



Report of Prof. Hassina Mouri's Visit to China (Beijing, Guiyang and Nanjing) From July 2nd to July 11th/2025



Itinerary from Beijing to Nanjing in 9 days

IUGS President Hassina Mouri Lauds China's Eco-Civilization Leadership, Calling for Global Geoscience Cooperation

Nine-day multi-city trip spotlights geoscientific collaboration, medical geology, and data-driven risk reduction.

During the week of July 2 to 11, 2025, I was invited to visit China to represent IUGS as its President and deliver keynote addresses on the union's activities, as well as lectures on my research in Africa. The visit included high-level institutional meetings, academic exchanges, and field trips at three locations in China (Beijing, Guiyang, and Nanjing), highlighting IUGS's commitment to advancing geoscience for sustainable development and fostering international cooperation.

◆ Beijing (July 3–4)

I arrived in Beijing on the afternoon of July 3, and attended a welcome dinner with Dr. He Qingcheng and staff of the IUGS secretariat, Ms. Gu Yanfei and Ms. Situ Yu, followed by an informal meeting with Prof. Cheng Qiuming in the evening.

On July 4, I began my formal program with a visit to the Geological Society of China (GSC), where I reviewed its century-long development and contributions to global geoscience. I then delivered a 90-minute academic lecture on Medical Geology and the Practice of UN Sustainable Development Goals in Africa at the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS), engaging experts on the interplay between geology, environment, and health. I took the opportunity to visit the IUGS secretariat office briefly and meet the newly appointed staff member, Yankie Niu.



▲ Meeting with Dr. Wei Yan'guang, Executive Secretary General of the Geological Society of China (GSC)



▲ At the IUGS Secretariat Office, from left to right: Situ Yu, Niu Jiachen, Gu Yanfei



▲ During the Lecture on Medical Geology



▲ With Prof. He Qingcheng, Chief Geologist of CAGS



▲ Group photo with Prof Hao Ziguo, Chief Editor of China Geology to my right and Prof. He Qingcheng to my left.



▲ A welcome dinner with Prof. He and Members of the IUGS secretariat.

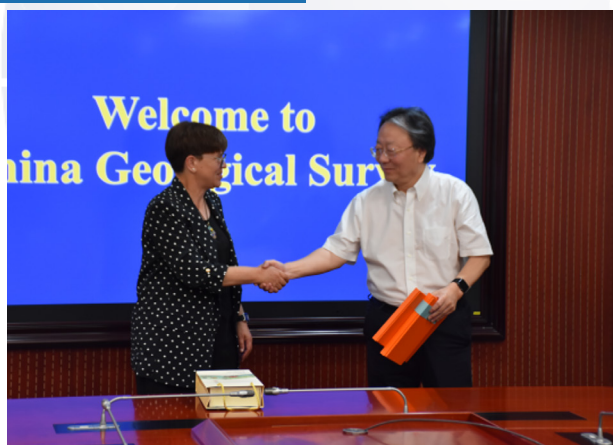


▲ A photo with Prof. He and Members of the IUGS secretariat at the entrance hall of Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant, a special family restaurant of Four-Generations.

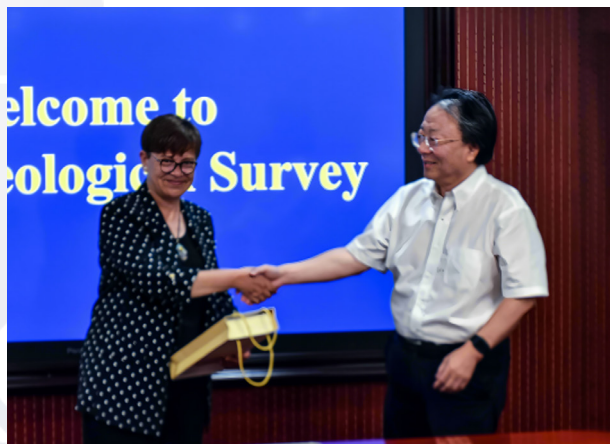
Later, I visited the headquarters of the China Geological Survey (CGS) and held a bilateral meeting with its Vice President, Dr. Niu Zhijun, to discuss data sharing, geoscience capacity building, and international collaboration. The meeting concluded with a working lunch with Dr Niu and his team. In the afternoon, I flew to Guiyang to participate in the Eco Forum Global Guiyang.



