International Union of Geological Sciences

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

***Deadline Reminder**! Interested in hosting the IGC or the IUGS Secretariat Office? Don't miss the upcoming Expression of Interest (EoI) deadlines! Check the latest deadlines and submission details on the IUGS website:* https://www.iugs.org/news/

E-Bulletin at a Glance

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I) NEWS FROM IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1) REMINDER: IUGS important Calls

As a reminder, two important IUGS calls are open: hosting the IUGS Secretariat (2028–2032) and the 39th International Geological Congress (IGC 39) in 2032.

⇨ IUGS Calls for Applications to Host Secretariat (2028–2032)

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) invites formal applications from institutions willing to host the IUGS Secretariat for the period 1 September 2028 – 31 August 2032. The host institution will support the effective operation of the IUGS Secretariat, contribute to the leadership of the global geoscience community and can significantly enhance its own international visibility. **The submission deadline is 31st December 2026**. The Call for Applications document is available at https://www.iugs.org/iugs-call-for-application-to-host-the-iugs-secretariat-2028-2032/

⇨ IUGS Invites EOIs to Host the 39th International Geological Conference (IGC 39, 2032)

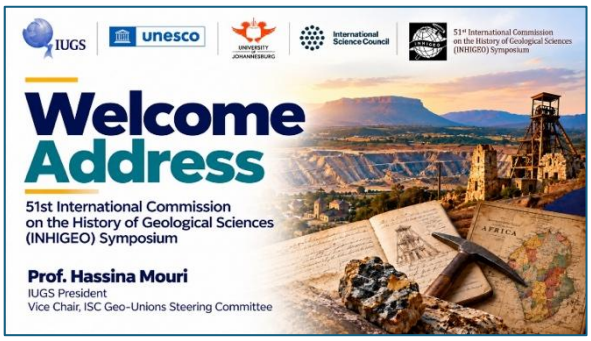
The IUGS invites adhering members to submit expressions of interest (EOIs) to host the 39th IGC in 2032, the flagship event of the IUGS. EOIs must be submitted using the attached proforma by **16 November 2026,** outlining the proposed venue, organising committee, and supporting organisations. Viable bidders will be invited to submit full applications by late May 2027. The EOI Guidance Notes and EOI Proforma are available at https://www.iugs.org/call-for-expressions-of-interest-to-host-the-39th-international-geological-congress-in-2032-deadline-november-16th-2026/

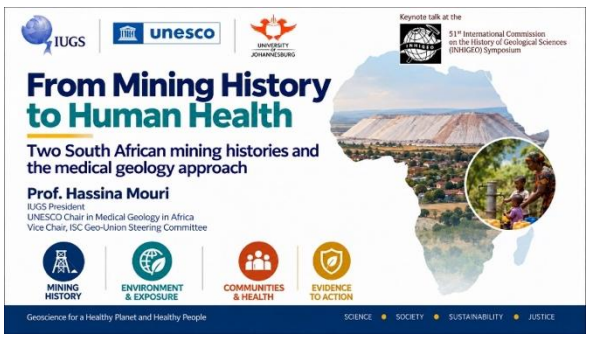
2) Strengthening Engagement with IUGS Constituent Groups and Affiliated Organisations

Strengthening engagement with IUGS' constituent groups and affiliated organisations has been an important part of the President's international engagement, combining representation of the Union with direct contributions to scientific programmes.

⇨ IUGS President Welcomes INHIGEO to Southern Africa and Contributes to the Scientific Programme

On 5 September 2026, IUGS President Professor Hassina Mouri participated in an INHIGEO event planned for Zimbabwe, following a pre-event engagement in Johannesburg, where she was invited to contribute to the programme.



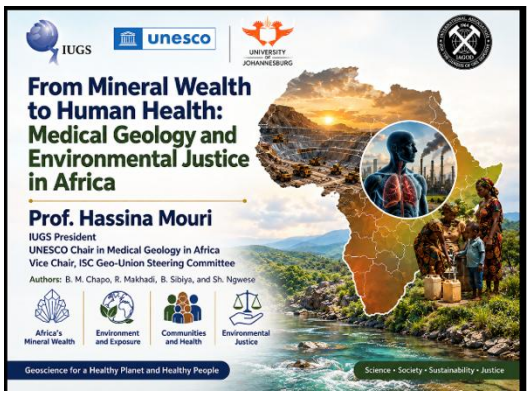


As IUGS President, Professor Mouri welcomed INHIGEO and its members to Southern Africa, highlighting the Commission's importance within the IUGS community and the value of deepening its engagement with the region.

