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## News at a Glance

### I - Executive Committee News

- IUGS President invited to World Conference on Climate Change
- IUGS Participation in the EuroGeoSurveys Meeting, Brussels
- 4<sup>th</sup> World Landslide Forum, Ljubljana, May-June 2017
- Call for Desktop Evaluators of 2016 Geopark Applications
- Installation of Early Warning Systems for Subduction Type Earthquakes and Tsunamis in the Japanese Trenches

### II - Commissions, Task Groups, Projects, Publications

- Diversity in IUGS Publications
- Resourcing Future Generations: Open Call for Proposals **[BREAKING NEWS!]**
- Scientific Board of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) News
- The “Anthropocene” epoch: Scientific decision or political statement?
- 35<sup>th</sup> IGC: Field trips Booking Opened
- IUGS Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information (CGI): Geoscience Web Services workshop at the 35th IGC, Cape Town
- IUGS Commission on Geoscience for Environmental Management (IUGS-GEM) Progress in 2015 and Plans for 2016
- Jane Plant – Obituary

### III - Affiliated Organizations and Partners News

- International Year for Global Understanding (IYGU) Events, Activities and Publications
- European Commission direct Aid Grant
- Updates from the International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG) and the International Association for Geoethics (IAGETH)

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## I - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

### IUGS PRESIDENT INVITED TO WORLD CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

IUGS president Prof. Roland Oberhänsli has been invited to the forthcoming World Conference on Climate Change (Climate Change 2016) on October 24-26, 2016 Valencia, Spain, a leading forum for Climatologists, Meteorologists, Researchers, Professors and students providing the environment to disseminate and gain current knowledge in the area of Global Warming and allied topics.



The main theme of the conference is “Updating our Understanding: Earth's Climate is Warming” which covers a wide range of critically important scientific sessions from basic research to innovations in the field of Climate Change.

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#### **IUGS PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROGEOSURVEYS MEETING, BRUSSELS**

The 40th EuroGeoSurveys (EGS) meeting held in Brussels, March 14–16, 2016 attracted representatives from the 32 member states integrated in EGS plus 40 invited guests that together participated in the EGS Directors Workshop dealing with “Scientific priorities for a modern Geological Survey”. IUGS was represented in the meeting by Secretary General José P. Calvo who gave a talk on Science and Innovation in Geoheritage. The talk was focused on the opportunities that new technologies, e.g. digital support, Google Earth platform, etc, provide for outreach and dissemination of geoheritage. Most of the ideas included in the presentation were furnished by the IUGS task groups on Geoheritage and Heritage Stone; officers are acknowledged. Other invited speakers in the Workshop talked about raw materials in the European Union, European marine observation and data network, influence of geosciences in Europe, energy systems with focus on geothermal energy, etc.

EuroGeoSurveys Executive Committee and Secretariat are acknowledged for their hospitality and perfect organization of the workshop. The meeting ran exactly one week before and at the same area of Brussels where some of the terrorist attacks hit the city.

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#### **4TH WORLD LANDSLIDE FORUM, LJUBLJANA, MAY-JUNE 2017**

Organizers of the 4th WLF are inviting all scientists dealing with landslides and other mass wasting processes to actively participate at the WLF that will be hosted in Ljubljana, Slovenia, the Green Capital of Europe in 2016. Abstract submission deadline is 8th May 2016. More information can be found at <http://www.wlf4.org/>. With IUGS strategy to establish the Task Group on Geohazards, our organization will be actively involved in the high-level forum that will coincide with the WLF.

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#### **CALL FOR DESKTOP EVALUATORS OF 2016 GEOPARK APPLICATIONS**

Dear IUGS Partners in Geoheritage,

The UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (GGN) provides a global platform of active cooperation between experts and practitioners in geological heritage. Under the umbrella of UNESCO and through regional network partners, significant national geological sites gain worldwide recognition and visibility through tourism as well as best practices within the scientific and education community.

