



News at a Glance

1. **36th International Geological Congress rescheduled from 9-14 November 2020 to 16-21 August 2021**
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 4. **News from the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)**
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1. **36th International Geological Congress rescheduled from 9-14 November 2020 to 16-21 August 2021**

Given the current status of the Covid-19 pandemic, it appears unlikely that the 36th IGC can be held as rescheduled. Accordingly, the Local Organizing Committee requested and the IGC Committee (IGCC) approved revised dates of 16-21 August 2021. Scheduling was constrained by the limited availability of the venue site in New Delhi in 2021. The IUGS Executive Committee and its constituent groups will work hard to ensure the success of the rescheduled Congress.



Read the [letter](#) signed by the IUGS President, Prof. Qiuming Cheng.



2. New category of articles for Episodes



IUGS EC has approved a new category of articles for Episodes titled "Communication of IUGS Geological Standards." This category is limited to manuscripts that are proposals ratified by

the IUGS EC. Today, these only include GSSP proposals from the Commission on Stratigraphy; in the future, they may be standards developed by other IUGS Commissions and also ratified by the IUGS EC.

3. New IGCP project proposal call for 2020

The Council of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) agreed, during the 5th Council session in March 2020, to launch a new call for project proposals to promote collaborative projects under the UNESCO umbrella with a special emphasis on the benefit to society, capacity-building, and the advancement and sharing of knowledge between scientists.

The call emphasizes and prioritizes proposals addressing the Vision Themes and annually defined topic of the IGCP detailed below. We also welcome proposals that include Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data and cloud computing methodologies for application in the Geosciences.

Women, young and early career scientists from developing countries are especially encouraged to apply. Proposals will be ranked taking into account gender equality, geographic distribution of the leaders and project beneficiaries. The top multidisciplinary project will receive a Council Award and special funding.

Successful projects will be sponsored for up to five years jointly by UNESCO, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), the Jeju Province Development



Corporation (JPDC) of the Republic of Korea and the UNESCO National Commission for the People's Republic of China.

IGCP 2020 Vision:

- Efficient, safe, sustainable and renewable natural resources exploration and extraction
- Better understand, predict and mitigate climate change and geohazards



See the proposal call flyer [here](#).

More information on [UNESCO's website](#):

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

Forensic Geology and Training in Search, Bogota, Colombia

IUGS-IFG agreed to participate in the delivery of training in forensic geology. This includes a review of the historical development of forensic geology, the global advancement of IUGS-IFG and searches for burials related to missing persons. This was undertaken using video conferencing and in collaboration with the Universidad Antonio Nariño, Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal y Ciencias Forense and International Commission for Missing Persons (ICMP).



IUGS-IFG Special Project

IFG has now commenced a 'Special Project' on behalf of the IUGS. The project will extend over two years and will focus on the use of geology to investigate, manage and mitigate crimes that take place in the minerals, mining and metals industries. This includes;



base metals (fraud, theft, substitution and adulteration), precious metals, minor metals, battery minerals, conflict minerals, diamonds, gemstones, fossils, (fakes and fraud), criminal networks cartels and law enforcement

Forensic Geology in Iran and Slovenia

IUGS-IFG was contacted by geologists in Iran and Slovenia with interests to initiate and develop forensic geology.



Geoforensic International Network (GIN)

GIN brings together forensic geologists, geoscientists, police and law enforcement officers from around the world to develop and promote forensic geology. Dr Elisa Bergslien has been appointed as the 'IUGS-IFG GIN Manager'. Prospective new members can contact Elisa on BERGSLET@buffalostate.edu.

Those countries now represented in GIN include; Australia, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Belgium, Belarus, Bolivia, Brasil, Canada, China, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, England, France, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, United Arab Emirates, Wales and the West Indies (Caribbean), Zambia, Zimbabwe.



5. First year of Field Officer programme trains 379 teachers worldwide

The report on the first year of the IUGS/EGU Field Officer programme has just been released. It showed that the four European Geosciences Union (EGU) Field Officers (France, Italy, Portugal, Spain) and the two IUGS/International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO) Field Officers (India, Morocco) had presented 21 workshops in 15 locations with 379 participants. The numerical and written feedback was excellent. Sadly the four new EGU Field Officers (Albania, Germany, Hungary, Turkey) and the three new IUGS/IGEO Field Officers (Chile, Malaysia, Togo) could not be trained in May due to the coronavirus epidemic.