Furthermore, she contributed to the scientific programme by delivering a keynote talk titled "*From Mining History to Human Health"*, based on her medical geological research. The presentation explored links between the region's long mining history, its environmental legacies, and their implications for human health, showing how historical mining can inform our understanding of contemporary environmental and health challenges. More information about the INHIGEO event is available on page 7.

⇨ IUGS President Addresses IAGOD Symposium and Shares Scientific Expertise

Professor Hassina Mouri addressed more than 600 delegates at the opening ceremony of the 16th IAGOD Quadrennial Symposium in 2026, organised by the International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits (IAGOD) and held in Porto, Portugal, from 30 August to 2 September 2026, under the theme "The Role of Geoscience in the Energy Transition."



As IUGS President, she welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of international scientific cooperation in addressing global challenges. She also contributed to the scientific programme with a keynote lecture entitled "*From Mineral Wealth to Human Health: Medical Geology and Environmental Justice in Africa*." Drawing on her research in Medical Geology, she explored in the presentation the links between Africa's mineral wealth, its environmental impacts and human health, bringing a societal perspective to discussions on geoscience and the energy transition.

Together, these engagements demonstrate the dual role of the IUGS President in strengthening the Union's connections with its constituent groups and affiliated organisations, while also contributing directly to the scientific exchange that underpins the international geoscience community.

II) NEWS FROM IUGS MEMBERS:

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

The IUGS-COGE and the International Association for Engineering Geology's Women in Engineering and Geosciences Committee (IAEG–WEG) convened a virtual meeting to advance the implementation of their recently signed Letter of Collaboration (LoC). During the meeting, they discussed the development of joint work plans to operationalise collaborative initiatives, including webinars, workshops, and events. They also reviewed nominations for COGE's Geoscience Educator of the Month from IAEG-WEG and explored opportunities for WEG members to support COGE's GEFO programme in their respective countries.

In terms of outreach, the **COGE Geoscience Education Field Officer (GEFO) Programme Logo Contest** has concluded its **People's Choice** voting phase. Moving forward, field officers will incorporate the winning emblem into all workshops they organise. The **COGE GeoArt Contest** has also ended, and we will soon announce the winners. Marking a significant milestone, the **Early Career COGE Grant** was introduced in early September and attracted **26 applications from around the world**. The evaluation panel is currently reviewing submissions, and successful candidates—who will receive support to attend international conferences focused on geoscience outreach and education —will be announced soon.

The **IUGS White Paper on Geoscience Education** has completed its global consultation and recently incorporated input gathered during the **GeoSciEd X** held in August in Adelaide; it now awaits the endorsement of the IUGS Executive before submission to *Episodes*.

COGE is also pleased to welcome its new social media team members: Maria Julia, Christoper, Kimie, Angela and Stalyn.

Stay updated on COGE's initiatives aimed at advancing geoscience education globally by following its social media accounts, official website, and YouTube channel.

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

IAGS 2026 Conference in Beijing, China

Two members of the Commission's Steering Committee, Dr Gloria Prieto and Dr Anna Ladenberger, as well as IUGS Treasurer Prof. David Cohen, participated in IAGS26, the 31st International Applied Geochemistry Symposium, held in Beijing, China (12–16 September 2026). The conference was organised under the auspices of the Association of Applied Geochemists by the China University of Geosciences (Beijing), the Institute of Geophysical and Geochemical Exploration, and the UNESCO International Centre on Global-Scale Geochemistry (ICGG). Anna Ladenberger and David Cohen chaired the session on Geochemical Mapping in which all three participants delivered their oral presentations. David Cohen, in his presentation "*Baseline mapping of soil geochemistry and Pb isotope ratios prior to commencement of mining operations at the Bowdens Ag deposit, Australia*", promoted the IUGS Manual of Standard Methods (a). Topics included Digital Chemical Earth, Big Data and AI in resources management, and environmental/health assessments. On the last day of the conference, Anna