A Geopark is an area with significant geological heritage with a strong management structure and sustainable economic development strategy in place. Within a designated Geopark area, geological heritage and education is promoted to visitors and local communities and makes links to the broader aspects of the area's natural and cultural environment.



The UNESCO Global Geoparks Network (GGN) continues to expand each year, currently comprising 120 Global Geoparks in 33 countries. In 2015, 17 new applications and two extension requests were submitted to UNESCO and these are now under evaluation. UNESCO GGN develops models of best practice and sets Geopark quality standards.

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is a partner with UNESCO and the GGN and assists in finding geoscientists who are willing to evaluate the geological sections of each new Geopark application for their international significance. IUGS is currently seeking reviewers for the geological sections of each of the seventeen (17) Geopark applications and for the two extension requests for 2016. Please respond if you are an expert in the field of geoscience relevant to one of the aspiring Geopark applications listed below (or if you can suggest an expert colleague), and are willing to examine the application file and complete a short evaluation form regarding the significance of the geological heritage under consideration. For a quicker overview we've prepared at the beginning of descriptions a short geological domains summary table for the applications.

We are seeking evaluators who have direct knowledge of the site or have expertise in the science being presented. Reviewers should either be experienced in the site or the science in order to provide expert judgment on the importance and international significance of the geological heritage of the aspiring Geopark. Reviewers will be sent the geological section of each application file and will receive a self-explanatory evaluation form. Evaluations are performed on a volunteer basis.

Your expert comments are very much appreciated as they are critical to the Geopark evaluation process and help maintain the global standards of the Global Geoparks Network.

#### IUGS Call for Geopark Application Reviewers:

This year timeline is very tight and is as follows:

- The complete geological section of the application, together with the evaluation form is available at the following page:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/global-geoparks/new-applications/>.

- The evaluation form/reviews returned by end of May.

If you are willing to perform a (desk-top) review on any one of the aspiring Geoparks, please reply as soon as possible and include the following information:

(1) Which of the Geopark applications are you willing to perform an evaluation of.

(2) Please state if you have direct experience with the site or expertise in the geoscientific values of the site.

(3) Please submit your full contact details including: name, title, institution/affiliation, full address, country, email, and area of scientific expertise.

Please submit this information before the **01 May 2016** to:

Marko Komac, IUGS Vice-President & liaison with Geoparks, [marko.komac@geo-zs.si](mailto:marko.komac@geo-zs.si).

## INSTALLATION OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR SUBDUCTION TYPE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS IN THE JAPANESE TRENCHES

(Yujiro Ogawa – IUGS Councillor, March 31, 2016; e-mail: [fyogawa45@yahoo.co.jp](mailto:fyogawa45@yahoo.co.jp))

The subduction zones of the world experience huge earthquakes and tsunamis that cause much loss of life, buildings and infrastructure, for example the well known 2004 Sumatra and 2011 Tohoku events. To reduce such serious losses, it is necessary to be warned of large earthquake and tsunami hazards as early as possible. Therefore Japan has installed two new systems of early warning detectors for both earthquakes and tsunamis along the Japanese trenches. One is called S-net along the Japan Trench and the southern Kuril Trench (off Tohoku, and Hokkaido). This consists of 150 sub-sea bottom recorders connected to a 5700 km long cable installed by the Japanese National Research Institute for Earth Science and Disaster Prevention (NIED) (Tsukuba) in March, 2016 (Fig. 1). This system will be used for early warning just after the occurrence of subduction type earthquakes along those trenches. It is expected that an alert would come approximately 30 seconds before the coming shaking and approximately 20 minutes before the tsunami reaches the coastlines.

The other system, called DONET, was installed in 2015 by Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) (Yokosuka) along the Nankai Trough off south Honshu to give similar earthquake and tsunami warnings before the effects reach places where people live. As shown in Fig. 2, the system is composed of sub-sea bottom seismometers and pressure gauges (for sea level change by tsunami waves). They have been placed on the Nankai Trough (trench) slope, and are connected by cables to on land monitors. This system, like the S-net, will give people a warning about 20 minutes before tsunami arrival. Therefore, even if a great subduction type earthquake occurs along the Japan trench and Nankai Trough), survivors of the onshore tremors will have 20 minutes to escape to higher ground.

