
News at a Glance

1. **Call for Nominations for positions on the IUGS Executive Committee**
 2. **Call for Nominations for IUGS Awards**
 3. **36th IGC: visit of the IUGS-IGCC delegation to India**
 4. **36th IGC: geological marvels of the Indian Subcontinent**
 5. **Speech delivered by IUGS President Qiuming Cheng at the Closing Ceremony of SiDRR Conference 2019 in Beijing, China**
 6. **Task Group on Geohazards (TGG): Session at SiDRR Conference**
 7. **News from the IUGS Publication Committee**
 8. **News from the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology**
-

1. **Call for Nominations for positions on the IUGS Executive Committee**



The Chair of IUGS Nomination Committee, Roland Oberhänsli, has issued the Call for Nominations for positions on the IUGS Executive Committee for the term starting in 2020. These positions are President, Secretary General, Treasurer, Vice Presidents (2) and Councillors (2). In addition, this includes the positions of Councillors (2) for the term of 2022-2026. The IUGS Nomination Committee must finalize the slate of candidates no later than the end of November 2019. Accordingly, the Nomination Committee must receive all nominations by 31 July 2019. Nominations, including a letter of recommendation, the completed nomination form, the nominee's CV and publication list, and an agreement and motivation statement by the nominee should be sent electronically to the chair of the nomination committee Roland Oberhänsli (iugs@geo.uni-potsdam.de) **not later than 31 July 2019**.

Following the IUGS Bylaws, candidates for the positions of President, Secretary General and Treasurer should not only be nominated but also supported with an adequate travel grant from the nominating institution. The experience over the last 8 years has demonstrated that



the President and Secretary General will typically need to travel to international meetings 8-10 times per year, and the Treasurer 4-6 times.

The responsibilities and activities of members of the Executive Committee are specified in the IUGS statutes (#37-41) and bylaws (#11-20).

Links:

- Letter by the Chair of IUGS Nomination Committee, Roland Oberhänsli:
http://iugs.org/uploads/Calls/IUGS_Nomination_Call_2019.pdf
- Nomination Form:
http://iugs.org/uploads/Calls/IUGS_Nomination_Form_Call_2019.docx
- IUGS Statutes and Bylaws:
<http://iugs.org/uploads/Statutes%20and%20Bylaws%20IUGS%2035th%20IGC.pdf>

2. Call for Nominations for IUGS Awards

Call for Nominations for the Émile Argand Medal - the highest award of the IUGS

The IUGS Émile Argand Medal will be presented at the 36th International Geological Congress in New Delhi, India in March 2020. The award emphasizes eminent and ground-breaking scientific achievements. The nomination process is now open, and nominations will be accepted **not later than 30 June 2019**. Nominations can be made by anyone in the IUGS community and are to be forwarded to the IUGS Secretary General. Full details on the nature of the medal and the nomination, selection and award processes are in the Terms of References at: http://iugs.org/uploads/Medals/Argand_Medal_TOR.pdf

Call for Nominations for the IUGS Early Career Award

The IUGS Early Career Award will be presented at the 36th International Geological Congress in New Delhi, India in March 2020. The award recognizes outstanding research contributions by an early career scientist. The nomination process is now open and nominations will be accepted **not later than 30 June 2019**. Nominations can be made by anyone in the IUGS community and are to be forwarded to the IUGS Secretary General. Full

details on the nature of the medal and the nomination, selection and award processes are in the Terms of References at: http://iugs.org/uploads/Medals/Early_Career_Award_TOR.pdf

Call for Nominations for the IUGS James M. Harrison Award for distinguished service

The IUGS James M. Harrison Medal will be presented at the 36th International Geological Congress in New Delhi, India in March 2020. The award acknowledges an individual who has made outstanding contributions to IUGS activities. The nomination process is now open, and nominations will be accepted **not later than 30 June 2019**. Nominations can be made by anyone in the IUGS community and are to be forwarded to the IUGS Secretary General. Full details on the nature of the award and the nomination, selection and award processes are in the Terms of References at: http://iugs.org/uploads/Medals/Harrison_Award_TOR.pdf

3. 36th IGC: visit of the IUGS-IGCC delegation to India

An IUGS-IGCC delegation comprising Prof. Qiuming Cheng, President, IUGS; Prof William Cavazza, Vice President, IUGS; Prof Stanley C. Finney, Secretary General, IUGS; Prof Hiroshi Kitazato, Treasurer, IUGS, and Dr. Greg Botha, Secretary General, 35th IGC visited New Delhi, India during 17-22 May 2019 to assess the progress of preparations for the 36th IGC. The delegation met the Executive Committee and the Local Organizing Committee, 36th IGC and visited the venue of the Congress.

