

MINUTES



**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
75th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Virtual Meeting

6 November 2020

Participants

IUGS Executive Committee:

John LUDDEN (JL; President), Stanley FINNEY (SF; Secretary General), Hiroshi KITAZATO (HK; Treasurer),
Qiuming CHENG (QC, Past President, Chair of Nominating Committee), Daekyo CHEONG (DC; Vice President),
Hassina MOURI (HM; Vice President), Claudia MORA (CM; Councilor), Silvia PEPPOLONI (SP; Councilor),
Jennifer MCKINLEY (JM; Councilor), Ludwig STROINK (LS; Councilor)

IUGS Secretariat:

LI Wei (Secretary), XU Yaqi (Secretary), MU Langfeng (Secretary)

1. Welcome and Introductions

John Ludden (JL) welcomed all EC members and Secretariat staff to attend the 75th IUGS Executive Committee Meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

No amendments were proposed, and the Agenda was approved.

3. Minutes of 74th IUGS Executive Committee Meeting

Motion to approve the Minutes of 74th IUGS Executive Committee Meeting.

Minutes was approved by the EC members who participated in the 74th IUGS EC Meeting.

ACTION: SF to update the status of the actions in the Minutes of the 74th IUGS Executive Committee Meeting.

ACTION: The Secretariat to send the updated Minutes to IUGS Webmaster for posting it on the IUGS website.

4. Announcement: biographies and photos of new EC members

Stanley Finney (SF) explained that the biographies and photos of the new EC members will be published on *Episodes*. JL, Hassina Mouri (HM), Daekyo Cheong (DC), Jennifer McKinley (JM) and Ludwig Stroink (LS) need to provide their biographies and photos to *Episodes*. SF had provided the above new EC members with previous examples for their reference.

SF will write a summary on the accomplishments of the Extraordinary Session of IUGS Council and Claudia Mora (CM) will publish the summary in the E-Bulletin and the other kinds of social media.

To increase the visibility of IUGS, HM received several interviews by newspapers and TV. HM will send the link of the news to CM for publishing in the E-Bulletin and other social media.

Qiuming Cheng (QC) mentioned that he had informed IUGS partners, including IGCP Committee, UNESCO, GeoUnions and ISC about the election of new IUGS President. Emails to IUGS President from the above organizations have been forwarded to JL after the election.

ACTION: JL, HM and DC to prepare their biographies and photos for publishing them on *Episodes* by the end of November 2020. Jennifer McKinley and Ludwig Stroink to prepare theirs by the end of December 2020.

ACTION: SF to write a summary on the accomplishments of the Extraordinary Session of IUGS Council. CM to publish the summary in the E-Bulletin and other IUGS social media.

ACTION: HM to send the link of her interview to CM for publishing the link in the E-Bulletin and other IUGS social media.

5. Conflicts of Interest

SF mentioned that in the Extraordinary Session of IUGS Council on 28-30 October, 2020, the resolution on the expansion of the article 37 of IUGS Statutes and Bylaws was approved by the Council and the proposed version is: "Members of the Executive Committee may not concurrently hold office in Commissions, Subcommissions, Task Groups, Initiatives, Joint Programs, or other constituent bodies and projects approved and financially supported by IUGS, other than in ex-officio position in the UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Program (IGGP), or be representatives of Adhering Organizations." SF suggested EC members cut off their ties with IUGS constituent groups to avoid any possible conflicts of Interest.

CM pointed out that the restriction on EC members' ties with IUGS constituent groups should be practiced according to specific situations and suggested the possibility of setting up a group responsible for funding and other sensitive issues. JM suggested clarifying what kind of roles that EC members play in the IUGS constituent groups should be given up as some roles may not be in the conflict with the obligations of IUGS EC members. HM pointed out that critical and objective attitude is the key in evaluating applications from IUGS constituent groups.

JL pointed out that it is necessary to have a guideline or policy on the conflicts of interest in terms of the article 37 of IUGS Statutes. He requested each EC member to provide a list of conflicts of interest in terms of their roles in IUGS constituent groups. JL and JM will draft IUGS conflicts of interest policy or statement, which will be reviewed at the next EC meeting.