Banks more than 15 m high have been, or are being, built along the Tohoku and SW Japan coasts. Some towns and villages where people live along coasts without nearby hills may construct 20 m or taller constructions as a precaution against potential high tsunamis. However, these might not always be effective for all the people because, if huge earthquakes occur, maximum 30 m high tsunamis might be anticipated, or if they occur at night. Therefore, people must always be prepared at any time to be informed by the early warning system.

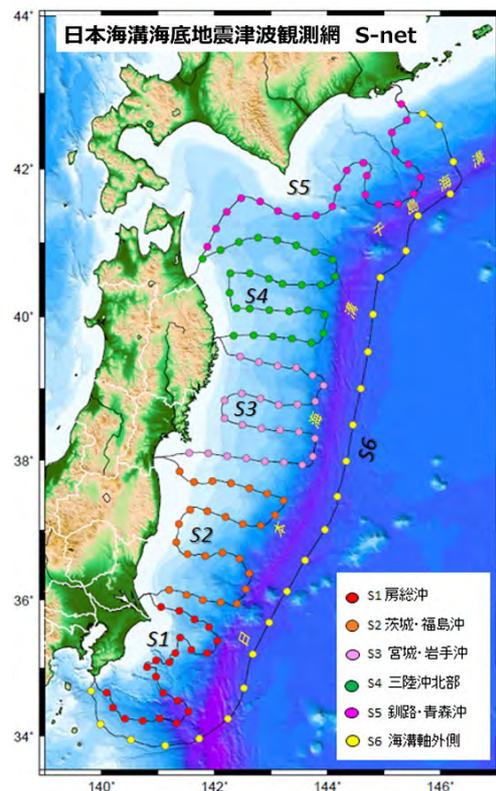


Figure 1 - S-net system of NIED off Northern Honshu and Hokkaido along Japan and Kuril Trenches. After [http://www.bosai.go.jp/press/2014/pdf/2015\\_0218\\_01.pdf](http://www.bosai.go.jp/press/2014/pdf/2015_0218_01.pdf)

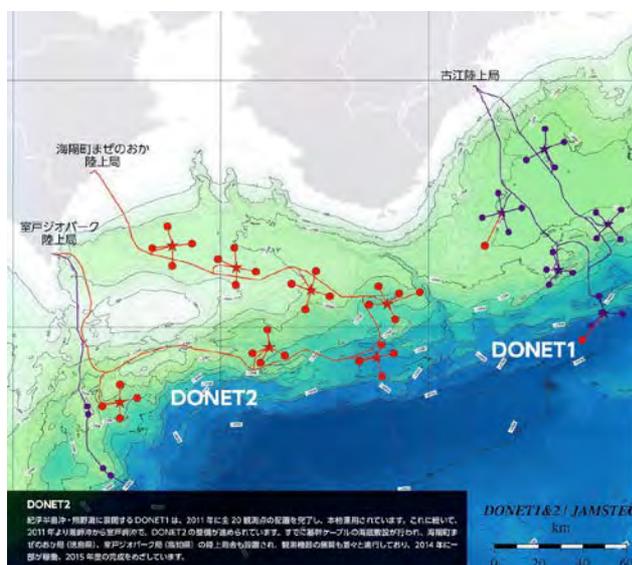


Fig. 2. DONET system of JAMSTEC 2015 off SW Japan along the Nankai Trough. After JAMSTEC leaflet. Refer to <https://www.jamstec.go.jp/donet/e/donet/>.

