
News at a Glance

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1. Joint IUGS-IGS Letter Concerning the 36th IGC, Delhi

A joint letter signed by IUGS President John Ludden and Dr. Ranjit Rath, CoPresident and Secretary General of the 36th IGC Local Organizing Committee has been published on the IUGS website <https://www.iugs.org/>. The letter updates the community on the status of the meeting and reimbursements to meeting registrants.

2. Letter to the IUGS community from new IUGS President John Ludden

A letter from Professor John Ludden, President of IUGS to all IUGS members is posted on the IUGS website <https://www.iugs.org/>. The letter serves as an introduction to Prof. Ludden and his thoughts for an invigorated IUGS community that can champion the essential role of the geosciences in resourcing the Earth's future.

3. IUGS supports Gender Equality in Science

On 29th November 2020, IUGS signed a MoU with the Standing Committee on Gender Equality in Science (SCGES), a partnership of international unions to promote equal access of women and girls to science education, as well as equal opportunity and treatment throughout their careers. Silvia Peppoloni (IUGS Councillor) is the IUGS Representative and

John Ludden (IUGS President) is IUGS Deputy representative in the SCGES. Joining this partnership follows the IUGS Council's endorsement of a resolution on diversity and inclusivity in all IUGS/IGC activities and functions. The resolution states,

"As a guiding principle, IUGS/IGC organisers and leaders should strive to encourage diversity and inclusion when planning and delivering all activities and functions (including but not limited to governance, panels, technical sessions, workshops, nominations for awards, and symposia). Special care should be also placed to include women, people from diverse cultures, and colleagues from low- and middle-income countries as keynote speakers or equivalent positions of importance and visibility at the International Geological Congress. All geoscientists of the world should have equal access and opportunity to contribute to the advancement of global geoscience. The IUGS must be at the forefront of these efforts globally."

For additional information, see <https://www.iugs.org/scges>.

4. UNESCO Lecture Series: Earth Materials for a Sustainable and Thriving Society

In collaboration with IUGS and iCRAG (Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences)

Minerals and other Earth materials are a key component in the development of a sustainable global society, providing essential raw materials for technologies and economic growth while respecting the natural world. This webinar-based lecture series will explore how Earth materials are critical to a sustainable future and how the minerals sector, adhering to best practices, can contribute to society in a socially and environmentally positive way. Featured speakers include leading natural scientists, social scientists, and educators. The lectures will be freely accessible and will be archived for later online access. A partial schedule is given below; for updates and additional information, see <https://www.iugs.org/unesco-lectures>

Earth materials: the foundation for development (26 January 2021)

Dr Larry Meinert (Meinert Consulting LLC, Delaware, USA)

Dr Nellie Mutemeri (Mining Practice Lead, Mutemeri Consulting and Associate Professor, Univ. of Witwatersrand, South Africa).

Climate neutrality, the circular economy, and earth materials (2 February 2021)

Prof. John Thompson (Consultant, Vancouver, Canada)

Prof. Frances Wall (Professor of Applied Mineralogy, Univ. of Exeter, UK).



Suppliers, consumers, and the global minerals supply chain (TBD)

Dr Kathryn Moore (Senior Lecturer in Critical and Green Technology Metals, Univ. of Exeter, UK)
Dr Judy Muthuri (Associate Professor of Corporate Social Responsibility, Nottingham Univ. Business School, UK, and Project Lead, Sustainable Artisanal and Small-scale Mining Project, Kenya).

Mineral extraction and communities (TBD)

Dr Rajiv Maher (Research Prof., EGADE Business School del Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico)
Dr Melba Kapesa Wasunna (External Affairs Manager, Base Titanium Ltd., Kenya).

The neglected minerals and materials of development (TBD)

Prof. Daniel Franks (Program Leader, Sustainable Minerals Institute, Univ of Queensland, Australia).

Earth materials and a sustainable future (TBD)

Prof. Murray Hitzman (Director, iCRAG, Dublin, Ireland)
Ms Halleluya Naantu Ekandjo (PhD candidate at iCRAG, University College Dublin)

5. IUGS President Prof. John Ludden Signs MoU with China for Hosting Secretariat

IUGS President Prof. John Ludden and IUGS Vice President Prof. Hassina Mouri joined Dr. Zhong Ziran, President of China Geological Survey (CGS) and Vice Minister of the Geological Survey, Ministry of Natural Resources of China in a virtual ceremony on 17 December 2020 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for hosting the IUGS Secretariat in China from 2021 to 2028 (Figure 1). The Secretariat will continue to be hosted within the premises of the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS) under CGS. For the full story see <https://www.iugs.org/>.



Figure 1. A virtual signing ceremony celebrated the MoU to have China continue to host the IUGS secretariat through 2028. Attendees included Dr. Zhong Ziran, CGS President and Vice Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources (*left-center*), President John Ludden (*right*), IUGS Vice President Hassina Mouri (*below*).

[6. Recent Activities of the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology \(IFG\)](#)

A. Forensic Geophysics and Forensic Geoscience Meeting, London

The Geological Society of London Forensic Geoscience Group hosted a one day meeting on *Forensic Geophysics and Forensic Geoscience* on 2 December 2020. The meeting was attended by ~60 participants, including forensic geologists, geophysicists, geoscientist and law enforcement officers. The presentations included crime scene examination, geological trace evidence analysis, ground searches for burials, and report on the publication of a new book written by members of the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology, *A Guide to Forensic Geology*, available early 2021 (Figure 2).

