



News at a Glance

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1. News from the 78th IUGS Executive committee meeting, Belfast 2023

The IUGS executive committee and IUGS commissions and task forces met in Belfast from the 13-18 February. The IUGS is grateful for the support of Executive Committee member Jennifer McKinley in hosting the meeting at Queen's University Belfast and also in Ulster University Belfast. The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland also hosted an evening discussion on "Trends in Geosciences". The meeting was preceded by a visit to the Giant's Causeway by some participants.

The IUGS executive discussed budgets requested and made recommendations that will be forwarded soon to chairs of committees and task groups. Of note was the creation of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics. A new task force related to marine risks, especially related to renewable energy infrastructure, was initiated.

The Executive invited the Geological Society of Kenya to the meeting, and are pleased to organise the 2024 Executive Committee meeting in Kenya and co-organise an event with the general theme of "Geoscience and the Economic and Societal Development of Africa", building with our taskforce on Resourcing Future Generations and following on from the executive meeting.

IUGS EC agreed to reprint 1000 copies of the IUGS 100 Geological heritage sites book which will be sold at geoscience venues along with the second hundred book which will hopefully be released at the IGC in Busan and will also remain as a downloadable pdf.

IUGS EC will continue outreach activities of IUGS in the social media, and we encourage all members to join these activities which in 2022 proved very successful in significantly enhancing IUGS visibility.

IUGS EC welcomed two new members (Prof.Lola Pereiraand Dr.Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte) to the EC who will serve from 2022 -2026.

The minutes of the meeting will be announced shortly.



Figure 1. 78th IUGS Executive committee meeting at Queen’s University, Belfast.



Figure 2. 78th IUGS Executive committee meeting in Ulster University, Belfast.



Figure 3. Visit to Giant's Causeway (an IUGS Geological Heritage Site) guided by geologists of the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland.

2. IUGS message to the earthquake victims of Turkey and Syria

Earthquake M 7.8 of Nurdağı, Turkey - Message from the IUGS

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) sends its condolences to the families of the victims of the deadly earthquake that affected Turkey and the north of Syria, as well as other adjacent countries. Once more, nature sends a call on the importance of education on Geological Sciences to know and understand the activity in Earth, helping to prevent and spread awareness on natural hazards. IUGS wishes a full recovery to the injured and the full support to the affected countries.

Read more about this Earthquake here:

<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us6000jllz/executive>

<https://ingvterremoti.com/2023/02/06/evento-sismico-m-7-9-in-turchia-6-febbraio-2023/>
<https://www.iugs.org/>

3. News from the Subcommittee on Permian Stratigraphy SPS

On November 2, 2022 the webinar “The Science of Permian Conodonts” by Prof. Charles Henderson, University of Calgary was organized live online through Zoom.

<https://permian.stratigraphy.org/Interests/Charles>

To “tackle species variation” a photo-gallery of selected fossils has been published in the SPS website (<https://permian.stratigraphy.org//Gallery/Usolka>).

On January 2023, a new *Permophiles* issue has been released.