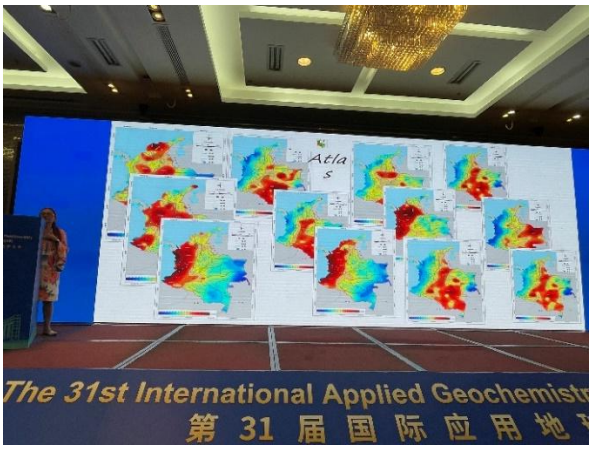
Ladenberger gave a plenary talk on the developments in mining and mineral exploration in Sweden and how they are influencing the geochemical mapping activities in the geological survey.

In addition to traditional presentations on geochemical mapping with a focus on geochemical exploration and environmental applications, discussions focused on machine learning and processing large data sets. This often requires public access to regional and national databases and sharing data in line with FAIR principles. As a result, more international collaboration has been proposed. New challenges related to the rapid development of artificial intelligence are revolutionising how geoscience studies the past and present, and predicts the future.

Alongside the conference, the annual meeting of the UNESCO-ICGG was held, where the annual report and guidelines for field sampling were presented.

After the conference, the technical workshop was organised at the UNESCO-ICGG in Langfang and attended by 18 international participants from several African countries, Turkey, Serbia, Mongolia, and Laos. Anna Ladenberger (Sweden), Martiya Sadeghi (Sweden) and Chaosheng Zhang (Ireland) were invited to give lectures on sampling and analytical protocols, machine learning and spatial analysis methods. Anna Ladenberger promoted the IUGS Manual of Standard Methods (a) in her presentation.

The IUGS Manual of Standard Methods promoted by David Cohen and Anna Ladenberger in their conference and Langfang presentations.



Prof. Gloria de Prieto presents geochemical mapping in Colombia (Photograph by Anna Ladenberger).

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

European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) Annual Meeting, Oxford, UK

The Chilean geologist Kristian Agurto-Velásquez, a member of the IUGS-IFG and the Ibero-American Network of Forensic Researchers (RIIF), took part in the Annual Meeting of the ENFSI Scene of Crime (SoC) Working Group, held at the VOCO Spires Hotel in Oxford, United Kingdom, from 6 to 9 September 2026. At the event, Prof. Agurto delivered a plenary presentation on the progress of his research into the geochemical and haematological analysis of soils containing blood and human remains, and outlined developments in forensic geology in Chile between 2023 and 2026. He also reported on his collaboration with undergraduate students from various Chilean universities. His work is supervised by Dr Katja Deckart (University of Chile) and medical technologist Jonathan Agurto (Hospital de Quellón, Chiloé Island). Prof. Agurto attended the event as Chile's representative; all European member countries and other special guest countries took part. More information in https://lnkd.in/p/dcrYxJaT

Left: Oral session of Prof. Agurto in ENFSI Annual Meeting 2026, Oxford, UK (Credits: Kristian Agurto)

Right: ENFSI Gala Dinner Official Photograph in Keble College, Oxford, UK (Credits: Ruth Buckley)

Geological Crime: IUGS-IFG Special Project on Illegal Mining and Illicit Minerals Trading

The IUGS-IFG 'Special Project' on illegal mining and illicit minerals trading was commissioned by the IUGS Executive Committee and implemented by IFG. This project was conducted over five years, led by Dr Laurance Donnelly and Prof Duncan Pirrie, with contributions from several members of the IUGS committee. The results of this project were published in the journal ***Geology Today***, Volume 42, Issue 5, Special Issue: Geological Crime. The issue comprises six papers and is freely available for a limited time via the link: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/13652451/2026/42/5

i. Organised crime in the minerals, mining and metals industries: underworld versus upperworld (*Mark Harrison, Laurance Donnelly, Fabio Salvador*)

ii. The global scale of gold, precious mineral and metal crime (*Laurance Donnelly, Robert Schouwstra, Fabio Salvador, Carlos Molina, Duncan Pirrie*)

iii. Critical minerals, the energy transition and associated crimes (*Laurance Donnelly*, *Duncan Pirrie*, *Quentin Dehaine*)

iv. Conflict minerals: developing responsible sourcing through the minerals supply chain *(Laurance Donnelly, Caroline Quirke, Duncan Pirrie*)

v. Illegal sand mining (*Duncan Pirrie, Laurance Donnelly, Ping Yin*)

vi. Fossils as cultural heritage: scientific, commercial and legislative issues (*Federico Fanti, Rosa Maria Di Maggio, Laurance Donnelly, Robert Fitzpatrick, Fábio Augusto da Silva Salvador, Duncan Pirrie*)

Forensic Geology in Egypt

We would be pleased to hear from forensic geologists with experience in Egypt, as we are in the early stages of developing links with two geologists regarding potential opportunities for the development of forensic geology and forensic soil science in Egypt.

