

MINUTES



**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES
VIRTUAL PROGRESS MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

29 November 2021

Participants

IUGS Executive Committee:

John LUDDEN (JL; President), Stanley FINNEY (SF; Secretary General), Hiroshi KITAZATO (HK; Treasurer), Qiuming CHENG (QC, Past President, Chair of Nominating Committee), Daekyo CHEONG (DC; Vice President), Hassina MOURI (HM; Vice President), Claudia MORA (CM; Councilor), Silvia PEPPOLONI (SP; Councilor), Jennifer MCKINLEY (JM; Councilor), Ludwig STROINK (LS; Councilor)

Publication Committee:

Dolores Pereira (DP, Chair)

UNESCO Representatives:

Özlem ADIYAMAN (OA, IGCP Program Officer)

IUGS 60th Anniversary Technical Lead - SG

IUGS Secretariat:

MA Yongzheng (Director), LI Wei (Secretary), SITU Yu (Secretary), GU Yanfei (Secretary), XU Yaqi (Secretary)

1. Welcoming

JL welcomed all the EC members and representatives from UNESCO and the Publication Committee to attend the Virtual Progress Meeting of the IUGS Executive Committee.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Virtual Meetings on 19 May & 29 September

The minutes of the Virtual Progress Meetings of the EC respectively held on 19 May and 29 September 2021 were approved.

JL went through the action items of the two Virtual Progress Meeting.

Actions from 19 May

Item	Description	Status
ACTION-01	JL to approach the owner of the initiative Future Earth and other contacts of the private sector to raise funds for IGCP.	In progress
ACTION-02	HK to write a short summary of his suggestions concerning the collaboration with social scientists and increasing IUGS' involvement in disaster risk mitigation.	Done
ACTION-03	JL, LS and JM to form a document on strategic elements based on suggestions and ideas mentioned at the meeting.	Done
ACTION-04	JL to write a proposal for the data-driven geosciences meeting to be further discussed at the EC meeting in July.	In progress
ACTION-05	JL, LS and JM to refine the job description of a half-time engagement officer and finish it before the next Virtual Progress Meeting in July.	Done
ACTION-06	LS to collect the bank information of the German registrants that are not on the given list and send it to JL (CC to Dr. Ranjit Rath).	Done

HK reported that he published two reports on how geological sciences transfer the scientific results on natural disasters to society and a round table workshop was being organized to transfer knowledge to multiple stakeholders.

JL reported that the deadline of 31 October 2021 for collecting bank information for refund of the 36th IGC has passed, and essentially the process was closed. The 36th IGC is still reimbursing some of the delegates based on the collected bank information.

SF added that Dr. D.M.Banerjee, Chair of the Indian National Committee for IUGS, served as a liaison person and made tremendous efforts during the past few months to help with the reimbursement.

DP expressed concern about the 36th IGC special issue because the hard copies of the special issue have not been delivered to the subscribers who had paid subscription fees. The hard copies were already printed and the Indian organizer agreed to mail the hard copies to the subscribers for free. DP suggested that the EC contact the 36th IGC LOC to push forward the delivery.

ACTION-01: JL to contact the 36th IGC LOC to push forward the delivery of the hard copies of the 36th IGC special issue.

Actions from 29 September

Item	Description	Status
ACTION-01	JL and QC to attend the virtual ISC General Assembly on behalf of IUGS.	Done
ACTION-02	JL to contact the British Geological Survey to consult whether BGS could match the funding to keep UK at the level 8 membership of IUGS.	In progress
ACTION-03	SF to write to the constituent groups about IUGS 60th anniversary.	In progress
ACTION-04	JL to circulate SG's CV to the Executive.	Done
ACTION-05	JL to ask UNESCO to augment the contract for SG.	Done
ACTION-06	JL to ask SG as an initial task to come up with a programme of activities for 2022, and bring this to the executive in November/December.	Done
ACTION-07	SF to inform the IUGS constituent groups about the 2022 IUGS EC Meeting.	In progress
ACTION-08	SF to contact UNESCO to confirm the agenda for the 2022 EC Meeting.	In progress
ACTION-09	QC to inform the NC members the beginning of the preparation work of IUGS 2024 election.	Done

QC reported that the first virtual meeting of the NC will be held on 6 December during which the NC will work out a plan for nominations of IUGS 2024 election.

