

International Union of Geological Sciences

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NEWS FROM IUGS
OFFICE

NEWS FROM IUGS
MEMBERS

EVENTS IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH
IUGS



Photo taken inside Shuanghe Cave in Suiyang County, Zunyi City, northern Guizhou Province, capturing the vast scale and beauty of the karst formation. It is the longest cave system in Asia, the third longest in the world, and the largest dolomite cave on Earth. Formed in ancient Cambrian dolomite, its vast underground halls, vertical shafts, crystal-clear rivers, and cascading waterfalls make it a site of exceptional geological significance. An application is currently underway for its designation as a UNESCO Global Geopark. Pictured (for scale) in the photo are Mrs. Hongyan (left), Deputy Mayor of Suiyang County, and Mrs. Yu (right), member of the IUGS Secretariat. The photo was taken by Prof. Hassina Mouri

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D) NEWS FROM IUGS Executive Committee

1) Welcome to the updated IUGS-Website

In January 2025, the Executive Committee appointed Amrine Dubois Gafar, a professional webmaster, to update the IUGS page. Amrine is also responsible for the IGC website, making it easier to connect and continuously update both platforms, including various social media outlets.

We are pleased to announce that the updated website is now live, featuring a clean page with improved functionality and easy access to important and up-to-date information, including the mission & vision, as well as the benefits of the union. Amrine will continue working on the site to improve the design further and keep all information up to date.

👉 Visit now: <https://www.iugs.org/>

2) Invitation of the IUGS Officers to Represent the Union at International Conferences

The IUGS Vice President Prof. Maria Rose Petrizzo has been invited to give a speech on behalf of IUGS and a plenary talk on her research topics at the International Symposium on Tethys Evolution and Biotic-Environmental Responses (www.tethys.com.cn) scheduled to take place at the China University of Geosciences in Beijing on 20-23 September 2025, followed by a field trip excursion in the western Tarim Basin from 24 to 27 September, 2025.

3) Invitation of IUGS President, Hassina Mouri to represent the union at the Eco Forum Global Guiyang 2025 in China

Prof. Hassina Mouri was invited for a nine-day visit to China, underscoring the country's expanding engagement with global geoscience initiatives that support ecological progress, disaster risk reduction, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On her first official stop in Beijing, Hassina Mouri held a bilateral talk with Dr. Niu Zhijun, Vice President of the China Geological Survey (CGS), to discuss expanded collaboration in data sharing, geoscience capacity building, and talent development. The meeting set the tone for a packed trip that highlighted how international geoscientific collaboration can help us unveil pathways towards geoconservation and SDGs.

Traveling to Guiyang, Hassina Mouri addressed the 13th Eco Forum Global Guiyang, where she praised China's policy commitment to ecological progress and urged the international geoscience community to shift its focus from a purely resource-extraction mindset toward long-term environmental stewardship. Hassina Mouri called for greater use of big data, artificial intelligence, and cross-sector collaboration to build safer, more sustainable societies. "The Fourth Industrial Revolution, big data, and artificial intelligence are not just buzzwords but essential tools that can enhance our understanding of Earth's systems."

Engagement with China's scientific institutions featured prominently throughout the mission. At the Geological Society of China (GSC), Hassina Mouri reviewed the society's century-long development, major research milestones, and expanding international linkages, commending Chinese scientists for substantive contributions



to global networks. In Jiangsu Province, she met with the Jiangsu Geological Society to explore cooperation opportunities in applied geoscience, training, and joint field programs.

Medical geology, one of Hassina Mouri's signature professional themes, was another focal point. At the Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences (CAGS) in Beijing, she delivered a lecture on Medical Geology and the Practice of UN SDGs in Africa, examining links among geological materials, environmental exposure pathways, and human and animal health. She later presented an updated lecture at Nanjing University, where she met Prof. Ni Pei and colleagues to discuss potential collaborative projects and student exchanges. Hassina Mouri also contributed a preface to an upcoming China Geology special issue on medical geology.

Field trips capped the visit. In northern Guizhou, Hassina Mouri toured the Shuanghe (Double River) Cave system in Suiyang County, Zunyi City, recognized among the world's longest, most complex karst cave networks and an emerging candidate for expanded geoconservation and geotourism initiatives.

