvo Sorando (Spain). As mandated by the current Statutes and Bylaws, this committee requested nominations from all eligible bodies and organizations for the positions of IUGS EC members to be appointed in 2024. The Committee evaluated all nominations and tabled recommendations to the Council for their final decision. In addition, with the unexpected passing of a Councillor at the beginning of their 2022-2026 term, it was necessary to run a search and evaluation procedure for a replacement via electronic correspondence. Close cooperation of the NC with the Secretary General and the support of the Council Members allowed for a rapid and smooth election of councillor Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte.

The IUGS Finance Committee (FC) was not re-established until 2024. Its external members are Alexander Rudloff (IUGG Secretary General), Carmala Garziona (GSAS President), Ryo Matsumoto (Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo). Internal members are John Ludden (IUGS President), Hiroshi Kitazato (IUGS Treasurer), Stanley Finney (IUGS Secretary General). Of

importance to address is the governance of the treasurer's office, its financial security, and the limitations of banking systems. Recommendations as to the long-term stability of the IUGS treasurer's office and the IUGS accounts will be helpful. The FC will meet virtually on 28 June 2024, submit a report at the Executive Committee Meeting in Busan on 24 August 2024, and present it for approval at the 5th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council.

The Publications Committee (PC) was re-established by the IUGS Bureau at its first meeting in 2016. In 2018 Lola Pereira (Spain) replaced Brian Marker (UK) as chair, and the committee members included Jin Yong Lee (Editor, *Episodes*), Korea; Gurmeet Kaur (Social media manager), India; Giuseppe Di Capua (webmaster), Italy; Silvia Peppoloni, Italy and later Gurmeet Kaur (e-bulletin Editor), and Stan Finney as a representative of the EC. The Committee met in 2017 and again in 2018 when Brian Marker stood down and Dolores Pereira replaced him as Chair. Since 2018, the Committee membership also includes Stan Finney (EC member), Jin-Yong Lee (Editor of *Episodes*), Giuseppe di Capua (Webmaster), and Gurmeet Kaur (Social Media editor). The PC was not re-established by the new executive, and it expired in 2022. Nevertheless, the members continued to manage *Episodes*, the IUGS website, the e-bulletin, and social media as before, and Stan Finney has served as liaison between IUGS and the Geological Society of London Publications.

In 2022, IUGS Councilor Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte took over the role of social media manager and with the assistance of Daniela Munoz Granados (Colombia) produced new designs and frequent posts and promotions of IUGS activities and achievements. In addition, they conceived and developed the successful IUGS Young Reporters program. To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Union in 2022, the IUGS Executive Committee funded a part-time professional to develop a new website devoted to activities that celebrated the 60th Anniversary.

Ad hoc Review Committees (ARCs) were appointed in 2022 and 2023 to provide timely and critical evaluation of IUGS funded activities. Following the completion of a review, an evaluation report is completed by the Committee Chair, submitted to the IUGS EC for approval and guidance. In 2022, an ARC evaluation was conducted for *Episodes*. The joint IUGS-UNESCO International Geoscience Program (IGCP) was evaluated by an ARC in 2023. Each ARC was composed of two EC members and one-two specialists from outside IUGS. Final ARC reports are archived on the IUGS website.

International Geological Congress Committee

The bid from the Russian National Committee of Geologists to host the 38th IGC in St. Petersburg, being the only bid received before the 36th IGC, was expected to have been approved then, but it could not because the Council could not meet in Ordinary Session, which is required to select the host of the IGC due to the cancellation of the Congress. Approval of the bid was deferred to the Meeting of the Council in Ordinary Session at the 37th IGC. However, in March 2022, IUGS Executive Committee froze all activities with the Russian Federation and withdrew the offer to host the 38th IGC in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2028. To address the matter of the host/location for the 38th IGC, the IGCC met virtually on July 14, 2022. The IGCC consists of John Ludden (Co-Chair; IUGS President), Dhiraj Banerjee (Co-Chair; Representative of 36th IGC), Yeong-Seok Kim (Secretary General; Secretary General of 37th IGC), Stanley Finney (Member; IUGS Secretary General), Hiroshi Kitazato (Member; IUGS Treasurer), Daekyo Cheong (Member; President of 37th IGC), Greg Botha (Member; Secretary General of 35th IGC). The Committee decided that a call would be made for expressions of interest to host the Congress. The Call for Expression of Interest to host the 38th IGC 2028 was widely distributed on January 16, 2023. In March and April 2023, Expressions of Interest were received from Glasgow (U.K.), Melbourne (Australia), and Calgary (Canada). By the end of the March 2024, bids were received from all three. Those bids were

reviewed by the members of the IGCC, and during an online meeting on April 26, 2024, the IGCC discussed and developed comments to provide to the bid proposers should they wish to address them in their bids. Bid documents will be provided to delegates of Adhering Organizations upon registration for the Council Meeting.

EXECUTIVE INITIATIVES

The IUGS Executive Committee directed efforts to four major endeavors: the cancellation of the 36th IGC and its impact, a major revision of the IUGS and IGC statutes and bylaws, celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the IUGS, and the launch of the IUGS Geoscience in Africa endeavor.

36th IGC Cancellation

Following the postponement and eventual cancellation of the 36th IGC, the IUGS-IGC Council met virtually in Extraordinary Session in October 28-30, 2020, to carry out pressing business and to elect members of the new Executive Committee. In 2022, on March 20-22, the 36th IGC was recognized with a virtual celebration at which IUGS was represented. Obtaining refunds of registration and other fees was of major concern to the delegates and to the IUGS EC. The reimbursement process was long in being established, and it required transmittal of bank information to India from those seeking reimbursements, which discouraged many delegates from applying. Accordingly, the IUGS Bureau members and the Secretariat served as intermediaries for transferring bank information. This process still left some delegates without reimbursements. Thus, in May 2023, the remaining funds available for reimbursements were transferred to the IUGS Treasurer. The agreement was that IUGS would make a last attempt to secure reimbursements for those still lacking them. The Bureau members and the Secretariat contacted all delegates who had not been reimbursed and finally secure reimbursements totaling more than \$45,453 for many more.

Revision to IUGS and IGC Statutes and Bylaws

The cancellation of the 36th IGC prevented the IUGS-IGC Council from meeting in an Ordinary Session according to the IUGS and IGC statutes on Ordinary Session meets at the IGC. Thus, revisions to statutes and selection of the 38th IGC could not be addressed at the Extraordinary Session held in October 2020. Since 2020, the IUGS EC has devoted time to a thorough review of the IUGS and the IGC statutes and bylaws and have approved substantial reviews. Finally, these revisions will be presented to the Council for consideration and approval at its Ordinary Session at the 37th IGC.

60th Anniversary Celebration

Various activities were developed to mark the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of IUGS. Its celebration was delayed one year to 2022 because of the COVID pandemic. A part-time professional was funded to develop online events and a new website promote them. They included a set of interviews of women in geosciences for the program “In Celebration of the UN Women and Girls in Science Day”. Earth Day, April 22, 2022, was celebrated with two productions: “The Holocene Series/Epoch” and Talks and Panel on “The State of the Planet”. World Water Day 2022 was also recognized by a large panel of invited geoscientists. The IUGS also cosponsored with UNESCO-IGCP the Earth Futures Festival, an international film and video festival showcasing the role of geoscience in our sustainable future.

A highlight of the 60th Anniversary was the presentation of the First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites at the Zumaia Event, held 25-28 October 2022 at Zumaia, Spain. Besides the announcement

of the First 100, a three-day program included presentations of more than 60 sites, the reading and signing of the Zumaia Declaration on Geoheritage, a well-orchestrated announcement of the First 100 just above the beach at Zumaia, as well as keynote presentations and tours of the Zumaia section on foot and by boat. The IUGS Argand Medal was presented to Thure Cerling who then gave his keynote address, and the Early Career Geoscientist Medal was presented to Monica Sanchez-Roman – presentations that were planned for the 36th IGC. The book “The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites” was released at the Zumaia event, and the geoheritage website opened with an excellent presentation of the First 100 and the Book.

IUGS Geoscience in Africa Event

The 79th IUGS Executive Committee Meeting held in Nairobi, Kenya, February 19-21, 2024 was followed by the two-day IUGS Geoscience in Africa Event. This endeavor was approved by the IUGS EC at its 78th Meeting in 2023. With assistance of the Geological Society of Kenya the meeting logistics were arranged. The IUGS was a major sponsor of the 29th Colloquium of African Geology held in September 2023 in Windhoek, Namibia. EC members Stan Finney and Hassina Mouri attended, gave keynote lectures and recruited colleagues from African countries who could help organize and attend the Nairobi event. In Nairobi, the Executive, many affiliated members, many leaders of IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, and Joint Programs and 20+ geoscientists representing 13 African countries met over two days (as well as a welcoming reception and a closing banquet). The meeting was organized by IUGS, the Geological Society of Africa, the Geological Society of Kenya, and the Mineral Africa Development Organization. It resulted in TAP, the Ten Actions Plans that will direct IUGS activities in Africa.

PUBLICATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

In 2003, the IUGS and the Geological Society of London (GSL) signed an MoU for an agreement to publish geoscience books of mutual interest. All IUGS funded activities (including Commissions, IGCP Projects, etc.) are expected to consider the GSL for publication of their work. Since 2019, 20 volumes were published under the agreement, and many others are in various stages of production. A new, updated MoU, reaffirming the publication agreement, was signed in April 2024. The GSL will pay a fixed fee of £1,250 for each published volume resulting from an IUGS-funded project, as has been for the last several years.

Publication of the IUGS journal *Episodes* is managed by the Geological Society of Korea. As mandated by the MoU, *Episodes* has an online manuscript submission and review system and online-first publication. Prof. Sung-Keun Lee serves as Editor and Prof. Youngsook Huh as Managing Editor. The impact factor has risen from 1.4 in 2020 to 3.1 in 2023. *Episodes* is unique as a fully open access journal to both authors and readers; all articles from all issues can be downloaded from the journal website. Following a primary recommendation of ARC evaluation in 2022, IUGS business-related reports are no longer published; the focus is now on publication of scientific articles.

The IUGS Annual Report was produced and distributed for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 early in each of the following years. All reports are available in digital format on the IUGS website.

The Union website has been managed by Giuseppe di Capua since 2017. It is now being redesigned. The IUGS E-Bulletin was upgraded in style and content with strict editorial control first by Kristine Asch (IUGS VP), then by Silvia Peppoloni (IUGS Councillor), and since 2022 by Gurmeet Kaur (IUGS Councillor). News articles from IUGS constituent groups highlight each issue, and each monthly issue appears regularly and on time. In 2022, IUGS Councilor Yamirka

Rojas-Agramonte took over the role of social media manager and with the assistance of Daniela Munoz Granados (Colombia) produced new designs and frequent posts and promotions of IUGS activities and achievements. In addition, they conceived and developed the successful IUGS Young Reporters program. The Webmaster, E-Bulletin editor, and Social Media Manager work closely to ensure that timely news items and announcements appear more or less simultaneously in the E-Bulletin, on the Webpage, and in the IUGS Social Media, particularly Facebook. Publications in *Episodes* are publicized in the E-Bulletin and through the Social Media.

COMMISSIONS, TASK GROUPS AND INITIATIVES

Activities and individuals represented by these bodies reflect the scientific arm of the Union. The aim of all such groups is to address key and relevant topics that have a global relevance for the earth sciences, deal with topics not presently addressed by other bodies, involve the expertise of leading scientists from around the world and do so in a timely manner. Since all of these activities are directly funded by IUGS, regular Ad hoc reviews are undertaken, the results of which determine whether support for the program should be continued.

During the past four-year term the following IUGS Commissions were recognized:

International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)
Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)
Commission on Geoscience Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE)
Commission on Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI)
Commission of Tectonics and Structure Geology (TECTASK)
Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)
International Commission on Geoheritage (ICG)

Following the recommendation of an ARC evaluation in 2017, The Commission on Tectonics and Structural Geology evolved into a professional society, the International Association of Structural Geology and Tectonics (IASGT), which has been approved by the IUGS Executive Committee as a provisional Affiliated Organization of the IUGS. The statutes of TECTASK ends with a vote of dissolution at the Council Meeting at the 37th IGC.

At the 78th Meeting of the IUGS Executive Committee, a new Commission on Geoethics was established. The Commission on Geoheritage was dissolved and re-established by votes of the Council during the Extraordinary Session in 2020. It has since established a new administrative structure that includes three subcommissions, all of which are generating proposals for IUGS recognition of the geological sites, heritage stones, and geocollections of the highest scientific importance. Many announcements of new recognitions will be made at the 37th IGC.

Each commission obtains varying levels of financial support that are decided by the EC upon annual reports of their activities. Annual budgets for supporting the IUGS Commissions ranged from 5,000 to 60,000 USD in 2023.

During the past four-year term, the IUGS Executive Committee discontinued the Task Group on Geohazards. It approved the Task Group on Igneous Rocks in 2020 and the Task Group on Submarine Geohazards in at the 78th EC meeting in 2023.

These formal Task Groups represent activities that are intended to yield substantial results during a duration of eight years. The IUGS EC continued its support to the Initiative on Forensic Geology, which is a medium-term effort that connects the IUGS with a new audience for geoscience professionalism.

The former Task Group on Isotope Geology and Geochemistry shifted to a Joint Programme with the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry to address topics such as updating geochronological decay constants and standardizing the use of SI units, etc.

The IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology created in 2011 continues to be most active with workshops, training courses, and scientific meetings worldwide. Collaborations with police forces, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations worldwide and the problems it addresses give unusual and important visibility to IUGS, while IUGS sponsorship gives legitimacy to IFG as an international scientific endeavour of high standard. Laurance Donnelly, the leader of the initiative gave a most impressive plenary lecture on forensic geology at the 2017 GSA Annual Meeting.

IUGS BIG SCIENCE PROGRAM: DIGITAL DEEP TIME EARTH (DDE)

In February 2019, a gathering of more than 80 scientists from 40 countries, “kicked-off” DDE, now a globally recognized initiative to advance a paradigm of data driven research. DDE Open Science Forum, co-organized by UNESCO, IUGS, IYBSSD and DDE on 9 November 2022 in UNESCO, Paris, triggered a new era for DDE’s global outreach. Since then, DDE has hosted technical sessions and other activities at EGU, GSA and AGU, and in African events in Namibia, Kenya and Nigeria.

On 8 November 2022, the DDE Platform was launched and has gone through a series of updates. Now the Platform is open for enabling and empowering geoscientists to undertake collaborative research. Through its globally accessible DDE cloud infrastructure, the platform provides analytical tools and workflow services and large-scale, high-performance computing services. During 37th IGC, on 25-31 August 2024, in Busan, Republic of Korea, a DDE workshop for users of the Platform is foreseen. Some Nigerian researchers and students have self-organized to conduct webinars for their colleagues to better use the Platform.

DDE has financed 7 research projects, each 2–3-year duration, for a total sum of over a \$1 million. Calls for new proposals for 2024-2026 are open. DDE Research Centers of Excellence (RCEs) are operational in China (Suzhou and Hangzhou) and the US (Carnegie, Washington D.C.). New RCEs in France and the Democratic Republic of Congo are under consideration.

As theme 37 of 37th IGC, DDE will host 13 technical sessions, a booth, and some networking events. Some sessions will reflect on DDE’s achievements thus far, challenges it faces and future directions. DDE has invited IUGS to lead a mid-term review of its progress during 2019-2023 for guiding DDE’s development over the next 5 years.

COOPERATION WITH UNESCO – INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE AND GEOPARKS PROGRAM

The IUGS maintains a long history of positive and mutual cooperation with UNESCO. Previously this relationship was managed with the Earth Sciences Division of UNESCO but following the dissolution of that department the responsibility shifted to the newly amalgamated Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences.

Initiated jointly by IUGS and UNESCO in 1972, the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) formerly called the International Geological Correlation Programme has long been a primary focus of attention for both organizations as the key geoscientific activity for the global community. In 2015, IGCP was incorporated with the UNESCO Global Geoparks Program (UGGp) into the flagship International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) at UNESCO. IUGS is an equal partner with UNESCO in the IGCP science program and provides the names of

individuals for the scientific board and for the reviewers of the proposals submitted from the geological community. Since 2016, the annual contribution of IUGS to the support of the IGCP is \$60,000 USD.

An IUGS ARC evaluation of IGCP was undertaken in 2023. After increasing projects supported from 27 in 2016 to 57 in 2021, the program lost a major funding source and faced large pending deficits. As a result, no new projects were approved in 2022, 2023, and 2024, and financing was continued only for active, previously approved projects. Given this situation, an ARC evaluation was carried out and recommended major changes to IGCP.

The IUGS Secretary General, or the representative of the SG, serves as an ex-officio member of the UGGp Council with the responsibility of arranging desktop assessments of the geology presented in applications of aspiring global geoparks. Since his appointment in 2020 as chair of the re-established Commission on Geoheritage, Asier Hilario has served as the SG representative. Under his guidance, the chair of the Subcommittee on Sites manages the desktop reviews of UNESCO Global Geopark proposals, and with the Working Group on Geoheritage Assessment (International Commission on Geoheritage) he developed guidelines and a template for assessment of geopark proposals. Those documents were approved by the UGGp Council in 2023 and are now being used in the 2024 evaluation of geopark proposals.

COLLABORATION OF IUGS WITH ISC AND ISC-GEOUNIONS

The International Science Council (ISC) held its first General Assembly in Paris in July 2018 following the merger of ICSU and ISSC into the new Council. IUGS President and Past-President Qiuming Cheng participated in the steps leading up to the merger and in the nominations and elections of the new Governing Council of ISC and in the development of new ISC initiatives. Subsequently, he was appointed as a member of the ISC Committee for Science Planning for a 3-year term beginning July 2019. IUGS President John Ludden participated in the ISC Second General Assembly in October 2021 to chart the strategic plan for the following 3 years. IUGS was involved in discussions concerning the changes to the statutes of ISC and extensive discussions were held on this matter within the nine Geounions in ISC.

Particularly strong relationships were maintained with the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) where joint activities were held in meetings and workshops notably with the UNESCO in developing the Deep Digital Earth programme (DDE). IUGS also increased its membership level in ISC to be in line with that of the IUGG.

IUGS participates in the Disaster risk reduction programme UNDRR through its executive member Professor Hiroshi Kitazato. This programme and the ISC are undertaking a review of the Hazard Information Profiles to enhance their relevance and usability in disaster risk reduction efforts, particularly in multi-hazard contexts.

Participation included regional activities by IUGS executive member Professor Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte in the event “Global Knowledge Dialogue – Latin America/Caribbean” in April 2024.

IUGS also contributed to the International Year of Basic Science for Sustainable Development IYBSSD and supported the Distinguished Lecture Series in addition to targeting certain IUGS 60th celebrations as part of this international year.

The ISC was involved with the IUGS 60th anniversary celebrations and its communications director Alison Meston participated in discussions related to the role of the geological sciences in reaching net zero.

Professor Qiuming Cheng (2022) and Professor John Ludden (2023) were elected as Fellows of the ISC.

The IUGS sees the ISC as enhancing its political relevance and encourages open and wide participation within the ISC. The broadening of the mandate of the international union to include the social sciences is important in helping the development of science for sustainability as we enter the UN's International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (IDSSD) in 2024.

OTHER

IUGS maintains close collaboration with the Commission for the Geological Map of the World (CGMW). IUGS and CGMW have shared exhibition booth at the European Geological Union (EGU) meetings in Vienna. IUGS attends the biennial meetings of CGMW.

IUGS is an Associate Member of OneGeology and supports the program with an annual subscription. Members of CGI developed the interoperability of global geoscience data that links geologic maps.

The International Lithosphere Program (ILP) promotes multidisciplinary research projects of interest to both the geological and geophysical communities; the two unions, IUGS and IUGG, support ILP equally.

Alecos Demetriades asked why Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) hasn't been upgraded as an IUGS Commission and the Secretary General responded that as the police officers from different countries are the members of IFG, the restriction on the lifespan of Commissions, which is four years, doesn't comply with the terms of the police officers serving in IFG.

Lola Pereira reviewed the achievements of the Heritage Stone Task Group (2012-2016) and the Heritage Stones Subcommittee under International Commission on Geoheritage (ICG) (2016-2020). She expressed her dissatisfaction on the changing of the structure of the Subcommittee on Natural Stones. Stanley Finney responded that the reason is that the two Subcommittees in ICG were not working together.

Motion to approve the Secretary General's Report

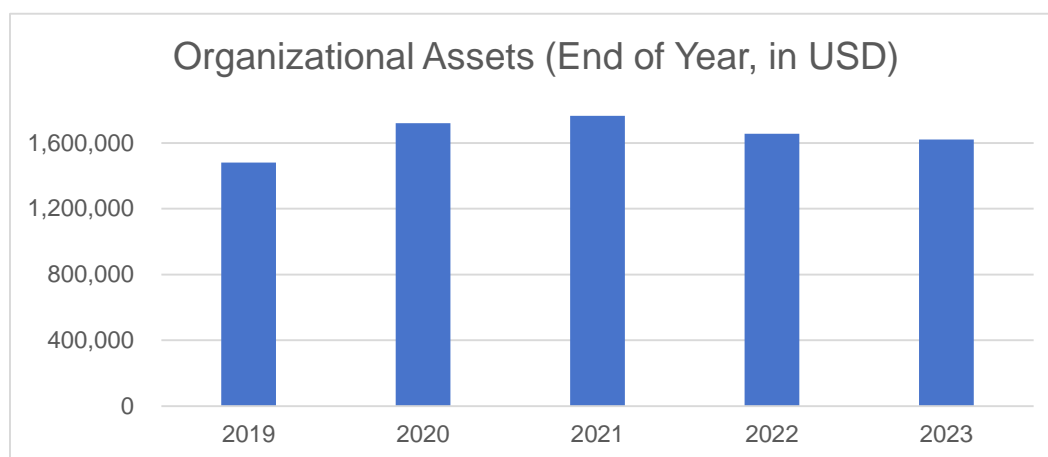
Approved as presented

c) Treasurer's Report

The IUGS Treasurer Hiroshi Kitazato introduced the budgetary structure of IUGS, which includes income, fund and expense. IUGS income is composed of membership fee (70%), UNESCO-IGCP reimbursement, royalties from Geological Society of London etc and Capitation fee from IGCs and RFG conference. IUGS expense mainly includes allocations to UNESCO-IGCP, joint programs, IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives, Affiliated Organizations and administration costs. IUGS fund is separated into three parts, including funding support for IUGS current activities, reserve for future and the contingency/flexibility fund.

The financial status of IUGS during the past four years is reported as follows:

Financial Situation at the End of Year from 2019 to 2023



(USD)

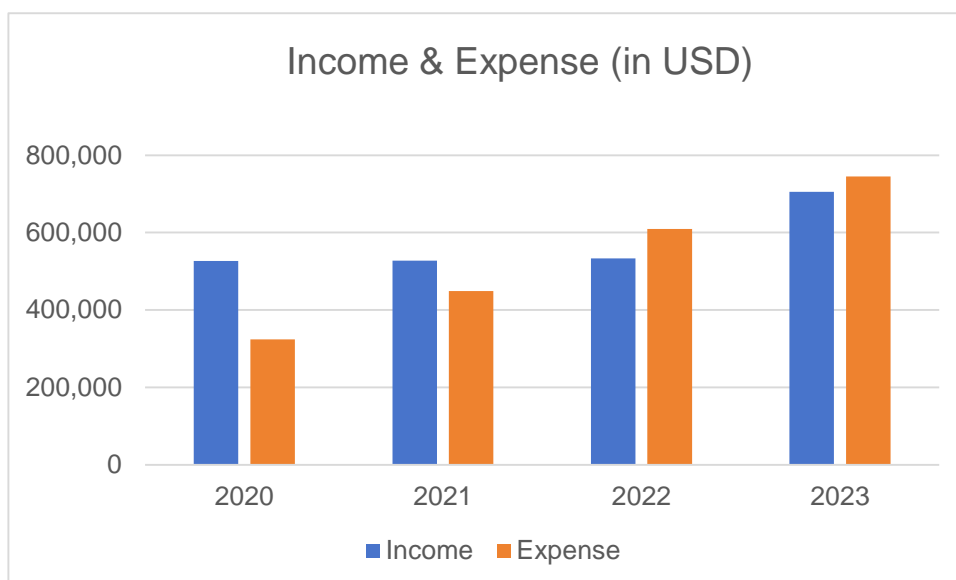
	2019	2020	2021	2022 (Note)	2023
Organizational Assets (End of the year)	1,480,313	1,720,138	1,765,286	1,655,889	1,621,011

At the end of 2019, the Organizational Assets was USD 1,480,313 and it increased by USD 140,698 to USD 1,621,011 at the end of 2023. One major reason for this is in 2020, due to the Covid-19, many scientific activities/events were cancelled or restricted and the expense was less than normal years. After 2021, as the activities/events expended and the expenses increased accordingly, the assets decreased.

The assets are deposited at MUFG Bank, Ltd. in Japan in accounts in USD, EUR and JPY (In 2020, the fund deposited in Italian Bank Ass. Generali-Trieste was transferred to MUFG Bank, Ltd.).

Note: As for the figure of 2022, USD 1,655,889, Deposit payable of USD 176,993 is excluded from the Total Balance of USD 1,832,882 at the bank (i.e. USD 1,655,889 = USD 1,832,882 - USD 176,993) and in the following year, 2023, it was converted to Income as the assets of IUGS.

Summary of Income and Expense from 2020 to 2023



(USD)

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Income	526,825	527,776	533,616	705,163
Expense	323,610	449,267	609,787	745,070
Net Income/Loss	203,215	78,509	▲ 76,171	▲ 39,907

Expense

Expense Increased for Events on 60th Anniversary, Expanding Support to Commissions (Stratigraphy, GeoHeritage etc.) and New Projects (African Project etc.) and Upgrading Membership in ISC (International Science Council).

In 2020, the expense decreased due to Covid-19 and, 2021 onward, as the activities came back to normal, the expense increased. In 2022, there was unusual cost related to IUGS 60th Anniversary (such as “Earth Futures Festival”, “First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites”, renewal of the website etc.). Also, finance to IGCP (International Geoscience Programme) increased as the projects postponed due to Covid-19 were re-started. In 2023, both Income and Expense increased, as there was income related to the 36th IGC and it was utilized for the compensation to those who made a loss of the registration fee on its cancelation. Other factors are that IUGS sponsored the 29th Colloquium on African Geology in Namibia and that IUGS has upgraded the category of membership of ISC (International Science Council) to increase the voting rights.