4. Planning for March Executive Session and Open Meetings at UNESCO

OA reported that she has helped book a meeting room for 100-150 people for three full days in the week of 14 March 2022 at the UNESCO headquarters for the IUGS EC meetings and the one-day celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of IUGS and the 50th Anniversary of IGCP. She reported that due to the Omicron coronavirus variant, stricter measures were implemented since last Friday. She was not sure whether in-person meetings at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris can be organized as planned. If the pandemic gets worse, the in-person meeting of above 20 people will be forbidden. The IGCP Council members have asked to hold the IGCP Council Meeting virtually.

JL thanked OA for her great efforts in helping IUGS with all the arrangements. JL reported that the IUGS EC was positive about the meetings a couple of weeks ago. However, given complexity of the ongoing pandemic situation posed by the Omicron variant, international meetings between now and May next year may be impossible. JL suggested that the EC continue to plan the in-person meeting in Paris in March and could switch to a virtual meeting if the pandemic does not allow the in-person meetings then.

SF commented that even if the in-person meeting actually takes place in Paris, he does not expect high attendance due to the pandemic. If the in-person meeting is held, a ceremony for the IUGS medalists will be organized. SF suggested that the presentation of the medals be broadcast. JL agreed that all the activities should be videoed and put online for broad promotion.

OA reported that she will not cancel the meeting room by January 2022. It is up to the EC to decide whether to send out invitations. UNESCO follows the French instructions on pandemic control, which is constantly changing.

JM suggested that no matter what format of the meeting, in-person or virtual, the Constituent Groups shall be informed of the dates of the EC meeting so that they can prepare for the reports. No one can make a judgement at the current moment whether we can meet or travel then.

JL suggested that the EC go ahead with the planning of the EC meeting in the week of 14 March 2022 in Paris and inform the IUGS groups that a final decision will be made on whether to organize the in-person meetings in January 2022. SF suggested that the Constituent Groups will be invited to attend the one-day celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of IUGS and the 50th Anniversary of IGCP and give a special presentation on the groups as part of the program that celebrates the 60th Anniversary of IUGS. The presentation ought to emphasize the goals of the group and celebrate its accomplishments.

ACTION-02: SF to draft a tentative agenda for the open and closed sessions of the IUGS EC and the celebrations, and to send out call for annual reports/budget request.

5. Report on Meeting and Additional Developments with IUGS Commission on Geoheritage

SF considered this face-to-face meeting as very productive. Between the 18th and 20th of November, SF and the officers of the International Commission on Geoheritage (IUGS-ICG) met in the Basque Coast UNESCO Global Geopark to discuss the new structure, statutes, logo, webpage, and future strategy for the rejuvenated ICG. The meeting lasted two days in which the participants from India, Europe and the U.S. were together eight to ten hours a day going through a huge agenda. After intense discussions, the new structure, statutes, logo, and webpage for the ICG were adopted by all. This meeting has also given strong support to the creation of a third sub-commission on GeoCollection.

The sub-commission on Geosites is making great advances for the 60th Anniversary event next November to approve the first 100 IUGS Global Geo-sites. The relevant criteria and procedures were thoroughly discussed at the meeting and will shortly be finalized. The program of "The First 100 IUGS Global Geosites" is also funded by IGCP. The announcement will be sent out soon, and the members of the Geosites group as well as the IGCP 731 will start nominating sites, but there will also be a call to the IUGS commissions. It's expected that 200 more sites will be nominated.

