

International Union of Geological Sciences

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**NEWS FROM IUGS
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

**NEWS FROM IUGS
MEMBERS**

**EVENTS IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH
IUGS**



Red Chert Rocks and Lava Pillow, Kebumen UNESCO Global Geopark, Indonesia © Rizal Nur Alfian

E-Bulletin at a Glance

I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	2
II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS	3
III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS	8
IV) OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES	9

I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1) IUGS Secretary General met with representatives of the Malawi Embassy in Berlin

IUGS Secretary General Ludwig Stroink met with representatives of the Malawi Embassy in Berlin on 10 July. The discussions focused on encouraging additional African states to join IUGS under the framework of the initiative Ten Action Plan for Africa – TAP for Africa. The meeting proved highly successful, leading to further talks in August and an invitation for the Secretary General to visit Lilongwe for an in-person exchange. The visit is planned for September 2025. We keep you informed.

IUGS Secretary General, Ludwig Stroink, with representatives of the Malawi Embassy in Berlin



2) IUGS President was invited to Represent IUGS at International Conferences

11th International Conference on Medical Geology



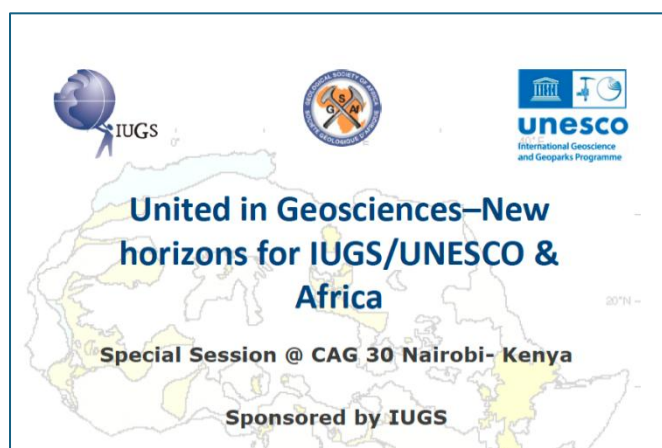
IUGS President Prof. Hassina Mouri was invited to attend the 11th International Conference on Medical Geology and the 13th International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry (MEDGEO 2025 & ISEG 2025) at the University of Aveiro, Portugal, from July 27 to August 1. This event was organized under the auspices of the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA), an affiliated organization of IUGS. To promote cooperation between IUGS and IMGA, Prof. Mouri represented IUGS at the event and delivered the plenary lecture on “*The role of medical geology in understanding the causes of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) in Africa.*” Prof. Mouri delivered closing remarks on behalf of IUGS at the closing and award ceremony, during which several outstanding researchers and students received awards for their exceptional achievements in the field of Medical Geology.

3rd International Conference on Earth and Environmental Sciences

From August 17 to 24, Prof. Mouri was invited to attend the 3rd International Conference on Earth and Environmental Sciences (ICEES 2025) in Durban, South Africa. As a representative of IUGS, she delivered a plenary lecture on her research and postgraduate training in Medical Geology in Africa. She served as a panelist on the theme “Emerging Contaminants: challenges and solutions.” This conference, which drew over 300 delegates, serves as a global platform to advance interdisciplinary research and foster dialogue on pressing environmental issues. It features 19 themes, including

natural resource management, hydrogeology, environmental science, mining, and the environment, among others. Researchers from various fields, including chemistry, physics, public health, geology, and biochemistry, participated in the event.

3) United in Geosciences – New horizons for IUGS/UNESCO & Africa



Under this title IUGS, in collaboration with UNESCO and GSAf, will host a special session at the CAG30 conference in Nairobi to spotlight the ambitious initiative “Ten Action Plan for Africa – TAP for Africa”, launched in 2024.

Africa is at the forefront of global opportunities: a rapidly growing young population, vast natural resources, and an expanding innovation ecosystem make the continent one of the most dynamic places for future-oriented collaboration. With TAP for Africa, IUGS and UNESCO are committed to strengthening partnerships across science, industry, and policy to unlock this potential.

The session has established registration webpage. Those who want to participate in the session need to register at <http://secretariat.iugs.org/2025>.

