

Minutes
M-005-2025-IUGS-COGE
COGE – 2nd Regular Meeting – Oct/2025

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| Date & Time (Start) | 21th September 2025 at 21.30 hours (AWST) |
| End of the meeting (time) | 22:40 (AWST) |
| Location / Platform / Chair (lead) | Virtual / Microsoft Teams / Elvaene James |
| Attendees | Sandra Villacorta (SV), Elvaene James (EJ), Rok Brajkovic (RB), Susanna Occhipinti (SO), Romina Celabe (RC), Clara Vasconcelos (CV), Roberto Greco (RC) |
| Apologies / Absentees | Sharon Locke (SL), Miguel Cano (MC), Liliana Corona (LC) |

| Item | Description | | | |
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| 1 | Quorum: With seven (07) committee members in attendance, a quorum was established, allowing the meeting to proceed. | | | |
| 2 | Review of Previous Action Items / Follow-up | | | |
| | Action Item / Decision | Responsible | Status Completed (C), Ongoing (O), Pending (P) | Deadline |
| | Preparing a survey on POC Working Plan 2025-2026 | SV | C | |
| | Inform on approval of 2025 Plan and new ToR from IUGS Exec Committee | SV | C | |
| | Share a short report summarizing IESO 2025 observations. | SO | C | |
| | Submitting a report of COGE Activities to the IUGS E-Newsletter editor | EJ | C | |
| | Prepare Minutes and slide deck for the last meeting. | EJ | C | |
| | To monitor membership activity and request info from those inactive members | EJ | O | |
| | Explore sponsorship for IESO 2025 participation from Latin American countries | SV | O | |
| | Report back to the IR Team on any updates from IUGS regarding the IGEO–COGE relations. | SV | O | |
| | Explore European partnerships via EFG and national contacts | SO | O | |
| | Follow up on the LoC EGU Ed-COGE and coordinate communication with Stavros Stathopoulos | SO | O | |
| | Plan and conduct activities for EDI | LC | O | |
| | Follow up on Paraguay collaboration initiative and provide additional context on the most strategic LAC organizations. | RC | O | |
| | Coordinate with EA to convert material for the EDI campaign into GEM campaign | LC | P | |

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| | Provide to SL the list of Commission members with contact details and Update list of potential partnerships with countries, members, and potential organisations. | EJ | P | |
| | Share presentation in the committee folder. | MC | P | |
| | Prepare the Video for Dr Lacreu speech at the Argentinian Geological Congress 2024 when receiving CK medal | LC | P | |
| | Inform the COGE Board of the progress of pending tasks for the POC subcommission | Kholoud M | O | N.A. |
| | To coordinate the organisation of the new POC regional webinar series | Kholoud M | P | Oct, 2025 |
| | Implementing COGE's global outreach strategy and supporting the Board in internationalising geoscience education efforts | Kholoud M | P | Dec, 2025 |
| | Formalise a collaboration model for GEFO to avoid fragmented regional operations | SO | P | |
| | Follow up on the activities of the new COGE leaders | SO | P | |
| | To share with the Board the project for the next GEFO workshop in LAC | SO | P | |
| | To share recap posts for past events that were not published on time. | Enas Ahmed | P | |
| | Contact potential partners in Egypt in support to the International Relations Team | Enas Ahmed | P | |
| | Provide updates on DAAD-affiliated education group and inform to the Board | Enas Ahmed | P | |
| | Develop a collaboration framework to operationalise MOUs (beyond formal signing) | SL | P | |
| | Send information on COGE activities to the AGU leadership. | SL | P | |
| | Consider regular reporting to MoU partners to promote joint visibility and activity. | SL | P | |
| | Draft and finalize the communication package for partnership outreach and Inform on the progress of new MoUs | SL | P | |
| | Prepare a template of letters to invite partnerships for review of the team. | SL | P | |
| | Consolidate this year's international partnership outcomes for inclusion in the Board report for the IUGS Executive meeting (Feb 2025, Colombia) | SL | P | |
| | Ensure that all relevant COGE national members are copied on communications whenever INR team members contact organizations or their representatives regarding partnerships. | SL | P | |
| | Assess the potential for the white paper and strategy document post-MoU signing | SV | P | |
| 3 | Review of agenda subjects | | | |

| Agenda Topics Discussion | Action / Key Decisions | Responsible | Deadline |
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| <p>COGE General updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SV opened the meeting, welcoming all attendees. The Commission acknowledged Ian Clark's retirement after 20 years of dedicated service, expressing appreciation for his longstanding contributions. SV welcomed R. Baskar as a new member of the Governance and Membership Committee. Updates were provided on pending tasks across committees. SV stressed the importance of timely reporting, website updates, and revitalizing the Social Media Team, which is facing delays and reduced capacity. SV underscored the need to define COGE's 2026–2028 strategic priorities in preparation for the IUGS Executive General Assembly (Colombia, 2026), as key elements of COGE's future structure. The Governance and Membership Committee will circulate a development survey to gather input on the proposed integration of the GEFO Programme into POC, aiming to strengthen coordination and overall effectiveness. SV noted that due to the absence of an IUGS budget allocation for 2025, COGE activities have been sustained through voluntary efforts, partnerships, and member contributions. The 2025 Annual Report will highlight these challenges and outline actions to rebuild trust and funding in future cycles. SV emphasized the need for consistent internal reporting, improved communication, and accountability among subcommissions and teams, ensuring all activities remain aligned with the IUGS mission and EC priorities. | To prepare minutes of this meeting | EJ [Done] | N.A. |
| | Supervise alignment of all COGE activities with IUGS mission and Executive Committee priorities. | SV | N.A. |
| | Address backlog of pending posts; recruit new members and redistribute responsibilities. | Enas Ahmed | Oct, 2025 |
| | Oversee submission of member activities to be featured on the COGE communication | Enas Ahmed | Permanent |
| | Start the preparation of the 2025 Report draft | EJ | Oct, 2025 |
| | Oversee the creation of Development Survey 2025-1 | SV [Done] | Oct, 2025 |
| | Circulate the Development Survey 2025-1 to gather their feedback from voting members. | EJ [Done] | Oct, 2025 |
| | Follow up from all COGE leaders activity | SV | Oct, 2025 |
| | To review leadership in the Social Media Team to attend pending tasks | EJ | Oct, 2025 |
| | Oversee reporting across teams and subcommissions. | SO | Oct, 2025 |
| <p>Sub-commissions' Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) | Maintain and periodically update the EDI section on the COGE website with new resources and events. | LC | Oct, 2025 |