The results will be announced in November, 2022 and a book illustrating the 100 sites will be published then. This event is planned as a special day next November at an IUGS-IGCP international conference on Geoheritage. For the budget of this big event, Asier Hilario, the ICG Chair has approached IGCP Secretariat, will also request IUGS for the budget at the EC meeting in next March, and the vice minister of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism in the Province of San Sebastian of Spain who visited this meeting said he would ask support from the Province and the local community. The main concern is the publisher of the 100 sites book since IUGS doesn't handle publishing and sales, and it needs further investigating.

This commission, especially the Geosites group has been handling the evaluation of global Geoparks proposals, which is a huge workload involving extensive reviews and the whole consolidation. The statutes of the Global Geopark Program assign the IUGS Secretary General (or the representative of the SG) with the responsibility of providing the desktop evaluations of the proposals. Roland Oberhaensli picked up this job initially, and then the sub-commission on Geosites which has a long list of reviewers took over that job. The reviewers are delegated to UNESCO and do the job for free. It is called upon at times to provide the names of reviewers for UNESCO World Heritage Sites which involve some geology criteria for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This raises the question of formal IUGS

recognition of this work by the Geosites Subcommittee.

SF suggests that the chair of the Commission on Geoheritage ought to be the ex-officio member of the UNESCO Geoparks Council from IUGS with the responsibility of managing desktop reviews of geopark by the Geosites subcommittee. That would require a change of the statutes for the Global Geopark Program. Meanwhile, there should be a more formal agreement where this group establishes the list of reviewers for proposals of not only global geopark proposals but also IUCN matters, so that the major duties of the group can be recognized.

SF encouraged the EC to consider the value of the face-to-face meetings when looking at the budget requests from the constituent groups since the difference between the virtual meeting and the face-to-face one is substantial as demonstrated by the productive meeting in Zumaia, Spain of the Geoheritage executive.

In regards to the big event next November, Ozlem Adiyaman Lopes (OL) commented that she is very familiar with IGCP 731, which is a very important IGCP project and of huge participation, and it needs to make sure this event keeps its openness and looks comprehensive and inclusive.

In regards to the desktop evaluation of global geopark application done by IUGS, OL, on behalf of IGGP expressed her deep appreciation to IUGS. Due to the heavy and ever-increasing workload, OL suggests that it comes at a very high level on the agenda at the IUGS EC meeting and have it well planned in advance.

6. Report on the 5th WLF and 57th CCOP

The 5th World Landslide Forum (WLF) was held as a hybrid meeting on 2-6 November 2021, Kyoto, Japan. HK was very impressed by the point from the meeting that the triggers of landslides are also related to the climate change. The ever worsening climate leads to continuous landslides. The specialists in different fields should work together for landslide prevention and mitigation.

The 57th CCOP Annual Session was held virtually on 24-25 November 2021. The key topics have drastically changed from 2020 to 2021. The high-ranked topics such as “oil and gas” have dropped from the top, and are replaced by “renewable energy”, “environment geology”, and “underground water”. It indicates that the geological surveys within CCOP member countries are changing their mindset from hard rock to soft rock, and are seriously considering to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of UNESCO. The changes are closely related to the COP26 this year.

HK suggests that IUGS keep abreast of the changes of people’s mindset and make the strategic plans accordingly.

JL responded that the shifting is quite noteworthy, the topic “oil and gas” is declining significantly in Europe as well, and a major topic in UK today is energy transition. JL suggests identifying some key topics such as climate change, land stability to work around next year and the EC members could initiate and lead some programs. JL has been approached by an energy transition group in London on putting together some activities on energy transition. Together with OL, JL attended a meeting called Pan-Africa Geoscience focusing on geological surveys last week, and is organizing the event Geoscience Africa by 2030. JL suggests that IUGS could sponsor a series of activities such as Geoscience Africa by 2030, Geoscience America by 2030 etc. by bringing in various partners to deliver them, so as to improve the visibility of IUGS.

7. Presentation and Discussion on Activities for the IUGS 60th Anniversary Year by the IUGS 60th Anniversary Technical Lead - SG

SG gave a presentation on activities for the IUGS 60th Anniversary by sharing preliminary ideas for how to create a calendar packed with engaging 60th celebrating event.

