

MINUTES



**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
VIRTUAL PROGRESS MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

29 September 2021

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), Silvia PEPPOLONI (SP; Councilor), Jennifer MCKINLEY (JM; Councilor), Ludwig STROINK (LS; Councilor)

IUGS Secretariat:

MA Yongzheng (Director), LI Wei (Secretary), SITU Yu (Secretary), GU Yanfei (Secretary), MU Langfeng (Secretary)

1. Welcoming

John Ludden (JL) welcomed all the EC members to attend the Virtual Progress Meeting of the IUGS Executive Committee.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

The minutes of the last and this EC Meetings will be approved at the next EC Meeting.

3. President's Report

JL reported the following items:

(1) Close out of the 36th IGC

IUGS has put a lot of time and efforts in facilitating the reimbursement of the 36th IGC. IUGS has now agreed with the 36th IGC Committee that one last push will be made for outstanding requests, but will close down the receipt of requests on the 31st October, 2021. The IUGS Secretariat has sent reminders to all the remaining delegates about the deadline for the receipt of requests. The process of refunding has been a largely successful one. JL thanked all the EC Members and the Secretariat for the efforts in this regard. IUGS has won back some credibility during the process.

The 36th IGC Committee will hold a ministerial level meeting on the 22nd March 2022 followed by a short two-day virtual conference. JL will attend the meeting in Delhi for IUGS. JL has informed the 36th IGC Committee to close down the website of the 36th IGC.

(2) DDE

JL attended the DDE Governing Council Meeting. DDE is now trying to adopt the structure of a large international programme co-supported by IUGS and IUGG, a similar model to the International Lithosphere Program (ILP). This model will give DDE the degree of independence and also the recognition from IUGS.

Qiuming Cheng (QC) agreed with the proposed structure and commented that DDE intended to invite other GeoUnion members for their support since its initiation.

JL reported that he received a letter from DDE and learned that DDE is planning the organization of a meeting on data-driven geoscience in the spring of 2022. JL suggested that the DDE meeting may be combined with a broader data meeting

being prepared by BRGM bringing together OneGeology, CGI, CGMW, DDE etc. JL is in discussion with Matt Harrison from BRGM about the meeting. BRGM will host the meeting, probably in Paris, and IUGS will co-sponsor the meeting. DDE could be involved in this meeting. Discussions are also ongoing with regard to the role of DDE in the celebrations of the IUGS 60th anniversary and IGCP 50th anniversary.

QC explained the letter sent to JL by DDE. DDE was proposing joint activities related to the 75th anniversary of UNESCO, 60th anniversary of IUGS and 50th anniversary of IGCP. DDE is willing to contribute to and participate in these events.

(3) ISC

JL reported that ISC will convene the 2nd General Assembly in October. IUGS has been active in nominating candidates for the ISC Governing Board, ISC medals and voting on the ISC General Assembly. IUGS has nominated Geoffrey Boulton for the Member of ISC Governing Board and a Japanese candidate for ISC Treasurer. Silvia Peppoloni (SP) has been very active in attending meetings of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality in Science (SCGES). HK has been active in the ISC GeoUnions Standing Committee on Disaster and Risk Reduction (SCDRR).

SP informed the EC that the General Assembly of ISC will be convened on 11-15 October, 2021. A number of large international associations have designated representatives to support SCGES. SCGES plans to organize webinar meetings in 2022 and IUGS has been given the opportunity to organize one of the webinars, in particular on gender equality in the geoscience community. The discussions on the time and theme of the webinar meeting has been ongoing within the EC Members. The webinar will last about 2 hours and include 2 presentations by 2 speakers plus discussions. A document will be sent to SP with regard to the detailed requirements on how to propose the webinar.

Hiroshi Kitazato (HK) reported that SCDRR meets regularly at intervals of one to two months for short meetings. The main activities include writing policy briefs for several different disaster events at the global scale. A multi-stakeholder networking system is proposed to effectively deal with disaster risk reduction. To this end, social scientists are invited to participate in the writing of the policy briefs. With the ISC combining natural and social sciences, multi-disciplinary approaches are quite effective for making policy briefs with a global scale. HK reported that a UNDRR General Assembly will take place in Indonesia in 2022. SCDRR will participate in the high-level discussions of the General Assembly. IUGS has supported the UNDRR General Assembly, and HK is in contact with the UNDRR office for IUGS to effectively join this event.

