



**MINUTES: 2nd Open Session of the IGCP Council
February 22, 2017**

Venue: UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Present:

Chairperson IGCP Council – Guy Narbonne; **IGCP Council members** – Brigitte Vlaswinkel (Vice-Chair IGCP Council), Yongje Kim (Rapporteur), Ismail-Alik Zadeh, Nellie Mutemeri

IUGS – Qiuming Cheng (President), Stan Finney (Secretary-General)

IGCP National Committees, UNESCO National Commissions; CGMW, UNESCO IGCP Secretariat, UNESCO Member States representatives

All presentations can be found:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/international-geoscience-programme/>

1. *Welcome by the Assistant Director General Director of Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO – Flavia Schlegel*

ADG/SC warmly welcomed Professor Quiming CHENG, newly-elected President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Professor Stan Finney, Secretary-General of IUGS, Professor Guy Narbonne, Chair of the International Geoscience Programme Council, IGCP Council Members, IGCP National Committee Members, Distinguished representatives of UNESCO's Member States to the open meeting of the 2nd IGCP Council and the presentation of the new UNESCO Global Geopark applications. She expressed her thanks to IUGS for their on-going support to the IGCP programme. ADG/SC expressed also her appreciation to the IGCP Scientific board and Council members for voluntarily supporting the IGCP. She explained that this is another example of the strength of UNESCO's networks and the commitment and dedication of the people who constitute these networks. She explained how the scientific outcomes of IGCP e, which is entering its 46th year, contributes to SDGs 5, 6, 7, 13 and 17 by working with scientists from all around the world in helping to support developing countries as well as young and female Earth Scientists. ADG/SC explained that the details of IGCP's 2016 activities and outcomes as well as new UNESCO Global Geoparks applications will be presented by the IGCP Council Chairperson and IGGP Secretary respectively. ADG/SC wished everyone a successful meeting and hoped that the participants will find it interesting and hopefully thought provoking too.

2. *Welcome by the President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) – Quiming Cheng*

The newly elected President of IUGS thanked Member States for providing scientific support to the IGCP. He also thanked UNESCO for hosting and organising the recent IUGS and the current IGCP meetings. Professor Cheng reminded the audience that IGCP is a very successful international collaboration programme which has supported over 300 projects in its 46 yearlong history. IGCP funds multidisciplinary scientific projects combining a wide range of research topics including energy, water, geohazards and the deep Earth. Prof Cheng explained that even if IGCP is only able to provide small seeds funds, the programme enables scientists from developing countries to secure bigger funds for their projects thanks to highly respected brand of the IGCP that is highly valued within the international scientific community. Professor Cheng invited Member States to increase their collaboration and financial contribution to the IGCP and welcomed the newly appointed IGCP Council members wishing them a successful management of the projects within their subject expertise.

3. *Welcome by the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme Secretary – Patrick Mc Keever*

The International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme Secretary welcomed all participants and extended his thanks to the IGCP Council members for their work as newly appointed members during their first year as IGCP Council members.

The 2016 IGCP annual report was presented. Topics covered in the report included:

- In 2016, there were 26 active IGCP projects of which 22 received funding. On average, each project received ca. 6000 USD;
- For 2017, nine (9) new proposals were received – three (3) within Geohazards, two (2) within the theme Global Change, two (2) in Hydrogeology, one (1) in Geodynamics and one (1) in Earth Resources; Four new projects were approved (IGCP 652, 655, 657, 661).
- Six projects ended in 2016: IGCP 587, 591, 596, 600, IGCP 624 and 650
- Three projects will be On Extended Terms (OET) in 2017,
- Seventeen on-going projects will continue to receive IGCP funding in 2017.
- Each IGCP Project is led by several project leaders from different countries. In 2016, IGCP Project leaders came from 38 different countries. One specific project was led by 14 project leaders and only two IGCP projects were led by one project leader,
- Seven projects had project leaders from African countries, fifteen projects had project leaders from Asian countries, seven projects had project leaders from Pacific countries, five projects had project leaders from Latin American countries, and twenty-two projects had project leaders from European and North American countries,
- Scientists from 136 countries participated in IGCP projects and 109 countries were active in 2016 including 34 African countries, 12 countries from the Arab States, 32 countries from Asia-Pacific, 9 Latin American and Caribbean countries and 2 countries classified as Small Island Developing States (SIDS),
- 161 project leaders and 3,558 project participants collaborated to deliver the objectives of the 26 active IGCP projects,
- 38% of the participants are young scientists (i.e. less than 35 years old) and 52% of all participating scientists are coming from developing nations. Given that gender equality is one of UNESCO's priority areas, IGCP projects showed very promising results on gender equality with a high number of female scientists participating in IGCP projects.
- The overall analysis of the 2016 annual reports is very promising and confirms the trend observed during last three years which shows that IGCP projects outreach and diversity has been increasing continuously over these years.