For those who want to join in the Session virtually, please choose “online” on the registration webpage and consult to the following zoom meeting information:

Theme: IUGS Special Session: African Geoscience Research: Needs and Challenges

Time: September 23rd, 2025, starting at 14:00 (Nairobi, Kenya)

Zoomlink: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85304698569?pwd=iJg6V524jvAMileb2cNI9tNTPcvaMu.1>

Meeting Number: 853 0469 8569

Password: 561876

A detailed program and further information will be posted on IUGS social media platforms before the event

4) ILP-Bureau Meeting and Open Call for Nominations for the ILP-Evgueni Burov Medal and Flinn-Hart Award in 2026

On Monday, 1. September, IUGS Secretary General, Ludwig Stroink, participated in the Bureau Meeting of the International Lithosphere Programme (ILP), held during the IAPSEI-IAGA conference in Lisbon. Key topics included the review of new ILP Task Forces and Coordinated Committees. In

addition, the Bureau announced the upcoming open call for the ILP Evgueni Burov Medal and the Flinn-Hart Award, which will be awarded in 2026.

OPEN CALL: The International Lithosphere Programme (ILP) was established in 1980 as an inter-Union programme of IUGG and IUGS. The mission of ILP is to promote international cooperation between geology, geophysics and geotechnology and to establish the connection between the deep Earth and the Earth's surface process (i.e. the focused interface between IUGS and IUGG). **The Evgueni Burov Medal** is awarded annually to honor praiseworthy mid-career achievements in lithosphere research. The medal shall promote high-class science in combination with community services. Nominations must include a Nomination Letter, Curriculum Vitae with publication metrics, a list of references as well as 3-5 supporting letters (maximum one page each) in one single pdf file. **The Flinn-Hart Award** is awarded to outstanding scientists younger than 36 years old for contributions to the solid earth sciences covered by the ILP. It consists of a travel grant and a citation, and aims to encourage the participation of promising young scientists in the Program. Nominators should include a letter of nomination and a Curriculum Vitae for each nominee. The nomination materials should be submitted to ILP Bureau by email (ilp@nju.edu.cn) before December 15, 2025. For more information, please visit website: <https://ilp.nju.edu.cn>.

II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

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

Workshop and session organisation at Goldschmidt 2025



Left: Workshop participants doing a hands-on exercise. Photograph by A. Demetriades.



Right: Workshop participants and tutors during the field training course. Photograph by Michal Poňavič, Czech Geological Survey.

On the occasion of Goldschmidt 2025 in Prague, Czech Republic, the CGGB organised a four-day workshop from the 2nd to the 5th of July. The workshop was titled "Global to Regional and Local Scale Geochemical Mapping based on the methods described in the 'International Union of Geological Sciences Manual of Standard Methods for Establishing the Global Geochemical Reference Network'". Three days were devoted to lectures and practical exercises (left), while the fourth and last day comprised a field training course on the outskirts of Prague (right). The workshop tutors were Alecos Demetriades, Maria João Batista, Paula Adánez-Sanjuan and Iván Martín-Méndez. There were also

short, interesting lectures on isotopes by John Hora and Eva Martinková. It was attended by 24 earth scientists from Africa, N & S America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. The workshop was sponsored by the IUGS and held under the auspices of the Czech Geological Survey with the approval of its Director Dr Zdenek Venera. The CGGB would particularly like to thank Michal Poňavič, Dalibor Mašek, and the Deputy Director Dr Anna Vymazalová, for their help in organising the workshop and field training course.

The IUGS CGGB also organised a session entitled “[05j-Multi-scale Geochemical Mapping for Mineral Resource Management](#)” under Theme 05 “Earth Resources and Energy” at the Goldschmidt 2025 Conference. The session was convened and chaired by Maria João Batista (CGGB Deputy-Chair) and Paula Adániz Sanjuán (CGGB Scientific Secretary). The main topic of the session was geochemical mapping as an essential tool in any study concerning the Earth's surface, regardless of scale. The keynote lecture “[Systematic Phased Geochemical Mapping Surveys for Mineral Exploration](#)” was delivered by Alecos Demetriades (CGGB Chair). The session took place on the morning of July 9th, and was attended by around 50 people.

2) News from the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA), Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH), and the Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines (CGGB)

IMGA, SEGH and CGGB are excited to announce the 4th International Student Conference on Medical Geology and Environmental Health – South Asia Edition (ISCMGEH 2025), to be held virtually from 24 to 29 November 2025. This conference is free of charge and is open exclusively to undergraduate, master, and doctoral students based in the South Asia region.

4TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON MEDICAL GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

South Asia Edition 2025

IUGS
International Union of Geological Sciences

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GEOLOGY ASSOCIATION
IMGA

THE SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GEOCHEMISTRY AND HEALTH
SEGH

IUGS Commission on
"Global Geochemical Baselines"
Mapping the Geochemistry
of the Earth's Land Surface

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
NO REGISTRATION FEES**

WEBSITE LINK : <https://iscmgeh-southasia.com>

IMPORTANT DATES

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION
SEP 1ST TO OCT 20TH 2025**

**CONFERENCE DATES
NOV 24TH TO 29TH 2025**

Image of the promotional flyer of the ISCMGEH–South Asia student conference.

The ISCMGEH series brings together academics and researchers in Medical Geology, Environmental Geochemistry and Health, and Applied Geochemistry. Previous editions have successfully focused on Latin America (2021), Africa (2022), and Europe (2024). The 2025 South Asia edition builds on this momentum, aiming to connect students from the region with international experts, foster knowledge exchange, and promote growth in these important research areas in South Asia, with its immense geological diversity and rapid environmental transformation.

Submission of abstracts is open from the 1st of **September** to the 20th of **October** 2025.

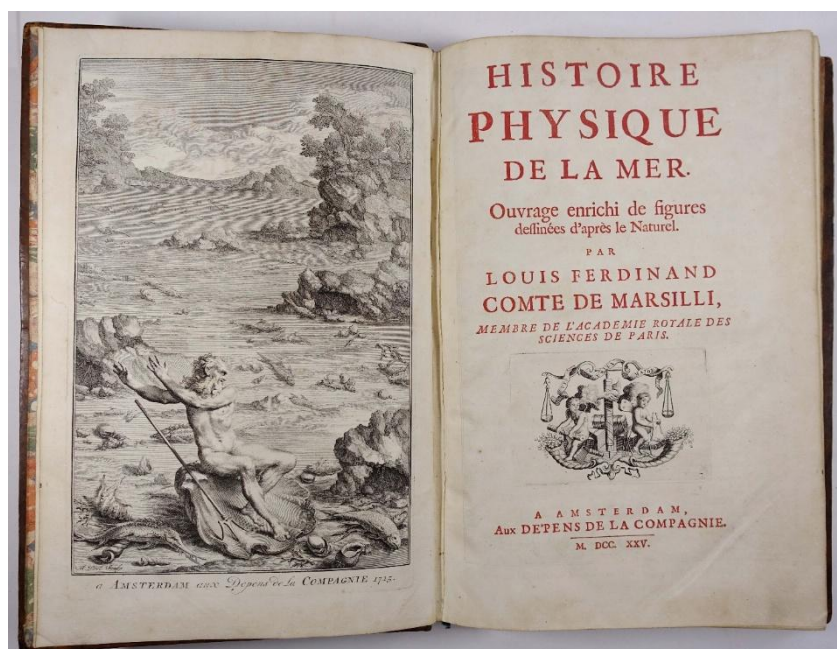
Participating students will have the opportunity to:

- Present original research (ongoing or completed projects)
- Receive constructive feedback from global experts
- Develop academic communication skills
- Expand their professional and research networks
- Publish their work in a peer-reviewed journal

Held in a supportive and low-pressure environment, ISCMGEH–South Asia is dedicated to undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students from the South Asia region, offering them valuable experience that will benefit their future academic and professional careers.

More information is available on the webpage of the virtual conference at <https://iscmgeh-southasia.com/>.

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



Occasion:

The origins of marine geology 300 years ago

Author:

Ezio Vaccari (Italy)

Title:

Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli's "Physical History of the Sea" (1725)

Title page of Marsigli, 1725, with engraved frontispiece by M. Pool.

The Italian scholar Luigi Ferdinando Marsigli or Marsigli (1658–1730) was interested in the structure of the seabed and its features and in 1725 published the treatise *Histoire Physique de la Mer* (Physical History of the Sea). This book collected the results of at least forty years of fieldwork undertaken from various boats and vessels, with the use of soundings and probes for measuring the depth of the sea and for collecting samples from the sea bottom. His studies ranged from the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas to the coast of the Atlantic and to the English Channel.

Please open the link to know more: <https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/>.

