

International GeoScience Education Organisation

February 2022 Newsletter

http://www.igeoscied.org/

2018 – 2022 IGEO Executive Committee

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President's Message

Dear IGEO members,

My first thought in this message go to the Prof. Chris King that is passing through serious health issue. I guess that most of you know him by the many conference and workshop that he delivered worldwide. Chris was also the first chair of IGEO elected in the III GeoSciEd in 2000. I hope that all good energy and prayers from all of us could be of some comfort to him.

As you know from previous messages we are passing through elections process for treasurer and Vice-chair.

We have collected one candidate for the position of IGEO treasurer: Sharon M. Locke (USA)

And four candidate for the position of Vice-Chair:

- ✓ □Yoshisuke Kumano (Japan)
- ✓ \Box Nir Orion (Israel)
- ✓ \Box R. Baskar (India)
- ✓ □Susanna Occhipinti (Italy).

You find their CV and motivation letter in attachment.

In these days the IGEO Executive committee it's consolidating the election procedures. It's the first time that this process will be held online. Council member listed here will be entitled to vote. http://www.igeoscied.org/about-the-igeo/officers/

One country one vote.

Elections process have been held in the Latin America Chapter of IGEO, we welcome and wish all the best to the new coordinating committee compost by Diego López (General Coordination), Judith Sullón (Secretary), Marcos Nascimento (Scientific Coordination), Rita Rodriguez (Comunication Coordination), María Julia Solari (Planning Coordination), María Jesús Bravo (Dissemination Coordination), Diego Arias Regalía (Web-manager). We also take the opportunity to thanks the past General Coordination, Ana Clerici, and past secretary Sandra Paula Villacorta Chambi for the excellent job done since the chapter have been created in 2018.

Other important news is about the next IX GeoSciEd that will be host in Shimane, Japan, 21-24 August 2022. Here <u>https://www.geoscied9.org/</u> you can find the first and the second circular as well all the detailed informations of the event. The event will be hybrid: in presence and online.

Abstract submission it's already open and will remain open till the 31st of March 2022.

The organization of the International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) it's also ongoing. This year it's organized by Italy and will still be an online event. The schedule is 24-30 of August 2022. Due to the low cost of participations in online format it will be an excellent opportunity for countries

that do not yet get involved to participate for the first time. For informations please contact Susanna Occhipinti <s.occhipinti@mail.scuole.vda.it>.

You are all invited to contribute to the next IGEO news letter sending informations about projects and events in your country and region.

Please enjoy the interesting reports of activities from Turkey and India in this present News-letter.

ACTIVITIES OF IGEO-TÜRKİYE

Following the establishment of the IGEO representative office in Turkey, an active group (*Turkish Earth Sciences Working group- YEÇG*) has been founded and is growing gradually. The web page of this group (www.yerbilimleri.org) has been an important step in this respect. This web page has been visited by 3265 individuals since 01.01.2021.



Figure 1: Webpage of Turkish Earth Sciences Education Group

The Turkish Earth Sciences Working group is in close contact with several organizations having activities related to the Earth sciences such as Universities, the UNESCO Turkish National Commission, the Turkish Geological Engineering Chamber, Turkish Geological Heritage Group (JEMİRKO), Turkish Geomorphology Association. We are planning joint activities with them.

Prof.Dr. Nizamettin KAZANCI, representative of IGEO Turkey and Prof.Dr. Hükmü ORHAN, head of Turkish Earth Sciences Education Working Group visited Prof. Dr. M. Öcal OĞUZ, the President of UNESCO Turkiye National Commission on 12 August 2021. During the visit, the activities in the field of Earth sciences, that can be carried out together with the UNESCO Turkiye National Commission were consulted.

The Turkish Earth Sciences Working group has started a work on a book called *"Earth Sciences for the Society"*. The first draft of the book, which will consist of 23 chapters, has been planned to be completed by middle of January 2022 and, also planned to introduce all the topics presented in the book in a workshop open to the public on March 28-29, 2022.

Beside making online meetings mandatory, the Covit-19 pandemic period has made the activities of our group easier

Our group actively participated in the "*International Day of Geodiversity*" announcement process. On October 6, 2021, an international online panel was organized jointly with UNESCO National Commission and the Chamber of Geological Engineers. 185 participants from 12 countries attended this international online panel, moderated by Prof.Dr. Nizamettin Kazancı, representative of IGEO in Turkey. Prof.Dr. Jose Brilha, Prof.Dr. Ezzoura Errami, Dr. Özlem Adıyaman Lopes and Prof.Dr. Raif Kandemir gave presentations.



Figure 2. Announcement Poster for "International Day of Geodiversity Panel"

The members of our group were attended to the panel titled as" Climate *Changes and Our Water Resources; What has changed and what needs to be changed* "held online on March 19, 2021. This panel was organized by UNESCO Turkey National Commission (UTMK) in memory of World water day. Prof.Dr. Nizamettin Kazancı, representative of IGEO Turkey. moderated this panel and Prof.Dr. Mehmet Ekmekci and Doç.Dr. Koray K. Yılmaz gave presentations.