QC shared the experience in attending ISC General Assembly. QC added that IUGS has endorsed a number of nominees for the election during the ISC General

Assembly. Apart from the Japanese candidate, IUGS has also supported a Chinese candidate Guo Huadong, the former President of CODATA for ISC, for ISC Vice President. Unions have strong voting power in ISC. Each union has about 3 votes depending on the membership level while each country has 1 vote. The 39 unions have 146 votes, the same number of votes as the countries. For the previous General Assembly, unions usually send multiple representatives to attend to show support and participate in the communication.

ACTION-01: JL and QC to attend the virtual ISC General Assembly on behalf of IUGS.

(4) Membership

JL reported that the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) and Geological Society of London (GSL) expressed the intention to downgrade their membership levels. JL has written to SCJ and GSL, and Stanley Finney (SF) has also written to SCJ, to encourage them to retain their current membership level.

HK thanked JL and SF for their strong letters of support, which are quite effective for the executives of SCJ. The decision has not been made by the cabinet office yet, which is now cutting down the budget of SCJ. But the latest information indicates that SCJ could probably survive level 8 membership of IUGS given the influence of IUGS among the Japanese government officials.

JL reported that GSL initially planned to downgrade to level 4 but stated in the letter that the membership will be downgraded to level 6 next year. The reasons expressed are concerns IUGS' transparency, visibility etc. The level 6 membership means an approximately 70% reduction in funding. GSL pays half of the membership fees and the Royal Society pays the other half. JL communicated with the President of GSL who is also under pressure. The UK will probably remain at level 7, which means a 50% cut in the membership fees.

SF commented that the US National Academy of Sciences manages the application of membership fees for scientific unions. Due to the strong performance of IUGS in the international geoscience community, the US level 8 membership is quite stable and SF hopes the same for the other level 8 members.

Jennifer Mckinley (JM) commented that the Geological Society of Ireland pays the membership fees of IUGS. With the consideration that the GSL is under pressure, it is suggested that the British Geological Survey (BGS) could be consulted to match the funding.

ACTION-02: JL to contact the British Geological Survey to consult whether BGS could match the funding to keep the UK at the level 8 membership of IUGS.

JL commented that the EC should focus on strategies to further enhance the global visibility and influence of IUGS in the international geoscience community.

4. UNESCO 75th, IUGS 60th and IGCP 50th Anniversary

JL reported that no particular events have been planned for the UNESCO 75th anniversary before the end of 2021 due to restrictions of international travel. IUGS will join the IGCP 50th anniversary celebration next year as part of the UNESCO 75th anniversary celebrations.

JL suggested that the entire year of 2022 will be the 60th anniversary year of IUGS. IUGS will celebrate the anniversary for the whole year with a series of events. JL suggested to support the Earth Futures Festival together with UNESCO as part of the IUGS 60th anniversary celebrations. After consultations with UNESCO, IUGS will organize the EC meetings and the IGCP 50th anniversary celebration at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in March 2022.

SF commented that IUGS has some really noteworthy events within the Commissions and Task Groups in 2022. These events could be highlighted as part of the 60th anniversary. ICS will organize events for the ratification of GSSPs, two in France and one in Japan. These events usually attract a wide range of audiences, including local people, local governmental officials, journalists, etc.

SF reported that the Commission on Geoheritage was awarded funding for IGCP731 project “IUGS Geological Heritage Sites”, a global program with global standards for the recognition of geological heritage sites of high international importance. IUGS will invite more than 50 affiliated national, regional and international organizations to participate. 46 scientists from 30 different countries are participating in the project. The Commission will organize “the International Symposium on IUGS Geological Heritage Sites” in late November 2022, during which the First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites will be announced. A guidebook will be produced on the descriptions of “First 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites”. Working groups have been set up to develop global standards, and application/evaluation and ratification process. The IUGS Geological Heritage Sites will attract widespread international publicity and increase the visibility of IUGS.