A key problem is maintenance of the detection systems in the long term. However it would be sensible to install similar systems throughout the potential hazard areas of the World. A matter of importance is the cost of the each project. Based information in the JAMSTEC website (<http://goo.gl/xmEvKC>), for S-net, the installation cost US\$3x108 and management (including maintenance and monitoring) will total US\$ 500 million each year, and for DONET, the installation cost was US\$ 1.5x108 and management (incl. maintenance and monitoring) will cost US\$ 350 million each year.

## References

Kaneda, Y., Kawaguchi, K., E. Araki, Matsumoto, H., Nakamura, T., Kamiya, S., Ariyoshi, K., Hori, T., Baba, T., and Takahashi, N., Development and application of an advanced ocean floor network system for megathrust earthquakes and tsunamis, *Seafloor Observatories*, P. Favali et al., Springer Praxis Books, doi 10.1007/978-3-642-11374-1\_25, pp. 643-662, 2015.

Kawaguchi, K., S. Kaneko, T. Nishida and T. Komine, Construction of the DONET real-time seafloor observatory for earthquakes and tsunami monitoring, *Seafloor Observatories*, P. Favali et al., Springer Praxis Books, doi 10.1007/978-3-642-11374-1\_10, pp. 211-228, 2015

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[http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/science/20160323-OYT1T50115.html?from=ytop\\_ylist](http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/science/20160323-OYT1T50115.html?from=ytop_ylist)

[http://www.bosai.go.jp/press/2014/pdf/20150218\\_01.pdf](http://www.bosai.go.jp/press/2014/pdf/20150218_01.pdf)

[http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/tyousakai/hyouka/haihu89/siryos3-4-](http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/tyousakai/hyouka/haihu89/siryos3-4-2.pdf#search=%27DONET+%E3%82%B3%E3%82%B9%E3%83%88%27)

[2.pdf#search=%27DONET+%E3%82%B3%E3%82%B9%E3%83%88%27](http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/tyousakai/hyouka/haihu89/siryos3-4-2.pdf#search=%27DONET+%E3%82%B3%E3%82%B9%E3%83%88%27)

## II- COMMISSIONS, TASK GROUPS, PROJECTS, PUBLICATIONS

### DIVERSITY IN IUGS PUBLICATIONS

IUGS Publications Committee, after evaluating the gender situation related to papers written by female scientists in Geosciences and female h index, as published in different articles in specialized journals, have started an action to promote diversity in Geosciences publications. The major goal is to present IUGS major publication [Episodes](#) as a gender friendly journal. As specific actions, the Publications Committee will encourage women, particularly from developing

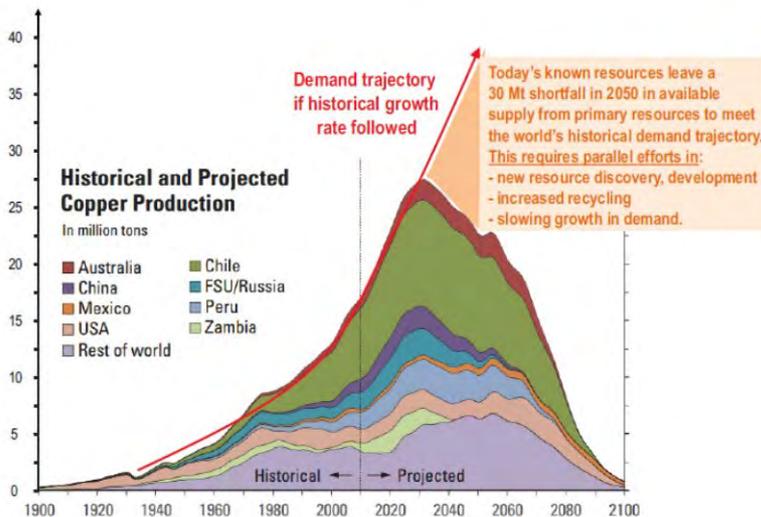
and emerging countries, to be involved in Episodes Editorial Board, will try to involve more women in reviewing papers, will encourage researchers, worldwide, to carry out studies on metrics involving these issues and to accept resulting papers in Episodes, and to advertise this actions in IUGS eBulletin, social media and other available tools.

