



News at a Glance

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1. IUGS concern on status of refunds from 36th IGC

16 September 2020

Letter to all registered participants

The impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the 36th IGC was immediate and significant, and the IUGS Executive Committee is very aware of the costs to all of you in time and money. We have tried to work with the Secretary General of the 36th IGC to obtain reimbursements of all fees to delegates, as shown in a copy of our latest correspondence. We strongly encourage the leadership of the 36th IGC to immediately and fully reimburse delegates and national committees for all fees paid to the Congress. We are aware of the inconveniences caused by covid-19 in conducting normal business, however, it is important to make a good faith effort to make these reimbursements.



On behalf of the Executive Committee of the IUGS,
Stan Finney (Secretary General IUGS)

Read the full text of the letter [here](#).



2. Launch of a new IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage

A recent By-Election by the IUGS Council ratified officers of IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, and Initiatives for terms of 2020-2024. The Council also voted to approve the recommendation of the IUGS Executive Committee to re-establish a new International Commission on Geoheritage in order to effect a reorganization of the Commission. The officers of the Commission for 2020-2024 are: Asier Hilario (Spain) - Chair; Angela Ehling (Germany) - Vice Chair; Zhang Jianping (China) - Vice Chair; and Juana Vegas (Spain) - Secretary General. The officers of the Subcommittee on Geoheritage Sites and Collections are Chair Benjamin van Wyk de Vries of France and Secretary General Ezzoura Errami of Morocco. Those of the Subcommittee on Heritage Stones are Chair Gurmeet Kaur of India and Secretary General Victor Cardenes of Spain. This group of officers and the voting members of subcommissions have been tasked with the reorganization of the Commission, with the possible creation of a new Subcommittee on Geoheritage Sites; with re-evaluation of the mission, objectives, and goals of the Commission and Subcommissions; with re-evaluation of criteria and procedures for identifying, developing proposals, and approving proposals of geoheritage sites, stones, and collections for international recognition by the IUGS. Once re-established, the subcommissions will work to increase the number of members with expertise in geoheritage and a dedication to advancing geoheritage activities in the subcommissions. The Commission will strengthen its links with the UNESCO Global Geopark program; it will establish an International Congress on Geoheritage; and it will strive to be the global leader in geoheritage activities. Much is expected of the rejuvenated Commission, and the excellent team of officers and continuing members now in place has the expertise and dedication to meet that expectation.

The new International Commission on Geoheritage was recently recognized by the invitation of Asier Hilario to participate in the Distinguished Speaker Webinar Series of an American Geoheritage Initiative sponsored by the U.S. National Committee for Geological Sciences (fig.1).



**America's Geoheritage: Identifying, Developing, and
Preserving America's Natural Legacy**
Distinguished Speaker Webinar Series, Fall 2020



A Survey of Geoheritage Initiatives in the U.S.

Tuesday, September 15; 11 am ET/8 am PT

"Geoheritage in the United States" — Tom Casadevall (USGS) (left)

"America's Geologic Heritage: An Invitation to Leadership"

— Tim Connors (NPS) (center)

"Geoheritage and UNESCO Global Geoparks: International Cooperation and
Initiatives" — Asier Hilario (IUGS Geoheritage Commission) (right)

Register here: https://nasem.zoom.us/join/register/WN_1XqPjNGaSLuunq1D7VXm0l.g

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Sponsored by American Association of State Geologists, American Geosciences Institute, Geological Society of America, National Association of
Geoscience Teachers, National Earth Science Teachers Association, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey.
Supported by the National Science Foundation.

For more information on additional webinars: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/american-geoheritage-initiative-2020-2021>

Fig. 1 - Announcement of the Distinguished Speaker Webinar Series.



3. 2020 International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme Council appointments

As a flagship of UNESCO, the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP), which has been implemented through two activities, namely the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), a co-operative venture between UNESCO and IUGS, and the UNESCO Global Geoparks, has recently appointed three new members to the IGCP Council and six new members to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council.