Detailed Income and Expense from 2020 to 2023

(USD)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
[Income]					
Membership Fees	493,002	400,782	369,585	318,118	1,581,487
Contribution from UNESCO	26,317	84,100	162,500	205,302	478,219
Other Income	7,506	42,894	1,531	181,743	233,674
Total Income	526,825	527,776	533,616	705,163	2,293,380
[Expense]					
Scientific expense	260,152	406,236	543,239	646,683	1,856,310
Administrative expense	63,458	43,031	66,548	98,387	271,424
Total Expense	323,610	449,267	609,787	745,070	2,127,734
Net Income/Loss	203,215	78,509	▲ 76,171	▲ 39,907	165,646
Translated Exchange Gain/Loss	26,190	▲ 33,361	▲ 33,226	5,030	▲ 35,367
Total Income/Loss	229,405	45,148	▲ 109,397	▲ 34,877	130,279

Note:

Scientific expense: Expenses to support and promote scientific activities (Finance to IGCP: International Geoscience Programme, Joint Programmes, IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives, Affiliated Organisations etc.)

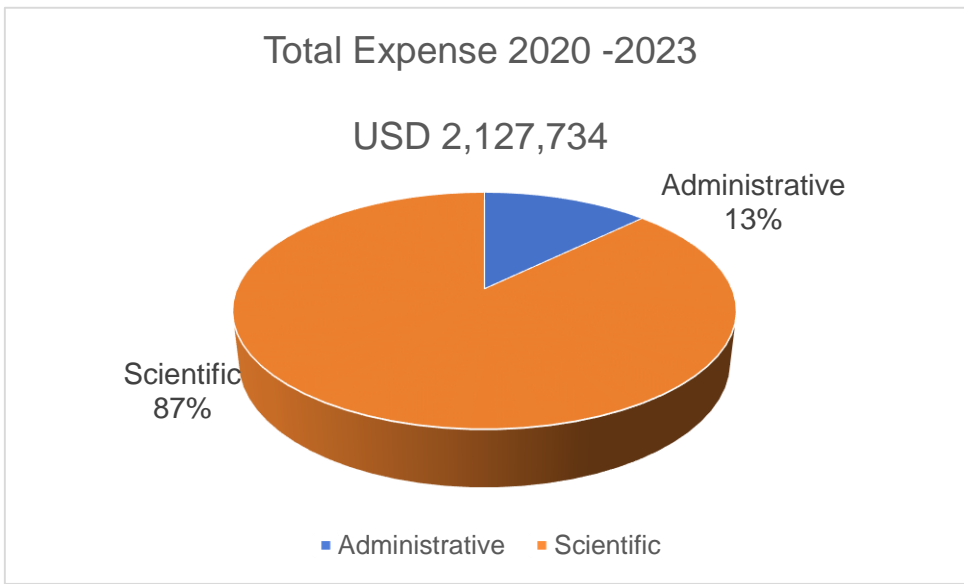
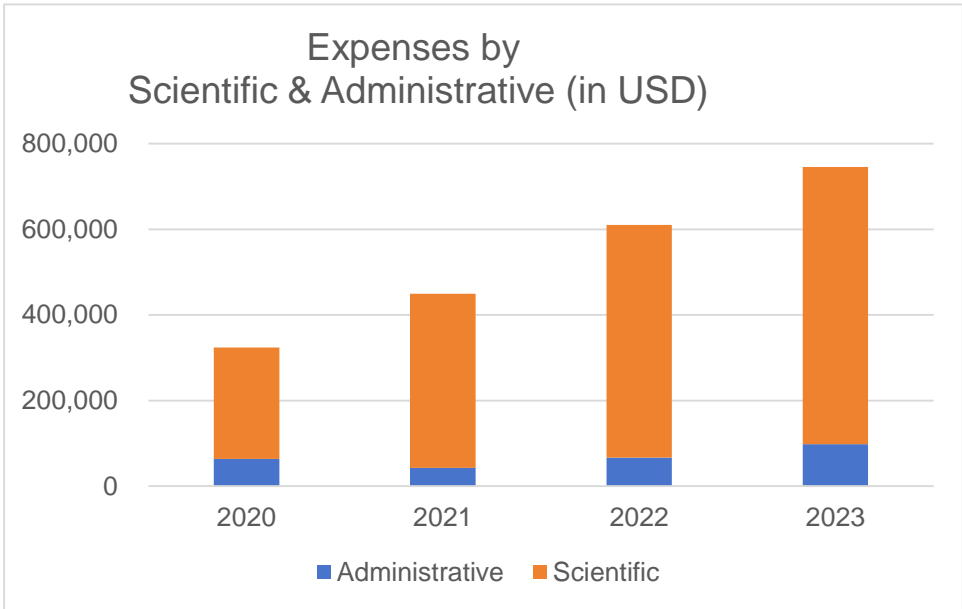
Administrative expense: Expenses for administration of IUGS (Expense of Secretariat and Treasurer's Office, Meetings, Bank Charges etc.)

In the Treasurer's Report of 2020 & 2021, Translated Exchange Gain/Loss was included in Net Income/Loss.

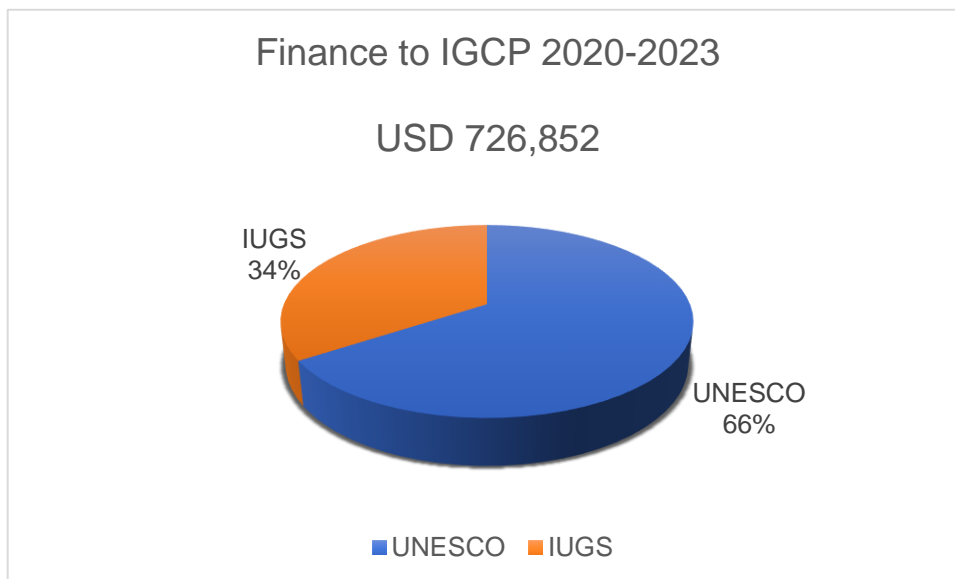
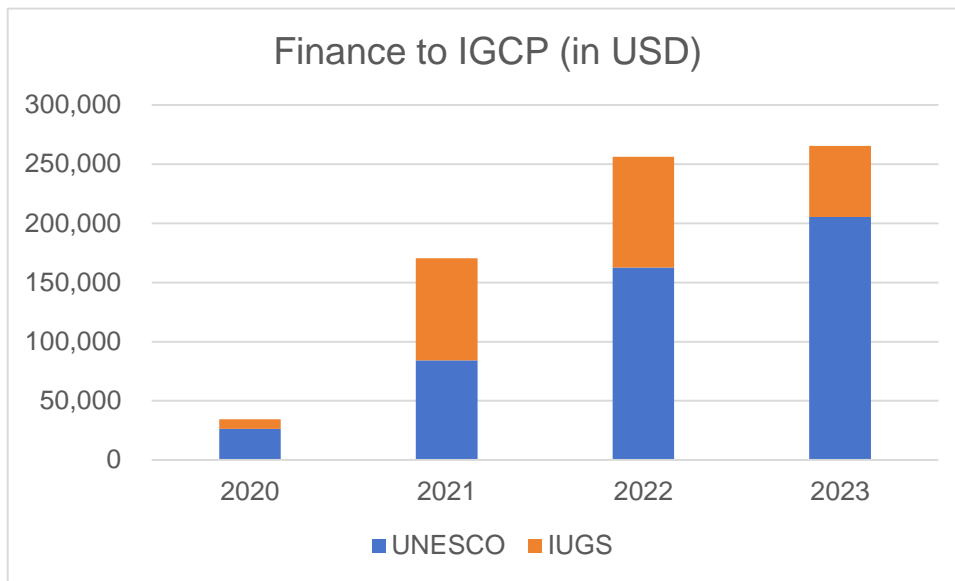
The total Membership Fees received for the period from 2020 to 2023 is USD 1,581,487 compared to USD 1,722,844 for the period from 2016 to 2019. The decrease in Membership Fees in 2022 and 2023 is mainly due to the suspension of one membership of category 8 and, for 2023, due to the payment after the end of 2023 by several members.

Hiroshi Kitazato commented that the total assets of IUGS as of the end of 2023 is USD 1,621,011, compared to USD 1,480,313 as of the end of 2019 (increased by USD 140,698). In this point, the current

financial situation of IUGS is sound. However, the demand of funds for scientific activities is increasing, while the revenue of Membership Fees is on the decrease through this period. Besides making efforts to increase active members, it is necessary to explore other source of funding (for example, feasibility of cloud funding etc.). The major reasons for the losses incurred in 2022 and 2023 are the unusual expense related to the 60th anniversary of IUGS (2022), the expansion of support to Commissions (Stratigraphy, GeoHeritage etc.), the expense related to the newly started “IUGS African Project” and the upgrade of the membership in ISC (International Science Council) (2023).



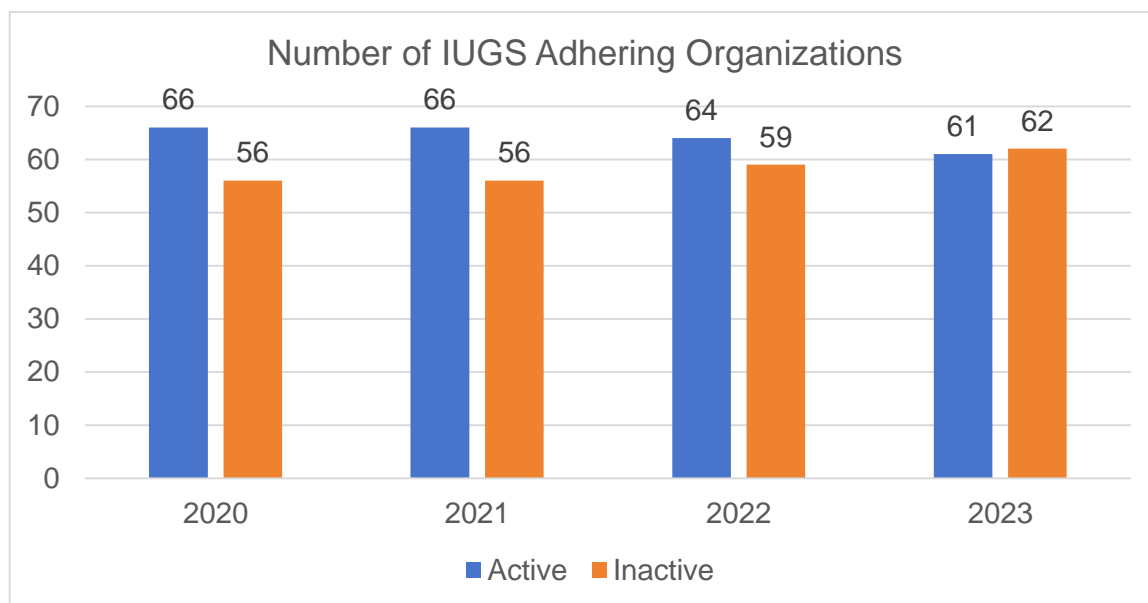
For the period from 2020 to 2023, the total expense amounts to USD 2,127,734, of which the scientific expense is USD 1,856,310, accounting for 87% while the administrative expense is USD 271,424 accounting for 13%.



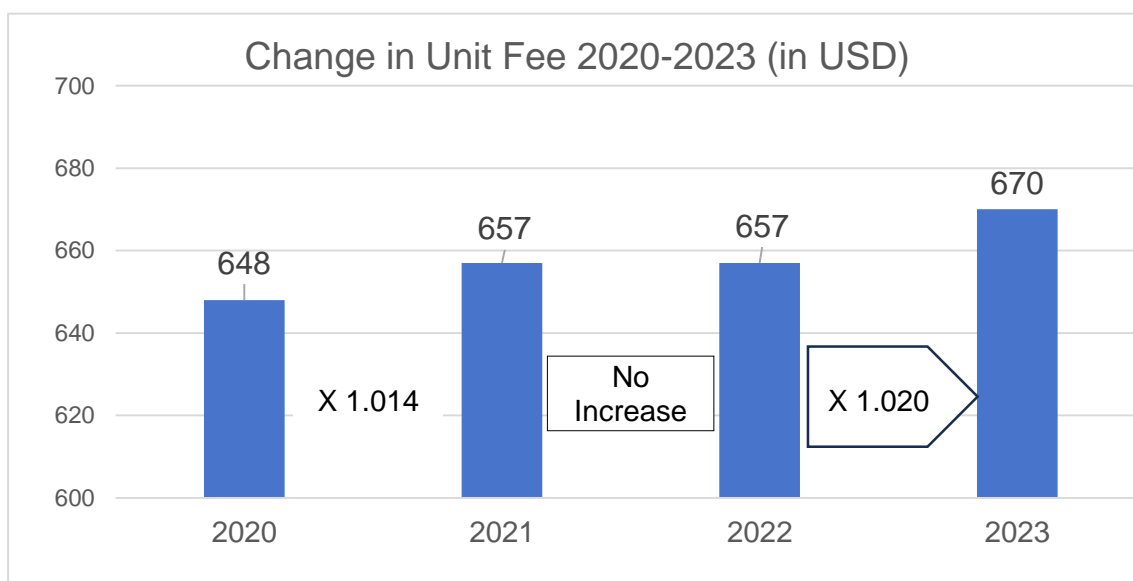
Contribution from UNESCO is used to jointly sponsor IGCP projects under “Implementation Partners Agreement” between IUGS and UNESCO. For the period from 2020 to 2023, USD 726,852 was financed in total, of which UNESCO bore USD 478,219 (66%) and IUGS bore USD 248,633 (34%).