▲ Meeting with Dr. Niu Zhijun, Vice President of CGS and some members of the management of the survey



▲ Exchanging gifts with Dr. Niu Zhijun, Vice President of CGS



▲ Group photo with Dr. Niu Zhijun, Vice President of CGS at the main hall of the survey

◆ Guiyang & Guizhou Province (July 5–8)

On July 5, I attended the Opening Ceremony of the Eco Forum Global Guiyang 2025 and addressed the thematic session titled Promoting Integrated Development of Geoparks and Eco-cultural Diversity. My keynote highlighted the role of geology and IUGS in fostering eco-civilisation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable economic development. I also had the opportunity to meet with the Vice Governor of Guizhou, with whom we exchanged briefly on the role of IUGS, geoscience and China in leading the eco-civilization. The day culminated with a media interview with the local press.



▲ Interviewed by People's Daily



▲ At the Eco Forum with the Vice Governor of the Guizhou Province and interpreters (at the back)



▲ At the Eco-Forum with Mr Gao (far left), Division chief of Guizhou Forestry; and Mr Hu, Party Secretary and President of Guizhou Forestry(right)



▲ With Mrs Yanping, a representative from the LOC of the Forum, who accompanied me during the event.



July 6-8: During these days, my visit focused on geological heritage and conservation. On July 6, I traveled to Suiyang County and explored the Shuanghe (Double River) Cave, a natural museum and one of the world's longest karst systems (about 432km long).

On the 7th, I gave a media interview and conducted an on-site visit to another spectacular cave marked by the breathtaking gypsum-crystal karst formations. That afternoon, I traveled to Huairan County and, on July 8, I visited the historic Zunyi Meeting site, a significant location in modern Chinese history, before returning to Guiyang for a flight to Nanjing.



▲ Group photo at the entrance of the Gypsum-Crystal-Flowers Karst Cave



▲ Group photo during the interview with local media at the entrance of the cave.



▲ a Long walk to the cave with Mrs Qian Hongyan, Deputy Mayor of Suiyang County (behind me)



▲ Group photo on our way to the cave under extreme Temperature conditions



▲ with Mrs Qian Hongyan, Deputy Mayor of Suiyang County



▲ Interview by the local media of Suiyang County, Zunyi City

Due to unforeseen situation, we missed the meeting with Zeng Jianxiang, Mayor of Suiyang County.

◆ Guizhou Shuanghe Cave

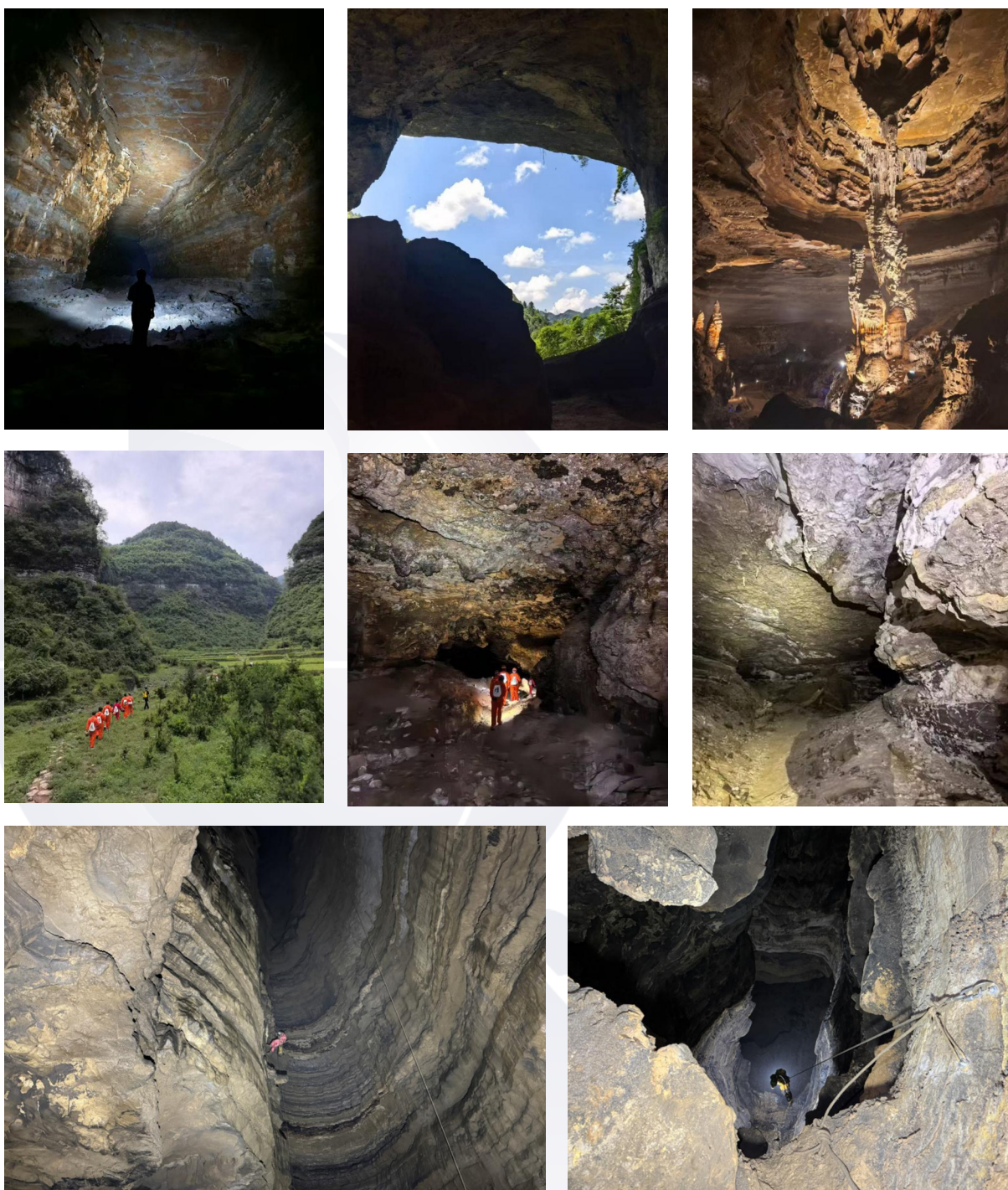
Hidden beneath the mountains of northern Guizhou Province, Guizhou Shuanghe Cave is one of nature's most extraordinary creations. Stretching 437.1 kilometers with a depth of 912 meters, it is the longest cave system in Asia, the third longest in the world, and the largest dolomite cave on Earth. Located in Zunyi City's Suiyang and Zheng'an counties, this subterranean labyrinth showcases a breathtaking combination of geological marvels, ecological diversity, and paleontological treasures.

