THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOESCIENCE PROGRAMME (IGCP)

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the IUGS - UNESCO’s International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) a conference was held on 22 February 2012, at UNESCO’s Headquarters in Paris, France.

Launched in 1972, the International Geoscience Programme supports international cooperation in geology. It serves as a network for thousands of scientists worldwide, notably in developing countries and focuses on projects relating to present concerns such as georisks, hydrology and climate change and modelization projects based on geological data. Over 335 projects in about 150 countries with contributions of thousands of Earth scientists attest to the scientific and applied quality of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) since its inception in 1972.

The 40th IGCP anniversary conference was opened by UNESCO’s Director-General, Irina Bokova, and by the President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Alberto Riccardi. The opening was followed by two presentations on the “Main results of IGCP’s 40 years”, by V. Vajda, IGCP Chair, Lund University, Sweden, and the “Importance of Geosciences for Society”, by I. Stewart, Plymouth University, UK.

The forum brought together numerous experts from different parts of the world and its purpose was to take stock of the achievements and challenges of the International Programme and map the road ahead.

There were a series of talks on the “Relevance of IGCP”, with J-P Cadet (UNESCO, France) as Moderator, beginning with a “History of IGCP” by E. Derbyshy (former IGCP Chair, UK), followed by presentations on key results and vision of the different IGCP themes, i.e. “Earth Resources: Sustaining our Society”, by R. Seltmann, Natural History Museum, London, UK; “Global Change and Evolution of Life: Evidence from the geological record”, by P. Vickers-Rich, Monash University, Australia; “Geohazards: Mitigating the risks”, by M. Sintubin, Leuven University, Belgium; “Geoscience of the water cycle”, by C. Zhang, International Research Centre on Karst, China; “Deep Earth: How it controls our environment”, by Y. Dilek, Miami University, USA.

There were also two panel discussions, one on “The Geoscience Challenges for the Planet” with the participation of H. Campbell (New Zealand IGCP NC, Moderator), T. Casadevall (U.S. IUGS & IGCP NC, US Geological Survey, USA), S. Dong (Chinese Academy of Geological Sciences, China), S. Leroy (IGCP Project Leader, Brunel University, UK), G. McBean (President-Elect, ICSU), X. Le Pichon (French Academy of Sciences, France). The second panel discussion was focused on “IGCP and other Earth Science global programmes” and had the participation of J. Ludden (British Geological Survey, UK, Moderator), G. Kalonji (Assistant Director General for Natural Sciences, UNESCO), A. Riccardi (President IUGS, Argentina), S. Cloetingh (Chair,
TALES SET IN STONE: 40 YEARS OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE PROGRAMME (IGCP)
As part of the celebration of the 40th years of the IGCP an anniversary book entitled “Tales Set in Stone, 40 Years of the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)” was published in English, French and Spanish. The book, profusely illustrated in colour, includes a brief history of the IGCP and in 6 main sections and 15 chapters, with selected examples of IGCP projects, it traces the main achievements of this programme of international scientific cooperation to service of society. The pdf can be downloaded from http://www.unesco.org/new/igcp40

THE JAMES HARRISON OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
The James Harrison Outstanding Achievement Award was established in 2004 to express the gratitude of the IUGS to those persons who have devoted an extraordinary amount of personal time and effort addressing the mission and the activities of the Union. Nominees for this Award should have made an outstanding contribution to the Union over a sustained period of time and must still be alive and thus able to accept the award in person on the occasion of the next International Geological Congress. Active officers of the IUGS Executive Committee, IUGS Committees, as well as IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, and Initiatives, are not eligible for nomination for this Award. Nominations comprising a short covering letter, letters of support, and a copy of the candidate’s short CV stressing the contributions made to the IUGS can be submitted by anyone in the IUGS family. Nomination packages should be submitted to the IUGS Secretary-General (pbobrows@nrcan.gc.ca) with a copy to the IUGS Secretariat (iugs@usgs.gov) before the deadline for receipt of nominations which close on 16 April 2012. The IUGS Executive Committee will evaluate the nominations and the successful candidate will be officially recognized on the occasion of the 34th IGC in Brisbane, Australia in August 2012.

