



News at a Glance

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1. **IUGS “Big Science Program” Deep-time Digital Earth: 1st annual meeting of the Steering Committee**

During the week of 14th to 17th October 2019, the Steering Committee of the first IUGS “Big Science Program” Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE) – IUGS President Qiuming Chen, Academician Chengshan Wang, Junxuan Fan, Michael Stephenson and Roland Oberhänsli - gathered for their first annual meeting in Beijing. The meeting aimed to prepare the launching of the DDE at 36th IGC in Delhi, the IGC symposia relevant to DDE, a Town Hall meeting, the finalization of the draft of statutes and bylaws, and design of the website and brochures in cooperation with a professional designer. The Committee had in-depth discussions on the potential of promoting DDE and attracting new members. For this, David Leary, a former Exxon Mobil Executive, was invited to report on his efforts on setting up a consortium of University of Texas and Purdue University that could provide a potential DDE hub in the United States. Further discussion concerned a DDE white paper based on a “raw” first draft compiled by Shuzhong Shen. That document will be considered and finalized by a recently established Science Committee that will have its first meeting after the next IUGS EC meeting in January 2020 in Busan, South Korea, in time to be presented at the 36th IGC.

The DDE brochure can be downloaded at:

http://iugs.org/uploads/brochure/DDE_Brochure_4P.pdf



Fig. 1 - DDE Steering Committee at Beijing University of Geosciences

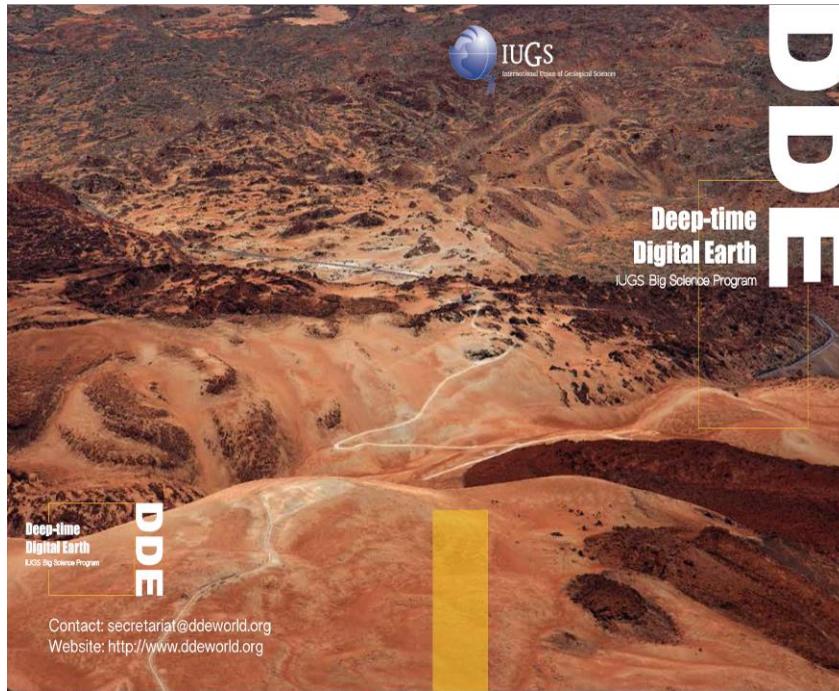


Fig. 2 - DDE Brochure

2. The International Commission on Stratigraphy: filling in the gaps

Following a commitment by Sub-commission chairs at STRATI 2019 (<http://www.strati2019.it/index.php/2-uncategorised/93-photo-gallery>), in the wonderful and historic setting of the Università degli Studi di Milano, to support the core priority of the International Commission on Stratigraphy to complete **all Global Stratotype Sections and Points for the geological timescale as soon as possible**, three stratotypes are being, and will be, discussed by the Commission. The Chibanian (Pleistocene) and the Hauterivian (Cretaceous) are currently under discussion by the ICS and the Priabonian (Paleogene) will be presented soon. A few others are near completion and might be ratified before the start of IGC 36 in India next March.