ACTION: Each EC member to provide a list of his or her own conflicts of interest.

ACTION: JL and JM to work out an IUGS conflicts of interest policy.

6. Status of this Meeting; Schedule and nature of future meetings (Bureau, EC)

JL said that according to his understanding, IUGS meetings currently include the IUGS-IGC Council Meeting during IGC every four years, one EC meeting and about three or four Bureau Meetings every year. SF added that typically there are about three independent Bureau Meetings every year, including one Bureau meeting inviting one or two Vice Presidents to attend. The Bureau also has a meeting one day before each EC Meeting so as to discuss on the preparation of the EC Meeting.

JL pointed out that based on the current situation of COVID-19 pandemic, IUGS meetings in the next couple of years would be mainly held as digital ones rather than in person. JL proposed to

change the Quadrennial Council Meeting into an annual or biennial one, where Council Members can be involved in discussion on the strategic direction of IUGS. JL also suggested holding two EC meetings every year.

SF reviewed that the virtual Extraordinary Session of IUGS Council on October 28-30th, 2020 has involved more participants from the Adhering Members than the previous IUGS ordinary sessions. Digital meetings may enhance meeting efficiency and promote communication with IUGS Council Members.

JM agreed to hold virtual IUGS meetings more frequently. JM suggested the Council Meeting be held not in conjunction with the scientific sessions of IGC, so that EC members will not miss any academic research presentations that they are interested in due to their attendance at Council Meeting.

LS agreed to hold IUGS meetings more frequently, including at least two EC meetings per year, and to set a time window for EC members out of the scientific program of IGC, EGU, AGU and other significant international scientific conferences.

Silvia Peppoloni (SP) supported the proposal of holding IUGS meetings more frequently and agreed that IUGS meetings can be combined with EGU and other major scientific events.

HM fully supported the idea of holding meetings more frequently, which can also motivate the EC members to be more actively engaged in IUGS affairs. She proposed to hold both virtual meetings and physical ones if pandemic situation permits. Besides EGU and AGU, she suggested holding IUGS meetings in conjunction with significant geological events in Africa, such as Colloquium of African Geology, so as to involve Africa into IUGS more effectively. HM agreed with JM in terms of separating Council meeting time window from scientific programs of IGC. HM suggested actions concluded at each business meeting be classified as short-term and long-term.

QC supported to hold more IUGS meetings, including two Council Meetings every four years and two EC meetings each year. Virtual meeting will be the major form in near future. As for the two Council Meetings every four years, one Council meeting can be focused on IUGS business and the other be more related to IGC. QC pointed out that face-to-face Council meeting is more formal as more important officers and leaders from IUGS Adhering Organizations can attend. QC suggested holding EC meetings in combination with IUGS new initiative forum or other IUGS scientific activities and he consulted the 73th IUGS EC Meeting and DDE (Deep-Time Digital Earth) Forum held in Beijing on February 25 - March 2, 2019 as a good example.

Hiroshi Kitazato (HK) pointed out that it would be difficult to decide allocation table of IUGS funding to its constituent groups via virtual meeting and he suggested one virtual EC meeting and one physical EC meeting per year. HK also suggested one virtual Council Meeting and one physical Council Meeting every four years.

CM was in favor of more frequent EC meetings and virtual approach to hold meetings. CM reminded that sufficient IT support is necessary for the frequent virtual meetings in future.

JL pointed out that IUGS should work out a system for more virtual meetings in future and how to improve the IT support of the Secretariat needs to be taken into consideration.

SF reviewed the large amount of technical work done for the virtual Extraordinary Session of IUGS Council on October 28-30, 2020, including running online voting, creating online meeting platform and monitoring and coordinating among participants during the whole Session.

In responding to JM in terms of avoiding conflict between IUGS Council Meeting and IGC scientific sessions, SF pointed out that if IUGS Council Meeting is held before or after the IGC, Council Members have to stay longer for the extended duration of the Congress.