<https://permian.stratigraphy.org/publications>

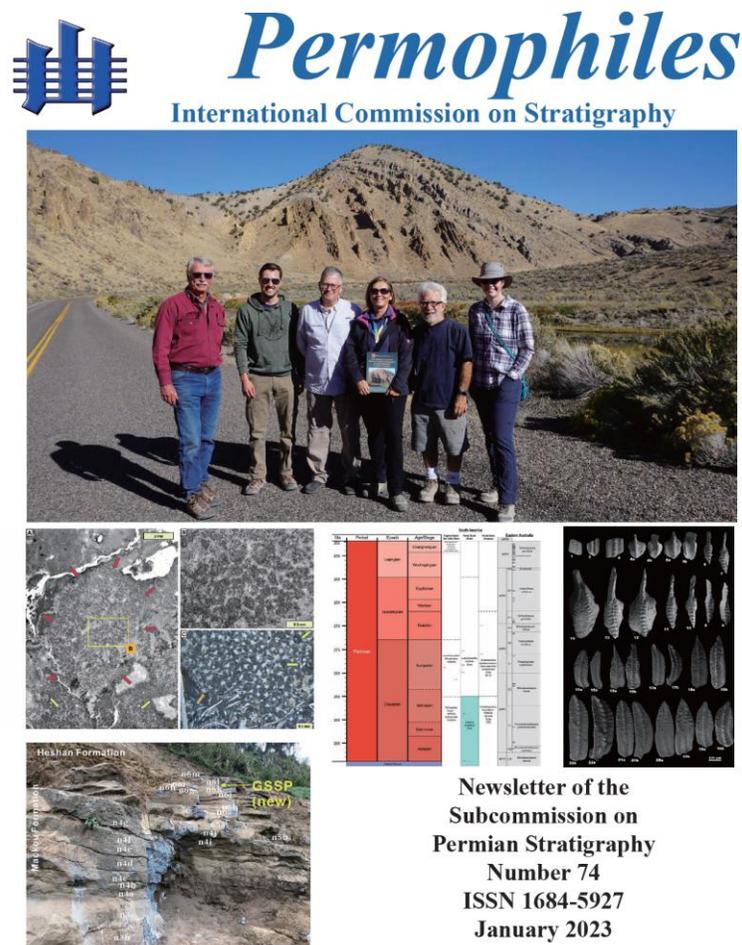


Figure 4. Cover page of Permophiles # 74.

Worth of note in *Permophiles* # 74 are:

- The redefinition of the Global Stratotype Section and Point (GSSP) and new Standard Auxiliary Boundary Stratotype (SABS) for the base of Wuchiapingian Stage (Lopingian Series, Permian) in South China.
- The Kungurian GSSP candidate at Rockland Section and SABS at Carlin Canyon, Nevada.

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

Dust and Forensic Intelligence

Dust is ubiquitous, which can make it ideal in a forensic context. A publication is available that discusses how dust may be collected and includes detection limits for environmental DNA (eDNA), and the elements and minerals present that might be able to discriminate between locations.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S037907382300049X?via%3Dihub>

Water Search for Missing Person, Lancashire, United Kingdom

A search has taken place in Lancashire, United Kingdom, for a missing person. After three weeks of searching a body was found in a river, less than one mile from where the person was last recorded as missing.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-64697300>

World Police Summit, Dubai, UAE

IUGS-IFG will be represented at the World Police Summit, Dubai, UAE, 7-9 March 2023, at the Dubai World Trade Centre, hosted by Dubai Police. This includes at least 112 countries, 250 exhibitions, 15,000 visitors, over 100 Chiefs of Police, 6 conferences and 150 conference sessions. The summit provides opportunities to, 'explore the current challenges facing police forces and the latest technological advancements, strategies, and innovations across the law enforcement and security spectrum'.

<https://www.worldpolicesummit.com/>

Insecurity in Global Mining in Mexico

Although federal government agencies and law enforcement has continued to investigate and mitigate the risks associated with mining crime, there has not been a perceived reduction in crime rates. Mining crime is expected to remain a significant issue throughout 2023 in Mexico.

<https://mexicobusiness.news/mining/news/insecurity-remain-issue-mining-industry-2023>

Conflict Minerals and Mobile Phones

Conflict minerals, include the three 'Ts' (i.e. Tin, Tungsten and Tantalum) and some types of gold. CNBC has reported on how technology and in particularly electronics and conflict minerals. These often originate from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and are reported to be associated with human rights violations, poverty and violence against people who are forced to mine these minerals.

<https://www.cnbc.com/2023/02/15/how-conflict-minerals-make-it-into-our-phones.html>

Gold Mining and Genocide



A review of crime such as genocide in pursuit of illegal gold mining in Brazil was published on the blog below, on 15 February 2023.

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/blog/2023/february/goldmining-and-genocide>

Campaign to Prevent Illegal Mining in an Indigenous Reserve, Brazil

In Brazil, the government have started a campaign with a special-force environmental operatives to remove tens of thousands of illegal in and gold miners from an Indigenous reserve, which is the largest in Brazil.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/08/brazil-illegal-mining-indigenous-lula>

Instagram and Forensic Geology

The IUGS-IFG Student Chapter Instagram account can be found on the link below, which includes latest news and events

<https://www.instagram.com/ifgufpr/?hl=en>

Illegal Minerals, Parana, Brazil

On 20 January 2023, the IUGS-IFG Student Chapter held a workshop on illegal minerals in Paraná, Brazil

<https://www.instagram.com/ifgufpr/?hl=en>

<https://geoforenses.com/student-chapters/>

Forensic Geology at the Geological Society of London

A conference on forensic geology is proposed to take place at the Geological Society of London, 4-5 December 2023, and represents a joint event by IUGS-IFG and the Geological Society of London, Forensic Geoscience Group (GSL-FGG). Further details will become available and published in the IUGS E-Bulletin.