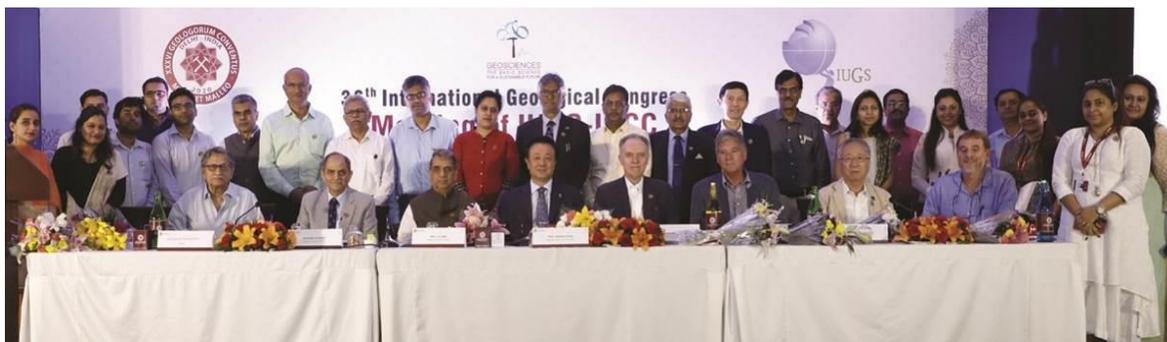


Fig. 1 – Members of the IUGS-IGCC delegation along with members of 36th IGC Executive Committee and Local Organizing Committee.

4. 36th IGC: geological marvels of the Indian Subcontinent

The Shyok-Nubra valley at the confluence of Shyok-Nubra rivers in Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, is unique due to the presence of sand dunes at high altitudes. These sand dunes are of great importance to geologists because they suggest climatic variability in high altitude terrain. Situated at the banks of these rivers, the dunes offer a new perspective on Quaternary geological studies.



Fig. 2, 3, 4, and 5 – Images from the Shyok-Nubra Valley.

The Shyok-Nubra valley is also important in the context of geology as it marks a suture zone between the Indian and the Eurasian plate. The topography of the region is dominated by three parallel mountain ranges constituting the Trans-Himalayas viz: the Zaskar, the Ladakh and the Karakoram. The altitude ranges from 2300 m to over 8000 m above mean sea level.



5. Speech delivered by IUGS President Qiuming Cheng at the Closing Ceremony of SiDRR Conference 2019 in Beijing, China

The International Conference on Silk-road Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development (SiDRR Conference 2019), with the theme of “Towards Safe, Green, and Resilient Silk Road”, was successfully held on May 11-12, 2019 in Beijing, China. IUGS President Prof. Qiuming Cheng was invited to give a speech at the Closing Ceremony of the Conference.

In his speech, Prof. Qiuming Cheng stressed that disaster risk reduction (DRR) has rapidly become a serious and critical issue of concern to governments of all countries. On the other hand, DRR is a complex issue of transdisciplinary nature which definitely needs broad international collaboration and cooperation on sharing of data, experiences, knowledge, and technology as well as policy and geo-ethnics. Therefore, DRR needs not only natural scientists, but also social scientists, engineers, economists, policy makers, health and medical scientists etc. to work together. DRR is a big challenge which has also provided huge opportunities for international collaboration. Prof. Cheng called for the full use of relevant earth and space science and engineering technology as well as modern “big data”, AI and machine learning information technologies. Communication and networking are effective means to facilitate collaboration. Prof. Qiuming Cheng also pointed out that several groups of IUGS are dedicated to research supporting Disaster Risk Reduction especially disasters arising from geohazards such as earthquakes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, tsunami, floods, and glaciers etc. To facilitate the implementation of the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework launched by United Nations in 2015, IUGS has actively integrated the existing foundations and advantages within the community of the Union, and formally established a Task Group on Geohazards (TGG) in 2016. This task group aims to work as an exchange group, on a wide scale, primarily for to improve society’s basic understanding of geohazards and natural disasters. He also expressed his gratitude to the participations and sponsors of the conference including several IUGS Affiliated Members of International Associations: International Consortium on Landslides (ICL), International Society of Soil Mechanics &

Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG), and International Association for Mathematical Geosciences (IAMG).



Fig. 6 – Closing Ceremony of SiDRR Conference 2019.

The SiDRR Conference 2019 attracted more than 780 experts and scholars (around 270 foreigners) from more than 40 countries and regions around the world, including 10 senior representatives from UNEP, UNDRR and UNESCO, 29 Chinese and foreign academicians, over 20 presidents/vice-presidents of internationally renowned societies, and over 50 leaders from universities and research institutes.

6. Task Group on Geohazards (TGG): Session at SiDRR Conference

The IUGS Task Group on Geohazards (TGG) organized the session entitled “Societal Impacts of Geohazards” at the 2019 International Conference on Silk Roads Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development (SiDRR). 9 oral presentations and one poster were presented.

The abstracts and presentation files presented at the TGG session are accessible from the TGG homepage below:

<http://iugstgg.lab.irides.tohoku.ac.jp/archives/271>



Fig. 7 – International Conference on Silk Roads Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development (SiDRR).

