

MINUTES



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

80th EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 25th, 2024

Busan, South Korea

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Participants

IUGS Executive Committee:

John LUDDEN (JL; President), Stanley FINNEY (SF; Secretary General), Hiroshi KITAZATO (HK; Treasurer), Qiuming CHENG (QC, Past President, Chair of Nominating Committee), Daekyo CHEONG (DC; Vice President), Hassina MOURI (HM; Vice President), Ludwig STROINK (LS; Councilor), Lola PEREIRA (LP, Councilor), Yamirka ROJAS-AGRAMONTE (YR, Councilor)

Ask for Absence:

Jennifer MCKINLEY (JM; Councilor)

IUGS Secretariat:

MA Yongzheng (Director), SITU Yu (Secretary), GU Yanfei (Secretary)

1. Approve Minutes of the 79th EC meeting

EC members reviewed and approved the Minutes of the 79th EC meeting in Nairobi, Kenya and the virtual progress EC meeting on July 5th, 2024.

Dolores Pereira (DP) suggested that the quality of geocollections is the most important criteria for selection. The geocollections contain greatly different kinds of collections as some of them are worldwide famous and some of them are only known by a specific community. Therefore, DP suggested to define different sections for geocollections in terms of their awareness degrees. JL suggested DP also provide her suggestions to the expert who is in charge of Subcommission on Geocollections.

Hassina Mouri (HM) asked about the preparation of the promotional poster of recipients of awards or medals of the groups in 2023 and 2024 and SF responded that a poster containing the award recipients from IUGS constituent groups has been displayed at the IUGS booth at the 37th IGC Exhibition.

2. DDE Review

Qiuming Cheng (QC) asked about updates on the DDE review and John Ludden (JL) responded that it was decided at the 79th EC meeting that a review meeting on Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE) should be conducted. Then IUGS received a letter from the *Geoscience World*, in which it was indicated the concern on the roles of DDE and Large Language Models. Correspondently, a meeting was held during the EGU 2024. JL, QC and Ludwig Stroink (LS) from the IUGS Executive Committee, representatives from national geological surveys, *Geoscience World* and from GeoGPT and Alibaba participated in the meeting. Minutes of the meeting is available online. As requested, a Review Committee, which includes two EC members, has been set up to conduct an ARC review on DDE. An ARC review report is expected to be ready in February, 2025. DDE has provided a SWOT of DDE for the Review Committee to go through.

3. Finance Committee Report

JL introduced that according to the IUGS Statutes and Bylaws, the Finance Committee (FC) was formed and is chaired by Alexander Rudloff from International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). The main aim of the FC Report is to review the operation of IUGS finance over the past four years. In the FC report, several recommendations are provided, such as reducing IUGS reserve in perspective and examining new agreements with UNESCO in connection with the IGCP Programme.

Motion to approve the Finance Committee Report.

Approved.

4. 4- year Treasurer's Report

Hiroshi Kitazato (HK) reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the basic budget of IUGS over the past 4 years is stable. More detailed review on IUGS finance over the past 4 years will be presented at the 5th Ordinary Session of IUGS-IGC Council.

5. IUGS membership

HK reported that by the end of 2023, IUGS has 61 active members and 62 inactive members and by the end of July, 2024, number of active members has increased to 64 and inactive decreased to 59. HK pointed out that IUGS still has a number of countries who have been inactive for more than 2 years although it is indicated in the IUGS Statutes and Bylaws that inactive status shall not last longer than two years. HK also pointed out that some inactive members, especially category-1 countries, are unconnected for years and IUGS should try to reconnect with them. HM pointed out that some adhering organizations become unconnected when their contact persons leave or retire. QC also mentioned the validity of affiliated status.

6. Ratification of Elections of Officers and Voting members of IUGS Commissions

SF introduced the election of the new officers and voting members of International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS), which brought about 80 percent of renewal of the ICS officers and voting members. SF suggested IUGS Secretariat send the ratification letters to all the officers and voting members of IUGS constituent groups, informing them that their positions in IUGS commissions have been approved at the 5th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council Meeting. The ratification letter should be individually addressed and with the signature of the new IUGS Secretary General. JL pointed out that some of the officers in the IUGS constituent groups have been serving at their current positions for excessively long period of time and IUGS Statutes and Bylaws should be consulted to in terms of this issue.