The agenda includes: Introduction-relevant experience; Outsider’s analysis of front end of IUGS web presence; Perceived ask of IUGS@60 Technical Lead Position; Discussing what IUGS would like to see, the audience, the elements; New public-oriented website? Adapt old? Stakeholder mapping? Time and resource allocation; Agreeing the Role and Task; Integration within IUGS Structure; Mechanism for receiving contributions.

SG’s experience and motivation: With an academic background in earth science and ecology, SG has a strong passion for geology and worked 7 years as a seismic interpreter.

Being proficient in social media skills and self-sufficient at geocomms, SG has already created Geosphere 2050 Energy Transition-focused website. To improve the visibility effective public engagement is key.

SG provides an outsider’s review of public-facing side of IUGS: The website provides a super index for IUGS but makes organization look dormant; Brilliant activities are present but not easy to get a flavour of output; It’s difficult to search through commissions and associated webpages for information of how they relate to IUGS; Social media is useful info but not much evidence of two-way engagement from audiences;. Difficult to understand remits of different groups; some groups re-aligning with SDG’s but not promoting this far and wide; not that diverse in terms of leadership and membership; appears to be lagging behind other geological organizations which may be looking to expand their remit.

SG’s perceived task: Through the medium of running the IUGS@60 celebratory events, try to make the IUGS more relevant to society, more engaging and accessible to a

broader and more diverse audience whilst still bring the world-class science to light for the good of all. And, to achieve the perceived task, we need to understand the purpose of the IUGS@60 events and to develop a clear message strategy.

To figure out a clear message strategy, SG raised the following questions: What is the IUGS mission (one sentence)? Is the mission current-understandable to people/society? Why should IUGS continue to exist? What are the benefits to members of being part of IUGS over other organizations? Does IUGS protect and promote the discipline of geoscience?

SG pointed out that the anniversary events will be planned and organized based on the types of intended audience. She mentioned several types of audience including existing members and new members, business/industry representatives, the public, UN bodies, governments, academia, media, international audiences, young scientists etc. SG mentioned that the anniversary events will emphasize the achievements of IUGS over the past 60 years and the forward looking initiatives presenting geo-leadership in addressing significant social challenges.

SG gave several suggestions including: 1) Creating a more interactive and visually attractive website for the anniversary event and possible future use. 2) Creating “a more sustainable planet” as a key theme to all events. 3) Creating clear messaging and stakeholder engagement plans to maximize the two-way promo of events or announcements. 4) Letting members be more involved, such as creating a new video for all IUGS members, asking members to contribute to at least 2 UN events in terms of geological challenges in their countries, and asking young ambassadors or university students to do monthly blogs or podcasts about what is new from key regions of the world. 5) Asking all the IUGS constituent groups and affiliated organizations to record a presentation about their key achievements over the past 60 years. 6) Organizing topical photo galleries, which contains public voting, competition and prizes giving. 7) Organizing events with the topics that people are familiar with or interested in so as to raise the profile of geosciences in public. 8) Planning flagship programs for 2022.

SG mentioned that anniversary events can be realized through website, social media channels, video conferencing and physical events. SG presented the drafted new website for the 60th IUGS anniversary. The website navigates to the flagship activities of IUGS, Earth Futures Festival, International Days relevant to geosciences, Digital Career Open Days, photo competitions, 12 discussion panels with monthly themes, a calendar for anniversary events etc. SG presented the videos on the essential roles of IUGS and IUGS constituent bodies.

SG recommended “Haia” as the web-based platform for online conferences, panels and discussions during the 60th IUGS anniversary.

Under the theme “Things to consider”, contents that have been brought up include: social media can be a full-time job; many events could be accomplished with no extra cost to IUGS; it takes almost the same time to make small changes to infographics and videos as creating them straight off; more groups involved – slower and more time lost; the public don’t have patience to listen, so short content is the best; people are busy and need clear deadlines and scopes.