Fig. 3 - Some stalwarts of the Palaeozoic Sub-Commissions, meeting in Milano at STRATI 2019. From left to right Petr Štorch and Carlo Corradini (Silurian Sub-Commission), Stan Finney (Secretary General of the IUGS, formerly Ordovician Sub-Commission), Juan Carlos Gutiérrez-Marco (Ordovician Sub-Commission), Dave Harper (Chair of the ICS, formerly Ordovician Sub-Commission) and John Marshall (Devonian Sub-Commission).



3. News from the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

Training Video on Soil Collection

IFG has been invited to work with law enforcement agencies in the USA to produce a training video on the collection of soil evidence from crime scenes.

4th Ibero-American Congress on Forensic Geology, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Later this month (October 2019) members of the International members of IUGS-IFG will visit Mexico to deliver the 4th Ibero-American Seminar on Forensic Geosciences in Puerto Vallarta. This will include the collection and analysis of geological trace evidence, crime scene examination and ground searches for burials including forensic taphonomy and forensic geophysics. More info at: <https://www.raugm.org.mx/>

Forensic Geology in India

Geologists in India are working towards the establishment of a sub-group on Forensic Geology that will be affiliated to IUGS-IFG.



War Graves in Poland and Forensic Geology

Members of IUGS-IFG have been invited to Poland in 2020 to provide a series of training lectures on the search for graves associated with the Second World War.

Forensic Geology Publications

“Episodes”, has published several papers on forensic geology. These may be downloaded free from the link: http://www.episodes.org/journal/list.html?pn=search&all_k=forensic

“Forensic Soil Science and Geology”

This will be a Geological Society of London Special Publication, which will provide information and support to help police and law enforcement officials with criminal investigations. It is almost complete and some of the papers are now available online at the following link:

<https://sp.lyellcollection.org/online-first/492>

Further information on IUGS-IFG can be found on the IUGS-IFG web site, however, this is in the process of being upgraded: <http://www.forensicgeologyinternational.com/>

4. IUGS Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

The main activity of IUGS-CGGB during 2019 has been the compilation of two IUGS Standard Geochemical Methods manuals:

1. Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network; and
2. Black Soil Project Manual of Standard Geochemical Methods.

The work on the first manual is in progress and the editors of the second manual are carrying out a final review before submission to external reviewers for comments.

Two members of the IUGS-CGGB Steering Committee have participated in two events. The first was the 5th YES Network Congress in Berlin (<https://yesdeutschland.weebly.com/>) at which the CGGB organised a two-day workshop on “Global Geochemical Baselines and Applied Geochemistry” (8-9 September 2019). The tutors were Ariadne Argyraki and Alecos Demetriades. Fourteen lectures were given, starting from basic applied geochemistry, sampling, sample preparation, laboratory analysis, quality control, statistical-geostatistical data processing, Global- to local-scale geochemical surveys, and phased mineral exploration. The workshop was attended by 20 young earth scientists from Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Namibia and The Netherlands. At the end of the workshop, an attendance certificate and a USB-memory card with the lectures and other workshop material was given to each attendee.



Fig. 4 - Group photo of the 5th YES Workshop attendees and tutors

A plenary lecture on “Global Geochemical Mapping for Resource and Environmental Management” was delivered at the 5th YES Network Congress on the 11th of September 2019 by Alecos Demetriades (Treasurer and Chairperson of Sampling Committee of IUGS-CGGB).

The second event was the joint annual meeting of the EuroGeoSurveys Geochemistry Expert Group (EGS-GEG) and IUGS-CGGB, which was organised by the Mining and Geological Survey of Hungary at its premises in Budapest on the 26th and 27th of September 2019. In total, 29 people attended the meeting from Austria, China, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hellas, Hungary, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and The Netherlands. Apart from the business meeting discussions, which included annual report presentations by EGS-GEG and IUGS-CGGB, most country representatives presented results of on-going applied geochemistry projects. In addition, the two members of the IUGS-CGGB Steering Committee (Ariadne Argyraki and Alecos Demetriades) delivered a presentation on “Quality Control in Applied Geochemical Surveys”, and informed the meeting participants of pending availability of 64-bit software that will be estimating the sampling, analytical and geochemical variance as well as measurement uncertainty.