Hiroshi Kitazato commented that for the period from 2020 to 2023, USD 726,852 was financed to IGCP in total jointly with UNESCO under “Implementation Partners Agreement”, of which UNESCO bore USD 478,219 (66%) and IUGS bore USD 248,633 (34%). The demand for finance has been increasing, while UNESCO is finding some difficulty in securing the fund. Fund-raising is an important issue also in this program.

Membership Analysis

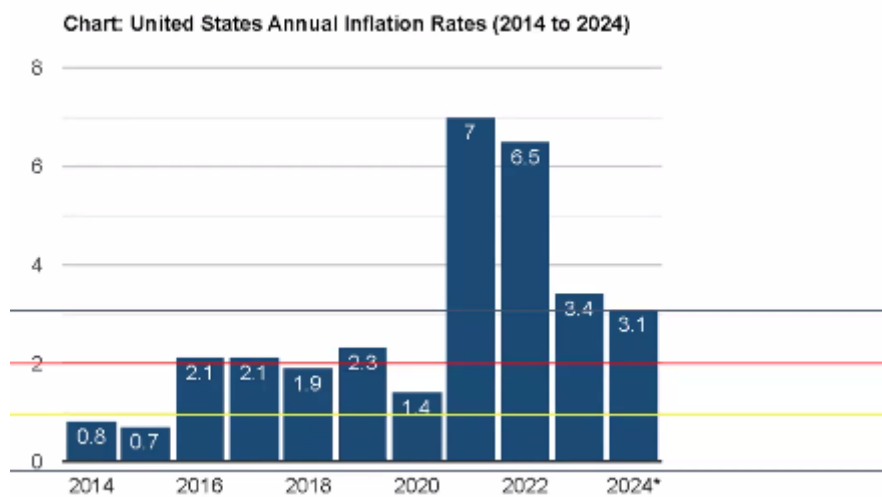


The total number of members at the end of 2023 is 123, which is one increase from the beginning of the period, as Algeria joined IUGS in 2022. It is a serious concern that the number of inactive members (those who have not paid the membership fees for 3 years or more) has increased, due to financial difficulties in some member countries/regions in recent years. One membership has been suspended by the resolution of EC meeting in 2022.



According to IUGS statutes, unit fee should be calculated by the following equation. Unit fee of certain year = US averaged inflation rate X unit fee of previous year. However, IUGS Executive Committee took the globally difficult economic situations after Covid-19 etc. into considerations in determining the fee for this period. Unit rate for 2024 is 670 USD (2022/2023) X 1.031 (US CPI rate average 2023 is 3.1% inflation rate) = 691 USD.

Chart: United States Annual Inflation Rates (2014-2024)



Member Status by Category at the end of 2023

Category	Active	Inactive
1	19	52
2	13	4
3	11	4
4	7	2
5	-	-
6	2	0
7	5	0
8	4	0
TOTAL	61	62

Note: One member of Category 4 became active from inactive by paying the fees retroactively in January of 2024 and, consequently, Active members are 62 and Inactive members are 61 as of the end of January in 2024. One membership has been suspended by the resolution of EC meeting in 2022.

During the period 2020-2023, Algeria joined IUGS (in 2022) and the following members reinstated their status from Inactive to Active. Gambia, Peru (in 2021), Kenya (in 2022), Greece, Mexico (in 2023)

Hiroshi Kitazato commented that as of the end of 2023, the number of IUGS Adhering Organizations is 123. Algeria joined IUGS in 2022 as a new member and five members reinstated their status from Inactive to Active. On the other hand, the number of Inactive members increased to 62. As for many of the inactive members, their contact information has not been updated for years and, virtually, it is not possible to contact them. It is necessary to establish some rule on how to treat them.

In 2022, IUGS celebrated its 60th anniversary and organized or participated in several events such as “Earth Futures Festival” and “First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites” and renewed the website, created new materials and photographic galleries. The cost related for these is USD 65,255.

In 2023, IUGS sponsored and paid USD 20,000 for the 29th Colloquium on African Geology (CAG29) held at Windhoek, Namibia. To further promote the project, IUGS invited delegates of African countries at the EC meeting in Kenya in 2024.

In 2023, IUGS changed the category of membership in ISC (International Science Council) from “Band B” to “Band A” to increase the voting rights. Consequently, the fee increased to EUR 25,074 (compared to EUR 12,538 of the previous category.)

During the term, to respond to the request and comments of some members, Treasurer’s Office improved the presentation of financial statements by amending some accounting treatments and terms and providing more detailed information for better accountability and transparency. Treasurer contracted with an independent Japanese certified accountant on service by AUP (Agreed-upon Procedures). Based on this engagement, the figures stated in annual Treasurer’s Reports have been confirmed with the balance reports issued by MUFG Bank and the procedures in accounting taken by Treasurer’s Office have been verified in AUP Report.

According to new requirement by IRS (Inland Revenue Service) of US, IUGS must file Form990 Return online and Treasurer made the filing using “Form990 Online” system for the Form990 Return of 2022 and 2023. As it is expected that there will be changes in laws and regulations affecting IUGS occasionally, it is important to follow the update of US legal issues. Also, foreign exchange control is an important issue, as many countries are tightening it. The Treasurer’s Office often had to struggle with non-acceptances of application for remittances by the bank or troubles during remittances. In implementing future plans, it is necessary to pay attention to foreign exchange restrictions, as well.

Hiroshi Kitazato presented his comparison between IUGS and IUGG financial systems and concluded the differences including: 1. IUGS bank account transfers together with the elected treasurer from one country to another while IUGG bank account is settled in Bank of Denmark; 2. IUGS Treasurer work is a volunteer-based job while IUGG treasurer office is more independent with salary paid according to the job; 3. IUGS member countries are in 8 categories and can decide membership categories, while IUGG has 14 categories and members countries are not able to decide and change their categories by themselves; 4. IUGS member countries should pay membership fee year by year while some IUGG member countries are able to keep the membership without any membership payments (no voting right).

In response to the report by Finance Committee in 2020, Treasurer’s Office explored some financial instruments that IUGS could hold in Japan. However, since IUGS has no legal entity in Japan (not legally registered in Japan), it is not feasible to make contracts in Japan on purchase of financial instruments (Normally, established financial institutions demand for the certificate of legal registration in Japan to start business with new clients). Therefore, all the assets have been deposited at MUFG Bank throughout the term.

Hiroshi Kitazato recommended that IUGS can open its bank account in USA as IUGS is registered under the engagement of the US IRS. If any US citizen is responsible to engage to the bank account, Treasure elected is able to stay at other countries and manage money virtually. This is a lesson from IUGG treasury system. Hiroshi Kitazato recommended that IUGS may establish

“Finance Task Team” for the next term 2024-2028 and simulate how to establish more stable financial system for IUGS.

Hiroshi Kitazato expressed his willingness to provide any information in terms of IUGS finance during 2016-2024 to the public and presented the transition procedure from old to new Treasurer’s office as follows:

Feb 2024	Mar 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025
2023 Treasurer Report 79 th IUGS EC	Allocation notice, Hutchin son call					80 th IUGS EC / IGCC @ 37 th IGC Voting new EC	Ask new treasurer to open bank account until the end of Oct. 2024	Ask to open New bank accounts (USD, EUR)	Notice new bank accounts through Secretari at office	Transfer every functions to new office	New office starts	2024 Treasurer report 81 st IUGS EC	
Allocation table for 2024 during EC	1 st invoice to member countries	Hutch inson selecti on	Hutch inson funds transf er			IUGS events during IGC (EC, award ceremony, IGCC, reception, handover EC etc)	Reimbursement procedures for old EC members/ awardees	Transition phase 2 nd invoice to member countries					
	F990	Transfer money to constituent groups, joint projects and others					Transfer money to constituent groups						
							Receive membership fees						
UNESCO- IGCP final payment for 2023				IGCP Contract (done)		Aug 31 1 st report (done)		Oct 31 st 2 nd report		Dec 29 th Final report			

Alecos Demetriades suggested IUGS get closely in touch with the inactive members in order to convince them to reactivate their memberships. John Ludden responded that the national contact persons of IUGS members are always from ministries and national geosurveys, which makes IUGS difficult to get in touch with the domestic geoscience community. John Ludden added that IUGS EC is considering a low or zero entry fee for low-income countries.

Motion to appreciate the clarify of the accounting procedure inside

Approved

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report

Approved

d) IUGS Secretariat Report

IUGS Secretariat Director Ma Yongzheng delivered a report as follows:

The IUGS Secretariat is hosted within the premises of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS) under the China Geological Survey, the Ministry of Natural Resources of China. Since the relocation of the Secretariat to Beijing in December 2012, the Chinese government has been providing tremendous and stable financial and logistical support for the smooth operation of the Secretariat.

Under the guidance of the IUGS Bureau and Executive Committee, the Secretariat has maintained professional and efficient operation in line with its duties, and played an active role of communication and coordination in the scientific activities and daily administration of IUGS. The Permanent Secretariat is led by Mr. Ma Yongzheng (Director). Staff members include: Ms. Li Wei, Ms. Situ Yu, Ms. Gu Yanfei, Ms. Xu Yaqi and Ms. Mu Langfeng.

WORK REVIEW

Under the guidance of the Bureau and Executive Committee, the Secretariat has made hard efforts to fulfill its operational duties in line with the IUGS Strategic Plan as follows:

- Encourage and substantiate the participation of the Adhering Organizations and National Committees in promoting geosciences;
- Enforce communication and collaboration with IUGS scientific commissions, task groups and initiatives;
- Improve visibility of IUGS through publications and presence at scientific forums.

1. IUGS Business Meetings

The Secretariat organized 13 EC meetings during the past four years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 10 EC meetings were held virtually. The Secretariat prepared and distributed meeting documentation, coordinated on meeting participants and logistical issues, assembled financial requests from the IUGS bodies, conducted minutes taking, preparation and distribution, and provided logistical service during the in person meetings.

(1) IUGS In-Person EC Meetings

- 77th EC Meeting (16-18 March 2022) Paris, France
- 78th EC Meeting (14-16 February 2023) Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK
- 79th EC Meeting and IUGS Geoscience in Africa Event (19-23 February 2024) Nairobi, Kenya

(2) IUGS Virtual EC Meetings

- 75th EC Meeting, 9 November, 2020
- 76th EC Meeting, 22-24 February 2021
- Virtual Progress EC Meeting, 19 May, 2021
- Virtual Progress EC Meeting, 29 September 2021
- Virtual Progress EC Meeting, 29 November 2021
- Virtual Progress EC Meeting, 5 October 2022
- Virtual Progress EC Meeting, 3 July 2023
- Virtual Progress EC Meeting, 10 November 2023
- Virtual Progress EC Meeting, 24 May, 2024
- Virtual Progress EC Meeting, 5 July, 2024

(3) IUGS Nominating Committee Meetings

- First Virtual Nominating Committee Meeting, 6 December 2021
- Second Virtual Nominating Committee Meeting, 11 January 2023
- Third Virtual Nominating Committee Meeting, 10 November 2023
- Fourth Virtual Nominating Committee Meeting, 8 January, 2024
- In-Person Nominating Committee Meeting in Zhuhai, China, 19 March, 2024

(4) DDE Forum and Series of Business Meetings on 9 November, 2022

- Assisted in its promotion to the IUGS Constituent Groups, Adhering Organizations and Affiliated Organizations, etc.;
- Assisted in the preparatory work of the forum and on-site meeting affairs.

2. IUGS Exhibitions

In order to publicize and promote the IUGS scientific activities in the international geoscience community, the Secretariat organized IUGS booth exhibitions at the major international geoscience conferences and events listed below. The Secretariat redesigned and exhibited the IUGS posters introducing IUGS constituent groups and scientific activities, displayed and distributed IUGS products (charts, brochures, *Episodes*, annual reports and IUGS-GSL books), and produced and distributed IUGS promotional materials for the exhibitions.

- 2023 Annual Meeting of EGU on 23-28 April 2023;
- 28th General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) on 12-18 July 2023;
- 2023 Annual Meeting of GSA on 15-18 October 2023;
- AGU Fall Meeting 2023 on 11-15 December 2023;
- 2024 Annual Meeting of EGU on 14-20 April 2024.

3. Membership Maintenance

(1) Adhering Members

- Updated the contact information of the IUGS Adhering Members in the IUGS Information Management System;
- Prepared the updated list of membership status (Active, Pending, Inactive) of Adhering Members being posted on the IUGS website;
- Actively communicated with inactive members and assisted them in becoming active members.

(2) Affiliated Members

- Updated the contact information of IUGS Affiliated Organizations in the IUGS Information Management System according to the information published on their official websites.

4. Publications, Outreach and Others

(1) Annual Report

- Designed the 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 IUGS Annual Reports;
- Emailed the electronic Annual Reports to IUGS Constituent Groups, Adhering Organizations, Affiliated Organizations, etc.

(2) E-Bulletin

- Formatted the emailed E-Bulletins and distributed it to over 160,000 recipients per year
- Updated the list of recipients based on feedbacks;
- Drafted some pieces of IUGS news to be published on E-Bulletin.