JM commented that she agreed that the year of 2022 should be maximized and the activities that have been already funded by IUGS should be asked on how to showcase their celebration of the IUGS 60th anniversary. JM suggested that these events shall be clearly branded as IUGS events. JM commented that the Earth Futures Festival is well proposed in terms of linking to the UN SDGs. IUGS has been invited to be a sponsor of the Earth Futures Festival.

JL commented that a series of events linking with UNESCO, IUGS Commissions and Task Groups will be supported as the 60th anniversary celebrations of IUGS being an international geoscience body.

JL reported that the Earth Futures Festival is funded by UNESCO IGCP and extra funding is being brought in. It is coupled with three physical events, one potentially in Paris, one in New York, and one in Sydney. JL told UNESCO that IUGS would be interested in supporting the event but that it must reach farther than those three events, for instance to Asia, Africa, and South America. The Earth Futures Festival wants to have IUGS as a sponsor and at the same time is looking for commercial sponsors. UNESCO is putting up USD 30,000 for the festival and would like to have IUGS match USD 30,000.

JL pointed out the major tasks of the 60th anniversary celebrations are all about giving IUGS an international visibility through a series of events, and proposed that IUGS engage a part-time person SG(2-3 days a week) for a year through UNESCO. SG will be paid around €Euro 20,000-30,000 via a contract she already has with UNESCO for the young ambassadors programme. She will be assigned for each quarter but with a monthly report. Her major tasks involve the following: move on a number of outreach initiatives, design a programme of activities for 2022, contact the press, link things together, ensure that all 60th anniversary events are promoted through the IUGS social media and website.

CQ supported JL's proposition to hire this person and suggested encouraging all the IUGS members including Commissions, Groups, and affiliated organizations to participate in the 60th anniversary celebrations. IGCP is a very good platform to advertise IUGS. For the 60th anniversary celebrations, the EC should act quickly, plan in detail and develop the tasks. In addition, since he was nominated for the UNESCO Chair Programme Big Data for Resources, CQ proposed an integrated project for DDE, RFG and IGCP. The Chinese organization which supported this initiative will potentially put in RMB 500,000 for five years for a joint project managed by IGCP Council. That could be a practical joint project on data-driven geology between DDE and IGCP.

SF raised two questions, the first is how and when the IUGS 77th EC meeting in 2022 will be held , and whether a council meeting will be held at the same time in Paris; the second is for the IGCP 50th anniversary celebrations, what IUGS will organize and when. SF suggested confirming the dates and activities as possible so that the various groups could plan ahead. SF also proposed that, if there is a council meeting, the three IUGS Prize awardees who are supposed to be presented at the canceled 36th IGC should be brought to the meeting. In addition, SF pointed out if the 77th EC meeting is held in March, 2022 in Paris, it will cost a lot of money to pay for the delegates to attend the meeting, and there will be a big amount of money for IUGS together with the UNESCO event and personnel cost.

SP supported JL's proposition to hire a part-time person. SP agreed that lack of visibility and lack of strategy to increase it have been serious problems of IUGS, and IUGS should take this opportunity to organize a joint event with UNESCO.

SF commented that on one hand, the low visibility is a common problem for specialized unions, and on the other hand, IUGS can improve it by working on the existing situation. Due to the fact that the internal groups are so often detached from the name of IUGS when they have big events, IUGS should request information of all their activities and have the name of IUGS linked to them and combine them all together in the package of the 60th anniversary celebrations, and announce all the events coming during the year.

JL concluded that the part-time person will be hired as part of the efforts to push IUGS visibility globally on these occasions. There will be a budget plan for the 60th anniversary celebrations and a breakdown of the total budget USD 200,000. He will circulate CV to the other EC members after this meeting. Discussions will be held with Water who will later be asked to pull together a programme of activities for 2022 that reflect and promote IUGS and associated commissions and programmes, and bring this to the executive in November/December. An action plan will be made after that.

ACTION-03: SF to write to the constituent groups about IUGS 60th anniversary.

ACTION-04: JL to circulate CV to the Executive.

ACTION-05: JL to ask UNESCO to augment the contract for

ACTION-06: JL to ask as an initial task to come up with a programme of activities for 2022, and bring this to the executive in November/December.