Fig. 1 - Faults in MarsTM bars.



Fig. 2- Himalayas in 30 seconds.



Fig. 3 - Continental jigsaw puzzles.



Fig. 4 - Geobattleships.



6. International Commission on Stratigraphy website rejuvenation

The website of the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) (<https://stratigraphy.org/>) is a vital reference for everyone interested in the current state of the Geological Timescale. Dr Nick Car (Canberra, Australia) who has replaced the previous webmaster Dr Junxuan Fan (Nanjing, China), has energetically taken up the challenge of updating and remodelling the site.

We are planning some new designs to rejuvenate the site further.

The most significant new initiative concerns our constituent subcommissions each of which is responsible for a specific division of geological time, as well as stratigraphic classification and timescale calibration. At present each of our 17 subcommissions maintains their own, independent sites. With the revamping of the site the subcommission websites will be incorporated in the main ICS site. This provides a measure of uniformity in their appearance and content. Once established each subcommission will continue to be responsible for their pages' content as well as appointing their own web person. Each subcommission will populate their pages with information from their existing sites - updated as appropriate.

Other new developments are planned but one is already in place. A new, interactive, version of the International Chronostratigraphic Chart. Students and staff at the Geological Survey of Queensland and the CSIRO (Australia) have produced this version of the chart which uses data from its Semantic Web representation. The chart can be seen here: <https://stratigraphy.org/news/130>.

We welcome feedback from users for further improvements or additions to the ICS site.



International Commission on Stratigraphy



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The International Commission on Stratigraphy is the largest and oldest constituent scientific body in the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). Its primary objective is to precisely define global units (systems, series, and stages) of the International Chronostratigraphic Chart that, in turn, are the basis for the units (periods, epochs, and age) of the International Geologic Time Scale; thus setting global standards for the fundamental scale for expressing the history of the Earth.



News & Meetings

- [New Interactive Chart](#) [2020-04-30]
- [New ICS Subcommission announced](#) [2019-09-05]
 - [International Subcommission on Timescale Calibration](#)
- [Formal subdivision of the Holocene Series/Epoch](#) [2018-09-24]
- [ICS Medals awarded to Phil Gibbard \(Cambridge, UK\) and Shuzhong Shen \(Nanjing, China\) at STRATI 2019](#) [2019-08-15]
- [Congratulation from the INQUA president](#) [2018-07-23]
- [ICS chart containing the Quaternary and Cambrian GSSPs and new stages \(v 2018/07\) is now released!](#) [2018-07-13]
- [Revised ICS Statutes ratified by IUGS EC](#) [2017-05-15]


Fig. 5 - Current front page of the ICS website.




7. News from IUGS Heritage Stones Subcommittee (HSS)

Dr Victor Cárdenes, Researcher, Universidad de Oviedo, Spain, and core member and correspondent of IUGS-HSS, was invited to present a webinar in the series 'International Workshop Under Museums and Society', organized by Department of Geology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India, from 17th to 20th June 2020.

Dr Victor Cárdenes gave a webinar on "Global Heritage Stones: Preserving the stones that built mankind's heritage". His talk highlighted the contribution of IUGS-HSS in designation of unique stones from around the globe as 'Global Heritage Stone Resource' (GHSR). He apprised the audience with the pivotal role played by HSS in designation of heritage stones used in stone-built monuments in the past as GHSR based on ToR of HSS. He gave numerous examples of heritage stones and their attributes which won them the GHSR status.

 **Department of Geology, Panjab University, Chandigarh**
organises a web lecture
under the International Workshop on Museums and Society, 17-20 June, 2020

"Global Heritage Stones: Preserving the stones that built mankind's heritage"



Víctor Cárdenes
UNIVERSIDAD DE OVIEDO

Thursday, 19th June, 2020
At 12.30pm (IST)

Chief Patron: Prof. Raj Kumar, Honorable Vice Chancellor, Panjab University



EDITORS' NOTES:

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

IUGS wishes to improve the co-ordination of the 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
giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it
gurmeet28374@gmail.com

(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: Dr. Silvia Peppoloni (IUGS, INGV)

English review by: Prof. Jennifer McKinley (IUGS-IFG, IAMG)

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