(3) Website

The Secretariat contacted IUGS webmaster for updating contact information of Adhering Members, and provided documents to the IUGS webmaster for posting on the IUGS website.

(4) Promotional Items

Designed and produced promotional items with the IUGS logo to be used at the IUGS booth exhibitions and the 5th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council at the 37th IGC, including IUGS pins, T-shirts, Polo shirts, hats, cloth bags, storage bags, roller pens, scarfs, ties, USB drives and cables etc.

(5) IUGS 60th Anniversary

- Designed the IUGS 60th anniversary logo;
- Distributed the information of the IUGS 60th anniversary events to the IUGS family;

- Assisted in updating the 60th Anniversary website, showcasing the scientific achievements of the IUGS constituent bodies;
- Participated in the preparatory work of a series of scientific events, including the IUGS 60th anniversary event held in Basque Coast on October 25-28 on which IUGS announced the First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites, Geosolutions for Net Zero, International Geodiversity Day, etc.;
- Invited Chinese scientists to participate in the IUGS 60th anniversary events;
- Conducted survey on the participation of the IUGS constituent bodies so as to strengthen links within IUGS.

(6) IUGS Information Management System

- Improved the functions of the IUGS Information Management System;
- Uploaded all the annual reports submitted by IUGS bodies to the IUGS Information Management System for comments by EC members before each EC meeting;
- Frequently updated contact information of all the Adhering and Affiliated Organizations through checking their websites and submitted annual reports.

(7) Archive Matters

- Continued the assembly of documentation;
- Retrieval of documentation upon request of Adhering Organizations and others.

5. Major work related to the 37th IGC and the 5th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council

(1) Distribution of Call for Nominations

- Distributed the Call for Expression of Interest to host 38th International Geological Congress, 2028;
- Distributed the Call for Nominations of the IUGS Executive Committee 2024-2028 and IUGS Nominating Committee 2024-2028;
- Distributed a call for applications for support from the IUGS Hutchison Young Scientists Foundation to attend the 37th IGC.

(2) IUGS Booth Exhibition

- Coordinated with the local organizer of the 37th IGC about the IUGS booth space rental;
- Designed the IUGS booth at the 37th IGC;
- Invited displaying materials from the IUGS bodies, finalized design of the IUGS booth and posters, and made bank transfer of booth design and construction fees;
- Designed and produced IUGS promotional items to be used at the IUGS booth and the 5th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council at the 37th IGC.

(3) 5th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council

- Distributed the Invitations to the 5th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council to Adhering Organizations, Constituent Groups and Affiliated Organizations;
- Designed and opened the online registration systems for the registration of delegates from Adhering Organizations, Constituent Groups and Affiliated Organizations;
- Assembled four-year reports of the IUGS Constituent Groups and prepared the whole set of meeting documents based on the meeting agenda;
- Contacted the EC and NC candidates for their Biography and Statement, and compiled all the candidates' Biography and Statement to be posted on the IUGS website;
- Provided all the national delegates the online drive download link of the EC and NC candidates' CV, biography and statement and the bidding documents of the three candidate cities;
- Designed the brochure of the meeting participants, ballots for the election of the EC Members and host of the 38th IGC.

(4) IUGS Awards

- Distributed a call for nominations of the IUGS Awards to be presented at the 37th IGC;
- Designed the IUGS Awards Brochure.

(5) IUGS Reception

- Prepared invitation list for the IUGS reception;
- Sent individual invitations to the invitees of the reception.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

In accordance with the MOU between the Chinese government and IUGS for hosting the Secretariat in China signed in Brisbane, Australia in 2012, the Chinese government has committed to providing finances to operate the IUGS Secretariat (office space and fittings, salary, travel etc.). IUGS contributes 15,000 US Dollars per year to support Secretariat activities according to the MOU between IUGS and Chinese government.

With the financial support of the Chinese government, the IUGS Secretariat has covered various of expenses happened to the operation of IUGS, including the IUGS booth renting fee at major international conferences, the design and construction of the IUGS booth at the 37th IGC, the design and production of IUGS hard-copy annual reports and promotional items, etc..

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the whole Executive Committee, in particular the Bureau, for guidance and great support to the Secretariat for its smooth operation during the past four years. The Secretariat staff members will continue full devotion to the Secretariat duties with concerted efforts to actively support the work of the IUGS Bureau and Executive Committee and the broad-ranging scientific activities of IUGS.

John Ludden appreciated the efficient support of IUGS Secretariat staff members.

Motion to approve the Secretariat's Report

Approved

5. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a) Finance Committee

John Ludden introduced that the IUGS Finance Committee (FC) is composed of Alexander Rudloff (IUGG, FC Chair), Carmala Garziona (GSA, FC member), Hiroshi Kitazato (IUGS Treasurer 2020-2024), John Ludden (IUGS President 2020-2024), Ryo Matsumoto (JGU, FC member), Stanley Finney (IUGS Secretary General 2020-2024). The members of the Finance Committee were appointed by the IUGS-EC and informed by the IUGS President on February 2nd, 2024.

FC's primary tasks are:

- (i) identifying financial opportunities for IUGS;
- (ii) analysing the financial performance of IUGS bodies (in arrangement with ad-hoc review committees);
- (iii) drafting recommendations regarding the annual IUGS budget;
- (iv) preparing a report to be presented to the IUGS Council every four years before the election of a new EC;

(v) arranging an external financial audit every four years.

In preparation for the joint meeting, the FC received a four-year financial report prepared by the IUGS treasurer. Additional material was presented at the joint meeting: powerpoint slides. The external auditor's report was sent on request.

A joint meeting of the Finance Committee took place on 28th June 2024 - 3:00 pm until 4:15 pm CEST, virtually as a Zoom conference. The IUGS treasurer presented the quadrennial report and explained the figures in detail. All questions raised during the discussion were answered.

The FC notes that the overall financial situation of IUGS is healthy and the saving and reserve accounts are well filled. Due to special effects caused by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in the years between 2020 and 2022, travel and conference costs in particular were significantly lower than planned. However, the average annual budgets appear to be unchanged when compared with those of twenty years ago. The cancellation of IGC36, which was planned for 2020 in New Delhi/INDIA, had no financial impact on IUGS.

The FC would like to recommend the following points to the IUGS EC and the IUGS-IGC Council:

- The accounts of IUGS should be kept open and flexible.
- The financial affairs of IUGS should be kept at the current high level.
- The IUGS reserve should be reduced in perspective, e.g. to the amount of two annual budgets.
- New national members should be encouraged to join.
- Existing members should be encouraged to stay, pay and stabilize their membership.
- New agreements with UNESCO in connection with the IGCP programme should be examined.

Motion to approve the Finance Committee's Report

Approved

b) Ad hoc Review Committees (ARC)

John Ludden introduced that IUGS conducted Ad hoc reviews on IUGS constituent groups and each review panel comprise 2 members from IUGS Executive Committee. The role of Ad hoc review is to encourage to optimize and streamline the activities of the groups.

John Ludden mentioned that during his mandate, three Ad hoc reviews were carried out, including reviews on *Episodes*, International Geoscience Program (IGCP) and Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE). John Ludden mentioned that it is recommended for *Episodes* to be more science-oriented journal. For IGCP, despite the program has successfully run a number of projects, the IGCP fund is decreasing. Ad hoc review on IGCP recommended more sustainable goals of IGCP and more focus on Africa continent. An ad hoc review on DDE is ongoing. The DDE ad hoc review committee is working on the Terms of Reference of IUGS Big Science Program and how IUGS implement the GeoGPT Initiative.

Motion to approve the Ad hoc Review Committee (ARC)'s Report

Approved

c) Outreach

IUGS Councillor (2022-2026) Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte (YR) reported the IUGS outreach activities as follows:

i) Webpage

YR presented the 4-year report on behalf of IUGS Webmaster Giuseppe Di Capua as follows:

The activity of the webmaster was focused to maintain the efficient website of IUGS by creating and updating pages regularly. IUGS website has got a new design, improved its contents, increased accesses and resolved technical and bureaucratic issues.

From 2019 to 2023, the number of unique visitors has increased from 33,786 to 35,827, session visitors from 35,971 to 47,640, page viewers from 77,515 to 87,321. IUGS is now the official owner of the website domain (iugs.org) and independently manages the web space on the web-hosting platform used to create and modify the website's pages, without any intermediaries. IUGS no longer has intermediation costs.

ii) E-Bulletin

YR reported on behalf of the Editor of E-bulletin Gurmeet Kaur as follows:

Changes to the IUGS e-Bulletin in January 2024 including a new template of IUGS E-bulletin was designed for the E-bulletin news and submissions are allowed before the end of every month. The E-bulletin is sent by email to around 8,000 recipients, uploaded on the IUGS website and publicized on IUGS social media. The new E-bulletin now contains profiles of young IUGS reporters.

iii) Social Media

IUGS Social Media is jointly managed and operated by YR with Maria Daniela Munoz-Grannados as the social media assistant. IUGS maintains a strong presence on social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube (launched in March 2023). These platforms regularly share relevant information and updates about the various IUGS activities commissions, joint programs, task groups and initiatives. A Gmail account for social media and outreach activities matters is created for receiving news and information from the IUGS community. IUGS now has 192 subscribers at YouTube, 432 followers at Instagram and more than 8,000 subscribers at Facebook.

IUGS social media platforms have actively promoted the Second 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites Book in 2024. IUGS Young Reporters was created and launched in 2023 by YR and some other IUGS EC members. Currently, IUGS has 17 young reporters. YR reviewed the IESO 2024, which received 25 essays from high school students from Indonesia, Australia, India, Oman, United States, South Korea, China, Italy and Iran. Video of the event is accessible at IUGS social media platforms.

YR suggested turning the Young Reporters into an initiative that could also involve the new counselors. YR encouraged the colleagues from the IUGS community to subscribe to our channels and repost IUGS news.

iv) GSL book

YR reported that from 2020 to 2024, 18 IUGS-related books have been published. All the books are highly cited and can be downloaded at the GSL website. IUGS has signed the new MOU with GSL. There have been potential marketing and sale of the 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites books. TGIR has proposed to publish the IUGS Classification of Igneous Rocks. IUGS new EC

members (2024-2028) will be involved to encourage IUGS constituent groups to publish with GSL.

Motion to approve Reports of IUGS webpage, E-bulletin, Social Media and GSL book

Approved

v) Episodes

Sung Keun LEE, the Editor-in-Chief of *Episodes* gave a report as follows:

The Editorial Office, which is composed of Prof. Jin-Yong Lee, Prof. Youngsook Huh and Dr. Wonsil Cho had effectively increased the impact factor of *Episodes* from 2021-2023. Starting in January 2024, Dr. Sung Keun Lee took on the role of the Editor-in-Chief of *Episodes*.

Major statistics on the operation of Episodes are displayed as follows:

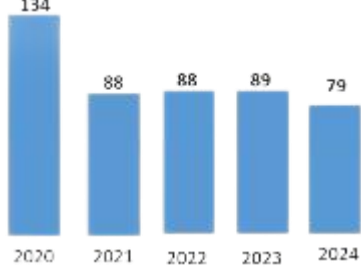
The total number of submitted and published manuscripts:

	Total <i>submitted</i> manuscript	Total <i>published</i> manuscript
2024	79	26
2023	89	52
2022	88	41
2021	88	43
2020	134	75

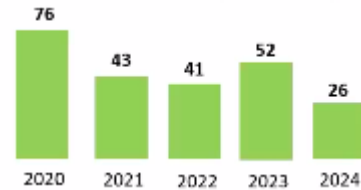
(As of June 18, 2024)

In 2020, the number of manuscript is more than 130 due to two special issues were published in 2020.

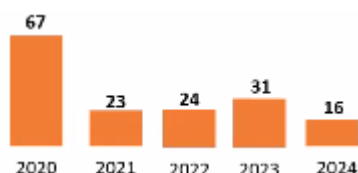
Manuscript submitted:



Number of contributions (articles, reports, etc.) published:



Articles published:



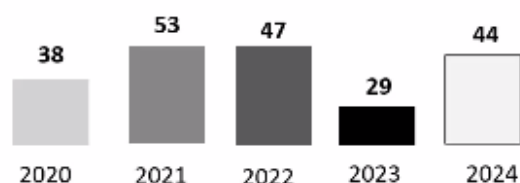
The number of accepted and rejected manuscripts in a given year:

	Accepted manuscripts	Rejected manuscripts	Acceptance rate (%)
2024	33	15	68.8*
2023	30	55	35.3
2022	43	40	51.8
2021	30	40	42.9
2020	56	67	45.6

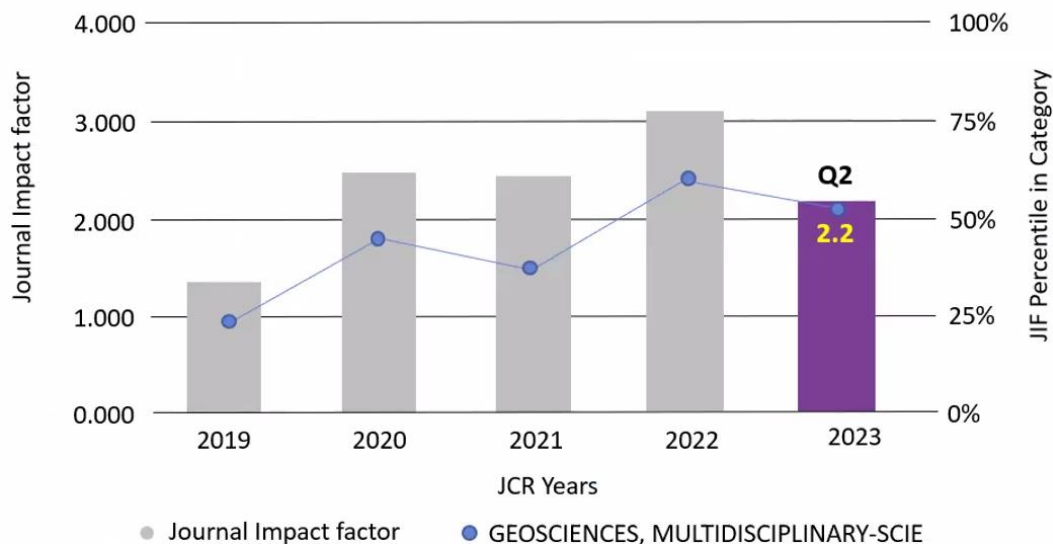
(As of June 18, 2024)

Submission to first decision (days):

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Submission to technical check completion (ME)	2.7	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.5
Technical check completion to transfer to EIC	0.1	0	0.4	0	0.2
Submission to editor assignment (EIC)	1.1	1	2.4	0.8	0.6
Submission to reviewer invitation (AE)	12.1	11.9	10.5	13.2	10.6
Submission to first decision	37.9	52.5	46.9	29.1	44.2



The CiteScore of the journal decreases from 5.5 to 2.2 in the recently published Elsevier's CiteScore Tracker (Last updated on May 5, 2024), and the percentile in category retained Q1. As reported in Claivate data in June 24, 2024, the impact factor of our journal declined significantly from 3.1 to 2.2 from 2022 to 2023.