5. News from INHIGEO

Author: Joanne Bourgeois (USA)

Title: James and Sarah Hall - The Geology of Western New York (1843)

James Hall, one of the leading figures of 19th century North American geology and paleontology, published his first major work in 1843—his 683-page geological and paleontological report on western New York. His interests lay mainly in Paleozoic stratigraphy and paleontology. However, this anniversary occasion celebrates not only James Hall, but also his spouse and scientific illustrator Sarah Aikin Hall.

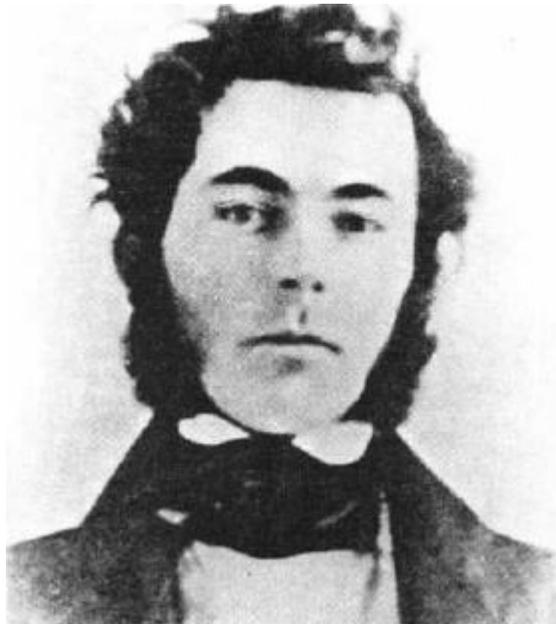


Figure 5. James Hall at about 30 years of age (Aldrich and Leviton, 1987)

To know more open the link below:

<http://www.inhigeo.com/anniversaries.html>

<https://www.iugs.org/>

6. News from STRATI 2023

Following the 1st congress in Lisbon (Portugal) in 2013, and additional congresses organized in Graz (Austria) in 2015 and Milan (Italy) in 2019, the 4th International Congress on Stratigraphy **STRATI 2023** will be held in **Lille, France, 11th-13th July 2023**.

STRATI is the official congress of the International Commission on Stratigraphy. Workshops and business meetings of all subcommissions will be scheduled. The indoor sessions with keynote talks and regular lectures (partly scheduled online) will take place in the new Congress Centre of Lille University ‘Lilliad’ on the Campus of the Cité Scientifique (Science Campus). Six field-trips (including two one-day excursions) are also organized.

Congress Website: <https://strati2023.sciencesconf.org>

7. 37th IGC in Busan

The first circular of the 37th International Geological Congress is out!

