

Subject: IUGS update

October 2022

Dear IUGS Adhering Members,

General working of the IUGS executive and its constituent commissions has largely been via virtual meetings. The executive in April 2022 was held in Paris and hosted by the SGF and was in person and virtual, and our China-based secretariat is still unable to join meetings. We expect that this will gradually improve, but we shall maintain regular interim meetings of the IUGS executive via virtual links and the executive now meets 3-4 times a year. The Bureau meets on average once a month. Thus, IUGS has a more proactive existence between IGC meetings than previously.

IUGS moved its accounts to Japan in 2016 and the position of Treasurer has been taken on by Professor Hiroshi Kitazato. As part of his 2nd term, he decided to move Treasurer office from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology to now at the Department of Earth Sciences, Waseda University, Japan. IUGS has authorised the hiring of a part-time financial assistant to Professor Kitazato to ensure a thorough analysis of accounts. We have produced a detailed account for the past year which has been sent to all national members and as this process will be maintained annually along with the annual independent audit of accounts.

IUGS issued a strong statement on freezing all activities with the Russian Federation following their invasion of Ukraine. The geological sciences are viewed as political and economic assets by Russia and thus should be part of any sanctions. This means that IUGS will not accept the membership fee from Russia until the situation has changed, and that the executive has revised the decision, which was to be ratified at the IGC 37, that the 38th IGC would be held in St. Petersburg Russia. The IUGS IGC committee has now issued a call for candidate countries (or consortia) to host the IGC meeting in 2028.

The 36th IGC was maintained and run in Delhi as a small and largely virtual event in March 2022. This has been unfortunate for the Indian LOC, but the cancelling of the 2020 meeting was essential to contain the spread of Covid19. The IUGS executive and secretariat have worked with the Indian LOC in arranging for reimbursement of the registration fees for the meeting. This has now largely been achieved although it was an imperfect process.

IUGS has taken a strong position on inclusion and equity. It joined the ISC Standing committee for Gender and inclusivity in Science SC-GES in 2021 and issued a report to this SC and has created a Task Group (TGDEI: <https://www.iugs.org/taskgroups>) that deals with problems related to diversity, equity, and inclusion within the IUGS scientific community. The purpose of the task group is to bring the IUGS constituent groups (commissions, sub-commissions, task groups, initiatives) to a reasonable balance of their members with regards to issues such as gender, diversity, geographical provenance, discipline, career stage, etc. Of note is our women in geoscience event - <https://iugs60.org/iugs-women-in-geoscience-event/>

IUGS has a highly active affiliated group working in the Geoethics area, and at the EC meeting in Paris in April 2022 this group was encouraged by the executive to apply to



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become a Commission of the IUGS. The application has now been received. The IUGS Bureau expects this to be approved by the executive in our virtual meeting in September 2022 and presented to the IUGS-IGC Council for approval at the 37th IGC.

Although the IUGS missed its official 60th anniversary year, the executive chose to make 2022 the anniversary and IUGS and its commissions and affiliates have run several events which will continue through to December 2022. IUGS chose to contract an expert in communications for the anniversary year and this has resulted in a considerably enhanced social media following. These activities can be found at www.iugs60.org and some have been organised with the GSL and with UNESCO. IUGS will hold a series of events during Earth science week in October

An exciting event, which results from reorganising of two disparate task groups, will be the announcement of the First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites in Zumaia on the Basque coast in October 2022. This achievement is the result of the energy and vision of the newly reconstructed Commission on Geoheritage. <https://iugs60.org/100-geosites/>

The Deep Digital Earth Initiative will undertake a global launch at UNESCO on the 9th November 2022 and this meeting will be coupled to a meeting on Data-Driven Geosciences to be held in Orleans and organised by the BRGM. <https://iugs60.org/bigscience/> in spring 2023.

We released version 2022.2 of IUGS-ICS Chart/Time Scale and placed the Chibanian GSSP Golden Spike. The Installation Ceremony was in Ichihara, Japan, 21 May 2022.

The IUGS-IFG held a meeting and seminars on international trafficking of elephant Ivory and animal teeth while working with the Brazilian federal police.

The IUGS-CGGB released an impressive book on global baselines baselines for geochemical surveying <https://www.globalgeochemicalbaselines.eu/>

Our historical geology group is particularly active <https://www.inhigeo.com/france2022/index.html> and will be running an international meeting in Périgord, France this year.

There are numerous other events, and more information can be found at <https://iugs60.org/> and www.IUGS.org

There is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that IUGS is a more effective global voice for geological science. Of note are the lack of memberships in Africa, Central America and the broader Asia-Oceania regions. We have recently included Kenya and Algeria as members, and we hope to hold the 2023 executive in Nairobi (political and health conditions permitting).

We have stronger relationship with IUGG and the other international bodies, including our special relationship with the GSL.

Of pending importance are revisions to IUGS and to IGC statutes and bylaws that accommodate upheavals of operations such as those of the last 2-3 years and which

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must be prepared and approved by early 2024.

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me or the IUGS secretariat and executive.

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