Formed within ancient Cambrian dolomite, Shuanghe Cave is globally renowned for its unique karst features. Its multi-layered structure—comprising vast underground halls, vertical shafts, crystal-clear rivers, and cascading waterfalls—creates a mesmerizing world of stalactites, stone curtains, crystal flowers, and rare celestite formations. Dolomite is far more resistant to erosion than limestone, making Shuanghe Cave's size and complexity a geological phenomenon of global significance.

The cave is also a living ecosystem. It is home to an array of endemic and rare species, including blind fish, giant salamanders, and bat colonies, while the surrounding Kuankuoshui National Nature Reserve shelters endangered wildlife like the François' langur and the golden pheasant. With 691 plant families and over 4,500 species recorded in the area, Shuanghe is as rich biologically as it is geologically.

Adding to its scientific value, Shuanghe Cave contains the world's largest collection of giant panda fossils—nearly 50 individuals, some dating back 100,000 years. These remains provide critical insights into the evolution and adaptation of this beloved species.

Combining breathtaking natural beauty, unparalleled geological features, and invaluable scientific records, Guizhou Shuanghe Cave stands as a true wonder of the world—an underground realm where nature's artistry and history converge.



- The results of the various interviews can be accessed through the following links:

1. https://www.geopark.gov.hk/en/about_us/news/20250708_EcoForumGlobalGuiyang
2. https://english.court.gov.cn/2025-07/09/c_1106848.htm
3. http://english.chinatoday.com.cn/2018/zdtj/202507/t20250707_800407352.html
4. <https://www.travelandtourworld.com/news/article/chinas-hidden-cave-kingdom-guizhou-new-underground-wonders-are-set-to-revolutionize-global-tourism/>
5. https://share.eyesnews.cn/news/news-news_detail-news_id-11515117000969.html

◆ Nanjing (July 9–10)

The program of my visit to Nanjing combined academic, institutional, and cultural activities. On July 9, accompanied by Prof Qin Wang, I visited the Geological Museum of Nanjing and met with members of the Jiangsu Geological Society to explore cooperation opportunities. At Nanjing University, I delivered another lecture on medical geology. In addition, I held discussions with Prof. Ni Pei, Prof. Fan, Prof. Qin Wang, and faculty colleagues on potential collaborations with IUGS and institutions in Africa, with a primary focus on capacity building. The day concluded with a cultural luncheon at Jiming Temple, one of southern China's oldest Buddhist temples.