Social media channels help create some of the posts for social media and contribute to posting. It is a good idea to decide on how many posts per event (possibly 1-5) and to have a stakeholder list, giving partners advanced notice and instructions as to when to post/advertise IUGS events. SG asked whether IUGS wants to use existing newsletter function or dedicate one day/month to create a more visually exciting newsletter.

SG suggested a number of activities the IUGS@60 team could focus on. Time estimates were provided for each task and it was up to the steering group to choose which tasks should be delivered within the time frame of the 107 days available.

- UN International Days
- Creating a set of 6 interactive geogalleries
- Creating a static gallery showcasing igneous images/geofashion/strat
- Public galleries responding to live call outs collected via #hashtag
- Creating a single or dual speaker lecture/public questions event
- Organising and delivering a discussion panel
- Stand alone website pages for different commissions
- Corrections depends on how much adjustments required, could take up huge amount of time
- Organising a careers event
- Organising an online conference for 250 people
- Young Ambassador Programme
- Creating videos for different IUGS groups
- Creating and Promoting surveys for IUGS and analysing responses
- Stakeholder mapping

- Creating engaging infographic/social media posts
- Social media posting
- Virtual Socials e.g. VR tour of outcrops around the world quiz, or meet and greet affiliates
- General Website Update and QC
- Attending meeting and being present at physical events to link to web?
- Organizing the translation and repopulation of recently made videos in 5 languages
- Future Earth Festival
- Geoscience in Africa for the next decade
- DDE launch
- Energy Transition Conference/talks discussion group
- ICS – public celebrations of strat type markers and Anthropocene event

DP, Chair of the Publications Committee, pointed out that there were some overlapping between the current duties of the Publications Committee and JH's work plan. DP mentioned that the EC should take the future maintenance of the revised IUGS website into consideration. The last time of adding a photo gallery on the webpage was proved to be a disaster. SG replied that she had predicted possible difficulties with tasks requiring lots of efforts, but she can accomplish most of them independently.

ACTION-03: SG to meet the Publications Committee on 4th December, 2021.

HK suggested that more attention should be given to the deep sea, which covers 70 percent of the globe. HM highly appreciated JH's report and recommended a video on geological sites that possibly will be made by the Geological Society of South Africa for the celebration. JM reassured that the 60th Anniversary webpage would be always linked to the IUGS website. QC suggested including technical aspects of geoscience as well as those basic sciences, e.g. how can chemistry, physics, mathematics and biology can play roles in earth science in order to promote younger team participation.

ACTION-04: EC members to be designated as contact persons for several top line items: SF to be the contact person for Geoheritage; HK to be the contact person for Climate and Ocean; JL and LS to be the contact persons for Energy Transition; JM and QC to be the contact persons for Data System; HM to be the contact person for Geoscience Future for Nations with Africa.

JL suggested that IUGS should try to hold meetings on the Strategic Geoscience Future for Nations particular with Africa, South America and Asia.

OA emphasized that UNESCO took climate change, geohazards, geoheritage and energy transition as its priorities. OA also expressed her willingness to work with SG cooperatively on the anniversary celebration project.

ACTION-05: SF stated that the initial step was to contact the IUGS constituent bodies, informing them of the advertising plan and inviting materials for the short video.

SF informed that there would be some important events in the near future, including at least 3 GSSPs Dedication Ceremonies held by the International Commission on Stratigraphy in 2022 with the most prominent one in Japan in May 2022. SF will keep in contact with SG on these big events. SG warned that the video could be huge if an open shoutout for contribution was done.

ACTION-06: SF and SG to create a template with instructions for the constituent bodies.

ACTION-07: DP to substitute the IUGS logo with the new version for the 60th anniversary on Episodes and its webpage.

ACTION-08: Secretariat to design a special new version of the IGCP logo for its 50th anniversary.

JL closed the virtual progress meeting and thanked all the EC members and the Secretariat for their efforts and contributions.

ACTION LIST

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