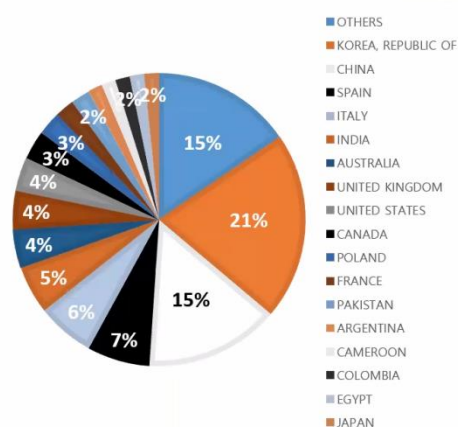


Episodes now has 27 Associate Editors in earth and environmental sciences. Those experts are globally diverse, with representation from Africa (1, F1), South America (2, F1; M1), North America (4, F1; M3), Asia (8, F4; M4), Europe (11, F6; M5), and Oceania (1, F1).

Accepted Manuscript Statistics- Submissions Accepted during 2020-2024

Submissions Accepted during 2020-2024

No	Country	Accepted Manuscript (n)
1	KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	39
2	CHINA	28
3	SPAIN	13
4	ITALY	12
5	INDIA	10
6	UNITED KINGDOM, AUSTRALIA	8
8	UNITED STATES	7
9	CANADA	6
10	POLAND	5
11	FRANCE, PAKISTAN	4
13	ARGENTINA, CAMEROON, COLOMBIA, EGYPT, JAPAN	3
18	AUSTRIA, BRAZIL, CZECH REPUBLIC, FINLAND, MEXICO, PORTUGAL, TURKEY	2
20	DENMARK etc.,	1



(Accepted 188 manuscripts, Included Special issue, As of June 18, 2024)

Some of the changes that have made this year:

- We ask authors to submit an “author checklist” along with their manuscripts. This step seems necessary due to the receipt of a major portion of manuscripts that require substantial refinement before further processing.
- Authors are expected confirm that their manuscripts adhering to the journal style outlined in the guide for authors.
- Implementation and maintenance through the Editorial Manager System are realized.

Planned 2024 activities of *Episodes* include:

- 1) Securing a future special issues
- 2) Episodes promotion with the IUGS booth at the 2024 IGC (Busan, Korea)

3) Informal AE meeting (August 30th) during IUGS.

Sung Keun LEE commented that the metrics for *Episodes* indeed show a moderate degree of fluctuation from year to year. This could result from a relatively small number of yearly publications, as the values seem to be heavily affected by how several key papers would perform. The fluctuation may also partly stem from the journal policy. As a community journal, we do not discriminate against any specific discipline or topic that may not secure a larger readership. This could be somewhat contrary to recent trends in journal publications elsewhere where emphasis is given more on topical interest.

Motion to approve Report of *Episodes*

Approved

6. REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS, TASK GROUPS, AND INITIATIVES

a) COMMISSIONS

i) International Commission on Geoheritage (ICG)

Asier Hilario, the Chair of the International Commission on Geoheritage (ICG) gave the report as follows:

ICG was created in 2016. In 2020, the IUGS Executive Committee decided to reorganize this Commission with the following mandate: 1) Creation of a unified commission working under a unified structure, strategy, budget and statutes. Unique webpage and a clear list of voting members and corresponding members. 2) Definition and reactivation of programs for the IUGS recognition of Sites and Heritage Stones. 3) To explore a possibility to create a new Sub-commission on Geo-collections. 4) To increase the IUGS role and visibility in the field of Geological heritage with a close collaboration with other international organizations, with special emphasis with UGGp.

The First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites Book was announced by ICG in Zumaia, Spain in 2022 as a major event of the 60th Anniversary of IUGS. The aim of IUGS Geological Heritage Sites initiative is to create a global program of collaboration by which IUGS would lead a great group of experts to give recognition to the most important sites of geological sciences. It is defined that "An IUGS Geological Heritage Site is a key place with extraordinary geological elements or processes of the highest scientific relevance, used as a global reference, and/or with a substantial contribution to the development of geological science through history".

The Books have involved more than 700 authors, more than 100 evaluators and more than 80 countries and 17 international organizations. The Second 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites Books will be presented during the 37th IGC. After the First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites Book was published in 2022, ICG website has received more than 60,000 visitors almost from 200 countries.

The First 55 IUGS Heritage Stones Book will be presented during the 37th IGC. It is defined that "An IUGS Heritage Stone (HS) is a natural stone that has been used in significant architecture and monuments, recognized as integral aspects of human culture."

ICG has designated 11 new IUGS Geo-Collections and they will be announced during the 37th IGC. It is defined that "An IUGS Geological Heritage Collection is a museum geocollection or part of a

geocollection of global importance because of its particularly high scientific, historical and /or educational relevance.”

Asier Hilario emphasized IUGS’s contribution to UNESCO Global Geoparks. In 2023, ICG has reached a new formal agreement with IUCN.

Motion to approve the Report of International Commission on Geoheritage

Approved

ii) Structural Geology and Tectonics (TecTask)

Rodolfo Carosi, the Past Chair of Commission on Tectonics and Structural Geology (TecTask) reported the activities 2020-2024 and the transition towards a new international association (IASGT).

TecTask defines terminology and standards in structural geology & tectonics with a Wiki website with more than 200 entries. TecTask freezes and publishes a terminology book every 5 years. TecTask developed the Outcropedia, which is an online tool for collecting data from world-class outcrops and for creating GeoTours. Outcropedia was launched in 2004 and re-designed in 2018 and it provides more than 1,000 photos from the best outcrops in the world divided in 15 categories.

TecTask holds 24 online seminars since 2018 with 1,400 subscribers and nearly 60,00 viewers. The online seminar allows everyone to attend, specifically those who can not personally attend and it has become a useful resource for students.

Conferences organized or co-organized by TecTask since 2020 include the 23rd DRT-2022 Catania (Italy), 24th DRT-2024-Barcelona (Spain), The Alpine Orogen: Petrology, Geochemistry, and Plate Dynamics (August 2023) and YORSGET conference series (Young Researchers in Structural Geology and Tectonics).

The Henk Zwart Award is to promote research in structural geology and tectonics in any of its fields. In 2022, the Award was granted to Professor Emerita Renee Heilbronner (University of Basel, Switzerland).

In 2023, TecTask held the short course on “Microtectonics of Fault Rocks” in Turin, Italy jointly with Geological Society of Italy. This is a two-day workshop for MSc and PhD students and ECRs and actively joined in the First and Second 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites.

In 2024, IUGS-TecTask has been transitioned to IASGT. The IASGT inaugural conference was held on February 26-28 - IIT Kharagpur, India.

Motion to approve the Report of Commission on Structural Geology and Tectonics

Approved

iii) International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS)

David Harper, the Chair of International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) reported ICS work over the past 4 years as follows:

David Harper reviewed some significant achievements (2020-2024), which include:

- 1) Definition and ratification of some 12 GSSPs (including replacements), two GSSAs and two SABs in the last four years;
- 2) Four GSSP dedications in 2023-2024, Germany (Coniacian), Italy (Campanian), France (Albaian and Hauterivian);
- 3) Key contributions to the IUGS World Heritage Sites: 5 sites in the first 100 and 4 sites in the second 100;
- 4) Most downloaded *Episodes* articles in 2022 and 2023;
- 5) Translation into nearly 20 languages of the ICS charts;
- 6) Ongoing major makeover (new content, new design) of the ICS webpages and the development of an ICS family for the subcommissions continues;
- 7) Publications focused on the work of the ICS, including *Deciphering Earth's History: the Practice of Stratigraphy*, *Cretaceous Project 200* and *A global Synthesis of the Ordovician System, Stratigraphical "Golden Spikes" (Chinese), etc*;
- 8) The STRATI meeting in Lille, 11-13 July 2023 with about 300 delegates;
- 9) Award of the ICS and the Digby McLaren medals and a certificate of excellence;
- 10) Election (and appointment) of new executives and voting members. Massive turnover in excess of 50% of executives and voting members.

Motion to approve the Report of International Commission on Stratigraphy

Approved

iv) History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

Ezio Vaccari, the Chair of the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) presented the 4-year report of INHIGEO as follows:

INHIGEO was founded in 1967 and currently has 309 members from 56 countries and 14 affiliated geo-historical associations. The INHIGEO board is composed of President, Secretary General and 6 Vice Presidents from different continents.

INHIGEO held Business meetings in 2021 (online), 2022 in Les Eyzies (France), 2023 in Krakow (Poland) and 2024 at IGC in Busan. Financial support from INHIGEO mainly goes to young members and non-members and PHD students. The last two years witnessed a significant increase in the number of young members.

Ezio Vaccari presented the publications over the past 4 years, including the Proceedings of 43th, 44th, and 47th INHIGEO Symposium, 6 papers on historical IGC, contributions to *Episodes* (2021-2023), 43 contributions to INHIGEO Anniversary Series published in IUGS E-bulletin between February 2021 and July 2024, "INHIGEO Virtual Bibliography" and papers published with the partnership with *Earth Science History*.

Since 2022, INHIGEO has conducted ongoing collaboration with IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage (ICG) in terms of “The First 100 (2022)” and “The Second 100 (2023-2024)”. Two INHIGEO representative have been nominated voting members respectively in Subcommittee on Geological Heritage Sites and in Subcommittee of Heritage Stones of ICG. INHIGEO has established a connection with Forensic Geology and a joint meeting will be held.

INHIGEO established two new awards in 2022, namely INHIGEO Student Prize for Master/PhD student and INHIGEO Early Career Award for young scholars up to 35 years of age. In 2020, Vladimir Tikhomirov History of Geology Award was assigned to David Branagan (Australia) and this Award will be granted to Kenneth Taylor (USA) during the 37th IGC.

Motion to approve the Report of Commission on History of Geological Sciences

Approved

v) Education, Training, and Technology Transfer (COGE)

Sandra Villacorta, the Chair of Commission on Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE) reported the achievements of COGE over the past 4 years as follows:

After the former COGE Chair Chris King passed away in 2022, COGE experienced formulation and approval of TOR and organizational documents, approval of new structure, addition of new members, setting up the first election of a Board for COGE and organizing elections for sub-commission Chairs.

Geoscience Education Field Officer (GEFO) Programme supported interactive teacher training in Colombia, Burkina Faso and Togo, conducted a internal survey to understand teaching methods in geoscience among commission members and field officers. In 2023, COGE expanded support to teacher training in Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Lumbila, India and Togo and launched the GEFO Internship program. COGE continued its support and training for field officers and is recruiting new field officers.

COGE published IUGS “Strategy for Enhancing Geoscience Education Worldwide” with UNESCO Latin America Regional Office Survey on Earth science education, translated the ebook “Exploring Geoscience Across the Globe” into Spanish and Italian, collaborated with Geoscience Cener of UNAM-CGEO on the jornal “Teaching and Communication of Geosciences”, worked on a special issue of *Episodes* on “International Geoscience Education Strategies: Innovations, Collaboraitons, and Future Directions”.

COGE has cooperative relations with IGEO, UNAM-CGEO, EGU Education and GeoSciEd X conference.

COGE supported IESO in 2021/2022 and locally IESO in Chile, Peru, Italy, Korea, US and the Philippines, organized the “Geoscience Information for Teachers” webinar and launched Wikipedia projects related to geoscience education, established the Chris King Medal for outstanding geoscience educators and organized sessions for AGU2023 and IGC 2024.

Motion to approve the Report of Commission on Education, Training, and Technology Transfer

Approved

vi) Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI)

Harvey Thorleifson, the Chair of Commission on Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI), gave the report on CGI as follows:

Since 2020, CGI has fulfilled its role by facilitating the discovery, exchange, and use of geoscience information. CGI has 531 members in 82 countries. CGI hosts or co-hosts the DDE standards Task Group and 5 working groups. CGI Council met online 3 times in 2020, 4 times in 2021 and 4 times in 2022; in 2023, we met 4 times, including our 1st in-person meeting since 2019.