63RD IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
On 14-17 February 2012 the 63rd IUGS Executive Committee (EC) Meeting was held at the Palace of the Deputation of Donostia, in San Sebastian, Spain. This was the first EC meeting held in Spain and was kindly hosted by the Geological and Mining Institute of Spain (IGME) and the Deputation of Donostia-San Sebastian. During the meeting activities for 2011 and 2012 of Adhering and Affiliated members, and IUGS bodies, were discussed, as well as the budget for the same years. The following items, among others, were also considered: proposed changes to the IUGS Statutes and Bye-Laws, a draft of a new Strategic Plan, joint initiatives with UNESCO, ICSU and other GeoUnions, IUGS new awards, and activities related to the International Geological Congress. On 18 February a visit to Zumaia, arranged by the local authorities and hosted by the Mayor of Zumaia and the Deputy for Innovation, Rural development and Tourism of the Gipuzkoa deputation, was attended by the IUGS President, the Chair of the International Commission on Stratigraphy, and some members of the EC, and of other IUGS bodies. The visit along the Zumaia coast saw the Upper Cretaceous-Lower Tertiary continuous section where two GSSPs have been established defining the Danian/Selandian and Selandian/Thanetian boundaries. The Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary is also well exposed.

DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE LUTETIAN GSSP
On 13 February 2012 the Golden Spike defining the base of the Lutetian Stage (early/middle Eocene boundary) was placed at 167.85 in the Gorrondtaxe sea-cliff section (NW of Bilbao city, Basque Country, northern Spain; 43°22'46.47” N, 3° 00’ 51.61” W). Present at the ceremony were the Mayor of Getxo, Imanolo Landaz, the Chair of the International Commission on Stratigraphy, Stan Finney, the Chair of the Subcommission on Paleogene, Eustoqio Molina, the leader of the Gorrondtaxe research team, Xabier Orue-Etxebarria, and other members of the local and international scientific community. The ceremony was also attended by the President of the IUGS and members of the IUGS Executive Committee and other IUGS bodies.

EARTH SCIENCE EDUCATION INITIATIVE IN AFRICA
On 23 February 2012, and as an aftermath of the celebration of the IGCP 40th anniversary, a Workshop on “Earth Science Educations events” and “Earth Science education initiative in Africa” was held at UNESCO’s Headquarters, in Paris, France. The meeting provided an update on the work underway on Earth science education in Africa, as an important element for sustainable development, opening opportunities for Africans for the careful management and prosperous use of their natural wealth. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss concrete ways to expand, through strategic partnerships, the relationship between education and research, a critical question during the 40th anniversary of the IGCP which was focused on the importance of scientific cooperation.
cooperation for the future of earth science and its relevance to society. The Chair of the IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE) also made a presentation on IUGS activities related to this. The meeting was attended by the IUGS President, and members of the EC.

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ICSU APPOINTED
ICSU has announced that Dr. Steven Wilson has been appointed as the new Executive Director and will provide important leadership as ICSU seeks to implement its newly approved second Strategic Plan 2012-2017. Dr. Wilson will take up his duties on 1 April 2012. After working for the UK Meteorological Office, Dr. Wilson joined the UK National Environment Research Council (NERC) in 1998. He held a number of senior posts, including that of the NERC Director of Earth Observation. In this period he led the British National Space Centre’s Earth Observation activities, represented the UK environmental science community at the European Space Agency (ESA) Council, and chaired the ESA Earth Observation Programme Board. More information: http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/press-releases/press-releases-2012/icsu2019s-new-executive-director-appointed/press-release

ICSU WORLD DATA SYSTEM NAMES ITS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Dr. Mustapha Mokrane has been appointed as Executive Director of ICSU’s World Data System (WDS). Dr. Mokrane, currently Science and Information Technology Officer at ICSU’s Secretariat in Paris, will take up his appointment in March 2012. As Executive Director, Mokrane will head the newly established WDS International Programme Office, which is hosted by the Japanese National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) in Tokyo. Details at: http://www.icsu-wds.org/organization/events/51-wds-executive-director