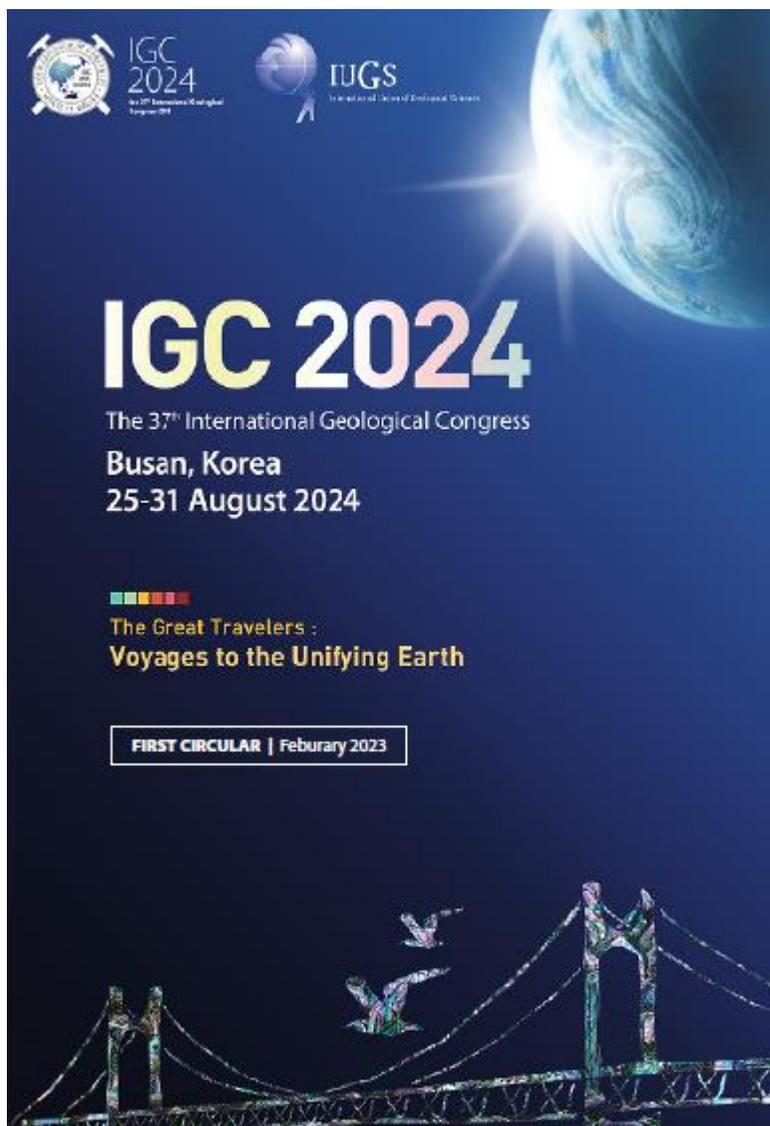


Figure 6. Ist Circular of 37th IGC.

Download the first circular here:

https://www.iugs.org/files/ugd/f1fc07_d2d4d179a9cf4cb6b0f0ba5318aca221.pdf?index=true



8. News from the Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE)

The Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE) is a global scientific committee, established in 2004 and working under the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The primary objective is to assist countries worldwide in expanding and improving their Earth science education programs.

Dr. Sandra Villacorta was elected as the Chair of the Commission last year. Under her leadership a new working-strategy plan has been in place and new members have recruited. COGE now has regular and associate members from 22 countries, working together with a shared vision. The new ordinary members joined from the USA (Sharon Locke), Mexico (Susana Alaniz), Malaysia (Elvaene James), and Ecuador (Richard Serrano-Agila). New associate members joined us from Iran (Babak Asli), Spain (Nicanor Prendes), Mexico (Amiel Nieto), Portugal (Tiago Ribeiro), Paraguay (Romina Celabe), and Bangladesh (Rajib Kumar).

Recently, in a general assembly new members were introduced, review of activities of COGE from the past year was held. New goals, vision, and budget for the upcoming year were discussed. New subcommittees for publications and social media were discussed and members are encouraged to get involved in.

COGE has already started engaging with geoscientists dedicated to education worldwide through social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter. Upgrading the COGE website to better serve the community and the public is proposed.

One of the key goals of COGE is to provide support for geoscience education initiatives worldwide. COGE welcomes support towards making a positive impact on society through education.

Below are social media links of COGE:

Web: <http://iugscope.org/>

Research Gate Project: <https://www.researchgate.net/project/Promoting-the-Improvement-of-Geoscience-Education-Worldwide>

LinkedIn account: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/iugs-commission-on-geoscience-education-37956b260/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/IUGSCOGE/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IugsCoge>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/iugscope/>

For the IUGS website: A one-page concise text (up to about 500 words), if possible providing a web-link (e.g. to an IUGS activity website).

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:

gurmeet28374@gmail.com (e-Bulletin Editor-in-Chief)

giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it (Webmaster)

gurmeet28374@gmail.com (Social Media Manager)

Time Frame for submissions to the e-Bulletin:

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 every month.
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 Publications Committee Team will aim to compile monthly 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;

This time frame may vary due to public holidays that affect the e-Bulletin Team and IUGS Secretariat such as Christmas and Chinese New Year.

NOTES

- Please check the IUGS [Calendar of Events](#) for upcoming scientific meetings. 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/>

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