

IUGS

Geoscience Education, Training & Technology Transfer (COGE)

Report: IUGS 62nd Executive Committee Meeting

Date: 22 February 2011

Held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

by Jesús Martínez-Frías, Chair (Spanish National Research Council)

The incorporation of the new Chair of the IUGS/COGE was September 2010 (date of the official designation letter: 27 August 2010). **First of all, special thanks to Dr. Gary Lewis for his excellent work as former Chair of the Commission.**

Membership

By September 2010 the membership includes the following members:

- Jesús Martínez-Frías - Chair (Spanish National Research Council - Spain)
- Jennifer Nocerino (Secretary. Treasurer – Geological Society of America - USA)
- Chan-Jong Kim (Seoul National University - South Korea)
- Greg McNamara (Geological Society of Australia - Australia) - webmaster
- Alan Morgan (Waterloo University - Canada)
- Chris King (Keele University - United Kingdom)
- Ian Clarke (University of Adelaide - Australia)
- Gary Lewis (Geological Society of America - USA)
- R Shankar (Mangalore University - India)
- Miguel Cano (Philippines)
- Ashvin Wickramasooriya (South Eastern University of Sri Lanka - Sri Lanka)

First actions and member interactions

A first telecon conference was held on Friday 1 October between Jennifer Nocerino, Gary Lewis and Jesus Martinez-Frias. In addition, following previous procedures, the Commission has used during these months email and an online wiki to discuss and take actions with all members (a total of 30 messages were interchanged from 13 September to 16 January), including specific comments (in alphabetical order) by: Miguel Cano, Chan-Jong Kim, Chris King, Gary Lewis, Jesús Martínez-Frías, Greg McNamara, Jennifer Nocerino, R Shankar and Ashvin Wickramasooriya.

Chan-Jong Kim informed about the fruitful geoscience education conference and workshop in South Africa and the Fourth International Earth Science Olympiad in Indonesia. In addition, he commented (13 September 2010) that UNESCO was about to begin African Earth Science Education Initiative. R Shankar informed that he and Ashvin Wickramasooriya participated in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in practical questions for the International Earth Science Olympiad. Chris King informed about different past activities of the Commission and IGEO, such as the support of COGE to the IGEO initiative to gather data on geoscience education from as many countries as possible, in

order to choose those countries which would be most suitable for piloting an International Year of Planet Earth initiative. He also suggested that it would be appropriate to invite IGEO's current Chairperson, Sylke Hlawatsch (Germany), to also join the Commission to aid the close working together of the two organisations. Ashvin Wickramasooriya supported such suggestion and informed about his participation at the 4th IESO as the Sri Lankan mentor.

In addition, in accordance with the foundational spirit of the Commission, and the view and indications of the IUGS Executive Committee, it was agreed:

a) to support and strengthen the main objectives of the Commission:

- Identify gaps in education, training and technology transfer both conceptually and geographically.
- Together with other relevant bodies in or outside the IUGS family, develop strategies for the coordination of existing and the development of new programmes in geoscience education, training and technology transfer based on the identified gaps.
- Produce a 5-year Action Plan together with an annual plan of action including budget.
- Organise meetings, conferences and workshops for geoscience educators and to disseminate information on new trends and topics in the field of geosciences.
- Develop specific programmes on the continuation and coordination of training courses, especially through generation of teaching materials and provision of training courses.
- Encourage publications of handbooks or textbooks at an international level to help bridge recognised gaps in the training of and education for geoscientists.
- Facilitate the harmonisation of geoscience presentation with different cultures in order to enhance the development of ethics in geoscience education.
- Assist in the distribution of geoscience teaching materials, including books, videos, equipment, etc.

b) to examine their own interests and redefine some of such goals, emphasizing the significance of the involvement of Geosciences-related companies mainly in the framework of training and technology transfer issues.

c) to establish new collaborations between COGE and the Association of geoscientists for International Development (AGID) and the International center for Training and Exchanges in the Geosciences (CIFEG), because it could be helpful in the context of existing and possible joint activities of IUGS and UNESCO. In this sense, a very active relationship with AGID is in progress about Geoethics, which will be also represented in the next IGC in Brisbane.

d) to update the content of the COGE website, changing its design in order to give it a new face, which clearly and unequivocally reflects its link with IUGS. In a preliminary stage the url of the new website is: http://www.geoed.com.au/IUGS_COGE/index.html although a possible hosting in the GSA server is currently under study.

e) It was agreed as an excellent idea to hold a COGE meeting at the International Geological Congresses in Brisbane.