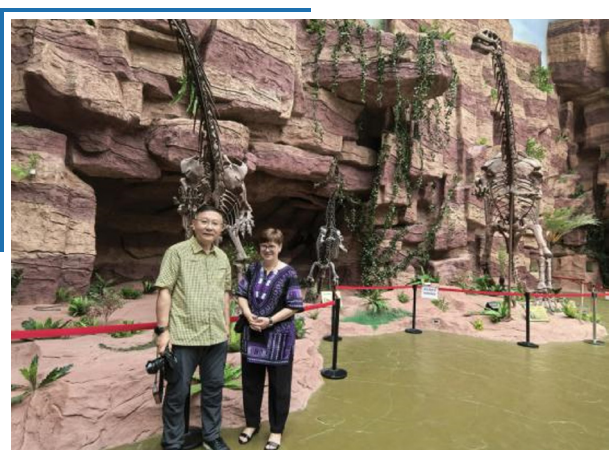
▲ Meeting with representatives from Jiangsu Geological Society, as well as Prof Ni Pei and Prof Qin Wang, Nanjing University (to my left).



▲ With Prof Zu Yaosheng, President of Jiangsu Geological Society at the entrance of the Museum



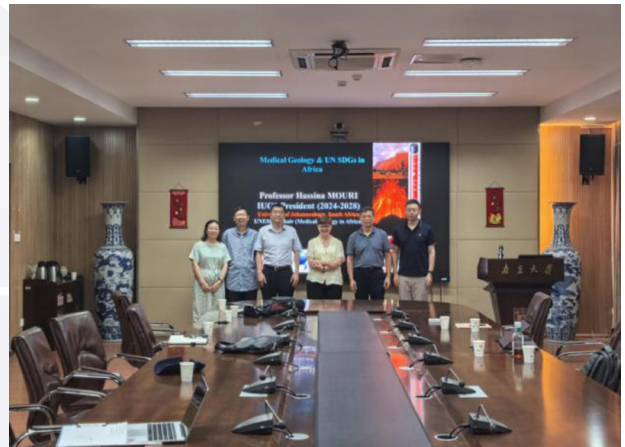
▲ with Prof Zu Yaosheng, President of Jiangsu Geological Society outside the Nanjing Museum



▲ With Prof Zhan Genshen, Secretary General of Jiangsu Geological Society (at the Dinosaurs section of the Museum)



▲ A warm welcome by the Nanjing University



▲ Lecture on Medical Geology at Nanjing University

On July 10, I visited Niu Shou Mountain's Foding Palace, followed by a tour of the Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, where I met Prof. Chen Xuefei and toured the botanical garden, exploring links between geology, health, and traditional medicine.



▲ At Nanjing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine



▲ With Prof. Wang Qin and colleagues of Nanjing University visiting the section on herbal medicine

Additional Contribution

During my visit, I was honored to be invited to contribute to a preface for the upcoming special issue on medical geology for the journal *China Geology* (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/china-geology/vol/8/issue/3>), which reinforces IUGS's scientific collaboration with Chinese partners.

I returned to Beijing on July 11 and flew to Johannesburg in the early hours of the 12/07, concluding a productive and impactful visit.

During my visit to various locations and offices, I was accompanied by Sutu Yu, with whom I held discussions on multiple aspects of supporting IUGS. Yankie accompanied me to visit the Chinese Geological Survey, where she assisted with translations during my meeting with colleagues at the survey.

Acknowledgement

I am sincerely grateful for the invitation and financial support provided for my visit by Prof. He Qingcheng (Chinese Geological Survey) and Prof. Wang Qin (Nanjing University), as well as for their time and warm welcome they extended to me while I was at their respective institutions. I would also like to express my deep appreciation to Mr. Gao Zhijiang (Division Chief of Guizhou Forestry), Mr. Hu Hongcheng (Party Secretary and President of Guizhou Forestry), Mr. Shen Jiantong (Vice President of Guizhou Forestry), Mr. Hou Tianwen, Ms. Qian Hongyan (Deputy Mayor of Suiyang County), and Ms. Gao Yanping, for their invaluable support and hospitality during my visit.

I would also like to thank the IUGS Secretariat in Beijing for their support during my trip and Ms. Situ for accompanying me throughout my visit and for all the fruitful discussions we had about how to improve the Secretariat's support to IUGS and for her help in putting this report together.

Hassina Mouri
IUGS President
Johannesburg 05/08/ 2025