The report is now on the website as a news item. Link: <https://www.iugs.org/post/prof-hassina-mouri-s-report-from-july-2025-visit-to-beijing-guiyang-and-nanjing>



Group photo at the China Geological Survey (CGS); on the right of Hassina Mouri: Vice President Niu Zhijun

II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

1) News from the Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

Publication of a tutorial for plotting analytical precision charts

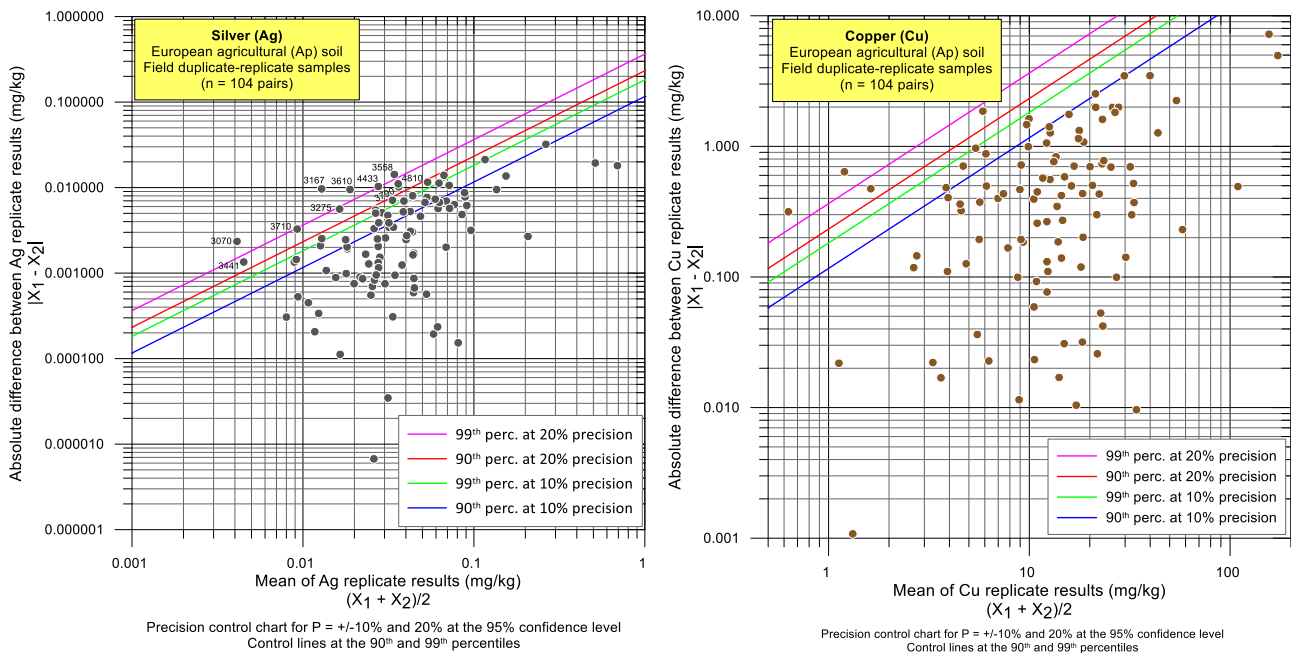
Thompson and Howarth developed a graphical method in the 1970s for the visual estimation of analytical precision even for a single duplicate-replicate pair of samples. The mean of the field duplicate-replicate analytical results of each pair of samples is plotted against the corresponding absolute difference. A copy of the original precision control chart for replicate results used by the Imperial College Applied Geochemistry Research Group is presented for use in the laboratory and field.

Digital log-log base 10 and linear templates of Thompson and Howarth charts are provided, along with control lines plotted at the 90th and 99th percentiles for 10% and 20% precision at the 95% confidence level. These templates were generated using Golden Software's Grapher™ (version 25). Instructions are provided for

preparing the input replicate data set and plotting the results. Worked examples and the interpretation of the plotted results are also included.