Appointment of three new members to the IGCP Council

According to the Statutes of the International Geoscience and Geopark Programme (IGGP) and the Operational Guidelines for the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) approved by the 38th General Conference, the IGCP Council shall be composed of six ordinary members, appointed by mutual agreement by the Director-General of UNESCO and the President of IUGS. Initial six members of the Council were appointed in December 2016 indicating those whose initial term shall expire after two years. To renew the membership of the three Council members in 2020, the IGCP Secretariat launched an open call using the channels of IUGS, the IGCP National Committees and the UNESCO National Commissions to reach potential new members. Among 65 eligible applicants, below listed scientists are appointed for the new IGCP Council and they will start their activities in November 2020:

- Mr Jonathan Craig (United Kingdom and Northern Ireland): Earth resources
- Ms Hassina Mouri (South Africa): Geodynamics
- Mr Mohammed Jalludin (Djibouti): Hydrogeology

Appointment of six new members to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council

According to the Statutes of the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) and Operational Guidelines for UNESCO Global Geoparks approved by the 38th General Conference, the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council are composed of 12 ordinary



members appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO on recommendation of the Global Geoparks Network (GGN) and of Member States. Every two years, half of the membership of the Council shall be renewed. After reviewing all 13 eligible candidates, keeping in mind the priority gender in UNESCO and ensuring a good geographical distribution of the Council members, below listed experts were nominated for the new UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and they will start their activities in September 2020:

- Mr Guy Martini (France)
- Ms Marie-Luise Frey (Germany)
- Mr Van Tran Tan (Viet Nam)
- Ms Helga Chulepin (Uruguay)
- Mr Alexandru Andrasanu (Romania)
- Ms Gabriela Schneider (Namibia)

For more details, please consult to the news on the official website of UNESCO:
<https://en.unesco.org/news/2020-international-geoscience-and-geoparks-programme-council-appointments>.

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

Maureen Bottrell, FBI Geologist, Receives the IFG Raymond Murray Award

Maureen Bottrell, forensic geologist and forensic examiner, has been named as the first recipient of the 'IFG Raymond Murray Award for Recognised and Distinguished International Contributions to Forensic Geology'. This was presented to Maureen upon her retirement from the United States, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) laboratory, located at a Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia, USA. The award was presented to Maureen on 26 August 2020 by



Laurance Donnelly (IUGS-IFG, Chair), Jodi Webb (IUGS-IFG, FBI Adviser) and Alastair Ruffell (IUGS-IFG Training).

Forensic Geology and the Geological Society of Japan

The latest edition of The Journal of the Geological Society of Japan, 126(8), 405-470, is dedicated to Forensic Geology (fig. 2). This comprises seven papers, most of which are in Japanese language. These papers include: (a) Preface and Developments in forensic geology, (b) An introduction to Forensic Geology (R. Sugita, N. Kawamura, K. Kumisaka), (c) Investigation on forensic soil analysis using quartz shapes and surface microtextures (H. Itamiya, R. Sugita, T. Sugai), (d) Short history of forensic geology in Japan (K. Kumisaka, R. Sugita), (e) The Geoforensic Search Strategy: A high assurance search method to assist law enforcement locate graves and contraband associated with homicide, counter terrorism and serious and organised crime (L. Donnelly, M. Harrison), and (f) Magnetic measurements as a forensic geology tool: a review (N. Kawamura).

Forensic Geology Group in the Abu Dhabi Police

The Abu Dhabi Police (ADP) has approved the establishment a forensic geology branch and laboratory. This will assist with the analyses of geological trace evidence, searching for corpses, hidden weapons and smuggled containers and the analysis of gold and minerals. IUGS-IFG has been collaborating with ADP forensic geologists and has visited Abu Dhabi on two previous occasions to discuss developing forensic geology.

Forensic Geology in Rwanda and Central Africa

IUGS-IFG held preliminary discussions to develop forensic geology in Rwanda and Central Africa countries. This will also include a focus on the use of geology to investigate and mitigate crimes that take place in the minerals and mining industry.



The Geological Society of London, Forensic Geoscience Group (FGG) Conference

The FGG conference will take place as a virtual meeting on 2 December 2020, in collaboration with the Near Surface Geophysics Group (NSGG). This will include the presentation of the book, 'A Guide to Forensic Geology' (publication pending) and crimes that take place in the minerals, mining and metals industries.



Fig. 2 - The Journal of the Geological Society of Japan, 126(8), 405-470, dedicated to Forensic Geology.



5. America's Geoheritage II: Identifying, Developing, and Preserving America's Natural Legacy Distinguished Speaker Webinar Series

The U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Geological Sciences is presenting the *America's Geoheritage II: Identifying, Developing, and Preserving America's Natural Legacy Distinguished Speaker Webinar Series* throughout fall 2020, many Tuesdays at 11:00 am EDT. These presentations will introduce the underlying rationale and concepts of the Geoheritage initiative, and the contributions that are being made by numerous stakeholders in the geoscience community. These presentations are free and open to everyone interested in using Geoheritage sites to promote research, education, public outreach, community planning, and geotourism. These presentations will set the stage for the virtual writing part of the workshop that will be convened the week of January 10, 2021 to further explore opportunities to develop and promote Geoheritage sites across the United States.