NEW ICSU INITIATIVE - "FUTURE EARTH"
“Future Earth – research for global sustainability” will be the name of the new ten-year initiative on Earth system research for global sustainability being established through the partnership of ICSU, ISSC, the Belmont Forum, UNESCO, UNEP and UNU, with WMO as observer. At its second meeting, just concluded in San Francisco, the Transition Team overseeing the design phase for the initiative agreed on the name and worked towards defining the conceptual framework, research strategy, and institutional design for Future Earth. A meeting report will be available soon. See: http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/news/top-news/201cfuture-earth201d-is-born

NEW DIRECTOR OF THE GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS (GEO) SECRETARIAT
The GEO Co-Chairs, on behalf of the GEO Executive Committee, have formally announced the selection of Ms Barbara Ryan to succeed Professor Jose Achache as the Director of the GEO Secretariat. Ms Ryan, currently the Director of the World Meteorological Organization’s Space Programme, has long experience in Earth observations and their application to a broad range of societal needs and is a widely respected member of the GEO community. The Co-Chairs have also announced their sincere thanks to Professor Achache for his enormous contributions to the formation of GEO and the establishment of the Global Earth Observation System of System (GEOSS) over the last six years. Website at: http://www.earthobservations.org/index.shtml

IUGS FORENSIC GEOLOGY INITIATIVE NEW WEBSITE.
The IUGS Initiative on Forensic Geology has its own website at: http://www.forensicgeologyinternational.com/
The Initiative will be hosting a session at the IGC, Brisbane, in Theme 1: Geoscience and Society, Symposium 4: Forensic geoscience.

NEW REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE IN THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)
The National Research Council (NRC) of the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has just released a report on the potential future international role of the USGS. The report “International Science in the National Interest at the U.S. Geological Survey” was produced by an expert committee of the National Academies. The report found that in the next 5-10 years opportunities abound for the USGS to strategically pursue international science on growing worldwide problems having a direct impact on the United States. In the international arena each of the seven USGS mission areas (climate and land-use change; core science systems; ecosystems; energy and minerals; environmental health; natural hazards; and water) has a significant role to play. The review found that USGS’ international role extends to all mission areas (earth sciences, biological sciences, hydrology, geography and remote sensing); the USGS activities in the international arena bolster its domestic programs; the USGS should be more proactive, systematic and interdisciplinary in the international arena; the USGS needs to be more open about publicizing its international efforts; and the USGS needs to devote more resources to its international efforts. See the National Academies website at: http://dels.nas.edu/Report/international-science/13302
NEED TO CONTACT A GEOSCIENCE ORGANIZATION SOMEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD?
The Directory is produced by the Geological Survey of Japan (GSJ) and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST). The directory is published as both paper-based and digitized versions. For additions, corrections, or updates email: intl@gsj.jp

RECENT INFORMATION ON PUBLICATIONS, JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS


CCOP E-News - The Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) produces the CCOP E-News See their website at: http://www.cccop.or.th/download/e-news/CCOP_e-news


EFG - The European Federation of Geologists (EFG) magazine "European Geologist" can be downloaded from: http://www.eurogeologists.eu/

EGS - EuroGeoSurveys a consortium of 32 European Geological Surveys which aims to address European geoscience for society. See their EuroGeoSurveys Newsletters at: http://eurogeosurveys.org/newsletters.html. To automatically receive the issues of the Newsletter, you can register online at: http://www.eurogeosurveys.org/newsletterssubscription.html


GEOETHICS - The latest copies of the "Geoethics News" newsletter can be downloading from the Geoethics website at: http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics_Planetary_Protection/


GSAf - The Geological Society of Africa (GSAf) Newsletters can be downloaded from the Home page of the Society at: http://www.geologicalsocietyofafrica.org


IAG - The International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG/AIG) publishes its newsletter at 3 month intervals. The Newsletters can be downloaded at: http://www.geomorph.org/pb/pbnews.html

IAH - The International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) publishes "Groundwater eNews" every 2 months. See their website at: http://www.iah.org/news_enews.asp.

