



IUGS President Prof. John Ludden Signs the MoU with China for Hosting the Secretariat

IUGS President Prof. John Ludden signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dr. Zhong Ziran, Vice Minister of Geological Survey, Ministry of Natural Resources of China and President of China Geological Survey (CGS), for hosting the IUGS Secretariat in China from 2021 to 2028 through a virtual signing ceremony on 17 December 2020. IUGS Vice President Prof. Hassina Mouri was also present at the event. The Secretariat will continue to be hosted within the premises of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS) under CGS.

President Prof. John Ludden expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Natural Resources of China and the Chinese geoscience community for the strong support to the Secretariat and thanked the Secretariat for the work it has accomplished during the past 8 years. He congratulated the Chinese geoscience community on the endeavor of the Chang'e 5 robotic lunar mission bringing the first rocks back from the moon in 40 years. He stressed the importance of the data-driven geosciences, which is advocated by the first IUGS big science program Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE). He said that as the largest geo-union IUGS will play an important role in leading geoscientists around the world at this critical junction of development to focus on the current status and future of the planet Earth and to deliver the UN sustainable development goals 2030. He underlined that the continued and stable support from China to the Secretariat will be important for the development of IUGS in the years to come.

Vice President Prof. Hassina Mouri thanked the Chinese geoscience community for the support provided to IUGS so far and for agreeing to continue the support which will enable IUGS to fulfill its missions and achieve its objectives in the coming years. She pointed out that IUGS promotes research in all areas of geosciences and strives to understand and solve major geological issues of global concern. She introduced that IUGS works closely with the International Science Council in line with its vision "science as a global public good" and with UNESCO for jointly supporting the International Geoscience Program (IGCP), which contributes to the UN SDGs 2030 and facilitates the knowledge transfer from developed nations to developing nations. She praised the gender balance in the IUGS Executive Committee, which is encouraging to the younger generations of female geoscientists globally.

Vice Minister Dr. Zhong Ziran spoke highly of the long-term and friendly cooperation ties between the Chinese geoscience community and IUGS in the past years. He made the commitment that the Chinese side will continue to provide all necessary personnel, logistical and financial support to the IUGS Secretariat in line with the MoU guarantee its efficient operation.

He said that through the in-depth cooperation with IUGS, the Chinese geoscience community will make joint efforts with its international counterparts to build extensive international geoscience cooperation network, promote the global development of the earth sciences, and apply the research results of the earth sciences to protect the earth's natural environment, rationally use natural resources, enhance the capabilities of hazard prevention and mitigation with a view to improving the prosperity of nations and the quality of human life.



Virtual Signing Ceremony.



Signing Ceremony at the Headquarters of China Geological Survey.