SF introduced the routine schedule of each EC meeting, including requesting annual reports and budget requests from constituent groups before the meeting, annual reports presentations at open session and annual reports evaluation and budget decision at closed session. To make the future EC meeting more efficient, the time of report presentation can be reduced from 15 minutes to 5 minutes and constituent groups may submit recorded presentations. If IUGS holds two EC meetings per year, to get more Council Members involved, IUGS can invite them to participate in one of the EC meeting and the other EC meeting can be a business one where pressing issues can be discussed and solved.

ACTION: JL, SF and the Secretariat to study technological support for and cost of the virtual meeting system.

7. Forthcoming actions in preparation for 2021

SF informed that the call for 2020 annual reports and 2021 budget requests from all constituent groups and from affiliated organizations should be sent out in early December if the 76th IUGS EC meeting would be held in next February. And one month will be given to all the EC members for reviewing the annual reports.

Solicitation of contributions to the 2020 IUGS Annual Report also starts in early 2021. Copies of the IUGS Annual Reports can be found on the IUGS website for reference and hard copies of the IUGS Annual Report will be distributed in the IUGS booths. Compilation of all the IUGS participants including officers and voting members of the IUGS constituent groups by countries will be started in early 2021. Last version compiled both by SF and the Secretariat was quite impressive and could be sent to each delegation for them to know how their subscription fees have been used to support geoscientists within their countries.

SF will seek a letter from JL introducing himself as the IUGS President and the new EC, and will distribute it to all adhering members electronically.

ACTION: Secretariat to send out the call for 2020 annual reports and 2021 budget requests in early December.

ACTION: JL to write a letter introducing himself and the new Executive Committee for distribution.

8. Approval of Publications Committee members and Chair

According to the IUGS Statutes, the term of office of the external experts of committees shall not exceed that of the Executive Committee, that is, four years from 2016 to 2020. SF explained the proposed amendments on the term of Publications Committee, from one mid-term to another mid-term, that is, from 2018 to 2022. The current Publications Committee (PC) consists of Dolores Pereira as the Chair, Giuseppe Di Capua as the webmaster, Daekyo Cheong as the editor of Episodes, Gurmeet Kaur who manages the social media and SF as a representative of the IUGS EC. SF brought up a question whether the current Publications Committee would be kept till 2022. Consensus has been reached on the continuing of the current PC. QC added that actions should be taken to improve the influence of *Episodes* under the leadership of EC.

9. ARC Review

SF informed that the ARC Review Committee should do at least 2 reviews on IUGS constituent groups every year. Therefore, each group will be reviewed every 4-6 years. The next review will be Episodes in 2021. As CM used to serve in GSA who has oversaw many changes on GSA publications, the former EC has designated her as one member of the ARC Review Committee on Episodes. Typically, the ARC review committee should have two EC members and two other people. SF highly appraised the accomplishment of Korean Geological Society on the move and setup of the online submitting system of Episodes. The main problem of Episodes is with the quality and Impact Factor of articles.

ACTION: CM to establish the ARC Review Committee on Episodes with JM as a member and set up the schedule for the ARC review in 2021.

10. Pressing IUGS EC matters: 38th IGC, Amendments

SF informed that the IGCC should visit the venue for the next IGC one or two years before its convening.

ACTION: SF to look through the Statutes to see if the 38th IGC can be approved before the next Ordinary Session of the Council Meeting.

ACTION: JL to write a letter to the Russian Delegation informing the approval process of the 38th IGC.

11. Decision on 36th IGC and how to implement it.

SF brought up several questions with regard to the 36th IGC. Will IUGS continue its support for the 36th IGC? Will the 36th IGC be held virtually?

QC explained that the IGC Committee is the permanent Committee in IUGS dealing with IGC matters. The IGC Committee is co-chaired by the President of the IUGS and by the President of the immediate past Session of the Congress. The IGC Committee consists of the President, the Secretary General, and the Treasurer of IUGS, and the President and the Secretary General of the ongoing IGC Organizing Committee; the President and Secretary General of the immediate past IGC Session; and the President or Secretary General of the last but one IGC Session.

JL wanted to have comments from other EC members on proper withdrawal from the 36th IGC.

