
News at a Glance

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INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC UNIONS OF ICSU MEETING – PARIS 11-13 APRIL 2016

A meeting of the Unions of the International Council for Science was celebrated in Paris, April 12-13, 2016. The event was preceded by the GeoUnions (GU) Steering Committee Meeting in April 11. The GeoUnions attending the meeting were the following: International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), International Geographical Union (IGU), International Association for Quaternary Research (INQUA), International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), International Astronomical Union (IAU), International Cartographic Association (ICA), and International Union of Radio Science (URSI). The GU Steering Committee Meeting was hosted by Société Géologique de France and held at La Maison de la Géologie in Paris. The Steering Committee members approved the Minutes of the previous meeting held last year in Trieste; significant time was devoted to the preparation of the ICSU meeting, in particular the position of the GeoUnions about the changes in voting for the ICSU Executive Board membership, participation of GeoUnions in ICSU interdisciplinary programs, and proposals in the future call for the ICSU Grants Programme.

The meeting of Scientific Unions (Physical, Chemical and Mathematical Sciences; Biological Sciences; Earth and Space Sciences; and Social Sciences) of ICSU took place at the Fondation Simone et Cino del Duca. The first day was focused on presentations by the Unions, updates of ICSU activities, discussion of voting procedures and description of the next call for the ICSU Grants Programme, which will be launched by the end of April; final decisions on grants will be made by the end of 2016. Joint applications of Unions were encouraged.

Besides presentations of reports by the regional offices of ICSU, the second day was mainly devoted to introduce a new Strategic Planning Process and discussing, in 3 separate groups, two questions: 1) what are the new or emerging global challenges that the international scientific community should be helping to solve, and 2) what kind of actions could ICSU take to address those challenges. Reports from the breakout groups were presented to the Plenary. Health and wellbeing, relations with mass media, outreach strategies of the Scientific Unions were some outstanding points under discussion. GeoUnions representatives emphasized the need to integrate earth studies with other disciplines. IUGS President Roland Oberhänsli

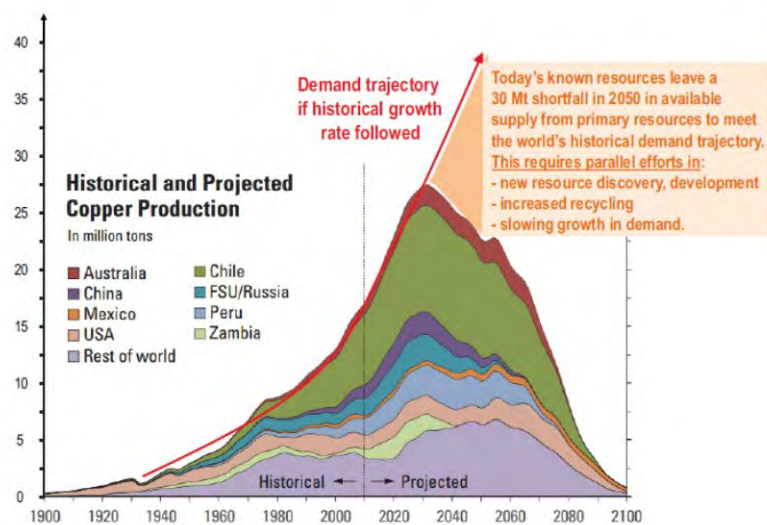
pointed out the importance of including resources in the ICSU interdisciplinary programs.

RESOURCING FUTURE GENERATIONS: OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Resourcing Future Generations (RFG) is a major initiative of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). It was launched in 2013 to bring world attention to the challenges of sustaining resource supplies and to outline a pathway to the future, including a route to nation-building and poverty alleviation through resource development. The RFG initiative includes a diverse group of geoscientists, economists, and environmental and social scientists drawn from a range of institutions with diverse private and public experience in exploration, mining, processing, environmental protection, and sustainable development. RFG aspires to be a fundamental service to humanity, not to vested interests in resource development.



IUGS now invites bids for small top-up grants to take forward discrete pieces of work in support of RFG. Details of the application process are below. The invitation is open to all though, in the event of equally judged applications, preference will be given to those from adhering members or affiliated organisations of IUGS. The closing date for the first round of applications is **noon UTC 31 May 2016**. A second round will be announced after the 35th IGC. Applications will be decided on the basis of excellence, novelty, timeliness and relevance to RFG by an awards panel comprising members of the RFG Core Group.



Primary Copper Production – Historical & Projected. Modified from Kerr 2014 and Northey et al 2014

REMIT OF THE CALL

Applications are invited for

- Novel work on an aspect of RFG, which develops an ongoing piece of work or an already separately funded research grant;
- Organising and running a workshop to promote RFG or an RFG theme. All awards must be implemented by 1 August 2016 and the work completed and outcomes

reported by 31 January 2017. Grants will average \$3000, though exceptionally a larger sum may be awarded.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications must describe the work proposed and how it will advance one of the three themes of RFG

- Balancing resource supply and demand in the 21st century;
- The challenge of mineral supply: Accessing new resources from the Earth;
- Building additional capacity to facilitate responsible development in less developed nations.

The work must be capable of completion within 6 months of the agreed start of the award. Applications are to be submitted electronically as a word document stating:

i. The name, position and host institution/body of the principal investigator together with the names and affiliation of any co-workers;

ii. The title of the project together with a brief description of the proposed work (no more than 200 words);

iii. The work proposed (in no more than 2000 words) including the research question to be addressed (if appropriate), the technical approach to be adopted, why it is important and timely, a project management plan, foreseen outcomes and how they link to and the benefits arising to RFG;

iv Details of the funds sought with outline budget and how it links to existing research grant or other existing funding support. Submissions should be completed in single-spaced typescript of minimum font size 11 point Arial or another sans serif typeface of equivalent size to Arial 11, with margins of at least 2 cm. References must also be presented in a minimum font size of 11 point. Arial Narrow and Calibri are not allowable font types as they are smaller and any proposal which has used either of these font types within their submission will be rejected. Applicants referring to websites should note that the Awards Panel may choose not to use them.