Duncan Pirrie: dpirrie@helfordgeoscience.co.uk; Laurance Donnelly: geologist@hotmail.co.uk

Introduction to Geophysical Search Methods, Spring 2027

In Spring 2027, the Forensic Geoscience Group of the Geological Society, London, in collaboration with IUGS-IFG, will hold a one-day introduction to geophysical search methods at Keele University, UK. If you would be interested in attending, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Duncan Pirrie: dpirrie@helfordgeoscience.co.uk; Laurance Donnelly: geologist@hotmail.co.uk;

Alastair Ruffell:a.ruffell@qub.ac.uk

Conference on Minerals Traceability, December 2027

In December 2027, the Forensic Geoscience Group of the Geological Society, London, is planning to hold a one-day international conference on forensic geology and minerals traceability at the Geological Society, London. If you would be interested in attending, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Duncan Pirrie: dpirrie@helfordgeoscience.co.uk; Laurance Donnelly: geologist@hotmail.co.uk

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

INHIGEO Outreach – Recent Sponsored Sessions

As part of its outreach initiatives to raise awareness of the history of the geological sciences, INHIGEO sponsors historical sessions within geoscience and history of science conferences.

a) 51st INHIGEO Annual Symposium – Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) 2–15th September 2026

The 51st Annual INHIGEO Symposium was held in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) from 6th–10th September with many presentations focusing on themes related to Southern and Central Africa by participants representing thirteen countries. The first in the newly established **INHIGEO Distinguished Lecture**, given by an expert in the history of geology of the area where the Annual Symposium is held, was presented by INHIGEO member Dr Tim Broderick from the Geological Survey of Zimbabwe ***Tracing 160 years of geological mapping across Zimbabwe***.

Presentation by Prof. Hassina Mouri to INHIGEO excursion participants in Johannesburg.

Participants on the pre-conference excursion (2–5th September) organised in the surroundings of Johannesburg (South Africa) were delighted to be welcomed in person to South Africa by **Professor Hassina Mouri, President of IUGS**, who gave a talk to the INHIGEO group on the evening of September 5th at the Sunnyside Park Holiday Inn – ***From Mining History to Human Health*** – and accompanied the group to dinner afterwards for further discussion of the topic.

The excursion included visits to a historic gold mine and iron smelting works, the Cradle of Humankind Malapa and the Sterkfontein Caves sites, Origins Museum and the Evolutionary Studies Institute (University of the Witwatersrand- one of the major paleoanthropological research centres in Africa) to see specimens such as the Taung Child and hear about their discovery.

The mid conference excursion (9th September) included the geology of both the Zambia and Zimbabwe sides of Victoria Falls and the Livingstone Museum while the post-conference excursion (11th–15th

September) was in the area of Bulawayo (Zimbabwe) and included visits to Matobo National Park with spectacular painted caves and tor structures within the granite landscape and the UNESCO World Heritage sites of the Khami Ruins and Great Zimbabwe.

b) INHIGEO Early Career Award for young delegate

The **INHIGEO Early Career Award** was conferred at the INHIGEO Business Meeting in Victoria Falls (Zimbabwe) on 10th September 2026 by Ezio Vaccari (INHIGEO President) and Martina Kölbl-Ebert (INHIGEO Secretary General) to **David Russo** (PhD candidate, School of Geosciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa) for his presentation on ***Early mining history of Johannesburg and Witwatersrand Goldfields*** within the 51st INHIGEO Symposium.

Presentation of the INHIGEO Early Career Award, Victoria Falls. (Photo credit: Piotr Krzywiec)

c) INHIGEO Anniversaries – new contribution

Occasion: Pivotal talks in palaeontology 90 years ago - **Author**: Warren D. Allmon (USA)

Title: ***George Gaylord Simpson's 1936 "door opener" talks and the entrance of palaeontology into the modern evolutionary synthesis***

In late 1936, George Gaylord Simpson (1902—1984), then a curator of vertebrate paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), delivered two talks (on 10 September and 30 December, respectively) that were to form much of the basis for his enormously influential 1944 book *Tempo and Mode in Evolution*, which effectively brought paleontology into the Modern Synthesis with other areas of evolutionary biology.