## RESOURCING FUTURE GENERATIONS: OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS [BREAKING NEWS!]

Resourcing Future Generations (RFG) is a major initiative of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). It was launched in 2013 to bring world attention to the challenges of sustaining resource supplies and to outline a pathway to the future, including a route to nation-building and poverty alleviation through resource development. The RFG initiative includes a diverse group of geoscientists, economists, and environmental and social scientists drawn from a range of institutions with diverse private and public experience in exploration, mining, processing, environmental protection, and sustainable development. RFG aspires to be a fundamental service to humanity, not to vested interests in resource development.



IUGS now invites bids for small top-up grants to take forward discrete pieces of work in support of RFG. Details of the application process are below. The invitation is open to all though, in the event of equally judged applications, preference will be given to those from adhering members or affiliated organisations of IUGS. The closing date for the first round of applications is **noon UTC 31 May 2016**. A second round will be announced after the 35th IGC. Applications will be decided on the basis of excellence, novelty, timeliness and relevance to RFG by an awards panel comprising members of the RFG Core Group.



Primary Copper Production – Historical & Projected. Modified from Kerr 2014 and Northey et al 2014

### REMIT OF THE CALL

Applications are invited for

- Novel work on an aspect of RFG, which develops an ongoing piece of work or an already separately funded research grant;
- Organising and running a workshop to promote RFG or an RFG theme. All awards must start by 1 August 2016 and the work completed and outcomes reported by 31 January 2017. Grants will average \$3000, though exceptionally a larger sum may be awarded.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE



Applications must describe the work proposed and how it will advance one of the three themes of RFG

- Balancing resource supply and demand in the 21st century;
- The challenge of mineral supply: Accessing new resources from the Earth;
- Building additional capacity to facilitate responsible development in less developed nations.

The work must be capable of completion within 6 months of the agreed start of the award. Applications are to be submitted electronically as a word document stating:

- The name, position and host institution/body of the principal investigator together with the names and affiliation of any co-workers;
- The title of the project together with a brief description of the proposed work (no more than 200 words);
- The work proposed (in no more than 2000 words) including the research question to be addressed (if appropriate), the technical approach to be adopted, why it is important and timely, a project management plan, foreseen outcomes and how they link to and the benefits arising to RFG;
- Details of the funds sought with outline budget and how it links to existing research grant or other existing funding support. Submissions should be completed in single-spaced typescript of minimum font size 11 point Arial or another sans serif typeface of equivalent size to Arial 11, with margins of at least 2 cm. References must also be presented in a minimum font size of 11 point. Arial Narrow and Calibri are not allowable font types as they are smaller and any proposal which has used either of these font types within their submission will be rejected. Applicants referring to websites should note that the Awards Panel may choose not to use them.

#### CALL TIMETABLE

Call opens: 1 April 2016

Deadline for proposals: Noon (UTC) 31 May 2016

Assessment panel: June 2016

Grants awarded: July 2016

Grants start: 1 August 2016

Report submitted: 31 January 2017

#### CONTACT DETAILS

Grant applications should be sent to [edmund@geolsoc.org.uk](mailto:edmund@geolsoc.org.uk). Questions of clarification may be sent to the same address.

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#### SCIENTIFIC BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE PROGRAMME (IGCP) NEWS

The first symposium of the IGCP638 on geodynamics and mineralizations within the West African Craton (WAC) will take place in Dakar on December 5-10, 2016.

It will join together the international scientific community working on the geology of the old formations (Paleoproterozoic) for two (2) days conference and four (4) days field trip. Indeed, one of the working privileged sites for the study of geodynamics in relation to mineralizations of the Precambrian, is the Paleoproterozoic (Birimian) province of West Africa. It represents one of the most vast orogenic areas of the planet. For this IGCP project, the sets of themes will relate to geodynamics, mineralizations, geochemistry, geochronology, geophysics, cartography, lithology, sedimentology, imagery, water and environment (pollution and deforestation related to mines) and other related subjects.

