International Union of Geological Sciences

www.iugs.org

NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE | NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS | EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS

Angular unconformity between Late Oligocene red beds of the Khulys Formation (bottom) and Miocene red beds of the Burkhan Formation, which is topped by the Late Miocene Harrat Basalt at the Usfan Pass, 50 km northwest of Jeddah, Al Hijaz, western Saudi Arabia. Photo taken by Hassina Mouri.

E-Bulletin at a Glance

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I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1) Meeting between IUGS President and CEO of Saudi Geological Survey

On October 13, at the GEOMIN International Symposium, Prof. Hassina Mouri, President of the International Union of Geological Sciences, held an official meeting with Eng. Abdullah Al-Shamrani, Chief Executive Officer of the Saudi Geological Survey (SGS), in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The two sides engaged in in-depth discussions and agreed on key topics, including strengthening cooperation in geological science, technological innovation, sustainable resource use, and international collaboration mechanisms.

Prof. Hassina Mouri meeting with CEO of SGS.

Hassina Mouri meeting with SGS representatives.

Prof. Mouri praised SGS for its exceptional achievements in regional geological surveys and mineral resource exploration. She emphasized that IUGS is committed to establishing a global platform for geoscience exchange and collaboration and highlighted the strategic importance of Saudi Arabia as a hub for geological research in the Arabian Peninsula. She also pointed out that Saudi Arabia's geological survey efforts offer vital insights into the geological evolution of arid regions worldwide.

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

Eng. Al-Shamrani responded positively to Prof. 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 integrate cutting-edge technologies such as AI-assisted exploration and green mining practices. He also underscored 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 global geoscience community.

Prof. Hassina Mouri highlighted that this meeting marks a key starting point for stronger cooperation between IUGS and SGS. IUGS will promote increased participation of international members in Saudi Arabia's geological projects to advance regional geoscience and sustainable resource use. Eng Al-

Shamrani confirmed that SGS will actively engage in IUGS-led projects and help advance global geoscience in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For further information, please click here.

IUGS Booth @GEOMIN, 2025

Alongside the IUGS President's meeting with the SCG CEO, IUGS enhanced its visibility through a booth supported by the secretariat office in Beijing. The booth drew considerable attention from attendees throughout the event. Posters and publications, including the 2024 Annual Report, the 2024–2025 issues of Episodes, and other scientific publications under IUGS, were displayed to showcase IUGS's values, initiatives, and activities.

Several delegates and visitors visited the booth to learn more about the Union's offerings to the geoscience community. Many expressed strong interest in IUGS's global projects and discussed potential collaboration opportunities. The booth helped raise awareness of IUGS's role in advancing geoscience worldwide and strengthened its ties with the broader geological community.

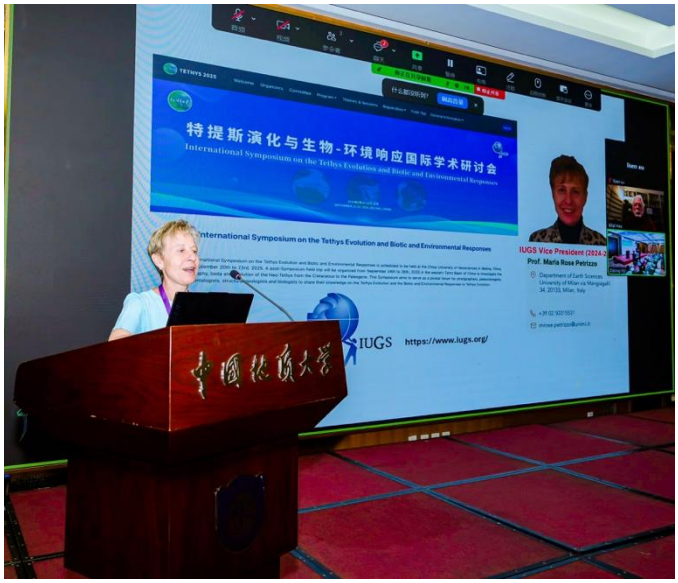
Prof. Hassina Mouri and IUGS Secretariat staff members at the IUGS booth.

2) IUGS Vice President invited to represent IUGS at the International Conference

IUGS Vice President Prof. Maria Rose Petrizzo was invited to attend the *International Symposium on the Tethys Evolution and Biotic and Environmental Responses* in Beijing, China (20-23 September 2025, www.tethys.com.cn) organized by Prof. Dangpeng Xi and colleagues, followed by a field excursion in the Tarim Basin.

