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## **IUGS E-BULLETIN (NO. 55, SEPTEMBER 2010)**

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### **GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS (GEO) MEETINGS IN BEIJING, CHINA**

As a Participating Organization the IUGS has been invited to attend the Seventh Plenary Session of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO-VII) which will take place on 3-4 November 2010 at the China National Convention Centre in Beijing. The Government of the People's Republic of China is also inviting Ministers from the GEO's 80 Member Governments and the European Commission, together with the heads of GEO's 58 Participating Organizations, to a Ministerial Summit in Beijing on 5 November 2010 immediately following the GEO-VII. The Beijing Ministerial Summit will offer an opportunity to engage with other global leaders and to shape the international strategy for Earth observation over the next five years.

One of the key issues to be considered in Beijing, will be to encourage Ministers to pledge full and open access to specific sets of previously hard-to-find national data, and particularly in-situ data which are critical for managing water and food supplies and other natural resources. They will be invited to endorse the Implementation Guidelines and Action Plan for The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) Data Sharing Principles, to advocate for additional resources for capacity building, and for national Earth observation programs and applications. They will review the progress achieved by GEOSS and plan for its future, and discuss how GEOSS can support the international response to the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals and other priority issues facing the global community. (More information on the GEO at their website <http://www.earthobservations.org/> and on the Summit website at <http://www.earthobservations.org/meetings/geo7.html>

### **34TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC) BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA, 2012**

Before the end of this month the IGC Organising Committee will release its first Circular with information on the proposed Themes and proposed Symposia (sub-Themes) for the 34th IGC in Brisbane, Australia from 5-10 August 2012. This will be posted on the IGC website at <http://www.34igc.org/>. If readers wish to suggest other Symposia or Theme, or wish to volunteer to assist in organising a particular Symposia or Theme, or plan to exhibit/sponsor at the 34th IGC the Organising Committee are very keen to receive your suggestions. Also to get your name on the list for future announcements you are invited to register your interest now at the IGC website at <http://www.34igc.org/expression-of-interest.html>, through the "Register your interest" tab. By registering your details you will be amongst the first to be advised when IGC registration opens in 2011. Registrations received within the first 100 days of the Early Bird registration opening will be in the running to win a free airfare (economy class) to Australia. Also visit the website to check out some of the wide range of scientific tours/field-trips currently being planned in Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia etc. Go to the "Congress Field Trips" tab on the front page of the IGC website. The IUGS invites the IUGS Commissions, IGCP Projects, and Affiliate Members to participate actively in the IGC (with specific Symposia, etc.).

### **EPISODES THE IUGS QUARTERLY JOURNAL - CALL FOR ARTICLES**

Dr. Mudlappa JAYANANDA, the Editor for Episodes welcomes short, innovative, scientific articles, as well as items dealing with geological sciences and society. For guidance on contributions etc. visit the web address at <http://www.episodes.org/Files/Guidance.htm> Spectacular geological photographs for the magazine cover, etc. are also welcome. To submit your papers, or to make any other enquiries, contact Dr. JAYANANDA at email: [episodes.editor@gmail.com](mailto:episodes.editor@gmail.com). Back issues of "Episodes" from 1978 to 2008 are available on-line at <http://www.episodes.org/backissues.htm> and the latest back issues are available on the new Indian website for Episodes at: <http://www.episodes.co.in>

## **UN LAUNCHES DECADE-LONG EFFORTS TO TACKLE DESERTIFICATION**

The United Nations has launched The Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020), an 11-year long effort to raise awareness and action to improve the protection and management of the world's drylands, home to a third of the world's population and which face serious economic and environmental threats. In a statement announcing the launch UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said "Continued land degradation, whether from climate change, unsustainable agriculture or poor management of water resources, is a threat to food security, leading to starvation among the most acutely affected communities and robbing the world of productive land.

As we begin the Decade on Deserts and the Fight against Desertification, let us pledge to intensify our efforts to nurture the land we need for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and guaranteeing human well-being, he added.