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

Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology, 12-15 November 2025, Birmingham, UK

The Society of Vertebrate Palaeontology (SVP), the most important society related to fossils worldwide, is holding its annual meeting this year in Birmingham, UK, in November. SVP have been active in disputes regarding the trading and marketing of illegal fossil trades. Prof. Federico Fanti (IUGS-IFG Advisor on Forensic Palaeontology) will be attending, representing the interest of IUGS-IFG regarding illegal fossil trading and fossil fakery.

British Geological Survey: Sands of Change, Social Media Posts

The British Geological Survey issued a blog and created social media posts (LinkedIn, X, Facebook, Bluesky, Threads) containing information on 'Sands' of Change'. A one-day international conference, to be held at The Geological Society of London, on Wednesday 3 December 2025, 09:30-17:30, in association with the International Union of Geological Sciences Initiative on Forensic Geology, Geological Society of London Forensic Geoscience Group, and the British Geological Survey. Please, click follow links for more information:

https://www.facebook.com/BritishGeologicalSurvey/?locale=en_GB,

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sands-of-change-the-global-challenge-of-sand-mining-tickets-1409896601689?aff=oddttdcreator>,

<https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/events/the-global-challenge-of-sand-mining-international-conference/>.

13th European Meeting on Forensic Archaeology: Conflict Archaeology & Victim Identification, 21-22nd August, 2025

IUGS-IFG members attended the 2025 EMFA at Dumoulin Barracks (Soesterberg, south-east of Amsterdam), home of the Victim Identification Unit of the Royal Netherlands Army. The first day event, attended by 75 people, began with a business meeting chaired by IFG's Matteo Barone. This was followed by presentations focussed on Conflict and Victim Identification. The second day featured a series of outdoor training exercises, including digital recording at excavations, battlefield metal detection, UXO location and identification. The event concluded with a military-style fireworks display using high explosives, which entertained all attendees.

Diamond Fraud: UK's Biggest Diamond Scam

Information reported by the BBC provides details on the UK's biggest diamond scam. Diamonds stated to be worth £157 million, were subsequently valued at approximately £100,000. This being larger than the Hatton Gardens (2015), Brink's Matt (1983) and Great Train Robbery (1963) combined. Please click the link (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp37k8ev9glo>) for more information.

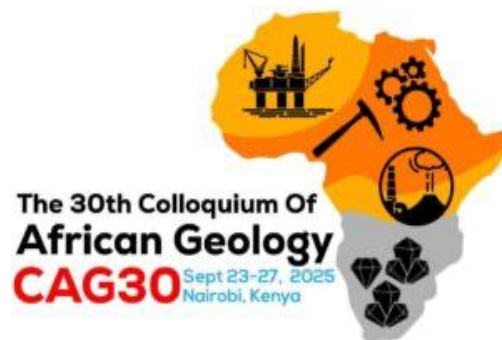
INTERPOL, Operation Serengeti

INTERPOL coordinated an investigation in Africa to disrupt mining crime, cybercrime and fraud. There were approximately 1,209 persons arrested and USD 97.4 million of dollars recovered, USD 484,965,199 monetary value loss targeting 87, 858 victims. There were also 45 illicit power stations, IT and mining equipment confiscated. The participating countries were Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Côte D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Seychelles, Tanzania, United Kingdom, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Please click the link for more information (<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2025/New-INTERPOL-report-warns-of-sharp-rise-in-cybercrime-in-Africa>).

III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS



Beijing, China: September, 20-29, 2025
International Symposium on the Tethys
Evolution and Biotic and Environmental Responses



Nairobi, Kenya: September, 23-27 2025
30th Colloquium of African Geology
<https://cag30nbi.org/>



Jeddah, Saudi Arabia: October, 12-14, 2025
GEOMIN Symposium
<https://geominseg.com/>



**Hammamet,
Tunisia. November
7-9th, 2025**

10th Maghrebien
Congress of Applied
Geophysics
<https://cmga.cc>



Rome, Italy: 28-29 April 2026
MENA EARTH Science Congress
<https://www.ierek.com/events/mena-earth-science-congress-mesc#introduction>

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.
 - **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. Wei Jun ZHAO (IUGS Councillor) Shenyang Centre, China Geological Survey, China
Email: wilsonwjz@outlook.com
Dr. Farnoosh Farjandi (IUGS Councillor) Geological Survey of Iran, Iran
Email: farnooshfarjandi@gmail.com
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