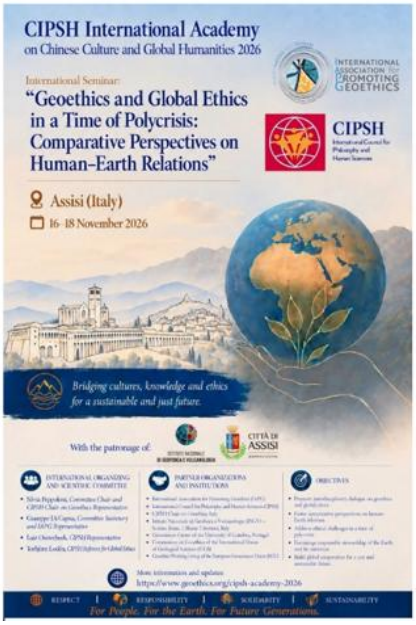
Please open the link to know more: https://inhigeo.org/anniversaries/

George Gaylord Simpson in his office in the American Museum of Natural History in about 1955. Reproduced with permission of the American Philosophical Society.

News from the IUGS Commission on Geoethics

a) International Seminar "Geoethics and Global Ethics in a Time of Polycrisis"

The seminar is an international, cross-disciplinary event combining keynote and contributed presentations with discussions to foster dialogue, critical reflection, and future initiatives across disciplines and cultures. The fifth circular, including the programme and abstracts, is available at: https://www.geoethics.org/cipsh-academy-2026. The IUGS Commission on Geoethics is one of the organisations supporting the event. *Poster of the International Seminar on Geoethics and Global Ethics in Assisi, Italy.*



Announcement of the webinar on Geoethics in Colombia.

b) Webinar on geoethics in Colombia

Silvia Peppoloni (Chair of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics and IAPG President) delivered an invited talk entitled "**Geoethics: Rethinking Geologists' Responsibilities in a Changing World**" at an event organised by the Student Chapter of the Colombian Geological Society (Sociedad Colombiana de Geologia) at Caldas University on 1 October 2026, to celebrate the Geologist Day in Colombia.

c) Webinar on Geoethics in Nigeria

On 15 September 2026, the Geological Society of Nigeria and IAPG-Nigeria, supported by the IUGS Commission on Geoethics, organised the webinar "**Geoethics and Professional Competence: Building Responsive Geoscientists for the Future**," featuring David Mogk and Vincent Cronin, members of the IUGS Commission on Geoethics. Special thanks to Arinze Harrison Ikwumelezeh and Malami Uba Saidu for promoting the initiative.

d) Other news from the International Geoethics Research Infrastructure

Panel Discussion on **Ethics in Volcanic Disaster Risk Management**

The IAVCEI ECR Network and EGU Working Group on Geoethics jointly host an online panel on ethical challenges in volcanic disaster risk management, including decision-making, uncertainty, communication, and community engagement. Registration is open from 23 September 2026.

Geoethics at the 12th Meggen Raw Material Days in Germany

Nic Bilham (IAPG-UK) delivered an invited talk entitled "**Geoethics for Raw Materials, for Geo-professionals and for Geo-citizens**" in the session "Geoethics and Raw Material Policy" in Lennestadt, Germany, on 16 September 2026.

6) News from the International Commission on Geoheritage (ICG)

Memorial Tribute to Professor Joaquim Luís Galego Lopes

It is with profound sadness that we mark the passing of Professor Joaquim Luís Galego Lopes, geologist, Professor at the Department of Geosciences of the University of Évora, researcher at the Institute of Earth

Sciences (ICT), and President of the Portuguese Association of Geologists (APG), one of the most distinguished figures in the field of Earth Sciences in Portugal.

Throughout an outstanding career, defined by scientific excellence and an unwavering commitment to teaching, research and public service, Professor Luís Lopes left an enduring mark on the development of the geosciences and the promotion of Portugal's mineral resources. He educated generations of geologists and made a decisive contribution to advancing knowledge of the country's geological heritage.