HM suggested continuing the 36th IGC within a small region as a mini IGC. LS emphasized that the refunding issue should be addressed at first before official withdraw of the 36th IGC. LS suggested JL as the IUGS President send a letter to the Indian government including Ministry of Earth Sciences rather than the LOC of the 36th IGC.

SF added that Dr. Rath, Secretary General of the 36th IGC, is the Director General of Geological Survey of India within Ministry of Mines, which is in charge of the 36th IGC at the highest level. IUGS and IGC participants are faced with a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in total. The LOC was directed by the IUGS EC to make all refunds by early October, 2020, but only 60 claims out of 700 for reimbursement were made by then.

JL added that a virtual IGC was not practical. LS suggested JL write a letter or call the Minister for explanation of IUGS's decision on 36th IGC and try to convince them to finish the registration reimbursement at least. JM raised the potential issue on liability for cancellation of the 36th IGC and suggested cancellation statement should be made by the LOC. CM emphasized that the LOC can still convene the 36th IGC in spite of withdraw of support from IUGS. SF stated that IUGS should continue pushing the matters of refunds, even if the LOC consents to the cancellation of the 36th IGC. JL suggested having a virtual meeting with the LOC as soon as possible and calling Dr. Rath in advance.

ACTION: JL to call Dr. Rath, Secretary General of the 36th IGC, in advance of the proposed virtual meeting between IUGS and LOC of the 36th IGC.

HM recommended that a friendly way should be adopted towards the Indian counterpart. HK added that IUGS had lost approximately 300,000 US dollars for preparations of the IGC. IUGS may lose more if the cancellation is not being made immediately. HK suggested India could be given a chance to hold another IGC. JL agreed on that it might be a solution to give India the chance to hold another IGC, probably the 39th IGC in 2032.

At last, JL thanked all the attendees for suggestions and information. The next EC meeting is supposed to be virtually in February 2021.

ACTION: SF to write a letter to invite the Geological Survey of Columbia to host an in-person EC meeting in Bogotá in February 2022 where IUGS can meet with representatives of the Association of Geological and Mineral Surverys of Iberoamerica.

ACTION LIST

Item	Description	Status
EC75Act_01	SF to update the status of the actions in the Minutes of the 74th IUGS Executive Committee Meeting.	
EC75Act_02	The Secretariat to send the updated Minutes to IUGS Webmaster for posting it on the IUGS website.	
EC75Act_03	JL, HM and DC to prepare their biographies and photos for publishing them on Episodes by the end of November 2020. Jennifer McKinnley and Ludwig Stroink to prepare theirs by the end of December 2020.	
EC75Act_04	SF to write a summary on the accomplishment of the Extraordinary Session of IUGS Council. CM to publish the summary in E-Bulletin and other IUGS social media.	done
EC75Act_05	HM to send the link of her interview to CM who to publish the link in E-Bulletin and other IUGS social media.	
EC75Act_06	Each EC member to provide a list of his or her own conflicts of interest.	
EC75Act_07	JL and JM to work out an IUGS policy on conflicts of interest based on the conflicts of interest lists of EC members.	
EC75Act_08	JL, SF and the Secretariat to study on technological support for and cost of the virtual meeting system.	
EC75Act_09	Secretariat to send out the call for 2020 annual reports and 2021 budget requests in early December.	Done in late December
EC75Act_10	JL to write a letter introducing himself and the new Executive Committee for distribution.	done
EC75Act_11	CM to establish the ARC Review Committee on Episodes with JM as a member and set up the schedule for the ARC review in 2021.	
EC75Act_12	SF to look through the Statutes to see if the 38th IGC can be approved before the next Council Meeting.	
EC75Act_13	JL to write a letter to the Russian Delegation informing the approval process of the 38th IGC.	
EC75Act_14	JL to call Dr. Rath, Secretary General of the 36th IGC in advance of the proposed virtual meeting between IUGS and LOC of the 36th IGC.	done
EC75Act_15	SF to write a letter to invite the Geological Survey of Columbia to host an in-person EC meeting in Bogotá in February 2022	done