- During the 35th International Geological Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, from 27 August until 4 September 2016, 12 out of the 25 IGCP projects participated in the IGCP special session.

4. *Overview of IGCP project assessments by the Chairperson of the IGCP Council – Guy Narbonne*

The IGCP Council Chair expressed his thanks to the Scientific Board members and the newly elected IGCP Council members who provided very detailed and neutral reviews of each project. Professor Narbonne presented a combined analysis of the five IGCP themes (*Geodynamics – Nellie Mutemeri, Geohazards – Ismail Alik-Zadeh, Hydrogeology – Yongje Kim, Earth Resources – Brigitte Vlaswinkel, Global Change – Guy Narbonne- Julia Orgeira*).

Each IGCP Council member highlighted particular projects, along with the activities in which these projects are engaged. Particular emphasis was on the training and capacity building arising out of the exchange of expertise and knowledge between the developed and developing world.

5. *UNESCO Permanent Delegations, National Committees and Observers: Feedback regarding IGCP projects annual reports and discussions with IGCP council members*

Mike Young, IGCP National Committee for the United Kingdom- given that IGCP projects leverage extra funds, were you able to measure this for 2016 like you did last year? Is it possible to measure how much real capacity building is being developed by IGCP projects? How much real mentoring is taking place (are senior project leaders really mentoring junior project leaders)? We should continue encouraging IGCP projects to produce final reports for Episodes, interim reports should be considered to be published online. UK was happy to host first UNESCO Global Geoparks meeting.

PJ McKeever– UNESCO didn't repeat financial exercise in 2016, we will try a new method next year to measure financial impact of IGCP. I would like to mention that in 2016 China donated \$20,000 to IGCP . We hope that China's support will continue in 2017 and that other delegations can also join China and support IGCP financially. On-going IGCP projects annual reports are published on our website and we will continue to encourage scientists to publish their work in Episodes, the journal of IUGS.

Prof. Dr. José Ignacio Valenzuela Ríos, President of IGCP National Committee for Spain- There is a problem in the last 5 years project leaders have not communicated with National Committees. How do we solve that? Projects 637 and 641 (Spain) never report to our National Committee.

PJ McKeever – The UNESCO IGCP secretariat regularly reminds project leaders to contact national committee regarding meetings, etc., UNESCO will continue to encourage projects leaders to communicate with their National Committees.

Delegation of Canada— We are amazed at the results in 2016 of the IGCP which obviously had a very successful year> However very few people are aware of IGCP/IUGS funds or the call for projects. How can Canada be aware of the call for scientists to sit on Councils and to know how it works?

PJ McKeever – In accordance with the IGCP guidelines, UNESCO External Relations and Information Sector sends the call for IGCP Council members to all Member States. The call

for projects goes on the website and we issue an alert to the scientific community. Ozlem Adiyaman recently joined UNESCO's Earth Science and Geohazard Risk Reduction Section and she will focus on increasing IGCP's profile to make it more visible to Member States and to the scientific community.

Delegation of Azerbaijan—IGCP is a very successful programme, Azerbaijan considerably values this programme and UNESCO Global Geoparks and would like to increase its visibility in Azerbaijan. What can be done to increase Azerbaijan's involvement in UNESCO Global Geoparks?

PJ McKeever — UNESCO will be delivering a capacity building workshop in Latin American, we may consider to organise a similar workshop in Azerbaijan. We will communicate with you further in 2017.

Delegation of Kenya—Is it possible to share IGCP project applications with Delegations to increase their visibility within UNESCO delegations. Is it possible to place them online and tell the delegates that they are there? Kenya values UNESCO Global Geoparks and welcome a new Geopark in Kenya.

PJ McKeever — We welcome your proposition, we will share IGCP projects related information with relevant Delegations following the application deadline, my colleague Ozlem Adiyaman will follow up this activity in October 2017 with you. We are also considering using social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to share the results of the IGCP projects and updates on UNESCO Global Geoparks. Please note that UNESCO would like to build capacity in East Africa and is working with Kenyan authorities regarding the development of a potential new Geopark in Kenya, we recently visited aspiring Kenya Geopark.

National Committee of the Czech Republic — IGCP and Geoparks are disconnected so there should be a focus in future on research topics with more direct connection between geoscientists and Geoparks; they are connected through the IGCP so we encourage UNESCO to focus more on this issue, as well as better communication with Geoparks in those countries with Geoparks. New IGCP proposals should have scientific research in Geoparks to link these two areas together.

PJ McKeever — It is only the 2nd year that IGCP and UNESCO Global Geoparks are united within the IGCP. There are IGCP project activities that have involved Geoparks.

Delegation of Denmark—it is very impressive what these projects are doing. We should make them more visible and send these presentations to today's participants

PJ McKeever — All presentations and the IGCP annual report will be available on the IGCP website.