On behalf of IUGS Prof. Petrizzo welcomed the participants in the opening ceremony and delivered the plenary lecture on the resilience and extinction of biota during intervals of extreme paleoclimatic perturbations in the Cretaceous.

At the closing ceremony Prof. Petrizzo applauded the extraordinary organization of the event and presented the awards to 15 students for their outstanding oral and poster presentations.



Maria Rose Petrizzo giving her welcome speech

Group photo of the participants at the International Symposium on the Tethys Evolution and Biotic and Environmental Responses in Beijing, China (20 to 23 September 2025, www.tethys.com.cn)

3) IUGS Vice President Maria Rose Petrizzo honored as GSA 2025 James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer

At the 2025 Geological Society of America Annual Meeting, *GSA Connects 2025*, October 19-22, in San Antonio, Texas (USA), IUGS Vice President Prof. Maria Rose Petrizzo was awarded with the **GSA James B. Thompson, Jr. Distinguished International Lecturer Award** for 2025. In recognition of this honor, she will deliver a series of seminars at various North America universities and research centres in the Spring of 2026.

Right: Nathan A. Niemi (GSA President) presented the award to Maria Rose Petrizzo
Left: *Ester Sztein (GSA Director of International Programs) and Maria Rose Petrizzo*

II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS

1) News from the Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE)

The IUGS COGE continues to strengthen its global network and foster impactful geoscience education initiatives worldwide. Below are the key highlights from October:

Governance & Strategic Planning

COGE is currently conducting an internal survey among its members to identify ways to enhance coordination across teams and with international stakeholders—an initiative encouraged by the IUGS Executive Committee. The outcome will inform updates to COGE's organisational structure and the upcoming revision of its Terms of Reference, which is expected soon.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Activities

The EDI Subcommission successfully hosted a webinar on inclusive education, showcasing global best practices for fostering accessibility and equity in geoscience learning. The recording is available on COGE's YouTube channel for those who missed it.

International Engagement

COGE continues to expand its global collaborations and strengthen representation in major international initiatives. The Chair and Vice-Chair actively participate in the Organizing Committee of the 38th International Geological Congress (IGC 2028; https://www.igc2028canada.org/), ensuring that education, inclusion, and capacity-building remain central to its agenda. Chair Dr. Sandra Villacorta is leading a regional survey to boost participation from the Global South—particularly Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)—and to identify strategies for more equitable attendance at IGC 2028. Collaboration opportunities are also being developed with the WEG (Women in Engineering Geology and Environment) and the AWG (Association for Women Geoscientists). In addition, COGE signed a Memorandum of Understanding with REDCITIA (Argentina) to enhance joint initiatives in geoscience education and outreach across the LAC region. The Commission also welcomed new Regular Members from Colombia and Associate Members from Chile and Malawi, further enriching its international network.

Geoscience Educator of the Month (GEM)

October's GEM recognizes Dr. Susana Alicia Alaniz Álvarez (Mexico) — founder of the *Journal of Teaching and Communication of Geosciences*, a key publication for the geoscience education community in Latin America. A former COGE Publications Leader, Dr. Alaniz is honored for her outstanding contributions to geoscience education, innovation, outreach, and her continued impact within the Commission and beyond.

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

Outreach Efforts

COGE continues expanding its support for South America, responding to growing membership and engagement from the LAC region over the past two years. Ongoing efforts emphasize regional collaboration, visibility, and capacity-building. New initiatives launched this month include: The GeoArt Project, promoting creativity and public engagement with Earth science and the Wikipedia collaboration project featuring Professor Amelia Calonge, recipient of the 2025 Chris King Medal. The GEFO Programme Logo Contest is still open until November 15, inviting IUGS members and the wider community to design the visual identity for this flagship programme. Details are available on our website.