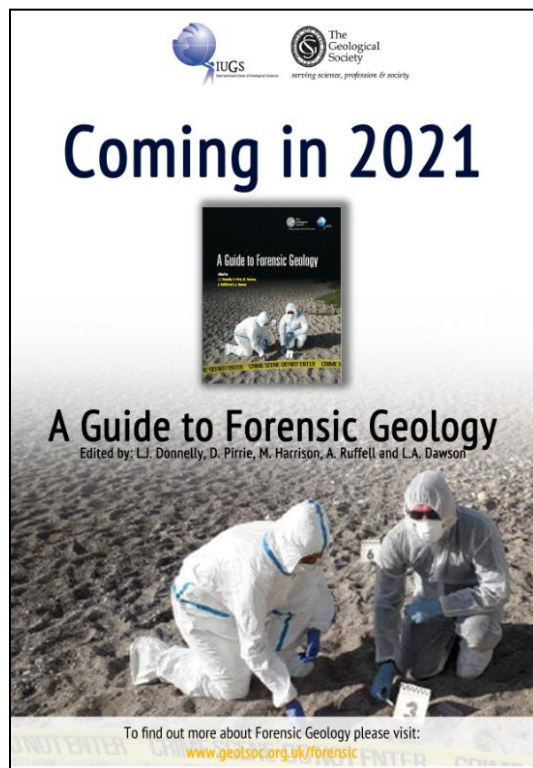


Figure 2. New book from members of IUGS-IFG to be released soon.

B. 1st Brazilian Geoforensic Virtual Workshop, November-December 2020

The 1st Brazilian Geoforensic Virtual Workshop, supported by IUGS-IFG and in collaboration with the Brazilian Federal Police, was held 30 November to 4 December 2020. The workshop attracted ~120-150 delegates per day. Of particular interest was a focus on crimes that take place in the minerals, mining and metals industries, which aligns with a 'Special Project' being implemented by IUGS-IFG. In Brazil, eight universities have established student chapters to work with IUGS-IFG to promote and develop forensic geology. English-Portuguese translations facilitated international collaboration. See <https://geoforensic.com/student-chapters/>

C. IUGS-IFG Vice Chair Prof. Rob Fitzpatrick Receives Pioneer Award

Prof Rob Fitzpatrick, IUGS-IFG Vice Chair, has been honoured by the South Australia Branch of Soil Science Australia, with the 'Pioneer Award'. This annual award honours an individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of soil science. Rob has made



significant contributions to soil science and forensic geology. On 10 December 2020 he presented the 'Rob Fitzpatrick Pioneer Lecture'.

7. News from INHIGEO

Two INHIGEO members were recently recognized for their achievements in the History of Geological Sciences.

INHIGEO member **Maddalena Napolitani** (ENS Paris, France) was awarded the *Quintino Sella Prize for the History of Geosciences in Honour of Nicoletta Morello and Bruno Accordi* on the 18th September 2020 by the Italian Geological Society. This biennial award is intended to recognize and encourage the activity of young researchers under the age of 35. The Prize is conferred to the author of the best scientific paper in the field of the History of Geosciences, published on national or international journals in the two years before the call.

Ms. Napolitani won the prize for her paper, *Born with the taste for science and the arts: the science and the aesthetics of Balthazar-Georges Sage's mineralogy collections, 1783-1825*, published in "Centaurus", special issue *Skulls and Blossoms. Natural History Collections and their meaning* (edited by M. Klemun, A. Fedotova, M. Loskutova), vol. 60, n. 4, November 2018, pp. 238-256. (Figure 3).

<https://www.socgeol.it/456/prize-quintino-sella-for-the-history-of-geosciences-in-honor-of-nicoletta-morello-and-bruno-accordi.html>

INHIGEO President (2020-2024) **Ezio Vaccari** (University of Insubria, Varese, Italy) is the recipient of the **2020 Mary C. Rabbitt History and Philosophy of Geology Award** for his contributions to the History of Geology. The Mary C. Rabbitt History of Geology Award is presented annually by the Geological Society of America's History and Philosophy of Geology Division to an individual for exceptional scholarly contributions of fundamental importance to our understanding of the history of the geological sciences. The award was made during the 2020 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in October 2020 (Figure 4).

<https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/About/awards/GSA/Awards/2020/rabbitt.aspx>



Figure 3. Maddalena Napolitani (foreground, second from left) at the internationally recognised fossil fish site in the late Early Cretaceous (Albian) Tlayúa Formation, Tlayúa Quarry, Puebla State, Mexico, during the Post-conference Field Trip of the 43rd INHIGEO Meeting in Mexico, November 2018.



Figure 4. Ezio Vaccari at Cerro Verde, the continental water divide in the Mixteca Alta UNESCO Global Geopark, State of Oaxaca, Mexico, within the mountainous Sierra Madre del Sur. The continent here is about 280 km wide and the divide is almost equidistant from the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. Post-conference Field Trip of the 43rd INHIGEO Meeting, Mexico, November 2018.

7. *Episodes*

The December 2020 issue of *Episodes* is now available at <https://www.iugs.org/episodes>



EDITORS' NOTES:

IUGS wishes to improve the coordination of the publication of information on **news, events and achievements** arising from IUGS activities; it does not publish 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 monthly timetable.

Format of submitted material:

Contributors should provide:



For the E-Bulletin: Contributions should be provided by the 16th day of the month, if possible. Send 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 will be edited for English and length, as appropriate. 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:

claudia.mora@jsq.utexas.edu
giuseppe.dicapua@ingv.it
gurmeet28374@gmail.com

(E-Bulletin Editor-in-Chief)
(Webmaster)
(Social Media Manager)