On a global scale, desertification defined as "land degradation in drylands" affects 3.6 billion hectares, which accounts for 25 percent of the Earth's terrestrial land mass. It threatens the livelihoods of more than 1 billion people in some 100 countries. Against this backdrop, member states of the United Nations addressed growing desertification and land degradation by adopting a resolution to dedicate the next decade to combating desertification and improving the protection and management of the world's drylands in 2007.

The global launch took place in Fortaleza, Brazil, in the State of Ceara, Brazil's semi-arid Region, during the Second International Conference on Climate, Sustainability and Development in Semi-arid Regions. Also on the same day the regional launch for Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya, at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Other regional launches are scheduled to take place in New York, in September, for the North American Region, in the Republic of Korea in October, for the Asian Region, and in November for the European region. Details at < <http://unddd.unccd.int/> >

## **AGI WELCOMES KARST WATERS INSTITUTE AS 47TH MEMBER SOCIETY**

The Karst Waters Institute (KWI) has joined the American Geological Institute (AGI) as the Federation's 47th Member Society. The KWI is a non-profit institution whose mission is to improve the fundamental understanding of karst water systems through sound scientific research and education of professionals and the public. KWI uses a multi-disciplinary approach to research karst aquifers and terrains.

More than 25 percent of the world's population either lives on or obtains its water from karst aquifers. In the United States, 20 percent of the land surface is karst, predominately in Florida, Texas, Missouri, and the Appalachian Mountains region. Nearly 40 percent of all groundwater used for drinking comes from karst aquifers. Common geological characteristics of karst regions include caves and caverns, unpredictable but sometimes prolific water supply, ground subsidence, sinkhole collapse, and groundwater contamination problems. By joining AGI, Karst Waters Institute will increase awareness within the geoscience community and with the general public of the geological and ecological importance of karst terrains and aquifers. More information at <[www.agiweb.org/news/Karst47.pdf](http://www.agiweb.org/news/Karst47.pdf)>. For KWI information go to: <<http://www.karstwaters.org/>>

## **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH (IYPE) FINAL QUARTERLY REPORT - AUGUST 2010.**

This Report for the 2nd Quarter of 2010 covers the period 1 April to 30 June and is the last Quarterly Report of the IYPE Corporation which completed its task and was dissolved on 30 June 2010. The report can be downloaded from: <http://iugs.org/uploads/Q2%202010%20Report%20IYPE.pdf>

## **NEED TO CONTACT A GEOSCIENCE ORGANIZATION SOMEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD?**

See the Directory of Geoscience Organizations of the World website:  
<http://www.gsj.jp/Intl/Dir/a.htm>

## **RECENT INFORMATION ON PUBLICATIONS, JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS**

"Earth Explorer" is a magazine and online news site dedicated to covering the ideas, people and companies that contribute to discovery success within exploration industries and the earth sciences. The magazine features stories on the trends, techniques, and technologies, contributing to new discoveries. To receive a free copy of Earth Explorer magazine, and email updates of the latest news, go to  
[http://www.earthexplorer.com/About\\_Earth\\_Explorer.asp](http://www.earthexplorer.com/About_Earth_Explorer.asp).

"ICSU Insight" the Newsletter of the International Council for Science (ICSU) for July 2010 is now available and can be downloaded from the IUGS website at:  
<http://iugs.org/uploads/ICSU%20Newsletter%20vol18%20num2.pdf>. To subscribe to the newsletter go to:  
[http://www.icsu.org/3\\_mediacentre/INSIGHT\\_1.html](http://www.icsu.org/3_mediacentre/INSIGHT_1.html).