IGCP National Committee for New Zealand —Could you please explain how one Geopark lost its status and came back as a new Geopark?

PJ McKeever — There is an evaluation process with the Geoparks. This specific Geopark in Iran went through this process and after 6 years it was felt its quality level had dropped below that which is expected of a Global Geopark. As a result, it received a red card and lost its status. Following the support and guidance from the Global Geoparks Network and

UNESCO they re- applied to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and they hope to obtain their new status at the next session of UNESCO's Executive Board

IGCP National Committee for Portugal: It is very challenging to increase the visibility of any scientific programme as science communication is complicated, we need to work together with Geoparks. Geoparks need us and need more partners. In Portugal all IGCP and Geopark applications go through the National Committee for a review. National Committees should be more proactive in IGCP and Geoparks. There is a need for more Geoparks related projects to be funded by IGCP., Many regions still don't have any Geoparks, this is worrying as SDG 17 is about partnerships and UNESCO Global Geoparks supports partnerships. There is also a need for more experts to be involved in Geopark related activities.

PJ McKeever — Thanked the IGCP National Committee for Portugal for their continued support to the IGCP and UNESCO Global Geoparks informing participants that Elizabeth will go to the Republic of Korea to talk about partnerships and capacity building regarding UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Delegation of Cuba — We would like to receive the IGCP project call for participation before the deadline, all delegations and national committees should receive the call announcement. National Committees are critical for the engagement of the scientific community but there is a need for geographic inclusion as Latin American countries are underrepresented within IGCP projects and UNESCO Global Geoparks. Is it possible to obtain the results of the projects that have published their research?

PJ McKeever — We welcome your proposition, my colleague Ozlem Adiyaman will share the details of the IGCP project call with you. Please note that annual reports for each project are published on the IGCP website. UNESCO is encouraging South American countries regarding further UNESCO Global Geoparks development activities and is co-hosting a workshop in Peru between May 22-26 2017, we welcome all participants.

Stan Finney, IUGS Secretary—IUGS has visibility with international groups, especially at stratigraphy meetings; IGCP projects provide “seed money”. IGCP projects have significant publications as a result. IUGS will contact all projects leaders to remind them to collaborate with their National Committees. IUGS is aiming to raise the visibility of the Episodes journal, where IGCP research is published.

Delegation of Ecuador — We have concern about the geographic distribution of the IGCP projects and UNESCO Global Geoparks. Why are some applications deferred or denied? Some areas have more UNESCO Global Geoparks than other regions? It is worrying that very low representation in Latin America, Latin America needs more guidance and support from UNESCO, it is obvious that Latin American participation very low within IGCP projects and UNESCO Global Geoparks. We have submitted a new IGCP project connected with several South American Geoparks.

PJ McKeever — IGCP project proposals and UNESCO Global geoparks applications are evaluated by independent scientific panels, we follow the official procedures and guidelines which can be found in our website. UNESCO is keen to increase the participation of South American countries to the IGCP projects and UNESCO Global Geoparks. UNESCO is encouraging South American countries regarding UNESCO Global

Geoparks development activities and is co-hosting a workshop in Peru between May 22-26 2017.

IGCP National Committee for New Zealand —National museums are counterparts to Geoparks, how do we connect world via geologists via museums?

Qiuming Cheng IUGS President- IUGS discussed this subject last week during their yearly meeting. IUGS is considering creating a network of geomuseums and geolabs and will focus on this subject

6. *IGCP National Committees: Reports and discussion*

Each IGCP National Committee present during the meeting had the chance to tell about IGCP related activities in their respective countries. Spain, Portugal, France, China, United Kingdom, Austria, New Zealand, Sweden, and Czechia representatives presented their country' involvements to the IGCP projects in 2016.

The annual reports of several IGCP National Committees are also available online:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/international-geoscience-programme/national-committees/>

7. UNESCO Global Geoparks aspirants 2016 - Patrick Mc Keever

In November 2015 the UNESCO Global Geopark became an official UNESCO label.

Currently there are 119 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 32 different countries.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks now have a new structure. There is currently a call for the UNESCO Global Geopark evaluation team. The selection of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council took place in May-June 2016. The Council has been in place since September 2016. 17 new UNESCO Global Geopark applications and two extensions were presented. The final ratification of the new applications and extensions will take place in the spring of 2017 at the next session of UNESCO's Executive Board.

8. *Any other business*

- All participants agreed that worldwide IGCP and UNESCO Global Geoparks participation are required as well as further collaborations between IGCP projects and UNESCO Global Geoparks.
- Portugal National Committee representative Elisabeth Silva presented their Geoparks Summer University programme in Villa Real in Portugal. This is a joint effort between Portuguese and the Spanish National Committees focusing on several UNESCO Global Geoparks in both countries. She kindly invited worldwide participants.