ICSU - the International Council for Science (ICSU) newsletter "ICSU Insight" will keep you up to date with ICSU global and regional activities, latest publications, and events. View the newsletters at: http://www.icsu.org/news-centre/insight. Visit the ICSU website at: http://www.icsu.org/

IFA - The International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA) has produced a Fertilizer Glossary that is now available on-line in five languages: English, French, German, Spanish and Chinese. There are more than 150 terms and expressions related to fertilizer use, soil science, fertilizer manufacture and analysis, and application machinery and methods. See it at: http://www.fertilizer.org/ifa/HomePage/LIBRARY/Glossary-of-fertilizer-terms

IGBP - The International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) website is at: http://www.igbp.net and their News archive is at: http://www.igbp.net/4.d8b4c3c12bf3be638a8000369.html
IMGA - The International Medical Geology Association (IMGA) newsletter can be downloaded from their website at: http://www.medicalgeology.org/pages/public/publications/page_Publications.htm


IUGS - To download back issues of the IUGS "Episodes" magazine see: http://www.episodes.co.in/www/backissues.htm. Also E-Bulletins of the IUGS issued since October 2002 can be found at: http://iugs.org/index.php?page=e-bulletins

IUSS - The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) Bulletin can be downloaded in high and low resolution PDF from http://www.iuss.org. The monthly IUSS Alert newsletter can be accessed via the same page

OneGeology - an international initiative of the geological surveys of the world with a target of creating dynamic geological map data of the world, available to everyone via the web see: http://www.onegeology.org/

ProGEO News - the newsletter of the European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage can be downloaded from: http://www.progeo.se/

RCMNS - Bulletin of the Regional Committee on Mediterranean Neogene Stratigraphy downloadable from: http://www.geomare.na.cnr.it/

SCAR - The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is a committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU) charged with the initiation, promotion, and co-ordination, of scientific research in Antarctica. SCAR also provides international, independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty system and other bodies. To download the recent issues of the SCAR Newsletters go to: http://www.scar.org/news/newsletters/issues2011/. For their recently released "Antarctic Science and Policy Advice in a Changing World. SCAR Strategic Plan 2011-2016" see: http://www.scar.org/strategicplan2011/


FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

NOTE the listings of forthcoming meetings shown below will normally be included in an IUGS E-Bulletin only once but will appear on the IUGS website until the event. The IUGS website (www.iugs.org) lists more “geo” related events than any other website devoted to such information. Analysis of the IUGS 2010 website statistics indicates that the “IUGS Calendar” section is the most frequently visited element of our website with regular hits from over 160 countries. The IUGS is pleased to continue this service to help promote all “geo” related events. Please send your meeting posting requests directly to the IUGS Secretary General at pbobrows@nrcan.gc.ca. To see the IUGS listing of forthcoming geoscience meetings, conferences, and workshops, go to the Calendar section of the IUGS website at: http://iugs.org/index.php?page=calendar&phpMyAdmin=2c9f06db78f0953a55b10dcfcd5907f6

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March 11-17, 2012. NGWA National Groundwater Awareness Week. See: http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/awareness/Pages/default.aspx


April 2-4, 20123. The 5th GEOSS Asia-Pacific Symposium. Tokyo, Japan. The Symposium is being organized by the GEO Secretariat and GEO Japan, with the support of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and
Technology (MEXT). It will address the theme of "GEO Initiatives towards Green Growth in the Asia-Pacific Region", promote societal benefits from the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), and discuss how GEOSS can contribute to the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Website: http://www.geoss-ap-symposium.org/index.html

April 16-20, 2012. 1st World Meeting of the International Geophysical Research Union (IGRU) "Physics and Earth Science" Meeting 2012, Fiuggi, Italy. The main topics of the 1st World Meeting are: Geophysics, Seismology, Volcanology, and Earthquake Precursors. For further information see http://www.igru.org/ or contact the helpdesk at: helpdesk@igru.org


June 4-6, 2012. NGWA Hydrogeology Field Methods Course: "What You Didn’t Learn in School". Andover, Minnesota, USA. Three-day short course designed for new and soon-to-be groundwater professionals wishing to bridge the gap between scientific theory/academia and critical real-world field experience and daily operations. Among other items, attendees will learn about RQDs, field classification of soils, and borehole geophysics. See: http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/shortcourses/399jun12/Pages/399jun12.aspx.