This comprehensive tutorial aims to enhance the understanding and application of analytical precision assessment in applied geochemistry surveys, making it a valuable resource for practitioners in the field, as well as for university students and early-career researchers.

Demetriades, A. and Argyraki, A., 2025. Tutorial: *Analytical Precision - Plotting Thompson and Howarth Charts*. International Union of Geological Sciences, Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines, Tutorial Publication No. 2, 28 pp.; <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15557648>. [Supplementary material](#).



Left: The Ag field duplicate-replicate analytical results indicate that the data are judged to be consistent with a precision of $\pm 20\%$ at the 95% confidence level; Right: the Cu field duplicate-replicate analytical results are judged to be consistent with a precision of $\pm 10\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

2) Report of the 4th International Heritage Stone Workshop of the Subcommittee on Heritage Stones, Dublin

The 4th International Heritage Stone Workshop of the Subcommittee on Heritage Stones was held in Ireland from 14th to 17th July 2025. Under the theme 'Heritage stone: from quarries to craft practitioners and buildings', the Workshop was attended by 40 delegates from 10 countries.

Seventeen oral presentations and eight posters provided information on stimulating topics, including quarrying in nineteenth-century Germany, the innovative use of an App for geoheritage education, and Roman paving stones. Other presentations outlined several designated and candidate Heritage Stones.

The first excursion comprised a visit to the Ballyknockan granite quarrying district, south of Dublin, where delegates learnt of the history of stone extraction and saw the splitting and carving of granite. Later, at Russborough House, built in 1790, the sumptuous interiors with chimneypieces crafted from Irish and imported stone were viewed. The following day, the second excursion visited a Mississippian limestone quarry at Threecastles, Co. Kilkenny, operational since the eighteenth century. Currently owned by McKeon Stone, this quarry produces dimension stone for the domestic and foreign markets. This was followed by a fascinating visit

to the stone works at Stradbally, where the stone is fabricated and finished for various uses. At another eighteenth century country house, Emo Court, the dimension and decorative stone on its exterior was examined. On the final morning, the delegates undertook an urban walk in Dublin.



Heritage Stone Workshop delegates at Threecastles Quarry, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland (Photograph courtesy of C. Sreejith)

The convenors are grateful to Niall Kavanagh and McKeon Stone, John and Des McEvoy of McEvoy and Sons, Killian and Terry O’Flaherty of O’Flaherty Stone, and Aidan Forde of Valentia Slate for their support of the workshop and excursions. The Russborough Foundation and the Office of Public Works kindly facilitated the visits to the historic houses.

3) News from the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO)

Occasion: Established 60 years ago

Author: Lucero Morelos-Rodríguez (MEXICO)

Title: Mexican Geologist María Fernanda Campa And The Mexican Petroleum Institute (1965-2025)

In Mexico, as in other countries, petroleum geology is one of the youngest specialties within the geological sciences, associated with hydrocarbon exploration in the early 20th century. In 1965, the Mexican government established the Mexican Petroleum Institute for carrying out research, technological development, innovation, and the optimization of production processes, and one of the leading figures was María Fernanda Campa (1940-2019). Please open the link to know more: <https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>.



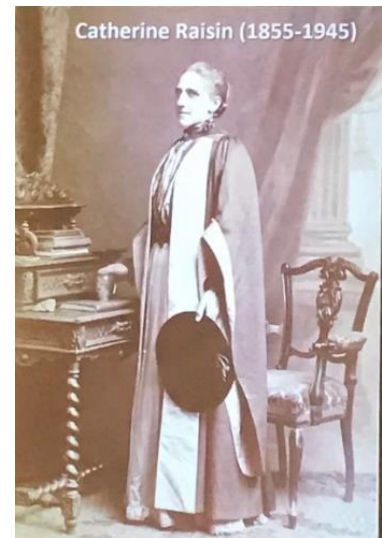
Student ID card from the Geological Engineering undergraduate program at the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN- Mexico). María Fernanda Campa Uranga was the first woman to earn a degree in Geological Engineering from IPN in 1965.