In 2020, activities were limited due to the pandemic. In 2021, CGI held two webinars - workgroup reports in June and a Technical Seminar in September on geoscience ontology and knowledge graph. CGI then made major contributions to DDE standards training in October 2021. In 2022, CGI held a series of GeolInfo Summit meetings co-hosted with CGMW, Codata, DDE, Loop, OGC and OneGeology. In 2023, CGI's highlight was the November DDE/CGI Suzhou Meeting in China on Future Geoscience Information Standards.

CGI closed the four-year period by launching a new Strategic Plan, active preparation for the IGC in Korea, and a celebration for Francois Robida, Past Chair of CGI, who won the 2024 EGU Ian McHarg Medal for distinguished research in information technology applied to Earth and space sciences.

Motion to approve the Report of Commission on Management and Application of Geoscience Information

Approved

vii) Geoethics Commission (CG)

Giuseppe Di Capua, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Commission on Geoethics (CG) reported the activities 2023-2024 as follows:

On February 16, 2023, IUGS Executive Committee (EC) officially established the Commission on Geoethics and nominated Silvia Peppoloni as Chair of the Commission at the 78th EC meeting in Belfast, UK. CG is the supporting branch of IAPG to the IUGS and the IUGS body that officially deals with geoethics and social geosciences for the Union. CG has a light structure composed of Chair, Governing Board, Supportive structure and Operative structure.

The core businesses of CG include drafting and updating ethical guidelines for IUGS, supporting the IUGS regarding questions such as unprofessional conduct, misconduct, harassment, retaliation, racism, sexism, conflicts of interest, working to reduce the gender gap and increase diversity, contributing to IUGS events or any other scientific or public events and networking with geoscience (affiliated or not to IUGS) and humanities organizations to create opportunities to bridging geosciences and human and social sciences.

In 2023, CG created its LOGO, webpage, social media pages and established Task Group for IUGS Ethical Guidelines and Task Group for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility. In 2024, CG proposed the Action Plan on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility. CG conducted assessment of diversity within IUGS bodies, including gender imbalance index and geographical diversity index so as to rank gender equality and geographical equity. CG began addressing the topic "AI and Big Data in geosciences" by creating a new task group.

CG Chair Silvia Peppoloni represented IUGS in the Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (SCGES). CG has been actively engaged with the IUGS Presidency to offer assistance concerning the controversies within IUGS bodies, affiliated organizations and also regarding individual scientists and verifying documents of general interest for the union.

Motion to approve the Report of Commission on Geoethics

Approved

viii) Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

Anna Ladenberger, the First Co-Chair of Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB), presented the overview of 2020-2024 activities of CGGB as follows:

In 2022, the FOREGS project celebrated its 25th Anniversary. In the autumn of 2017, CGGB was invited to participate in the Global Black Soil project. *The Manual of Standard Geochemical Method for the Global Black Soil Project* was published in 2020. The Manual of Standard Methodes for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network was published in June 2022. CGGB also actively supported and joined in the IUGS 60th Anniversary Events.

CGGB participated in conferences such as the Goldschmidt conference in 2021 and 2023, 38th International Conference on Geochemistry and Health (SEGH 2023), 37th IGC in Busan and the joint conference of ISEH, ICEPH & ISEG on Environment and Health. CGGB held digital joint meeting of CGGB, EGS-GEG, ASGMI-GG in 2021, joint meeting of CGGB, EGS-GEG, ASGMIOGG in Athens, Greece in 2022 and joint meeting of CGGB, EGS-GEG, ASGMI-GG in Naples, Italy in 2023.

CGGB plans to propose a review paper about the Manual to be published in *Episodes*, promote the Global Geochemical Reference Network project and the Manual of Standard Methods, publish a Manual on new analytical methods for compounds and isotopes.

Motion to approve the Report of Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines

Approved

b) TASK GROUPS

i) Task Group on Igneous Rocks (TGIR): new

Michelle Lustrino, the Chair of Task Group on Igneous Rocks (TGIR) presented the 4-year report of TGIR as follows:

TGIR was established in 2021 and is composed of 18 experts from 13 countries (5 continents). The main activity of TGIR is to revise the systematic igneous rocks using a purely descriptive approach. TGIR plans to publish the third edition of *Igneous Rocks- A Classification and Glossary of Terms* next year. Major activities of TGIR concerning the publication of the Igneous Rocks (third edition) include:

- Creation of new sections and addressing old unsolved concepts, such as definition of rock series
- Involvement of tens of other researchers out of the TGIR

- Participation to International Congresses to share ideas and grab attention of the igneous petrology community
- Organization of a workshop in Rome in September 2023 including a three-day field activity
- Discussion with possible print houses for the third edition of the IUGS book
- Planned open-access for the new version of the book plus print-on-demand option for the hard copy at the lowest cost as possible
- Open discussion sections in the Research Gate platform

Motion to approve the Report of Task Group on Igneous Rocks

Approved

ii) Task Group on Submarine Geohazards (TGSG): new

Kiichiro Kawamura, the Chair of Task Group on Submarine Geohazards (TGSG) presented the 4-year report of TGSG as follows:

TGSG summarizes global seafloor geoscientific data and seafloor geohazard risk assessment, assessment methods and capacity development. It targets the full spectrum of submarine geohazards that impact people's lives and critical infrastructures, including offshore renewable energy systems. Kiichiro Kawamura reviewed that on January 1st, 2024, the Noto-Hanto Earthquake M7.6 happened with Tsunami >5 m excited by underwater active faults and submarine landslides, which emphasizes the importance of study on submarine Geohazards.

TGSG held 3 online events in 2024 and 5 online events in 2023. In 2023 and 2024, TGSG participated in a number of international and national events, including Science Council of Japan Open Symposium, 37th IGC, IAEG2023 etc and it will hold an international symposium in November 2024. TGSG conducted capacity building activities, including the Aura Center for Doctoral Training in Offshore Wind Energy and an international lecture program between TGSG and Yamaguchi University.

Motion to approve the Report of Task Group on Submarine Geohazards

Approved

iii) Task Group on Isotopes and Geochronology (TGIG): joint with IUPAC

Stan Finney gave a report on Task Group on Isotopes and Geochronology (TGIG) as follows:

TGIG is a joint program between IUGS and International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). The purpose of the Group is to determine decay constants for various isotopic systems.

Over the past four years, the retraction in science of a paper that had been included in TGIG evaluation of the 146 Sm half-life has triggered a domino effect which did cost the task group a large amount of unpublished evaluation activity. On one front, TGIG contacted a group who had written the retracted 2012 paper about recalculating what had been done at that time, and a possible remeasuring legacy leftovers of the original solutions. The effort went on for a few months. It's not quite over, and has led to no evident reevaluation. On a different front, TGIG contacted a nuclear theorist group and interacted on an Ab initial calculation of the 146 Sm half-life. This effort led to a numerical result which is at variance with all of the available experimental data and is not conclusive to a consensus. On 1/3 front one member of the task group has asked to review a manuscript on a brand new experimental result that could

be used for a long waited reevaluation of the 146 Samarium half-life. The manuscript is not published. A revised version will be published and the task Group will be evaluated in view of a recommendation.

Motion to approve the Report of Task Group on Isotopes and Geochronology

Approved

c) INITIATIVES

i) Forensic Geology

Laurance Donnelly, the Chair of Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) gave a report as follows:

IFG conducted a number of outreach knowledge exchange, capacity building and training activities over the past 4 years. In particular, IFG carried out the initiation of the clean gold program with the Brazilian Federal police. IFG was invited to the World Police Summit in Dubai to collaborate with the police in the United Arab Emirates. IFG have been searching for the graves of the disappeared in Colombia. In France, IFG has been collaborating with INTERPOL for searching illegal mining team. IFG has been working with international money laundering and counter-finance organizations. IFG worked in the Sahel region of Africa, where Russian Cartels are active and gold are smuggled into Russia. IFG continues its collaboration with FBI in relation to geological trace, evidence and searching for graves, weapons, drugs and firearms.

IFG provided operational support for police and law enforcement criminal investigation. IFG initiated a new aspect of its work - Forensic Paleontology. IFG worked closely with hydrogeologists and geologists to ensure the techniques to search water bodies for missing persons and other items that criminals dispose of in water. IFG initiated a new project related to crime investigation in the mining industry.

Over the past 4 years, IFG produced numerous books, standards and protocols, including 2 Geological Society of London special publications, and *Guide to Forensic Geology* and *Forensic Soil, Science and Geology*.

Motion to approve the Report of Initiative on Forensic Geology

Approved

d) Approval of New IUGS Commissions and Task Groups: GC, TGIR, TGSG

Motion to ratify GC, TGIR, TGSG as new IUGS Commissions and Task Groups

Approved

e) Approval of Termination of IUGS Commission - TecTask

Motion to terminate IUGS Commission - TecTask

Approved

7. ADHERING ORGANIZATIONS

a) Status of Membership

IUGS Treasurer Hiroshi Kitazato reported the status of IUGS membership in 4.c. Treasurer's report.

8. RATIFICATION OF NEW AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

a) GfGD- Geology for Global Development

Motion to ratify GfGD as an affiliated organization of IUGS

Approved

b) SEGH - Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health

Motion to ratify SEGH as an affiliated organization of IUGS

Approved

c) IRCK – International Research Center on Karst

Motion to ratify IRCK as an affiliated organization of IUGS

Approved

d) IASGT – International Association of Structural Geology and Tectonics

Motion to ratify IASGT as an affiliated organization of IUGS

Approved

e) GGN – Global Geopark Network

Motion to ratify GGN as an affiliated organization of IUGS

Approved

f) NMGS – Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society

Motion to ratify NMGS as an affiliated organization of IUGS

Approved

9. INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL (ISC)

John Ludden introduced that IUGS is a member of International Science Council (ISC) and is also a member of the GeoUnion in ISC. IUGS increased its membership category in ISC in 2022. IUGS Past President Qiuming Cheng and John Ludden were elected as ISC fellows during the presidency.

Motion to ratify Report on ISC

Approved

10. JOINT PROGRAMS

a) UNESCO

i) International Geosciences Programme (IGCP)

Kombada Mhopjeni from UNESCO reported the 4-year activities of IGCP as follows:

IGCP is conducted under the 6 themes, namely Earth Resources, Global Change, Geohazards, Hydrogeology, Geodynamics and Geoheritage. IGCP mandates international cooperation focusing on developing countries, especially Latin America, Africa, women and youth. IGCP council members met 4 times in Paris over the past 4 years. IGCP Council decide to place “Geoscience for Society” as the central to IGCP, with projects addressing global challenges.

The main activities include:

- ReSToRE3: Supported the participation of 15 PhD students and early career researchers from 10 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
- 8th SGA-IUGSSEG-UNESCO Short Course on African Metallogeny: Supported the participation of 15 PhD students and early career researchers from African and Arab states.
- Geosciences in Action: IGCP and AGU created a book entitled “Geoscience in Action: advancing sustainable development” endorsed by more than 20 geological societies.
- IGCP 50th anniversary: Celebration of the 50th anniversary of IGCP and the partnership between UNESCO and IUGS attended by about 400 people.
- Geoscience Ambassadors: A competition to recognize outstanding young geoscience ambassadors.
- Earth Futures Film Festival: Supported an international film festival on Earth science, which received more than 970 entries from 89 countries around the world.

In 2023, 120 countries globally were active in IGCP projects. Compared to 2015, the numbers of project leaders, female project leaders, African project leaders and active projects have all increased dramatically, specifically the number of female project leaders from 26 to 122.

IGCP is now supporting 33 projects with allocated funding of 234,000 USD. In 2024, UNESCO and its partners provides 132,500 USD and IUGS provides 107,000 USD for IGCP projects.

2023 Ad-hoc Review Committee Audit provides opportunities for IGCP, including:

- Make IGCP more attractive for young scientists
- Increase visibility to decision makers and industry
- Define the niche for IGCP
- Focus on new subjects and/or focal regions
- Topics should be of global and regional significance, such as materials for the energy transition, climate and land use, geo-energy
- Attract funding through a few funding scheme, including involvement of industry and other stakeholders

Alecos Demetriades suggested that to attract more young people, IGCP should reduce paperwork requested to the IGCP project applicants. John Ludden commented that IGCP is also confronted with the difficulty in leveraging more funding from industry and government.

Motion to approve the report of International Geosciences Programme (IGCP)

Approved

b) IUGG

i) International Lithosphere Programme (ILP)

Hans Thybo, the Chair of International Lithosphere Programme (ILP) reported the activities of ILP over the past 4 years as follows:

ILP research themes include Geoscience of Global Change, contemporary dynamics and deep processes, continental lithosphere and oceanic lithosphere. ILP now has 10 Task Forces and 5 Coordinating Committees and is operating 15 active projects.

ILP granted Evgueni Burov Medal annually since 2018. Evgueni Burov Medal 2024 is awarded to Dr. Fabio Capitanio from Monash University, Australia for his outstanding contributions to studies of Geodynamics on a broad variety of subjects by use of modelling methodologies and high-performance computing, and his noteworthy scientific leadership.

ILP granted Flinn-hart Award since 1991. In 2024, this award was given to Dr. Eszter Bekesi from Institute of Earth Physics and Space Science, Sopron, Hungary in recognition of her outstanding research and community service, and very promising career path, in particular in the field of geothermal studies of basins and the lithosphere.

