



International Union of Geological Sciences

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IUGS News October 2025: IUGS President Meets with Chief Executive Officer of Saudi Geological Survey to Promote Global Geoscience Cooperation and Sustainable Development



On October 13, during the GEOMIN International Symposium, held in Jeddah from October 12 to 15, 2025, Prof. Hassina Mouri, President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), had an official meeting with Eng. Abdullah Al-Shamrani, CEO of the Saudi Geological Survey (SGS), in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Several members of the Saudi Geological Survey also attended the meeting. The two sides had in-depth discussions and reached a consensus on key topics, including advancing cooperation in geological science, technological innovation,



sustainable resource use, and international collaboration mechanisms.

Prof. Hassina Mouri praised SGS for its impressive accomplishments in regional geological surveys and mineral resource exploration. She highlighted that IUGS has been dedicated to creating a global platform for geoscience exchange and collaboration, and she underlined the strategic importance of Saudi Arabia as a central hub for geological research in the Arabian Peninsula. She pointed out that Saudi Arabia's geological survey work provides valuable insights into the geological evolution of arid regions worldwide. Specifically, she mentioned the Saudi Arabian Shield, one of the world's major Precambrian geological units, which has provided essential research samples to the geological community through detailed mapping and related studies.

Prof. Hassina Mouri also explained IUGS's organizational structure, working mechanisms, and highlighted its flagship scientific initiatives. She officially invited SGS to join IUGS as Saudi Arabia's adhering organization. In addition, Prof. Mouri and Eng. Eng. Al-Shamrani

discussed the possibility of Saudi Arabia considering a bid to host the 2032 International Geological Congress (IGC), aiming to make the kingdom the first Middle Eastern country to host this prestigious global scientific event. The potential hosting of the 2027 IUGS Executive Committee meeting at SGS was also part of the meeting agenda.

Eng. Al-Shamrani responded positively to Prof. Hassina Mouri's proposals and expressed SGS's strong interest in establishing long-term cooperation with IUGS. He noted that SGS hopes to leverage IUGS's global network to incorporate cutting-edge technologies such as AI-assisted exploration and green mining practices. He also emphasized SGS's willingness to invite leading global experts to participate in regional geological research projects and to share Saudi Arabia's experience in geological work in arid regions with the international geoscience community.

Prof. Hassina Mouri noted that this meeting marks a significant new step toward deeper cooperation between IUGS and SGS. Moving forward, IUGS will seek to engage more international members in Saudi Arabia's geological projects to promote regional geoscience growth and sustainable resource use. Eng. Al-Shamrani confirmed that SGS will actively participate in projects led by IUGS and help advance global geoscience in support of the Sustainable Development Goals



IUGS President with SGS CEO

IUGS Booth @ GEOMIN

Supported by the secretariat office in Beijing, an IUGS booth was also set up at the GEOMIN exhibition. The booth displayed a



selection of IUGS publications, including the 2024 Annual Report, the 2024–2025 issues of Episodes, and several scientific publications, giving delegates a comprehensive overview of IUGS's activities, achievements, and research results. Through presentations and discussions, the IUGS Secretariat and the President actively engaged with delegates. They promoted IUGS's scientific programs, ongoing initiatives, and main projects, thereby increasing the Union's visibility and influence in the global geoscience community and encouraging more geologists to participate in IUGS-led efforts.



Members of the IUGS Secretariat at the booth with the IUGS President (above)
Delegates visiting the IUGS booth, including the President of the African Geo-Surveys (left) and the President of the British Geological Survey (right), with the IUGS President. (below)



The meeting coincided with the first International Symposium on "Geological and Mineral Exploration: Redefining Potential and Impact" (GEOMIN). The three-day event brought together over 600 delegates from 38 countries and more than 180 organizations across government, academia, and industry. Throughout the event, participants engaged in high-level discussions on geodynamics, mineral resource potential, and the application of modern technologies, including AI and modern data, to advance exploration and mining. GEOMIN marked a major milestone in advancing collaboration across the global mining and geoscience communities and underscored the alignment between Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and SEG's mission to advance applied geophysics worldwide. The event culminated with an excellent excursion to some key geological sites around Jeddah.



Crystalline Proterozoic plutonic and metamorphic volcanic rocks exposed at Jabal Al-Malas along the old road of Jeddah and Makkah. this is one of the gold localities that was discovered in 80's of the last century. Gold mineralization in this locality is part of the Kashab Formation (Samran Group), and is disseminated in veins after sericitization and silicification of the andesitic metatuff, controlled by faulting and shear zone settings.



Angular unconformity between Late Oligocene red beds of the Khulys Formation (bottom) and Miocene red beds of the Burkhan Formation topped by the Harrat Late Miocene Basalt at the Usfan Pass, 50 KM northwest of Jeddah, Al Hijaz, west Saudi Arabia. Deposition, uplifting, erosion, deposition and finally lava flow are all related to the intensity of rifting and opening of the Red Sea for the last 30 million years of geological evolution of western Saudi Arabia.