"Erosion Control" For details on the latest September-October 2010 edition of the official journal of the Erosion Control Association go to <http://www.erosioncontrol.com/index.aspx>

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

For a listing of forthcoming geoscience meetings, conferences, and workshops of interest check the Calendar section of the IUGS website (which includes previous e-bulletin announcements) at:  
<http://iugs.org/index.php?page=calendar&phpMyAdmin=2c9f06db78f0953a55b10dcfdc5907f6>

For previous E-Bulletin Meetings, dates and websites:  
<http://iugs.org/index.php?page=e-bulletins>

October 1-5, 2010. 9th European Geoparks Conference 2010. Lesvos Petrified Forest Geopark, Lesvos Island, Greece. Theme: "GEOPARKS - Learning from the Past, Building a Sustainable Future". More information at: <http://www.petrifiedforest.gr/Lesvos2010/index.htm>

October 4-5, 2010. The IUGS Commission on Geoscience for Environmental Management (IUGS-GEM) is holding its Annual Meeting in Windhoek, Namibia. The meeting is being hosted with support from the Geological Survey of Namibia. Tentative meeting agenda: Oct 4: Workshops Program A. Themes: Communicating Geosciences; Climate Change Adaptation; Forensic Geology. Oct 5: Workshops Program B. Themes: Dust; Gold and Mercury; Man Made Strata. Followed by a 3-day Field Trip (Oct 6,7,8). The meeting is open to any interested visitors. More information at: <http://www.iugs-gem.org/>

October 24-27, 2010. The 22nd CODATA International Conference "Scientific Information for Society: Scientific Data and Sustainable Development" will take place in Cape Town, South Africa. This conference of the ICSU Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) is organized in collaboration with the National Research Foundation, and will provide an international forum for scientists and policy makers to discuss global data challenges, including the critical role that scientific data and information plays in the scientific, social, economic and policy evolution of nations. For details go to: <http://www.codata2010.com/>

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July 3-8, 2011, "XVII International Congress for Carboniferous and Permian", Perth, Australia. The ICCP is held every 4 years and concerns the Carboniferous and Permian global changes as well as end-Permian mass extinction and subsequent recovery in Triassic. Contacts: Zhong Chen (zqchen@cyllene.uwa.edu.au) or David Haig (david.haig@uwa.edu.au) Details on the website <http://www.iccp2011.org>

August 1-5, 2011: The 10th International Congress for Applied Mineralogy (ICAM), Trondheim, Norway. The first circular is available for download at the Congress website. Deadline for submission of preliminary abstracts 15 November 2010, workshop proposals: 01 December 2010. Further details and registration of interest at: <http://www.icam2011.org>. Contact: Maarten.Broekmans@NGU.no

August 2-10, 2011. INHIGEO 2011 Japan Conference 36, Toyohashi, Japan. The International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO) conference will have the Theme: "Visual Images and Geological Concepts". Session 1 - "History of geologic maps and related geological images in the world", Session 2 - "History of seismology, vulcanology and tectonics". An associated five days post-conference excursion is planned to the Kii Peninsula, focussing on the geology of the outer zone of southwest Japan. Japanese Shintoism and Buddhism cultures are also appreciated with visits to the Kiwa Mine(copper) and Nachi Waterfall (World Heritage) on this pilgrimage route. Full information at: [www.inhigeo-jp.org](http://www.inhigeo-jp.org)

September 20-25, 2011. 4th International Conference on Medical Geology. Bari, Italy. Organised by the International Medical Geology Association (IMGA), the Italian Chapter on Medical Geology, and the Italian Association for the Study of Clays (AISA). The theme of the Conference "Geological & Medical Sciences for a Safer Environment" provides a unique opportunity for mineralogists, physicians, soil scientists, toxicologists, geochemists, veterinarians, biologists, chemists and for many other specialists to share ideas and knowledge on the impact of the natural environment on health. For more information see: <http://www.geomed2011.it/index.html>.

September 24-28, 2010. Working Group on Global Warming Conference & Expo 10 (WGGW Conference & Expo 10), at Mayfair Hotel UK, 26 Park Lane London, United Kingdom. For details see <http://www.wggw10.com/participation.htm>

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August 2-10, 2012. "34th International Geological Congress" (IGC) in Brisbane, Australia. The primary IUGS conference that is held every 4 years. See the Congress website at: <http://www.34igc.org/>

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To view back issues of the IUGS E-Bulletin go to  
<http://iugs.org/index.php?page=e-bulletins>

With best regards,  
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