The objectives are to: (i) create a framework of active exchanges between the actors of the field (researchers from academic and mining co., administration); (ii) upgrade and product of scientific knowledge for the update of scholar and high school programs in term of geology of the WAC



and facilitate mining exploration; (iii) reinforce the capacity of the participants on the geology of the Kédougou-Kéniéba Inlier (KKI) by means of a 4 days field trip (with possible rock sampling). Registrations are open online (<http://igcp638.univ.univ-rennes1.fr>).

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## THE “ANTHROPOCENE” EPOCH: SCIENTIFIC DECISION OR POLITICAL STATEMENT?

Despite what the media has made many to believe, the 'Anthropocene' is not a formally defined geological unit within the Geological Time Scale. However, the term has been used by scientists and has been particularly useful for the global change research community. The formalisation of this Unit is the task of the working group on the Anthropocene under the IUGS International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) [http:// www.stratigraphy.org](http://www.stratigraphy.org). To date, no formal proposal for this unit has been presented by the working group to ICS leaders. The activities of the ICS are conducted under 16 subcommissions, whose members work on specific, longer-term scientific tasks such as the standardization of stratigraphic units, the documentation and communication of major stratigraphic data to the global earth-science community, and international stratigraphic cooperation. All decisions of the full ICS Commission, comprised of over 2000 members in total, are subject to ratification of the IUGS Executive Committee. In their article “Anthropocene” epoch: Scientific decision or political statement?” ICS Chairman Stan Finney and Lucy Edwards (Commissioner, N. American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature) express their concern that the drive to formalise this particular unit of geological time may be political.

Download the article here: <http://www.geosociety.org/gsatoday/archive/26/3/pdf/i1052-5173-26-3-4.pdf>

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## 35<sup>TH</sup> IGC: FIELD TRIPS BOOKING OPENED

Field Trip booking for the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC is now open. Delegates may book online for the following excursions:

### Trips within South Africa

- Sixteen pre-congress field trips
- Ten post-congress field trips.

### Trips elsewhere in Africa

- Fifteen field trips covering parts of Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola, Tanzania, Mali and Ghana.

### One-day excursions

- Three day trips in the Gauteng area
- Eleven day trips in the Cape Town area
- A diverse selection of half- and one-day excursions in the Western Cape area for accompanying persons.



\*All tours will operate subject to the required minimum number of registrants and on designated dates only.



For more information on the booking process and more, please visit:

<http://www.35igc.org/Verso/173/Field-Trips>

Registered delegates - If you are already registered for the congress, use the same login details as your registration profile to book Field Trips. (Ensure you use the same email address and password when you created your profile).

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### **IUGS COMMISSION FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND APPLICATION OF GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION (CGI) - GEOSCIENCE WEB SERVICES WORKSHOP AT THE 35TH IGC, CAPE TOWN**

CGI is running a pre-conference one-day workshop entitled "Working with Interoperable Data" at the 35th International Geological Congress in Cape Town, on Sunday 28 August. The workshop will explain CGI and Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) geoscience data standards, and demonstrate how to apply them in delivering and consuming WMS and WFS web services. The workshop will be presented by international experts in geoscience data and web services from CGI, OGC, OneGeology, and INSPIRE.

Registration costs only 800 ZAR (54 USD, or 47 Euro). Please book early to assist organisation of the workshop.

<http://www.35igc.org/Page/258/Working-with-Interoperable-Data>

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### **IUGS COMMISSION ON GEOSCIENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (IUGS-GEM) PROGRESS IN 2015 AND PLANS FOR 2016**

The GEM Annual Business Meeting and Workshop was held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, in October 2015 in association with the VIETADAPTII Project on adaptation to climate change.