ILP Strategic Meeting 2023 concluded the following recommendations:

- Initiation of a society relevant programme with IUGS and IUGS as participants - CC4 on Global Geoscience transects may provide the link
- Initiation of projects on exoplanets and on links between lithosphere and biological evolution
- Broadening of the participation in ILP
- Increase of the number of member countries
- Increase of the visibility and also funding to ILP

One of the ILP coordinating committees on the Himalayas, Nepal, Bhutan, India, together with one of the ILP task forces, created a teaching program on the awareness of earthquake hazards in Bhutan, Nepal, and India, and it received additional support from IUGG directly. Task Force-9 on geothermal has initiated new global, 24-hour annual online meeting and sponsors scholarships. ILP held a townhouse meeting and a dedicated ILP session at AGU 2024.

Motion to approve the report of International Lithosphere Programme (ILP)

Approved

11. BIG SCIENCE PROGRAM

a) Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE)

Natarajan Ishwaran, the Secretary General of DDE Executive Committee, gave a report on the activities over the past 4 years as follows:

DDE is a data-driven research initiative dedicated to enabling Earth scientists to share data, knowledge and resources. In 2022, DDE was first internationally launched at the Paris Headquarter of UNESCO.

DDE Platform was open from November 2022. Currently, the platform has about 4,000 users plus about 50 databases connected to several datasets. DDE finances 7 projects at a total value of 1 million US dollars, such as 1:5M digital map, metadata standard for geoscience information, mineral evolution. DDE has established three research centers respectively in Suzhou (China), Hangzhou (China) and Carnegie Science (Washington DC, USA). DDE now has 28 members, 27 Working and Task Groups. DDE has 2 workshops and is building Paleogeographic Reconstruction Network, 3D outcrop modelling. Over the past 4 years, DDE held 7 regular session of Governing Committee, 14 sessions of Executive Committee and 5 sessions of Scientific Committee. DDE signed an MOU with CODATA in 2023.

For the next 4 years, DDE is going to build up a new RCEs in Europe (University of Strasbourg) in 2024 and an African one foreseen in 2025. In response to IUGS TAP, DDE intends to launch an African initiative for 2025-2028. DDE will select 8-10 Projects from more than 20 applications received for 2 categories of assistance and recommended by SC for approval by EC for 2024-2026. DDE and Zhejiang Lab Project are to develop and GeoGPT-expected to go fully open in 2025. DDE is going to set up two new categories of project funding, namely Key Research Projects and Young Scholars. DDE is going to collaborate with UNESCO within the framework of IDSSD (2024-2033). DDE will be subject to a mid-term review led by IUGS in 2025.

Simon Thompson from Geological Society of London (GSL) asked whether DDE is still wholly owned by IUGS from a legal and financial point of view. John Ludden responded that DDE is recognized and approved by IUGS in 2022. A committee will be set up to review the operation of DDE, including its governance structure and its relationship with GeoGPT, etc.

US national delegate Carmala Garzone mentioned her concern on how the data integration of GeoGPT will be carried out and who puts value on the various data sets that are included. She wanted to know more about the goals of GeoGPT and how it could be used. John Ludden responded that IUGS did receive the concern letters from geoscience community, such as Geoscience World Publishing Group. Subsequently, IUGS held a meeting in the Geological Society of London about a month ago and the report of the meeting is online accessible. The conclusion of the meeting is to closely monitor the development and operation of GeoGPT.

Motion to approve the report of Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE)

Approved

12. AMENDMENTS TO STATUTES AND BYLAWS

Ludwig Stroink, IUGS Councillor (2020-2024) introduced that the IUGS Statutes and Bylaws and IGC Statutes needs an update and revisions. The revisions were approved on the closed session of the 78th EC meeting in 2023. The revising team is composed of John Ludden, Stan Finney and Ludwig Stroink. To discuss on the revisions, two virtual meetings were held in summer and fall 2023. Ludwig Stroink summarized the ideas and modifications and presented them to the Council.

Greece national delegate Alecos Demetriades commented that the revision of the IUGS and IGC Statutes and Bylaws should be the mission of the next IUGS Executive Committee as the Council

is not able to discuss and approve all the revisions during a limited meeting time. Australian national delegate David Cohen suggested an extraordinary session of the Council Meeting should be held for the amendments of the IUGS and IGC Statutes and Bylaws. US national delegate Ester Sztain pointed out that some articles are missing in the documents. John Ludden suggested Alecos Demetriades, David Cohen and Ester Sztain join in the mission to amend the IUGS and IGC Statutes and Bylaws.

Motion to approve extraordinary sessions of the Council – online or in person - on the amendments of IUGS and IGC Statutes and Bylaws.

Approved

13. RESOLUTIONS TO COUNCIL

Greece national delegate Alecos Demetriades presented the proposed resolution for an amendment on the composition and role of the Executive Committee in the IUGS Statutes and Bylaws. For the past few years EC members are actively involved in activities and projects, approved and funded by IUGS, although in Article 37 of the Statutes and Bylaws of the International Union of Geological Sciences there is a clause “Members of the Executive Committee may not concurrently hold office in the Commissions, or be representatives of Adhering Organizations”, which does not allow this involvement. This issue was raised at the virtual Council meeting that we had in October 2020. This is a serious “Conflict of Interest” issue because the IUGS budget cannot be used to fund activities and projects that benefit members of the IUGS EC, the Council must ensure the integrity, professionalism, transparency, accountability and to avoid the options of any impropriety by members of the EC, who must retain at “arms length” of funds used for science and policy.

Alecos Demetriades suggested including the proposed amendment on the article 37 below into the revised IUGS Statutes and Bylaws that will be ready in 6 months:

Members of the Executive Committee may not concurrently hold office in Commissions, Subcommissions, Task Groups, Initiatives, Joint Programs, or other constituent bodies and projects approved and financially supported by IUGS, other than in *ex-officio* position in the UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Program (IGGP) or be representatives of Adhering Organizations. ~~Further they cannot serve officers of IUGS constituent groups for the four years following their terms in the Executive Committee.~~

The proposed amendment will be further discussed at the extraordinary session to be held around March 2025.

14. INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC)

a) Report from the Chairs of the IGC Committee (IGCC)

John Ludden informed that the IGCC comprised Greg Botha, Secretary General of the 35th IGC, Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee, President of the 36th IGC, Daekyo Cheong, President of the 37th IGC, Seung Ryeol Lee, Secretary General of the 37th IGC and three members of the IUGS Bureau. The IGCC met in March and reviewed all the three proposals and made some minor suggestions to make sure that the developing world was included.

Daekyo Cheong, President of the 37th IGC, added several recommendations on exhibition day, registration fee, date determination and themes selection during the first IGCC meeting. At last the IGCC decided to recommend all the three well-prepared bidding to the Council.

b) Presentation of bids for the 38th IGC 2028

Calgary, Canada gave the bid presentation within the time allocated.

Glasgow, U.K. gave the bid presentation within the time allocated.

Melbourne, Australia gave the bid presentation within the time allocated.

c) Selection of the host of 38th IGC 2028

The votes were submitted and these were counted by two members from the IUGS secretariat Gu Yanfei and Xu Yaqi and two scrutinizers David Harper and Harvey Thorleifson.

Total Votes: 156

Calgary, Canada: 83

Glasgow, U.K.: 40

Melbourne, Australia: 33

Result: Calgary, Canada will host the 38th IGC.

16. ELECTION OF IUGS OFFICERS AND RATIFICATION OF COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION OFFICERS AND VOTING MEMBERS

a) Report of the IUGS Nominating Committee

Qiuming Cheng, Chair of the IUGS Nominating Committee, reported that 50% candidates were female out of 28 candidates representing 18 different nations. During the NC meeting at Sun Yat-sen University on March 19th 2024 in Zhuhai, the NC reviewed the nominations, carefully screened each nomination on its eligibility in accordance with IUGS statutes and bylaws. Factors such as scientific records, international network, motivation and preparedness to serve IUGS were thoroughly considered. The NC was dedicated to ensuring broad geographic representation, gender balance, disciplinary diversity and inclusiveness throughout the selection process. Each nomination's background and expertise were accessed to ensure a diverse and inclusive slate reflecting the richness and breadth of global geological community. Despite the initial lack of formal nominations received by the original deadline, an extended nomination period was instituted resulting in additional nominations. Furthermore, efforts made by the NC members resulted in a more balanced representation across all positions. At last, QC expressed his gratitude to the NC members for their efforts. The value of two in-person NC meetings at the beginning and end of the process could not be overstated. The last in-person NC meeting held in Zhuhai, China provided invaluable opportunities for discussions, collaboration and consensus building. The face-to-face communication were instrumental in fostering standard and unity for a robust slate at the end.

Slate for the Next Executive Committee

President

Hassina Mouri

Female

South Africa

Silvia Peppoloni

Female

Italy

**Secretary
General**

Treasurer	Ludwig Stroink	Male	Germany
	David Cohen	Male	Australia
Vice President	Qingtian Lyu	Male	China
	Maria Rose Petrizzo	Female	Italy
	Marko Komac	Male	Slovenia
	Min Huh	Male	Korea
	Olugbenga Okunlola	Male	Nigeria
	Rie Hori	Female	Japan
	Councilors 2024-2028		
	Absai Vatuva	Male	Namibia
	Farnoosh Farjandi	Female	Iran
	Maideyi Meck	Female	Zimbabwe
	Rasik Ravindra	Male	India
	Sidonie Revillon	Female	France
	Weijun Zhao	Male	China
Councilors 2026-2030	Hema Achyuthan	Female	India
	Josephine Uushona	Female	Namibia
	Pablo G. Silva Barroso	Male	Spain
	Renee Clary	Female	US
	Qinhong Hu	Male	China
	Nominating Committee 2024-2028		
	Ashok Kumar Singhvi	Male	India
	Irina Artemieva	Female	Denmark
	John Ludden	Male	UK (to be the NC chair)
	Ute Herzfeld	Female	US
	Wenzhi Zhao	Male	China
	Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte	Female	Germany/Cuban
	Klavdiya Oleshko	Female	Mexico

b) Election of new Officers of the Executive Committee

The votes were counted by two members from the IUGS secretariat Gu Yanfei and Xu Yaqi and two scrutinizers David Harper and Harvey Thorleifson.

● Election of President

○ Candidates addressed the Council

Hassina Mouri was the first to address the Council followed by Silvia Peppoloni.

○ Ballot for President

Proceed to submit the votes for the President, IUGS 2024-2028

Total Votes: 48

Hassina Mouri: 30

Silvia Peppoloni: 18

Result: Hassina Mouri was elected as the IUGS President for the term 2024-2028.

● Election of Treasurer

- Candidates addressed the Council

David Cohen was the first to address the Council followed by Qingtian Lyu.

- Ballot for Treasurer

Proceed to submit the votes for the Treasurer, IUGS 2024-2028

Total Votes: 47

David Cohen: 30

Qingtian Lyu: 17

Result: David Cohen was elected as the IUGS Treasurer for the term 2024-2028.

- Election of Secretary General

- Candidate addressed the Council

Ludwig Stroink presented to the Council as the only candidate for Secretary General.

Result: Ludwig Stroink was endorsed by acclamation to the position of Secretary General.

- Election of Vice Presidents

- Candidates addressed the Council

There were five candidates and Rie Hori was the first to address the Council followed by Min Huh, Olugbenga Okunlola, Marko Komac and Maria Rose Petrizzo.

- Ballot for Vice Presidents

Proceed to submit the votes for the Vice Presidents, IUGS 2024-2028

Total Votes: 92

Rie Hori: 11

Min Huh: 22

Olugbenga Okunlola: 6

Marko Komac: 29

Maria Rose Petrizzo: 24

Result: Marko Komac and Maria Rose Petrizzo was elected as the IUGS Vice Presidents for the term 2024-2028.

- Election of Councilors

- Brief introduction of Candidates (for the term 2024-2028)

There were six candidates including Absai Vatuva, Farnoosh Farjandi, Maideyi Meck, Rasik Ravindra, Sidonie Revillon and Weijun Zhao.

- Ballot for Councilors (2024-2028)

A call for votes for two of the six candidates and ballot submissions were made.

Total Votes: 89

Absai Vatuva: 6

Farnoosh Farjandi: 27

Maideyi Meck: 14

Rasik Ravindra: 7

Sidonie Revillon: 15

Weijun Zhao: 20

Result: Farnoosh Farjandi and Weijun Zhao was elected as the IUGS Councilors for the term 2024-2028.

○ Brief introduction of Candidates (for the term 2026-2030)

There were five candidates including Hema Achyuthan, Josephine Uushona, Pablo G. Silva Barroso, Qinhong Hu and Renee Clary.

○ Ballot for Councilors (2026-2030)

A call for votes for two of the five candidates and ballot submissions were made.

Total Votes: 92

Hema Achyuthan: 11 Josephine Uushona: 32

Pablo G. Silva Barroso: 8 Qinhong Hu: 11 Renee Clary: 30

Result: Josephine Uushona and Renee Clary was elected as the IUGS Councilors for the term 2026-2030.

c) Ratification of the Nominating Committee

John Ludden proposed that the ratification of the Nominating Committee to be postponed to 6 months later and it was agreed by the Council unanimously. A virtual vote will be carried out next March.

d) Ratification of the officers of the IUGS constituent groups

Stanley Finney informed that there had been considerable changes in those positions after communications with all the IUGS constituent groups about term limits, turnover and diversity increasing within officers and voting members. The IUGS EC has approved all the voting members and officers. SF asked the Council to ratify the reappointment or the appointment for the first time of the voting members as well as officers. The list was approved by the Council unanimously.

17. PLACE, DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY SESSION OF COUNCIL

The next ordinary session of the IUGS-IGC Council will be held in Calgary, Canada.

18. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

John Ludden officially closed the Session and thanked everyone for dedication and participation.