



16 September 2020

To all registered participants of the 36th IGC,

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 (following pages). 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,

Sincerely,

Stan Finney
Secretary General IUGS

www.iugs.org

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17 August 2020

Dr. Ranjit Rath
Secretary General of 36th IGC
Director General - Geological Survey of India

Dear Dr. Rath.

I forward to you the following resolution that was approved unanimously by the IUGS Executive Committee.

“The Executive Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences is concerned that despite assurances that conference registration and other fees already paid for attendance at the 36th International Geological Congress - originally to be held in March 2020 - would be refunded as stated on the website under “Refund Policy”, it understands that many registrants have not yet received any reimbursement. Some registrants have received repeated assurance of reimbursement, but receipt dates have come and gone without action. This is causing considerable damage to the reputation of both the IGC and the IUGS, and may ultimately harm participation in the IGC, rescheduled for August 2021, and subsequent IGCs or IUGS events.

The IUGS EC understands that recent changes in the IGC leadership may have caused organizational turbulence. Nonetheless, a further delay in the refund process is now considered unacceptable. Unless the 36th IGC LOC provides written assurance by 11 September 2020 that all outstanding fees have been reimbursed, regrettably the IUGS Executive Committee will have no option than to reconsider its endorsement of the 36th IGC.”

Sincerely,

Stanley C. Finney
Secretary General - IUGS

President

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Re: questions on refunds

DR RANJIT RATH <dr.ranjitrath@gmail.com>

Mon 9/14/2020 12:25 PM

To: Stan Finney <Stan.Finney@csulb.edu>

CAUTION: This email was sent from an external source.

Dear Prof. Finney,

Thank you very much for bearing with us in these trying times due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic.

As you would recall the notified refund policy does not include the registration fees collected during submission of the abstracts.

Further, the notified refund policy also entails that all the charges (foreign currency conversion charges during remittance and refund, bank transaction charges during refund, applicable taxes etc.) are to be borne by the delegates.

Though refund of fees to four delegates have been initiated; Having reviewed the extant policy, I have taken up the process to explore feasibility of revisiting the refund policy so as to address the above concerns. I assure you that we will resolve the issues and the process of refund will commence shortly.

As for the accommodation charges, refund of the booking amount seems to be not very encouraging.

Therefore, we are reaching out to the Hotels for a possible extension of validity of reservation till August 2021.

However, due to the ongoing lockdown scenarios; responses from the Hotels are still awaited. We will shortly revert on the same.

Looking forward to your support and a successful organisation of 36th IGC during August 2021 with a restructured context and content.

Best Regards,
Dr. Ranjit Rath
SG-36th IGC

On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 8:26 PM Stan Finney <Stan.Finney@csulb.edu> wrote:

Dear Dr. Rath.

The IUGS EC will meet on Tuesday to discuss the status of refunds from the 36th IGC. Two questions are asked in preparation. How many refunds have been made? Why are refunds not being made now for hotel payments made through the Congress website?

Sincerely,
Stan Finney

Stanley C. Finney,
Secretary General, International Union of Geological Sciences
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California State University - Long Beach
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Stan.Finney@csulb.edu



16 September 2020

Dr. Ranjit Rath
Secretary General of 36th IGC
Director General - Geological Survey of India

Dear Dr. Rath.

In my email to you of 18 August 2020 I attached a copy of a resolution approved by the IUGS Executive Committee. For ease that resolution reads as follows:

“The Executive Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences is concerned that despite assurances that conference registration and other fees already paid for attendance at the 36th International Geological Congress - originally to be held in March 2020 - would be refunded as stated on the website under “Refund Policy”, it understands that many registrants have not yet received any reimbursement. Some registrants have received repeated assurance of reimbursement, but receipt dates have come and gone without action. This is causing considerable damage to the reputation of both the IGC and the IUGS, and may ultimately harm participation in the IGC, rescheduled for August 2021, and subsequent IGCs or IUGS events.

The IUGS EC understands that recent changes in the IGC leadership may have caused organizational turbulence. Nonetheless, a further delay in the refund process is now considered unacceptable. Unless the 36th IGC LOC provides written assurance by 11 September 2020 that all outstanding fees have been reimbursed, regrettably the IUGS Executive Committee will have no option than to reconsider its endorsement of the 36th IGC.”

You wrote on 14 September saying that some progress has been made, but the number refunds you refer to is only a tiny fraction of the total reimbursements that have been requested - and which have been repeatedly promised by you and your predecessor. Furthermore, your message indicated that there is basically no chance of refunds for hotel payments made through the Congress, which represent many thousands of dollars.

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The Executive Committee met yesterday (15 September), and I have been instructed to forward the following statement:

“The Executive Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences notes that virtually no progress has been made in refunding registration fees, that even those payments made represent only partial reimbursement for fees submitted, and that many other repayments, including hotel fees, are still outstanding. The process by which fees are being reimbursed, i.e., field trip fees separately from registration fees, incurs significant costs to each delegate in bank transfer fees. The EC is receiving much criticism about these matters and continued failure to reimburse is costing both IGC and IUGS the good faith of its delegates and members. As a result, the EC has decided to:

publish on the IUGS website and e-bulletin the resolution sent on 18 August 2020 together with the Secretary General’s reply of 14 September and

reconsider its support for the 36th IGC and to that end invites the IGC Secretary General to make the case for the IUGS continuing to be associated with the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Stan Finney', is positioned below the text 'Sincerely yours,'.

Stanley C. Finney
Secretary General - IUGS