Occasion: Born 170 years ago

Author: Cynthia Burek (United Kingdom)

Title: Catherine Alice Raisin (1855-1945): Expert on Metamorphic Rocks and Early Pioneer of Female Geological Education

Living at a time when women were still excluded from official participation in many educational and geological fields, Catherine Raisin's research played a decisive role in the debate on the divisions of the Lower Palaeozoic and Upper Precambrian rocks of Britain. Through her tireless determination, scientific expertise, and excellence in teaching, she furthered the cultural advance of her sex in the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Please open the link to know more: <https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>.



Catherine Raisin in her doctoral gown, 1898. (Source: Royal Holloway College)

INHIGEO Award

The 50th INHIGEO Annual Symposium 2025

INHIGEO Award for Young Delegate!

The 50th INHIGEO Annual Symposium 2025 was recently held together with the 25th International Congress of History, Science & Technology (ICHST 2025 <https://www.ichst2025.org/>) on June 28th to July 5th in Dunedin (New Zealand). The INHIGEO Early Career Award was conferred at the INHIGEO Business Meeting on 4th July 2025 by Ezio Vaccari (INHIGEO President) to Dr Sarah Qidwai (University of York, UK) for her presentation *Islam, Geology, and Colonialism in 19th-Century South Asia* within the INHIGEO sponsored Symposium *Indigenous peoples' knowledge and beliefs about the Earth: an open historiographical issue*. Two other symposia (*The Geological Notebook: reflections in the field* and *Geological Sciences and Empires: Connections forging the production of knowledge*) were organized by INHIGEO at the congress as well as a mid-congress 2-hour walking tour of the Geology and Building Stones of the Otago University Campus led by Dr Nick Mortimer (GNS Science, Dunedin) and a 7-day post-congress geo-historical excursion on the geology of the North Island of New Zealand led by Dr Hamish Campbell (Earth Sciences New Zealand).



Sarah Qidwai is being congratulated for her award by Ezio Vaccari (left) and during her presentation (right) at the 50th INHIGEO Symposium in Dunedin (New Zealand).

4) News from the IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

Public Comment Sought: Draft Standard at ASTM/ANSI. Scanning Electron Microscopy and Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometry

A draft standard entitled ‘*Guide for the Forensic Analysis of Geological Materials by Scanning Electron Microscopy and Energy Dispersive X-Ray Spectrometry*’ (WK93265) is being considered for publication at ANSI/ASTM International. There is a current public comment period that will be announced by OSAC: [Standards Open for Comment | NIST](#) and by ANSI: [Standards Action Archive](#). The public comment period is from **6 June 2025 to 21 July 2025**. If you wish to review this document with the option to comment, please request an electronic copy of the document by emailing accreditation@astm.org. To provide comments, download the comment template and return it to accreditation@astm.org (copy psa@ansi.org). Alternatively, you may contact Libby Stern about this matter (LStern@FBI.gov). This document originated from the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) for Forensic Science, subcommittee on Trace Materials, and an earlier version was published as proposed standard [OSAC 2024-S-0012](#).

Expansion of the IUGS-IFG Committee: Geoethics and Environmental Forensics

IUGS-IFG has expanded the scope of forensic geology and is pleased to announce the assignment of two new committee members: **Dr Silvia Peppoloni**, National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, has accepted the role of ‘IUGS-IFG Geoethics Adviser’. **Dr Vincenzo Sapia**, National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, has accepted the role of ‘IUGS-IFG Environmental Geoforensics Adviser’.

Forensic Geology in Malta

IUGS-IFG is pleased to announce the assignment of Prof. Sebastiano D'Amico to the IUGS-IFG Geoforensic International Network. Prof. D'Amico is the Head of the Department of Geosciences at the University of Malta.

6th IberoAmerican Congress on Forensic Geology, Chile, November 2025

The 6th IberoAmerican Congress on Forensic Geology is scheduled to take place from November 20 - 21 in Chile.

5) News from the IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE)

The IUGS-COGE continues to advance inclusive, impactful geoscience education around the world. Below are some recent highlights:

Strategic Partnerships- COGE recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IAEG Peru to support geoscience education across Latin America. We’re also pleased to support GeoSciEd X (Adelaide, 2026), with COGE members Sharon Locke (USA) and Ian Clark (Australia) serving on the Organising Committee. This

global event will bring together educators, researchers, and policymakers to shape the future of Earth science education.