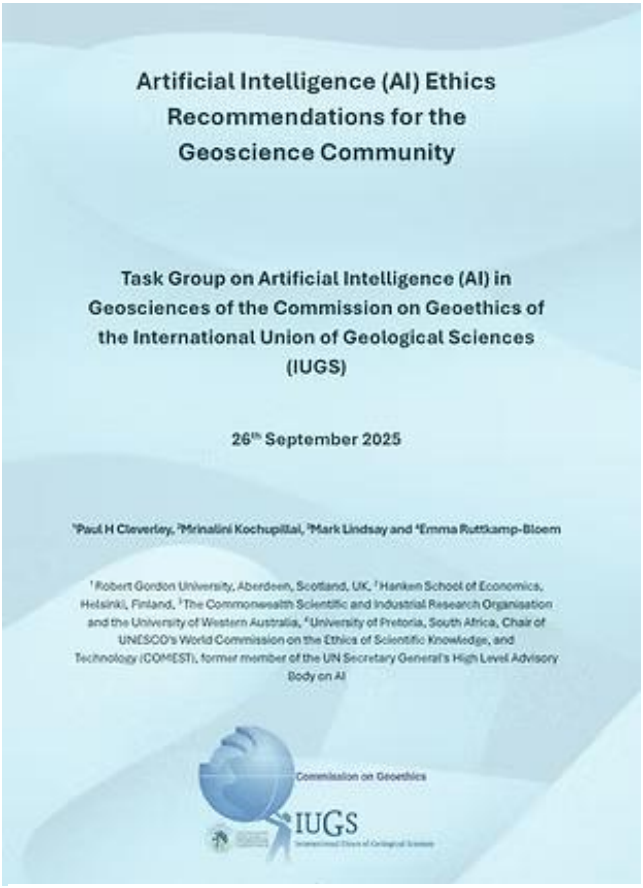
2) News from the Commission on Geoethics (CG)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ethics Recommendations for the Geoscience Community

This document has been prepared by the Task Group on AI Ethics in Geosciences under the IUGS Commission on Geoethics. It is intended to guide practicing academic, industry, governmental and non-governmental geoscientists, society leaders, and policymakers. It outlines ethical considerations for the use of AI in geoscience, while also contributing to ongoing academic discussion on AI and geoethics. Eight themes were identified with recommendations intended to address ethical issues and concerns occurring, or likely to occur, within the geosciences. These are: Use AI Responsibly; Promote Transparency and Explainability; Consider Bias and Fairness; Obtain Informed Consent; Protect Personal Data; Practice Participatory Design and Community Engagement; Advocate for Environmental Protection, Integrity in Science, Publishing and Education; and Consider Geopolitics. A simple, practical one-page summary is presented for AI Ethics in the Geosciences, supported by a rich discussion of each theme with illustrative geoscience-specific examples and reflective questions.

This document has been approved by the Governing Board of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics and has already been endorsed by: American Geosciences Institute (AGI), International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG), International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA), and European Federation of Geologists (EFG).

Download the document: https://www.geoethics.org/ai-ethics-recommendations.



Cover of the document available for download

Keynote on Geoethics at 5th IPGC

Silvia Peppoloni (IAPG President and Chair of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics) will deliver a keynote speech titled "***Geoethics as a Foundation for Navigating the Ethical Responsibilities of Geologists in a Changing Age***" on 5 November 2025, during the 5th International Professional Geology Conference (IPGC) to be held in Zaragoza, Spain.

Conference website: https://www.5th-ipgc.com/.

Other events on geoethics: https://www.geoethics.org/events.

Geoethics at EGU General Assembly 2026: The Call for Abstracts is Open!

The International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG), the IUGS Commission on Geoethics, and the CIPSH Chair on Geoethics are co-sponsoring the following events at EGU26, to be held in Vienna, Austria, and online, from 3 to 8 May 2026:

- Session EOS4.1: Geoethics: Linking Geoscience Knowledge, Ethical Responsibility, and Action (Conveners: Silvia Peppoloni, Giuseppe Di Capua).
- Session EOS2.6: From crisis to action: Education and communication for climate, ocean, overshoot and geoethics (Conveners: David Crookall, Giuseppe Di Capua, Svitlana Krakovska, Pimnutcha Promduangsri, Mario Luiz Mascagni)
- Short Course SC1.11: Grappling with geoethical values and principles: A hands-on, participatory workshop (Conveners: David Crookall, Giuseppe Di Capua, Berill Blair, Pimnutcha Promduangsri, Sebastián Granados)
- Great Debate GDB2: The ethics of using Artificial Intelligence in the Geosciences - Opportunities and Risks (Conveners: Jens Klump, Alice-Agnes Gabriel, Giuseppe Di Capua)

Read more about abstract submission and financial support: https://www.geoethics.org/egu2026 .