He was widely recognised for his exceptional expertise in the geology of the Estremoz Anticline, one of Europe's most important ornamental stone provinces, having produced landmark work on the Alentejo marbles, geological heritage and the region's mineral resources. He also played a key role in the successful nominations that led to the recognition of the Estremoz Marbles and the Arrábida Breccia as Global Heritage Stones, as well as the nomination that resulted in the Ourém–Torres Novas Dinosaur Footprints Natural Monument being designated as one of the Second 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Sites by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

His work was also distinguished by significant contributions to geological mapping, mineral exploration and research applied to the ornamental stone industry, creating an exemplary bridge between academia, research institutions and industry. His efforts helped foster innovation, sustainability and competitiveness in a sector of strategic importance to Portugal.

Professor Luís Lopes was also a passionate advocate for science communication and geoscience literacy, leading numerous initiatives to bring geology closer to society and playing an active role in the continuing education of teachers and professionals.

A member of the Portuguese Association of Geologists since 1986, he became President of its Executive Board in 2020 and began his third term in 2026. During his presidency, he championed the recognition of the geology profession, promoted the advancement of the geosciences, led the revision of the Association's Statutes and represented the APG within the European Federation of Geologists (EFG). He also chaired the Scientific Committee of the 5th International Professional Geology Conference, held in Zaragoza, Spain.

Alongside these roles, he devoted a significant part of his career to professional and sectoral associations linked to mineral resources. He served as Board Member of VALORPEDRA between 2009 and 2015, joined VALORPEDRA's Executive Board from 2016 to 2019, served as Member of the Board of Directors of the Portugal Mineral Resources Cluster Association (ACPMR) between 2020 and 2022, and, since 2023, had been serving as President of its General Assembly.

He will be remembered not only for his outstanding scientific and technical knowledge, but also for his integrity, intellectual generosity, dedication and remarkable ability to bring people and institutions together around shared goals. His legacy will endure through the research he advanced, the projects he inspired, the institutions he helped strengthen and the many people who had the privilege of learning from and working alongside him.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family, friends, colleagues, students and to the entire geoscientific community. In memory of Professor Joaquim Luís Galego Lopes, we pay our deepest tribute.

III) EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH IUGS

1) The 5th International Heritage Stone Workshop is coming to Portugal in 2027.

From 13 to 17 June, Évora - a UNESCO World Heritage city - will welcome researchers, geologists, architects, conservators, policymakers and industry professionals from around the world to explore the theme "From Quarries to Craft Practitioners and Buildings." Organised under the IUGS-ICG Subcommission on Heritage Stones, together with the University of Évora and the Institute of Earth Sciences (ICT), the workshop is proudly supported by our official partners ASSIMAGRA, Cluster Portugal Mineral Resources and Stone by Portugal. Five days following natural stone's full journey - from the quarry to the finished building. Call for abstracts, full programme and registration details coming soon. For now, mark your calendars!

2) The 12th Nepal Geological Congress will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Nepal Geological Society is organising the 12th Nepal Geological Congress (NGC-XII): The international Congress on Himalayan Geology and Mountain Geosciences, from 19 to 21 November 2026 in Kathmandu, Nepal, under the theme “Advancing Himalayan Geoscience for a Resilient, Sustainable and Resource-Secure World.” The congress is expected to bring together over 400 participants from Nepal and abroad. More information is available at: 12th Nepal Geological Congress – Nepal Geological Society

3) The International Symposium on Deep Earth Exploration and TopoAsia (DEEP&TOPO 2026)

The event will be held in Beijing, China, on 6–12 November 2026 to discuss the cutting-edge frontiers of deep Earth probing and the study of deep-surface coupling processes across the Asian continent and beyond. The academic program features 9 major scientific themes and 54 scientific sessions alongside short courses, strategic forums and round tables.
Download Circular: Second Circular of the Symposium PDF
Info & abstract submission: https://deeptopo.hyterp.cn/website/2981/pc-index.html?lange=2

IV) OTHER IMPORTANT NOTES

Submission note: To facilitate the efficient compilation and formatting of the EB, contributors are kindly requested to read the *Instructions for submission* carefully and follow the specified guidelines when preparing and submitting their contributions.

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 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 of two high-resolution (inserted in the text with **caption**) and attached as **JPG** to your email
- **Language**: Please ensure your text has been proofread for language
- **Text format: Please provide your contribution in plain text, not tables.**
- **Deadline for submission to Editors**: Please submit your news **before** the end of each month. For instance, January news (January EB) is published in the 2nd week of February at the latest. 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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