7. News from the IUGS Publication Committee

The IUGS Publication Committee (Chair: Prof. Dolores Pereira), during the PC's meeting in Vienna in April 2019, decided to give a new look to the front and back covers of Episodes. Among four candidate covers suggested by the Editor of Episodes (Prof. Jin-Yong Lee), PC members unanimously preferred this one. Until now, covers have been selected from articles published in the respective issues. The new cover will be applied from the September 2019 issue and will be fixed for the subsequent issues. By fixing the cover, the editorial team can focus more on publishing high quality articles in this prestigious journal.

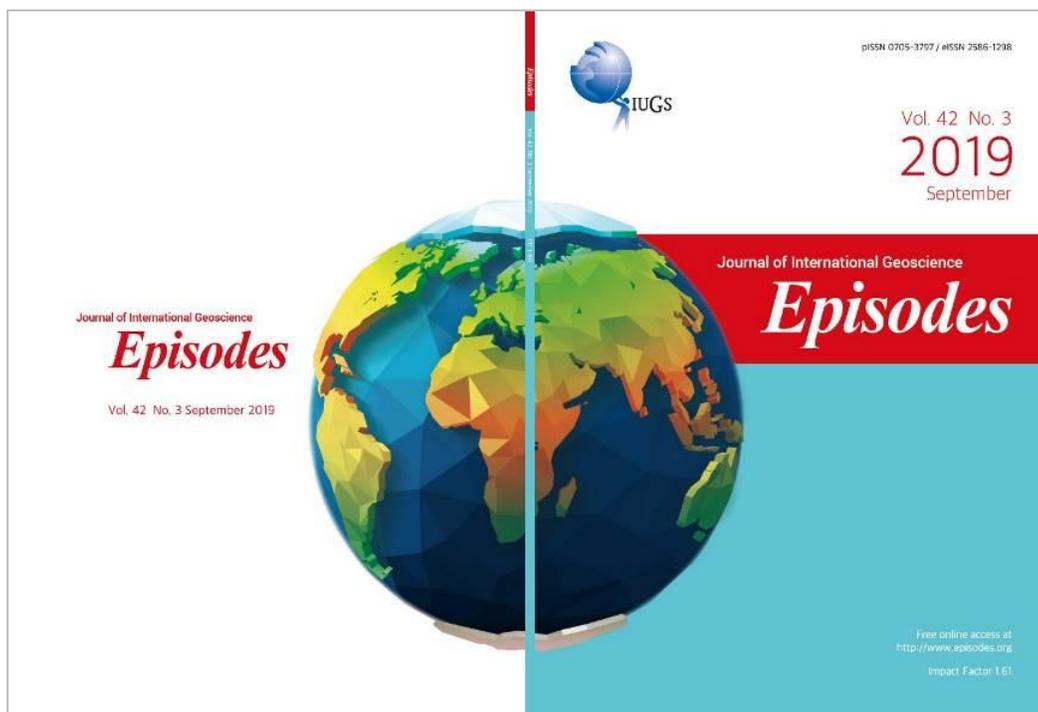


Fig. 8 – New cover of Episodes, Journal of International Geoscience, which will be applied from coming September issue.

8. News from the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology

Initiation of Forensic Geology in Poland

IUGS-IFG is working in collaboration with the Department of Geology, University of Warsaw, to initiate and develop Forensic Geology in Poland. This includes an introductory course on forensic geology. IUGS-IFG aims to visit Poland to discuss the course contents and meet relevant police and law enforcement authorities, the Department of Criminalistics and the Centre for Forensic Sciences, University of Warsaw. In particular, IUGS-IFG has been invited to provide advice and guidance on geological trace evidence and ground searches for burials associated with extermination camps and mass graves from World War II.

Countering Fraud and Corruption on Minerals and Mining in Africa

IUGS-IFG attended a private meeting in central Africa, which included geological methods to investigate and mitigate the risks associated with conflict minerals, the adulteration and substitution of base metal mineral concentrate and precious metals. The beneficiaries are often cartels or syndicates involved in a variety of other illegal activities.



Fig. 9 - A geophysical search using a Geoscan RM85 / FAB1 gradiometer with SENSYS FGM650/3 sensor, at Treblinka, extermination camp, built and operated by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland during World War II (Photo: Mr Pisz, University of Warsaw, Department of Geology, Poland).



Fig. 10 - A geophysical search using Ground Penetrating Radar for unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Poland (Photo: Dr Mieszkowski, Department of Geology, University of Warsaw, Poland).



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:

silvia.peppoloni@ingv.it	(E-Bulletin Editor-in-Chief)
giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it	(Webmaster)
gurmeet28374@gmail.com	(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:

Dr. Silvia Peppoloni (IUGS, INGV), and Dr. Brian Marker (IUGS)

www.iugs.org