Video Message by Silvia Peppoloni to Celebrate International Geoethics Day 2025

The 9th edition of the International Geoethics Day was held on 16 October 2025, during Earth Science Week. Various events and initiatives took place in several countries, including Italy (video message by Silvia Peppoloni: https://youtu.be/P3jbuBIBTsc), Bangladesh, India (where Silvia Peppoloni gave a talk titled "*Geoethics as a Framework for Geodiversity, Geoheritage, and Geoconservation*" during an event organized by the Geological Survey of India), Turkey, Portugal, Nigeria, New Zealand – Aotearoa, Germany, Colombia, and Argentina. The 10th edition is scheduled for 15 October 2026. More information: https://www.geoethics.org/geoethics-day.

Silvia Peppoloni's video message marking International Geoethics Day 2025

3) News from the Young Reporters Initiative (YoRI)

Since its official start on 24 March 2025, marked by the approval of its budget by the IUGS Executive Committee, the Young Reporters Initiative (YoRI) has advanced steadily in developing its organizational structures, enhancing visibility, and consolidating its role within the Union. This briefing provides an overview of achievements to strengthen the initiative's foundation and broaden its outreach.

Mentorship

Guidance of three mentors — Asier Hilario (IUGS International Commission on Geoheritage), Laurence Donnelly (IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology), and Katherine Boggs (Liaison with the IGC National Organizing Committee).

Web & Digital Presence

YoRI's redesigned website has shown steady growth, with traffic increasing spikes in activity coinciding with major milestones such as the launch of Focal Points and social media platforms, demonstrating the effectiveness of YoRI's outreach strategy.

IESO 2025

YoRI representatives collaborated with the International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO 2025), managed the full process of the open call, evaluation, and interpretation of results, leading to the selection of winning reports from the United States, Iran, and India.

Focal Points:

Seven representatives from 7 countries have been appointed, producing monthly contributions and amplifying YoRI's presence across 4 continents.

Social Media Growth

The official **Instagram** account was launched in September 2025 reached 900+ impressions in the first two weeks, with strong engagement among young audiences.

Young Reporters

Over 30 young reporters have submitted contributions. However, to ensure technical, scientific, and editorial quality, only 6 reports have been officially published.

Please visit the website https://www.iugs-young-reporters.com/ to learn more information.

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

Joint Annual Meeting of IUGS-CGGB, EGS-GEG, and ASGMI-GEG in Utrecht, Netherlands

The IUGS Commission on Global Geochemical Baselines co-organised the Joint Annual Meeting together with the EuroGeoSurveys Geochemistry Expert Group (EGS-GEG) and the Ibero-American Association of Geological and Mining Surveys Geochemistry Expert Group (ASGMI-GEG).

A hybrid three-day meeting (9-11 October 2025) was hosted by the Geological Survey of the Netherlands (TNO), located at the Science Park (Princetonlaan 8, NL-3508 TA Utrecht, The Netherlands). A total of 24 participants from Europe attended in person, and 8 remotely.

Group photo of the meeting participants (left by C. Zhang) and photograph during the meeting (right by A. Demetriades).

The first day was focused on the activities carried out by IUGS-CGGB, EGS-GEG & ASGMI-GEG over the last year, the planned activities for next year, as well as future collaborations. The IUGS-CGGB presented its activities during 2025, with special emphasis on the 4-day Goldschmidt Workshop and Scientific Session "Multi-scale Geochemical Mapping for Mineral Resource Management". Among future activities for next year, special attention was paid to the organisation of a workshop in Latin America, where all the methods and procedures described in the IUGS Manual of Standard Methods will be taught with hands-on exercises and a field-training course.

The second day was devoted to presentations of geochemical studies carried out by the geological surveys. These presentations highlight the numerous applications of geochemistry and its status as an essential branch of earth sciences. In particular, topics such as environmental studies and risk analysis, recovery of raw materials from both mining and urban waste, how geochemistry can help in the studies of extreme events, its use in mineral exploration, and specifically critical raw materials, were discussed. All presentations are available from a dedicated pCloud folder.

On the last day, the participants visited Marker Waden, an artificial island that marks the first step in a restoration project for one of the largest freshwater lakes in western Europe.

Alecos Demetriades (CGGB chair) joined the GeOCHemISTea podcast organised by Sam Scher (member of the Association of Applied Geochemists), and unpacked the philosophy of the Global Geochemical Reference Network, and other relevant issues, such as harmonised sampling, quality control procedures, etc., under the general title "Geochemistry without Borders".