5. Outreach Proposals

LS suggested getting started with "low-hanging fruits", like a prestigious IUGS Science format for top scientists similar to Penrose, Gordon or similar research conferences. The target group is young top-flight scientists. Topics should cover a broad interdisciplinary portfolio, including social sciences. Symposia could be a starting point to foster the collaboration with social sciences. The Executive Committee can nominate a small working group who will be in charge for the thematic organization (public call, selection of lecturers & participants) with the organizational support by IUGS Secretariat. Funding can be from IUGS, industries and cooperating national academies. LS mentioned that this IUGS conference can be special IUGS symposium or meetings at AGU, EGU, etc., but holding the conference in different continents every year or every two years can better promote IUGS among general public and

politicians. LS advised that the first conference can be organized at GFZ in 2022. IUGS will be responsible for the main travel and accommodation costs of lecturers and participants. Public events could be created to interact with politicians, such as the members of the newly elected German Parliament, and the general public.

HK asked about the topics of the conference and LS suggested topics related to data-driven sciences and geohazards. HM suggested the topics and theme of the conference should be determined based on the key geoscience issues or challenges of the country where the conference is held. JL suggested appointing LS to lead the planning for the IUGS conferences in 2022, 2023 and 2024. QC reviewed the RFG Conference in 2018 and suggested that the topics of the conference should be unique and the topics for the 2022 conference could be related to DDE.

6. 2022 EC meeting

SF reviewed the routine agendas of the previous EC meetings, including two-day open session, one-day or one-and-half-day closed session. SF suggested the open session of the 2022 EC meeting be held on March 14th and 15th and closed session on March 16th and 17th. To enable more EC meeting participants to join in the celebration of the 60th IUGS anniversary, SF suggested holding the celebration events before the open session of the EC meeting. SF will inform IUGS constituent groups about the 2022 IUGS EC Meeting and contact UNESCO to confirm the proposed agenda for the 2022 EC Meeting.

ACTION-07: SF to inform the IUGS constituent groups about the 2022 IUGS EC Meeting.

ACTION-08: SF to contact UNESCO to confirm the agenda for the 2022 EC Meeting.

7. Mid-term Treasury Report Budget

HK reported that by September 1st, the total balance of fund is 1,674,708.10 USD. From January 1st to September 1st 2021, IUGS has a deficit of 28,981.65 USD in its bank account as 134,500 USD is paid for IGCP by IUGS, but 107,000 USD will be paid back to IUGS by UNESCO. About 2/3's of the expenditures of IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, Initiatives, Committees and Affiliated Organizations has been paid. IUGS paid 11,669 USD to reimburse the financial losses of Hutchison Awardees arising from the cancellation of 36th IGC. A budget of 15,000 USD has been allocated for the travel costs of the recipients of the Argand, Harrison and Early Geoscientist awards, who will attend the award ceremony during the 77th EC meeting in Paris. A budget of 75,000 USD has been allocated for IUGS special funding programs and 20,000 USD is reserved for the IGCP 50th Anniversary in November 2021.

HK stressed the status of IUGS member countries by category, where nearly half of

the active IUGS members have not paid their membership fees, such as Australia, Denmark, France, South Africa and United Kingdom.

HK commented that mid-term balance on September 1 has a deficit of 28,000 USD. The deficit is caused by prepaid funds for UNESCO (app. 100,000 USD). The prepaid money should be come back from UNESCO within FY 2021. During the next three months, IUGS may also receive membership fees including UK (Category 8), France, India (Category 7) and Australia (Category 6), which are about 200,000 USD in total. IUGS Balance for 2021 may be end with surplus.

HK pointed out that many countries cannot be contacted by the treasurer office. HK asked EC members to provide contact persons for the countries that do not have contact points and suggested IUGS secretariat and treasurer office should share the same member countries addresses with each other. In addition, a couple of countries obviously stopped paying membership fees under the reason that “IUGS gives no benefits for the country”, even though these countries need geological knowledge (ex. Indonesia experienced more than 3,000 geological disasters within a year). IUGS needs to transfer the latest geological information, knowledge and geo-engineering techniques to all countries. As IUGS is sustained by member countries, it should share its knowledge among all countries in global scale.