June 26-27, 2012. NGWA Focus Conference on Midwestern Groundwater Issues. Columbus, Ohio, USA. Addressing groundwater issues commonly associated with the Midwest USA (such as agricultural chemicals, increased nutrient loads from CAFOs, and road salt) and other topics include increasing seasonal flooding events, impacts from oil and shale gas production, and increased water use for irrigation, biofuels development and other energy alternatives. See: http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/conferences/5085/Pages/5085jun12.aspx.

July 14-22, 2012. 39th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR). Mysore, India. Note the deadline for submitting abstracts is 10 February 2012. All information concerning the scientific program and abstract submission may be found at: http://www.cospar-assembly.org/

August 5-10, 2012. 34th International Geological Congress (IGC) in Brisbane, Australia. The primary IUGS conference that is held every 4 years. See the information above, and visit the Congress website at: http://www.34igc.org/


October 16-17, 2012. NGWA Focus Conference on Gulf Coast Groundwater Issues. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA. Designed to increase understanding of the effects on this region’s groundwater issues from the past decade’s extreme weather events and manmade disasters. This conference will discuss topics such as petroleum release products and remediation; alternative water supplies including desalination and ASR; and geospatial technologies, LIDAR, and subsidence. See: http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/conferences/5010/Pages/5010oct12.aspx.

October 22-24, 2012. NGWA Borehole Geophysical Logging for Water Resources/Water Supply Applications. Denver, Colorado, USA. This course demonstrates important applications of borehole geophysics such as identifying water producing zones in well boreholes; evaluating the thickness, distribution, and transmissive quality of granular, fractured, and karst aquifers; identifying fractures; evaluating relative water yield and water quality; planning well systems; and planning and evaluating well work over/rehabilitation and abandonment. See: http://www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/shortcourses/514/Pages/514oct12.aspx.

October 29-November 3, 2012. Workshop on Geophysical Data Analysis & Assimilation. Trieste, Italy. Organised by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Trieste, Italy, in cooperation with the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany), University of Trieste (Italy), and the Russian Academy of Sciences (Russia). The Workshop is endorsed by the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). Details at: http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/events/listings/page11399.html. Online applications only at: http://agenda.ictp.it/smr.php?2373. The closing date for applications is 30 May 2012.

November 20-21, 2012. International Mine Management 2012. Melbourne, Australia. This is the second conference in a developing series of conferences on this theme that commenced in 2006. The broad objectives are to bring together mining professionals and to provide a forum for the discussion of the key management issues facing the industry today, and with sharing experiences and lessons learnt. Call for papers - authors can submit an abstract not exceeding 300 words in English via the International Mine Management 2012 Speakers’ Portal: http://ausimm.com.au/imm2012/papers.asp. Deadline for abstract submission 20 February 2012.


December 11-14, 2012. The First IUGG GRC Conference on “Extreme Natural Hazards and Their Impacts”. Chapman University campus, Orange, California, USA. Organised by the IUGG Commission on Geophysical Risk and Sustainability (GRC) and co-sponsored by the Natural Hazards Focused Group of the American Geophysical Union. Oral and poster papers call open at: http://www1.chapman.edu/~rsingh/GeoRisk2012.

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January 8-14, 2013. The 24th Colloquium of African Geology (CAG24) - The 14 Congress of the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf 14), and the 40th Anniversary of the Geological Society of Africa (1973-2013). Theme “40 Years of GSAf (1973-2013), Earth Science Solutions to African Development Challenges”. The CAG24 will be conducted at the United Nations Economic Commission Conference Center (UNECA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Geosciences and Mineral Engineering Association (EGMEA) will organize this joint
conference and will distribute the first circular shortly. Details will be posted on the websites at:


With best regards,
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