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

INHIGEO Anniversaries – new contribution

Occasion: Goethe's Essay on Granite 240 years ago
Author: Ernst Hamm (CANADA)
Title: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832): Essay on granite 1785

The untitled essay on granite by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832) is among his most memorable brief essays. In a handful of paragraphs it moves from the enduring fascination with the granite monuments of Egypt, to a succinct recounting of what was known about granite by the late eighteenth century and concludes with a caution about the pitfalls awaiting those who would take up the study of granite.

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

Right: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in 1779, etching (1881) by William Unger after a painting by Georg Oswald May, 1779. Wellcomecollection.org

INHIGEO Outreach – GSA Heritage Panel

As part of **INHIGEO's outreach activities** Kathleen Histon (INHIGEO publications and outreach coordinator) took part in an international online discussion event centred on Geoheritage organized by the Geological Society of America on 9 October 2025:

History, Partnerships and Engagement – Global Geoheritage and the U.S.

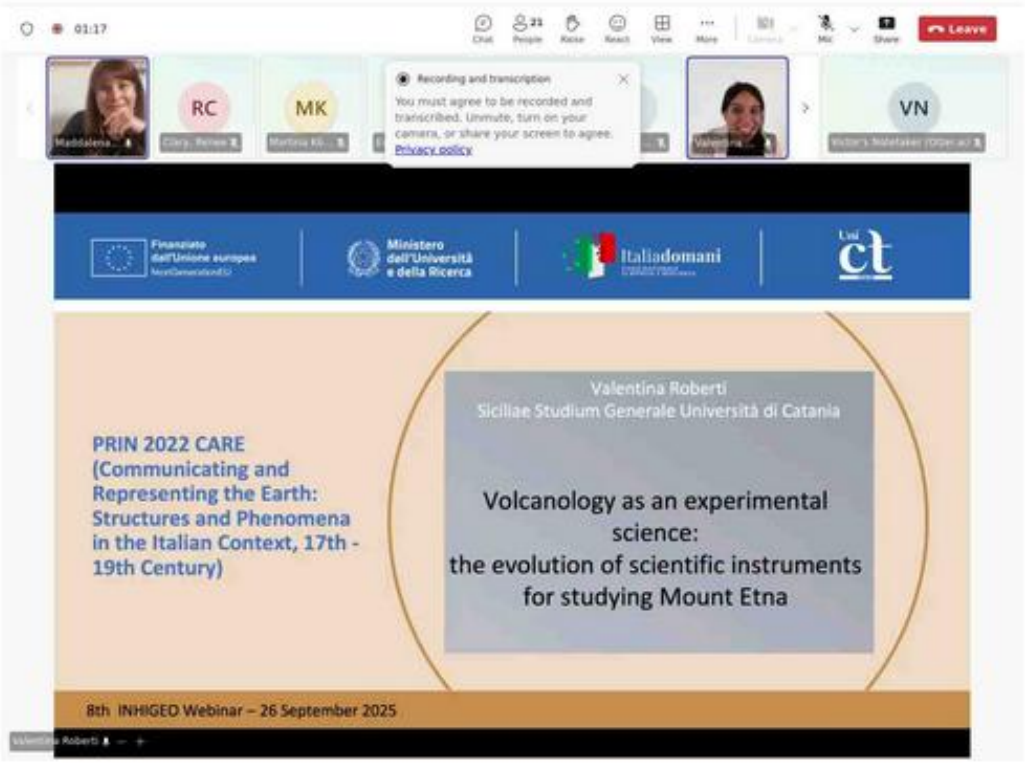
As part of the panel INHIGEO's role in providing historical perspectives that support in efforts to identify, evaluate and protect geoheritage worldwide was discussed as well as the value as geoheritage of documentation such as manuscripts, field notebooks, sketches and photographs related to the studies of geology contained in archives, libraries and collections of personal papers.

https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/GSA/edu-career/geoheritage.aspx.

New Perspectives in the History of Earth Sciences

On 26 September 2025 Valentina Roberti from the University of Catania (Italy) presented her research "Of Volcanos and Instruments".

The webinar series focuses on early career scholars and their fascinating innovative research in the history of the geological sciences and is organized by INHIGEO members Maddalena Napolitani (Italy) and Victor Monnin (France). Please click the link to know more: https://inhigeo.org/webinars/



6) News from the Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

IUGS-IFG Supports Launch of Germany's First Forensic Geology Master Course at Heidelberg University

A new step in the academic development of Forensic Geology has been reached with the launch of a Master-level block course in Forensic Geology at Heidelberg University—the first course of its kind in Germany. The initiative is coordinated by Prof. Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte, IUGS Councillor, and will be offered at the Institute of Earth Sciences during the Summer Semester 2026, with institutional financial support from Heidelberg University.