The inaugural September 8, 2020 webinar with Tim Badman (IUCN) and Patty Limerick (University of Colorado, Boulder) as our keynote speakers. For more details about this first presentation, please visit: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/event/09-08-2020/celebrating-americas-geoheritage>.

For a complete list of webinar dates, topics, and speakers in the series and to register for each individual webinar, please visit <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/americas-geoheritage-ii-a-workshop>.

See also the following pdf files:

- [Inaugural webinar on 8 September 2020: keynote speakers](#)
- [Complete list of webinar dates, topics, and speakers in the series](#)



6. Episodes new special issue

The journal Episodes has published a new Special Issue in its number for September 2020: Episodes 43-3 (fig. 3).

This special issue entitled “*Asbestos, Elongated mineral particles and hazardous geomaterials: occurrence, use and health implications*” and co-edited by Rosalda Punturo, Andrea Bloise, Dolores Pereira, and Carmela Vaccaro, presents the results obtained by several research groups on anthropogenic and Natural Occurrences of Asbestos and asbestiform minerals (NOA) as sources of possible environmental risks to public health (fig. 4).

See the detailed contents of the special issue [here](#).

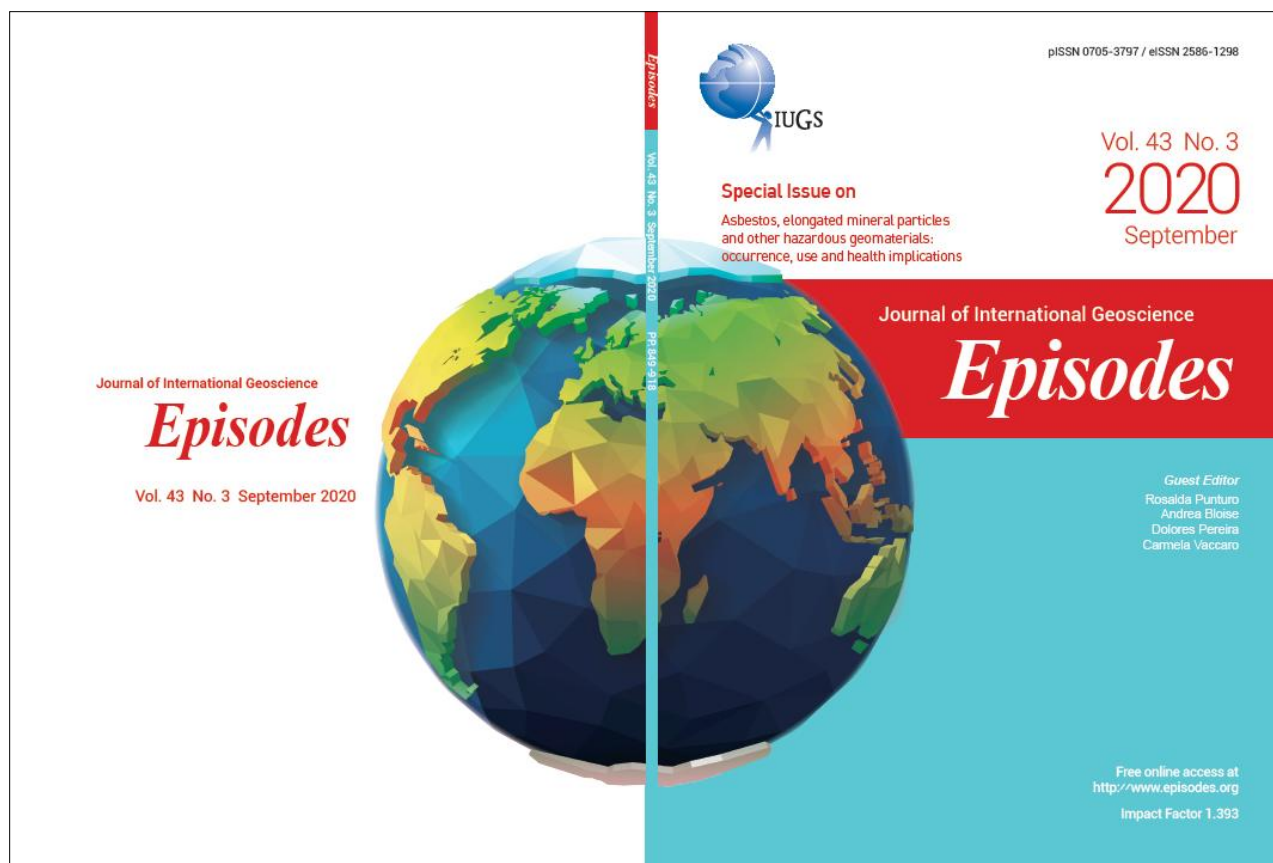


Fig. 3 - Cover of Episodes 43-3.