After two 4 year terms of activity, IUGS-GEM was given an exceptional third term extension in 2012. Therefore, 2016 is GEM's final year. Priorities for GEM, as a whole, during the year are to:

- maintain and promote the IUGS-GEM website;
- to publish a final newsletter in the Summer;
- continue activities of the 6 Working Groups with each holding at least one workshop or conference session each year;
- organize and sponsor conferences, short courses and workshops issues in numerous locations, particularly developing countries, and Working Group activities;
- Improve public, private and government appreciation and education of the role of geosciences in environmental planning and sustainable development.
- co-sponsor conferences, meetings, courses and workshops with other international organizations; and
- present technical and public lectures at numerous international venues;
- prepare and publish relevant geo-environmental papers, books, and brochures.

The final, closing, GEM Business Meeting will take place at the 35th IGC after which a final report will be prepared. The Commission also has two sessions planned for the Congress:  
a) Geoscience for Environmental Management (covering its whole range of activities); and  
b) Man-made Strata and Geopollution.

To follow IUGS-GEM news, please visit their website: <http://www.iugs-gem.org/>

### JANE PLANT – OBITUARY

Jane Plant, former IUGS Vice President, died early March after a long struggle with cancer. Condolences go to her husband Professor Peter Simpson. As well, to her family, many friends and colleagues in the international geological community. Jane Plant, Professor of Geochemistry at Imperial College, London, served as IUGS Vice President 2000-2004. The IUGS Task Group on Continental Geochemical Baselines, that emerged from IGCP Project 360, in 1997, was co-led by both the late Arthur Darnley and Jane Plant. The long term vision of Jane and others was to develop a geochemical map of the world's surface which would provide environmental baselines for the 21st century. IUGS will continue to work to ensure that this vision is fulfilled. Jane will be sadly missed.



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## III- AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERS NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING (IYGU) EVENTS, ACTIVITIES, AND PUBLICATIONS

The aim of IYGU is to promote better understanding of how the local impacts the global in order to foster smart policies to tackle critical global challenges such as climate change, food security and migration. The International Year of Global Understanding is now underway and throughout the year, a newsletter will be produced every three months to update on the process made and to inform you about upcoming events.

- The 2016 IGU International Geographical Congress will be held in Beijing. In addition to sessions that focus on the IYGU and, in collaboration with the YES Network, a concert targeted at young scientists with the theme "Promoting Global Understanding among Young Earth Scientists" has been suggested.
- A series of geographical colloquium conferences are underway or happening soon at several German-speaking universities in cities such as Kassel, Heidelberg, Leipzig, Vienna, Mainz, Nürnberg-Erlangen, and Bochum.
- X Photography Contest on Geodiversity - XI Congress of Young Geoscientists at the University of Coimbra on March 7.
- XI Congress of Young Geoscientists at the University of Coimbra – Celebrating 100 years of the Continental Drift Theory, on April 8-9 in Mação, Coimbra.

### Publications

- Benno Werlen, Luiz Oosterbeek, and Maria Helena Henriques will publish 2016 *International Year of Global Understanding: Building bridges between global thinking and local actions* in *Episodes*, the quarterly journal of the International Union of Geological Sciences.

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## EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECT AID GRANT

International Cooperation and Development - Building partnerships for change in developing countries.

The European Union's development policy seeks to eradicate poverty in a context of sustainable development. It is a cornerstone of EU relations with the outside world – alongside foreign, security and trade policy (and international aspects of other policies like environment, agriculture and fisheries) providing over 50% of all global development aid; the EU is the world's leading donor. Do you have a project of local, social, economic or rural development, within Europe, Asia, Africa, or are you an Entrepreneur with a viable start up? If so, you are eligible to apply for an EU Grant.

The ENPI is the funding instrument for European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) which covers cooperation with South Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Jordan, Israel, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, the occupied Palestinian territory and East neighborhood countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine). Russia has concluded a cooperation framework with the EU outside the ENP.

Grants fall into two categories:

- Grants for actions: aim to achieve an objective that forms part of an external aid programme.
- Operating grants: finance the operating expenditure of an EU body that is pursuing an aim of general European interest or an objective that forms part of an EU policy.