The course is developed in collaboration with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG), chaired by Dr. Laurance Donnelly (UK). International experts from IFG will participate as guest lecturers, including Prof. Jennifer McKinley (UK/Northern Ireland), former IUGS Council Member and Advisor on Mathematical Geoscience (as listed on the IFG Committee), who brings expertise in forensic geoscience and environmental investigations.

This innovative programme introduces the application of geoscience to criminal investigations, humanitarian search and identification, counter–illegal mining and trafficking, and environmental crime investigations. It will also serve as preparation for an international training programme in Forensic Geology to be offered at the 38th International Geological Congress (IGC 2028; https://www.igc2028canada.org/) in Canada.

Participants of the IUGS–IFG coordination meeting (from left to right, top to bottom): Yamirka Rojas-Agramonte, Ben Ritchie, Duncan Pirrie, Jenny McKinley, Laurance Donnelly, Robert Fitzpatrick, and Lorna Dawson.

This collaboration highlights the commitment of both Heidelberg University and the IUGS to innovation, international cooperation, and societal impact within the geosciences. More information for IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG): https://www.iugs-geo.org/.

Sands of Change: Change of Date, Geological Society of London

The date for *'The Global Challenge of Sand Mining and Illegal Sand Mining',* has changed from 3 December 2025 and will now take place on 18 March 2026. It will be held at The Geological Society

of London, 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.

Registration: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-queens-university-belfast-41343632673.

Abstract submission (250 words):
laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.comdpirrie@helfordgeoscience.co.uk.

INTERPOL Workshop on Illegal Mining and Illicit Trafficking of Minerals, Hanoi, Vietnam

From 23-24 November 2025, Dr Laurance Donnelly was invited to work with INTERPOL on illegal mining and Illicit Trafficking of Minerals in Vietnam. This event included an activity within the framework of the project 'Fighting Climate Change and Loss of Biodiversity' (Project GAIA), supported by; the Vietnam Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear safety and Consumer Protection and the International Climate Initiative (ICI). Dr Donnelly provided information on the causes and modus operandi for international mining crime and minerals trafficking, sampling, sample preparation, provenance determination and traceability, with a focus on illegal gold, illegal sand, and illicit minerals smuggling across the China-Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia borders.

Forensic Geology, Geological Society, Northwest Regional Group, Manchester, UK

On 23 October 2025, Dr Laurance Donnelly provided an evening lecture on forensic geology to the Geological Society, Northwest Regional Group, based on the following paper. Please click it for more information:

https://eurogeologists.eu/donnelly-advancements-in-forensic-geology-geological-police-and-law-enforcement-collaboration/ and https://forensicgeologyinternational.com/.

Forensic Geology, Meggen, Germany, September 2025

On 10-12 September 2025, Dr Laurance Donnelly was invited to the, '11th Meggen Raw Material Days, Meggen, Germany, where he gave a keynote presentation on, *'The Global Escalation in Illegal Mining and Illicit Minerals Trafficking'*. Please click it for more information:
https://geoberuf.de/fileadmin/user_upload/bdg-media/Anmeldung_und_Programm.pdf.

Forensic Geology, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2026

IUGS-IFG has agreed to provide a session on forensic geology at the, *'41st International Conference on Environmental Geochemistry and Health',* in Slovenia, on 13-17 July 2026, in collaboration with the Geological Survey of Slovenia, University of Ljubljana-Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering, Geological Society of Slovenia, and Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH). Please click it for more information: laurance.donnelly@ahkgroup.com.

III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS

Hammamet, Tunisia: 7-9 November 2025

10th Maghrebian Congress of Applied Geophysics
https://cmga.cc

Zaragoza, Spain: 5-7 November 2025
5th International Professional Geology Conference (IPGC)
https://www.5th-ipgc.com/welcome/

Nairobi, Kenya: 2-4 December 2025
Geo-digitalization for sustainable development goals and 3rd Youth Innovation Forum of Digital Earth
ISPRS–ISDE 2025: joint conference on geo-digitalization for sustainable development goals and 3rd youth innovation forum of Digital Earth - International Science Council

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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