Strengthening Education in Latin America & the Caribbean, in March, COGE launched a Spanish-language webinar series led by Romina Celabe (Paraguay), affirming our commitment to linguistic inclusion. Building on this, a virtual roundtable held in June focused on challenges and opportunities for geoscience education across the LAC region—laying the groundwork for future collaboration.

Social Media and the GEFO Programme



The QR code is no longer active 🖱️

Our social media team has improved coordination and launched a unified visual identity to boost visibility and engagement. Current outreach focuses on: the Geoscience Education Field Officer (GEFO) Programme, the Chris King Medal, and the Achievements of our members and partners. We want to share particularly that the GEFO Logo Contest is now open, and you can help us to design the visual identity of this global initiative. 🗂️
 Deadline: August 10, 2025 | ✉️ Scan the QR for more information.

Geoscience Educator of the Month (GEM)

This July, we spotlight Gloria Prieto (Colombia) for her inspiring, community-based storytelling that has engaged students and enriched geoscience learning. COGE’s #GEM series continues to celebrate outstanding educators who make a difference at local and global levels.



Chris King Medal 2025 will soon be revealed

We are excited to share that this year’s call attracted four outstanding nominations. The winner will be announced soon.



👉 Follow us @iugscope to stay updated on global opportunities, success stories, and the evolving landscape of geoscience education.

6) News from the IUGS Sub-commission on Geo-Collections (SGC)

The first Call for the IUGS Geo-Collections was launched in June. The call closes on **1st October 2025**.

Please visit the SGC homepage for the definition and standards of an IUGS Geo-Collection:

<https://iugs-geoheritage.org/first-call-for-iugs-geo-collections/>

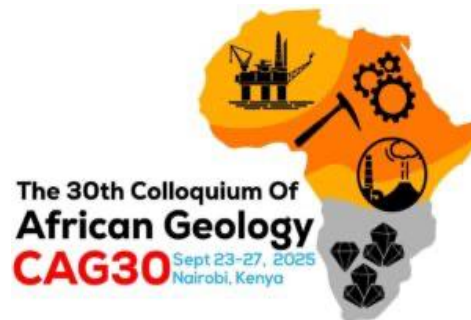
III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS



Durban, South Africa: 17-24 August 2025

International Conference on Earth and Environmental Sciences

<https://ices2025.co.za/>



Nairobi, Kenya: 23-27 September 2025

30th Colloquium of African Geology

<https://cag30nbi.org/>



Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: 12-14 OCT 2025

GEOMIN Symposium

<https://geominseg.com/>



Rome, Italy: 28-29 April 2026

MENA EARTH Science Congress

<https://www.ierek.com/events/mena-earth-science-congress-mesc#introduction>



Beijing, China: September 20-29, 2025

International Symposium on the Tethys Evolution and Biotic and Environmental Responses

www.tethys.com



For further information on the event, please contact the organisers

at: octavocongresogeologicocr@ucr.ac.cr

IV) OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

- 1) **INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS:** Please adhere to the guidelines below when submitting your news for publication in the E-Bulletin:
 - **Number of words:** Maximum 300 words with links to the other sources for more details about the activities.
 - **Font and Size:** (Heading 1: Roboto 16, Heading 2: Roboto B12, heading 3: Roboto-Regular 12, Heading 4: Roboto B 11, and body: Roboto 11)
 - **Photographs:** Maximum two high-resolution (inserted in the text with caption) and attached as jpg to your email. Please clearly acknowledge the authorship of all submitted photos!
 - **Language:** Kindly make sure your text is corrected for language
 - **Deadline for submission to Editors:** We kindly request to submit your news by the end of each month. For example, news of June is supposed to be published in 1st week of July. Submit your news to the Editors:

Dr. Farnoosh Farjandi (IUGS Councillor) Geological Survey of Iran, Iran
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Dr. Weijun ZHAO (IUGS Councillor) Shenyang Centre, China Geological Survey, China
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