See webpages: <http://www.globalgeochemicalbaselines.eu/>
<https://www.facebook.com/CGGBIUGS/>
https://twitter.com/cggb_iugs

Fig. 5 - Group photo, Joint meeting of EGS-GEG and IUGS-CGGB, Mining and Geological Survey of Hungary, Budapest



5. IUGS Heritage Stones Sub-Commission (HSS): session at EGU 2020

The IUGS HSS has organized a session at the European Geosciences Union congress, EGU 2020 (Vienna 3-8 May), entitled: "Heritage Stones: Global relevance vis-à-vis architectonic heritage". Conveners of this session are: Gurmeet Kaur, David Martin Freire-Lista, Paola Marini and Noor Dashmesh Singh. Natural stones are integral part of the architectonic heritage built over the centuries and thus reflect close cultural affiliation with society. Our session deals with Heritage Stones defined explicitly by the IUGS Sub Commission on Heritage Stones (HSS). We promote recognition of natural stones that have achieved an important and significant use in human culture. The session will be open to discussion of the use of heritage stones in different civilizations in the past, their impact on human culture, geo-heritage, geo-archaeology and architectonic relevance.



The session will also be open to discuss the current status of the architectonic heritage in terms of physical deterioration and steps to reinforce restoration of the same, in addition to aspects such as historical quarries, quarry landscape and the international trade of heritage stones etc.

Detailed information can be found at:

<https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2020/session/34726>

Submission of abstracts is already open . The deadline for abstract submission is 15 January 2020, 13:00 CET. At the EGU page you can also find information on funding through the EGU programs.



EDITORS' NOTES:

CONTRIBUTING TO THE IUGS E-BULLETIN, WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

IUGS wishes to better co-ordinate publication of information on **news, events and achievements** arising from IUGS activities (**not science reports or papers**).

All IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives and IGCP projects are requested to provide a steady flow of material. Contributions from Adhering Bodies will also be welcomed.

To aid co-ordination and standardization, IUGS has introduced a preferred format and a monthly timetable.

Format of submitted material:

Contributors should provide:

For the E-Bulletin: 2 or 3 sentences with between 1 and 3 illustrations (photographs, diagrams etc.) with captions as separate .jpg, .gif or .png files with a resolution of 150 dpi; optimally accompanied by:

For the website: a concise text of about 0.5 to 1 A4 page (up to about 600-700 words), if possible providing a web-link (e.g. to an IUGS activity website).

The short text in the E-Bulletin will be hyperlinked to any longer text which will be placed on the IUGS website. Items that are not in reasonably good English will be returned for improvement. Others will be edited for use of English if necessary. If proposed contributions are too long, they will be returned for shortening. All images must, if necessary, be copyright-cleared before submission.

Each contribution to the IUGS E-Bulletin, website and/or social media should be marked as to which target medium or media it should be published in. Each contribution should be sent, at the same time, to the following addresses:

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(E-Bulletin Editor-in-Chief)
(Webmaster)
(Social Media Manager)



Timetable:

The idealized timetable for the E-Bulletin is:

1. IUGS sends a reminder to leaders of activities in the last week of each month;
2. Contributions should be provided by the 16th day of that month (**items arriving after that date cannot be included in the next monthly issue**);
3. IUGS will evaluate all submitted items in terms of urgency and will allocate these to the next monthly issue or a later issue and will also check that these comply with IUGS policy for publications and ethics;
4. The IUGS Team will aim to compile that month's E-Bulletin by the 25th day of the month and send it to the IUGS Secretariat;
5. The IUGS Secretariat will dispatch the E-Bulletin to the IUGS Community on, or before, the last day of each month;
6. Long versions of material will be posted on the IUGS Website in coordination with the publication of the relevant E-Bulletin.

This timetable will be varied, as necessary, to allow for public holidays that affect the E-Bulletin Team and IUGS Secretariat such as Christmas and Chinese New Year.

NOTES

- If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS e-bulletins, please mail to: silvia.peppoloni@ingv.it.
- Please check the IUGS [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming scientific meetings this coming month. If you require information on international conferences, meetings, etc. to be considered for inclusion in this Calendar please mail to: giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-bulletin distribution list, please mail to: iugs.beijing@gmail.com or secretariat@iugs.org.
- Follow the IUGS on Social Media! We are on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).
- Check the IUGS website: <http://www.iugs.org/>

Edited by:

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