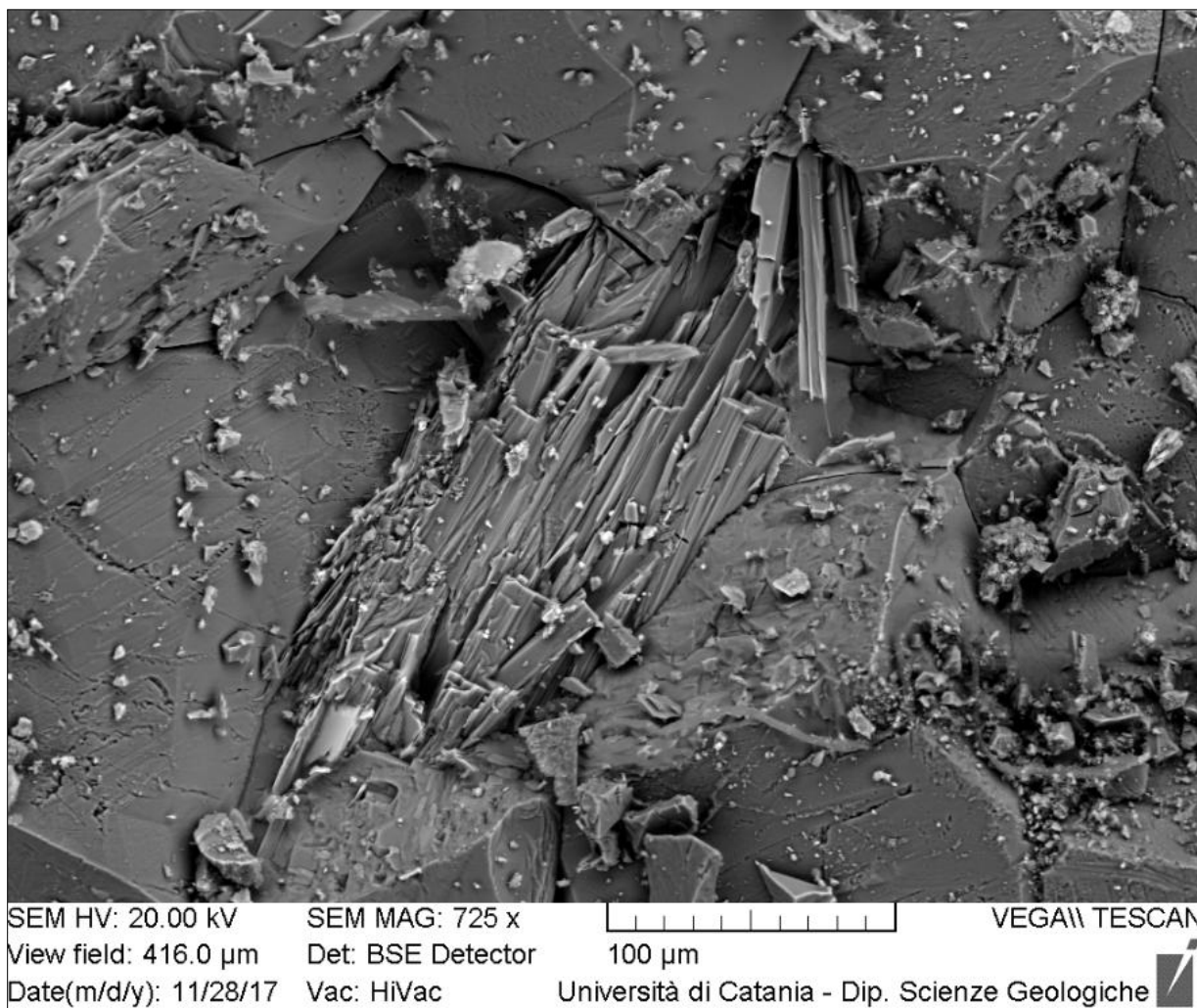


Fig. 4 - SEM images of asbestos tremolite (picture by R. Punturo and Martina Mannino).



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 are also 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:

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(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.
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- Check the IUGS website: <http://www.iugs.org/>

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