Grants are based on the reimbursement of the eligible costs, in other words, costs effectively incurred by the beneficiaries that are deemed necessary for carrying out the activities in question. The results of the action remain the property of the beneficiaries.

Grants are subject to a written agreement signed by the two parties and, as a general rule, require co-financing by the grant beneficiary. Since grants cover a very diverse range of fields, the specific conditions that need to be fulfilled may vary from one area of activity to another.

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## RECENT NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING GEOETHICS (IAPG)

The IAEG and IAPG officially signed an agreement for collaboration on 25 March 2016: <http://www.geoethics.org/#!affs-agrs/cudm>

The programme for the IAPG session on Geoethics at the EGU General Assembly 2016 is now out: <http://www.geoethics.org/#!egu2016-eos5/ly2oj>

The IAPG symposium on Geoethics at the next 35th IGC has 40 abstracts. The final programme is now being finalized in collaboration with the Champions of the Theme (Theme: Global Geoscience Professionalism and Geoethics).

The IAPG has new calls for abstract open for the following events:

- 35th General Assembly of the European Seismological Commission, Trieste (Italy), 4-10 September 2016: Session P46 "Geoethics: a new way of thinking and practicing geosciences".
- 88th Congress of the Italian Geological Society, Napoli (Italy), 7-9 September 2016: Session 04 "From school and citizen seismology to geoethics".



Finally, the IAPG has a new section in Nepal. The section will work under the responsibility of Shree Prasad Vista, Senior Scientist at the Soil Science Division of the Nepal Agricultural Research Council, and Secretary General of the Nepalese Society of Soil Science. List of IAPG national sections: <http://www.geoethics.org/#!/sections/cdy3>

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#### UPDATES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR GEOETHICS (IAGETH)

IAGETH awarded by the ArabGU for its international role in Geosciences - The Arabian Geoscience Union (ArabGU) has recognized the significant role in Geoscience of the International Association for Geoethics (IAGETH) in an official event, which took place during the opening of the 1 International Conference of the ArabGU, AIC-1 (University of Sciences and Technology Houari Boumediene, Algiers, Algeria, 17-18 February 2016). During the opening ceremony it was also highlighted that the recent [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between both institutions (ArabGU and IAGETH), which in a great part is an output of the previous MoU signed by the international association with the Geological Society of Africa to promote geoethics in Africa.

Memorandum of Understanding signed between Geoscience Information in Africa Network (GIRAF) and the IAGETH - The 4<sup>th</sup> GIRAF Workshop took place recently in Maputo, Mozambique (6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015) with the participation of many African and non-African experts. An MoU was signed by Prof. Jesús Martínez-Frías, President of IAGETH, and Dr. Mesfin Gebremichael, Deputy chair of the GIRAF to sign the MoU by the two parties. The document can be read in this [link](#). The objective of the MoU is to bring the two organizations together to raise the awareness in African geoscientists to the importance of giving due attention to ethical aspects and issues during their professional activities

IAGETH Working Group on Astrobioethics – In the frame of a collaboration with Prof. Muriel Gargaud (President of the *Société Française d'Exobiologie* and Chair of the [TD 1308 COST Action ORIGINS](#)), an agreement on the creation of an International Working Group on Astrobioethics took place. One of the main tasks of the working group will be to analyze the potential societal and ethical implications related to astrobiology, taking into account the complexity of the connections between its main scientific issues and goals (see, for instance, the NASA Astrobiology Institute Astrobiology Roadmap), and considering the synergies between both bioethical and geoethical approaches (from microbes to humans and from the Earth to space environments).



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## NOTES

- If you require notices, information on publications, etc. to be considered for inclusion in forthcoming IUGS e-bulletins, please mail to [barich@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:barich@uni-potsdam.de) or [amel.barich@gmail.com](mailto:amel.barich@gmail.com).
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