CALL TIMETABLE

Call opens: 1 April 2016

Deadline for proposals: Noon (UTC) 31 May 2016

Assessment panel: June 2016

Grants awarded: July 2016

Grants start: 1 August 2016

Report submitted: 31 January 2017

CONTACT DETAILS

Grant applications should be sent to edmund@geolsoc.org.uk. Questions of clarification may be sent to the same address.

Check out the full Call at this link:
<http://iugs.org/uploads/RFG%20Call%20for%20Proposals%202016.pdf>

35TH IGC: FOURTH CIRCULAR RELEASED

The fourth Circular of the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC) has been released. You can download it at:

[http://www.35igc.org/Uploads/newsletter-april-](http://www.35igc.org/Uploads/newsletter-april-2016/14358_IGC_4th_Circular_FINAL.pdf)

[2016/14358_IGC_4th_Circular_FINAL.pdf](http://www.35igc.org/Uploads/newsletter-april-2016/14358_IGC_4th_Circular_FINAL.pdf) for more information and updates about registration and bookings, scientific program, field trips and plenary sessions.



AD-HOC REVIEW OF FORENSIC GEOLOGY – MEETING IN MANCHESTER

Having been founded in 2011, the activities of the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) were evaluated in Manchester, UK on April 4, 2016. The meeting was held at the offices of ARUP hosted by Dr. Laurance Donnelly, Chair of the IFG. According to the Terms of Reference for Ad-hoc Review committees (ARC), evaluators were two members of the IUGS Executive Committee, Jose P. Calvo (Secretary General of IUGS) and Marko Komac (Vice-President of IUGS) and Colin Hope (National Search Adviser at the UK National Crime Agency), who acted as secretary of the ARC. Dr. Laurance Donnelly (Chair of IFG) and Dr. Alastair Ruffel (Queens University, Belfast) participated as active members of the IFG.

The aim of the IUGS Initiative is to develop forensic geology internationally and to promote its applications. Objectives of the IFG are to:

- Collate and disseminate data and information on forensic geology as applied to policing and law enforcement, criminal, environmental and civil investigations.
- Promote international meetings, seminars, conferences and training.
- Develop a committee to act as principal advisers, collaborators and active participants.
- Develop an international network whereby each member will act as a principal contact in their respective country for the collation and dissemination of information on forensic geology.
- Collate, make available and where appropriate review any existing documentation and publications in forensic geology.
- Produce a document endorsed by the Committee to be called 'A Guide to Forensic Geology'.

The ARC meeting was chaired by Jose P. Calvo and lasted for the whole day. Presentations were made on the past and current status of the IFG. Annual reports (2011 – 2015) presented by the IFG were commented on by the participants who identified any shortcomings and problems. This was followed by open discussion on expectations of the IUGS IFG for the period 2016 – 2020 and the meeting ended with writing a draft of conclusions and recommendations.

The Chair of IFG Dr. Laurance Donnelly is acknowledged for his kindness and efficiency in organizing logistics for the meeting in Manchester.

After the meeting a report will be distributed to the members of the IUGS Executive Committee for study and eventual approval.

HERITAGE STONE TASK GROUP AT THE EGU GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2016

Lola Pereira, Björn Schouenborg and Sabina Kramar, all from the IUGS Heritage Stone Task Group (HSTG) Board, convened a HSTG session on Natural Stone Research and Heritage Stone Designation at the EGU General Assembly, Vienna (Austria), in April 2016. Twenty oral and poster contributions were presented at this session, including possible examples of Global Heritage Stone Resources. Some contributions were related more to technical aspects and analytical issues while others focused on stones in cultural heritage preservation. The audience was very enthusiastic to know about the different aspects of HSTG and the presented stones. Some of the contributions will be published in special issues. More on the HSTG session program can be found at <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/index.php?trg=sessionmodification&cotree=597.20135&tpl=&>.

The day after the presentations, the group met in a Splinter Meeting in which different issues for the Task Group were discussed, as well as future activities and diffusion and publication of the outcomes. The future of the Task Group was also discussed. The audience was informed about the merging of the Heritage Stone Task Group and the Geoheritage Task Group into a proposed new IUGS Commission: **Geoheritage: natural stones and sites**. This Commission would need approval by the IUGS Council during the next International Geological Congress in Cape Town (August-September 2016).

YES NETWORK: VOTING OPEN TO FORM THE NEW LEADERSHIP

The YES Network is in the second phase in its elections process and has opened the voting gate in order to form the new Executive Committee. This is the chance for young and early career geoscientists around the World to help shaping the new leadership team and the future of the YES Network.

Applications are now accessible Online at the following link: <http://www.networkyes.org/index.php/yes-election-2016/the-candidates-for-the-executive-committee-positions>

Voting continues until the end of May 2016 through e-mail. All votes should be addressed to david.govoni@libero.it. Prior registration on the YES Network's website is mandatory before voting. Members can register under different categories. Voting results will be communicated early June 2016.



NOTES

- If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS e-bulletins, please mail to barich@uni-potsdam.de or amel.barich@gmail.com.
- 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: peter.bobrowsky@canada.ca
- To be added to or removed from the IUGS e-bulletin distribution list, please <mailto:iugs.beijing@gmail.com>.
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