Figure 3. Announcement Poster for " *Climate Changes and Our Water Resources; What has changed and what needs to be changed Panel*"

The members of our group were followed the presentation "*Water in the classroom and the World*" given by Prof. Chris King in memory of World water day organized by the Society for Promotion of Science and Technology in India on 22 April 2021



Figure 4. Announcement Poster for "Water in the classroom and the World" talk"

The members of our group were attended to "*the Climate Change, Biological and Geological Diversity Panel*" held online on June 5, 2021 by UNESCO Turkey National Commission (UTMK) within the scope of Environment Day. Prof.Dr. Nizamettin Kazancı, representative of IGEO in Turkey moderated this panel and Prof. Dr. Zeki KAYA, Prof. Dr. Sevinç ARCAK and Prof. Dr. M. Akif SARIKAYA gave presentation covering climate change, protection of seed gene resources, sustainable agriculture, the importance of soil and nature.



https://zoom.us/j/93159899698?pwd=Ulh3ZFdseUtPclE2VEJTcWtZODNSQT09#success

Figure 6. Announcement Poster for ""The Climate Change, Biological and Geological Diversity Panel""

The members of our group were attended to "*10 Years of Ocean Sciences -Ocean Decade Panel*" on August 24, 2021 This online panel was held in cooperation with the UNESCO Turkiye National Commission and the Planning and Coordination Board of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography Services and, was moderated by Nizamettin KAZANCI, the representative of IGEO Turkey. Julian BARBIERE, Head of the Department of Marine Policy and Regional Coordination at UNESCO Headquarters, UN Decade of Ocean Sciences Implementation Phase Coordinator, Prof. Dr. Ahmet Cevdet YALÇINER, Emre TÜKENMEZ and Prof. Dr. Şükrü BEŞİKTEPE gave presentations.

The importance of geoparks and geotourism in the Earth Sciences education has been recognized in Turkey and many projects have been initiated. Members of our group actively participate in these activities and cooperate with the Chamber of Geological Engineers. With this scope, three workshops were organized so far, others are on their way

-The Geopark and Geotourism potentials of the Denizli area (Western Turkey) were evaluated in "*The Denizli Travertine Geopark and Geotourism Workshop*" held at Pamukkale University at Denizli on 24-25 October 2019 with the cooperation of the Cultural Geology and Geological Heritage Working Group of Turkish Chamber of Geological Engineering

-A workshop "*The geological heritage potential of the Adana region, South of Turkiye*" was held online via Zoom-Webinar application organized by the Cultural Geology and Geological Heritage Working Group of Turkish Chamber of Geological Engineering and the Çukurova University Department of Geological Engineering on September 25-26, 2021.

- "*The geoheritage potentials of İzmir and its surrounding (western Türkiye*)" workshop was held online by the cooperative works of the Cultural Geology and Geological Heritage Working

Group of Turkish Chamber of Geological Engineering and the Dokuz Eylül University Department of Geological Engineering on November 20, 2021.



Figure 7. Announcement Poster for "The geoheritage potentials of İzmir and its surrounding (western Türkiye)" workshop

We wish a Happy and healthy New Year to all IGEO members

Prof.Dr. Nizamettin Kazancı (Representative of IGEO in Turkey) **Prof.Dr. Hükmü ORHAN** (The head of the Turkish Earth Sciences Working Group

India Annual Report to IGEO, January 2022

The educational scenario has remained essentially the same. The COVID pandemic necessitated switching to online classes at schools, colleges and universities, profoundly affecting teaching-learning. It is difficult to compile all the geoeducational/outreach activities of a huge nation like India. Hence, only representative ones are listed below:

- The Earth System Project (ESP), one of the four activities of the International Earth Science Olympiad 2021, was conducted online from Bangalore (Dr R Shankar). It lays emphasis on developing scientific skills like data collection & analysis, reasoning, system thinking, communication & collaboration and oral/written presentation. Multinational groups of students research the given topic using and analysing the data they collect from the Internet. About 300 students participated.
- The Geological Survey of India carried out a) 200 training courses in the fundamentals and applications of geosciences for 23,271 participants from State Directorates of Mining and Geology, Academia and GSI's own officers; b) Fourteen e-training programs for faculty members, research scholars and Master's and graduate students (total participants=2017); and c) Eighty eight field- and lab-based training/e-lecture sessions for 16,046 participants.
- AICTE funded 100 engineering colleges for students' visit to the Atal Tunnel (Himachal Pradesh) to study the geological/ geotechnical challenges faced and the novel methods adopted during construction of this 9-km long highway tunnel at 3000 m above MSL, and to promote research and innovation. Ten students, like several others, from the Manipal Institute of Technology led by Dr. K. Balakrishna benefited from this program.
- Dr Subrata Ghosh, Geology Department, Durgapur Government College, reports of a Geology Exhibition that drew large crowds, mostly young students. Faculty members and students answered queries from inquisitive visitors. Faculty members delivered invited talks on geology and allied topics at mountaineering clubs, schools, colleges and social organisations.
- Manipal Centre for Natural Sciences organised Short Certificate Courses on the Earth's Landforms & their Evolutionary Mechanisms (Dr M Prithviraj) and Paleo-botanical evidence and evolutionary trends in plants (Dr Vivek Pandi) and other academic activities.
- Dr R Baskar co-ordinated webinars on the Himalayan Ecological Systems, Water in the Classroom and the World, World Biodiversity Day, World Environment Day, World Ocean Day, and World Population Day. He delivered TV talks on Climate change, and International Environmental Policies, Agreements & Treaties.
- Mr Makki conducted workshops for students and the general public at the Makki Park Museum, Pune, that houses specimens of colourful, crystalline minerals and fossils. He showed them zeolites in their natural setting in nearby basalt quarries and offered them complimentary boxes of zeolite specimens as souvenir.
- Dr Prabhas Pande reports on an upcoming Geo-excursion site in the Lesser Himalaya. Work in progress: Identification & placement of display/sign boards at geologically important locations to educate students/common people with an appeal to protect and conserve the area; infrastructure

development to facilitate geotourism; capacity-building and awareness drives. All these will benefit four clusters of villages.

- CERG, Pune, organized a) *Geoquest Enlinea* year-long online monthly quizzes on Earth Science topics to arouse participants' curiosity. Deserving ones were awarded certificates and cash prizes; and b) An activity-packed Geoweek talks, exhibitions, visual arts, video, photography and creative writing contests. Participants showcased their writings at *Geotales* and their educational posters, arts and photographs at the *Virtual gallery*.
- Dr Ajit Vartak reports on talks and a panel discussion during World Water Week in August 2021.
- Dr A D Ahluwalia gave webinars on Geoheritage, Disaster Management, Water Conservation, Climate Change, and Hygiene & Solid waste management in Chandigarh. He volunteered at the Government Natural History Museum, Chandigarh.
- The Tethys Fossil Museum and Research Centre, Dhangiari (Himachal Pradesh) showcases Dr R Arya's collection of fossils and rocks from the region. It aims to educate children, administrators, policy makers and politicians about evolution and extinction of life, global warming, mineral deposits etc.

Rajasekhariah Shankar

IGEO PERUVIAN DELEGATION NEWS

By: Sandra Villacorta, IGEO Peruvian Council Member

Peruvian professional was chosen as the IGEO Latin American chapter new general secretary

After a competitive election, Judith Sullon was elected as a new member of the LAIGEO Board. Prof Sullon is an assistant professor at the National University of Piura and a Geologist engineer from the same university. She is an active member of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment and the International Geosciences Education Organization; as well as part of the International Association for Promoting Geoethics Peruvian section board. She is co-responsible for organizing the 1st Peruvian Geoscience Olympiad and this year launched workshops on geosciences for children at the MinerLima2021 exhibition.



MinerLima2021. 7th International Mineral Exhibition of Lima (Peru)

This event has been organized by IAPG-Peru since 2015 and is a success for spreading geosciences in Peru, through a rock and mineral exhibition, short courses, conferences and workshops (for children and the general public), geological excursions and more. This year the exhibition was held in Miraflores (Lima, Peru) with the support of public and private entities. It is highlighted the massive participation of students, professionals and citizens, not only in the exhibition but also in the conferences and crash courses organised.

Website: https://minerlima.wixsite.com/minerlima



Talk on Peruvian women in geosciences

The first talk of Peruvian women in Geoscience was held to share the challenges and experiences of geologists, mining engineers and other professionals. The event's goal was to inspire the next generations of women who are studying or want to venture into geoscience careers in Peru.

Professionals from different generations discussed some problems faced by Peruvian women when they develop activities in Earth sciences.

The event has been a valuable experience that has led to some proposals to close the gender gap in geosciences.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Round table on Geoethics, December 18

Experts will talk about several topics, including education in geosciences and the special participation of two panellists from the geological society of Chile and 2 representatives of IGEO Dr Amelia Calonge (Council Member IGEO from Spain) and Roberto Greco, president of IGEO.

Program of the event: http://iapgeoethics.blogspot.com/2021/10/4th-round-table-on-geoethics-in-peru-18.html



First Peruvian Earth science Olympiads on Geosciences

Peruvian section has formed a committee to organise the 1st Geosciences Olympiads in Peru. The main support is from IAPG Peru and the Peruvian group of IAEG. The regional phase is planned between February and March and in April the national phase.

Website: <u>https://iapgperuviansection.wixsite.com/geolympiadperu</u>

