

## **Candidate for IUGS Executive Committee**

**Position: Councillor 2020-2024**

**Name:** Dr. Ludwig Stroink; Head of International Relations Office

**Affiliation:** Helmholtz Centre Potsdam GFZ German Research  
Centre for Geosciences

**Nominating Organization:** German IUGS National Committee



### **Biography:**

I graduated in Geology from the RWTH Technical University of Aachen, Germany, where I later obtained my doctor's degree. I have more than 25 years of experience in interdisciplinary research and international project management. Some examples:

- During my MSc- and PhD-studies, I worked as an exploration consultant for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Canada and as a scientific coordinator of the EUROPROBE joint research project between the European Union and Russia.
- In 2000, I became the Managing Director of the German R&D-Program GEOTECHNOLOGIEN - the largest and most prestigious geoscientific research program in Germany at that time. As the Managing Director, I was in charge of the strategic development and operational implementation of this multidisciplinary research program funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research BMBF with 120 Mio €.
- Since 2010, I am Head of the International Affairs Office of the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, a member of the Helmholtz Association, the largest non-university research organization in Germany. GFZ is globally collaborating with more than 70 nations; 300 international scientists from more than 60 nations are currently working at GFZ. Important aspects of our internationalization strategy are - among others - to foster the collaboration with emerging countries and to strengthen the international recruitment of young talents and top-flight researchers, in particular, outstanding female scientists.
- From 2013 to 2016, I worked as an advisor of the Government of the Sultanate Oman for the strategic development and implementation a non-university research centre in Muscat.
- Since 2015 I am a member of the Climate KIC General Assembly and serve as the Chairman of the Working Committee "International Relations" of the Helmholtz Association

**Statement:**

Geosciences have traditionally a global orientation, but a special opportunity is at hand for international collaboration. In times of great societal challenges, such as climate change, resourcing future generations and mitigating the impacts of natural disasters, international cooperation in Earth Sciences is more important than ever. Since its foundation in 1961, scientific collaboration across borders is an essential part of the IUGS's mission and I will be happy to serve IUGS in this respect. I know IUGS and its joint programs already for decades:

- as the scientific secretary for the German ILP- and IGCP-National Committee,
- as a member of the bidding team to organize the IGC 2024 in Germany,
- as host of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee Meeting of IUGS at GFZ in 2018 and the 5<sup>th</sup> Young Earth Scientist YES Congress in 2019.

From personal experience I know, how exceptionally important the international perspective is for successful science. Recruitment of international talents as well as lively international exchange among the researchers drive progress and continued high-level research performance. However, coping with societal challenges does not only require a deep scientific understanding; it equally needs the translation of our research results into policy actions on both, local and global level.

With my practical experience in international geoscientific research and science policy, I will be happy to support the IUGS-EC on these important issues.