HK also mentioned a hacking case happened to IFG and reminded all that IUGS information, data and budgets should be carefully protected from global criminal groups.

8. Activities of Note in the Commissions, Task Groups, and Initiatives

SF reported that most IUGS Commissions, Task Groups and Initiatives have remained active during the COVID-19 pandemic. He mentioned that due to health problem, Chris King, the Chair of Commission on Geoscience Education, Training & Technology Transfer (COGE), has handed over his work to the rest of the Commission led by Vice Chair. During the pandemic, COGE has continued to present virtual workshops nationally and internationally with success. The Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI) has gained increased efficiency, productivity and satisfaction through holding several online events, including two zoom Council Meetings in 2020, four zoom Council Meetings in 2021 and two webinars in 2021. CGI has launched a new website and its working groups are active and working closely with DDE and the Open Geospatial Consortium. Task Group on Igneous Rocks (TGIR) is going to finish the nomenclature and classification of igneous rocks and the pandemic has increased its online commissions and streaming seminars, discussions, round tables and administrative work. SF mentioned the activities of Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG), including the publication of GSL-IUGS books “A Guide to Forensic Geology” and “Forensic Soil Science and Geology”, the undergraduate geoforensic workshop in Brazil, establishment of a

student chapters including 10 universities and 155 students in South America and Europe, the new website and forensic geological analysis of crimes in international mining, minerals and metals. The Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB) will soon finish the Manual of Standard Methods for Global Geochemical Baselines and the Workshop Extracting, Visualizing and Interpreting Structure in Geochemical Data through Compositional Data Analysis (CoDA) will be held on November 1st, 2021 and 83 participants have registered. Works of International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) include determination of several new GSSPs, cooperation with DDE, production of several books, dedication ceremonies for Chibanian and Albian and Hauterivian of Cretaceous and work related to Anthropocene.

9. IUGS Related Activities

HK reported that that International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) is going to have a General Assembly in Tokyo in 2023, and IUBS wants to have a joint program with IUGS. HK proposed geopark and eco-park as a topic for the program. His proposal received positive response of the EC.

10. 2024 IGC

Daekyo Cheong (DC) reported on preparations for the 37th IGC. The organizing committee hosted a plenary meeting on July 2nd, 2021, including site-visits to BEXCO and Busan Cinema Center. The meeting appointed additional committee members presenting the roles and responsibilities of sub-committees. 65 members attended the meeting by virtual or face-to-face. DC reviewed several working meetings held in 2021, including the 3rd Executive Committee Virtual Meeting on August 27th, Cooperation & PR Committee Virtual Meeting on August 10th, Planning & Financing Committee Meeting on September 29th and Academic Committee Meeting on March 10th. DC reported that the 37th Organizing Committee is going to participate in the Fall Meeting of Geological Society of Korea 2021 to promote the 37th IGC and the AGU Fall Meeting as a virtual exhibitor to promote the 37th IGC to international participants around the globe. DC reported that the Organizing Committee had a meeting with the Geological Society of Japan on September 27th to discuss cooperation with Japan in terms of field excursion, and more meetings with China and Japan will be held for more discussion on cooperation in field excursion.

JL asked whether organizing committee has prepared for any risks caused by COVID-19 or other emergencies. DC responded that the 37th IGC has prepared different plans for special cases and the detailed plans will be reported to the EC in near future.

11. Nominating Committee Called to Begin Work

QC introduced steps of preparing IUGS 2024 election, including introducing the nominating procedure to Nominating Committee (NC) members in 2021, promoting the IUGS 2024 election and beginning to invite nominations in 2022, finalizing a list of candidates in 2023 and facilitating the election in 2024.

ACTION-09: QC to inform the NC members the beginning of the preparation work of IUGS 2024 election.

LS suggested posting the proceedings of the 5th International Young Earth Scientists (YES) Congress on IUGS website.

ACTION LIST

Item	Description	Status
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ACTION-02	JL to contact the British Geological Survey to consult whether BGS could match the funding to keep UK at the level 8 membership of IUGS.	
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