Motion to approve the list of the officers and voting members of IUGS constituent groups for 2024-2028.

Approved.

7. Emile Argand Award Committee

SF introduced that Emile Argand Medal is the highest award to IUGS and it is for senior geoscientist of high international recognition and outstanding scientific record. SF reviewed that before the 37th IGC, although a call for IUGS awards candidates had been distributed to IUGS constituent groups, adhering organizations and affiliated organizations, few candidates were nominated. To ensure sufficient and qualified candidates for the Emily Argand Medal, SF suggested establishing the IUGS Award Committee, which will be an independent committee from IUGS.

Motion to approve the establishment of IUGS Award Committee.

Approved.

8. New Terms of Reference document for the Commission on Geoscience Education

SF presented the new Terms of Reference for the Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE). SF introduced that he questioned the 3-year terms for board members in section 5 of COGE TOR as the terms of IUGS commissions officers are approved by the IUGS EC and ratified by the IUGS-IGC Council every four years. COGE updated the TOR according to SF's suggestions and the updated version is now subject to EC's approval. JL pointed out that IUGS should try to find the best way to support COGE and IGEO and LS suggested EC make more discussion on this issue during the 37th IGC.

Motion to approve the new Terms of Reference of Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE).

Approved.

9. Slate of Candidates for IUGS Nominating Committee (2024-2028)

JL reviewed that Commission on Geoethics informed him that the Commission recently received a formal complaint letter doubting Irina Artemieva's candidacy for the IUGS Nominating Committee 2024-2028 as she is no longer the President of European Geosciences Union (EGU), but her presidency was indicated in her CV as a candidate of the new Nominating Committee. JL recommended to postpone the election of the new IUGS Nominating Committee. LS asked whether Irina Artemieva was nominated as EGU President or as an independent scientist and JL responded that she was nominated as an independent scientist.

Motion to propose the IUGS-IGC Council to postpone the election of the IUGS Nominating Committee 2024-2028.

Approved.

HM asked whether it is ethical for an EC candidate to nominate a candidate for another position in the IUGS Executive Committee as some nominated candidate is also the chair or secretary general of associated organizations, who can nominate EC candidates.

ACTION: Commission on Geoethics (CG) to check any conflicts of interest in the nomination of the EC and NC candidates for 2024-2028.

10. Busan Declaration 2024

Daekyo Cheong (DC) introduced that the Busan Declaration 2024 will be announced in the names of IUGS, Local Organizing Committee of the 37th IGC and Busan Metropolitan City. In the declaration, it is proposed to establish a "Global Future Earth Science Research Center". JL asked about the relationship between IUGS and the "Global Future Earth Science Research Center" and DC responded that the Center can share data with IUGS constituent groups and national members and

some international meetings will be held based on the Center. QC suggested IUGS's role in the operation of the "Global Future Earth Science Research Center" should be indicated in the Declaration. HM pointed out that in the first paragraph, it is indicated that this declaration is made by the participants of the International Geological Congress 2024 in Busan, but this declaration will be in the names of IUGS, Busan Metropolitan City, and Organizing Committee of the 37th International Geological Congress. It was agreed to delete the phrase in the first paragraph "the participants of the International Geological Congress 2024 in Busan". It was also agreed that "Point 3. Establishment of a 'Global Future Earth Science Research Center'" to be modified into "Point 3. And we encourage the Establishment of a 'Global Future Earth Science Research Center'".

Motion to approve the Busan Declaration 2024 with the modifications agreed at the meeting.

Approved.

11. Revision of IUGS and IGC Statutes and Bylaws

LS introduced that the modifications of IGC Statutes have been finished and he is still working on the modifications of IUGS Statutes and Bylaws. The modified of IUGS Statutes and Bylaws will be finished soon and will be ready for the 5th Ordinary Session of the IUGS-IGC Council.

ACTION: LS to provide the Secretariat the modified IUGS Statutes and Bylaws. The Secretariat to upload the modified IUGS and IGC Statutes and Bylaws to online drive for Council members to download.