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| <p>SV, on behalf of LC (EDI Chair), reported that the dedicated section for the Subcommission has now been created on the COGE website. It was also announced that a joint webinar with the Public Outreach and Communication (POC) Subcommission and FEMIMET is scheduled for 7 October 2025, focusing on inclusive practices in geoscience education.</p> <p>• Publicity, Outreach and Communication (POC) SV, on behalf of Kholoud M. (POC Chair), welcomed Paul Palma as a new member of the Subcommission. It was noted that the POC team has reviewed and refined its Working Plan, which was later assessed through a survey among COGE voting members. The plan outlines short-, medium-, and long-term actions (monthly, semiannual, annual, and biennial). The team will strengthen outreach by collaborating with the GEFO Programme, the Social Media and the International relations teams. The next POC meeting is scheduled for 11 October 2025.</p> <p>• International relations (INR) SV, on behalf of Sharon Locke (INR Chair), welcomed RB to the team. She reported that the EGU Education–COGE Letter of Collaboration is currently under review by the EGU Executive Committee. The INR Working Plan was shared with attendees. RC informed that COGE is finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with REDCITIA (Argentina), which has also proposed representatives to the Commission.</p> <p>• GEFO Program SO reported that the GEFO Logo Contest remains open (coordinated by Monica Giuzman). Three new Field Officers from Nigeria, Libya, and Ghana have been appointed, with additional candidates expected from Vietnam. She emphasized the need to strengthen regional collaboration, particularly between South and North America. Some Field Officers have not yet submitted their work plans or deliverables. SO added that the GEFO Working Plan is being revised following</p> | To schedule and conduct the POC coordination meeting to assign specific tasks from the approved Working Plan. | Kholoud M. | Oct, 2025 |
| | Coordinate with the Social Media Team for dissemination of upcoming events and webinar promotions. | Kholoud M. | Permanent |
| | Provide an update on pending international partnerships (EGU, REDCITIA). | SL | Oct, 2025 |
| | Explore synergies with other geoscience education organizations to avoid overlapping activities. | SL | Oct, 2025 |
| | Strengthen communication and reporting compliance among Field Officers. | SO | Oct, 2025 |
| | Feedback on potential integration of GEFO with POC to the Board | SO [Done] | |

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| <p>internal feedback and will be shared with COGE Regular Members for consultation. It was also noted that a colleague from Malawi has applied for Regular Membership and will be assessed shortly.</p> | | | |
| <p>Subcommittees reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Award</p> <p>RG announced that the winner of the 2025 Chris King Medal, selected by an international evaluation panel, is Dr. Amelia Calonge (Spain). The details of the award ceremony and webinar will be confirmed soon — either to be held in Spain with the support of AEPECT, or in Australia during GeoSciEd X. SV noted that coordination between POC Leader Kholoud and RG is underway to create a Wikipedia profile for Dr. Calonge in English, to highlight her contributions to geoscience education and promote the visibility of the award.</p> <p>The publications</p> <p>CV reported progress on the publication proposal submitted to the journal Episodes and noted that feedback from the editors is pending. Further updates will be provided once the outcome is confirmed.</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>EJ announced that COGE has welcomed one new Regular Member from Colombia and one new Associate Member from Chile. She also informed attendees that Ian Clark (Australia) has retired after 20 years of service to the Commission, and his long-standing contributions were formally acknowledged. Additionally, a new membership application from Malawi has been received and is under review. EJ reminded all members to remain active in their respective subcommissions and committees, as the Governance and Membership Committee will soon assess engagement levels as part of the annual membership review.</p> | <p>Provide background materials and biographical details for Dr. Calonge’s Wikipedia profile.</p> | <p>RG [Done]</p> | <p>Oct, 2025</p> |
| | <p>Share information and timeline regarding the 2025 Chris King Medal Ceremony and related webinar.</p> | <p>RG</p> | <p>Dec, 2025</p> |
| | <p>To coordinate with the Social media Team to publicize the announcement and medal presentation ceremony.</p> | <p>RG</p> | <p>Dec, 2025</p> |
| | <p>Report on the result of the Episodes special issue submission and outline follow-up publication options.</p> | <p>CV</p> | <p>Oct, 2025</p> |
| | <p>Prepare welcoming campaign regarding new members</p> | <p>Enas Ahmed</p> | <p>Oct, 2025</p> |
| | <p>Supervise follow-up on member activity levels and finalize the annual engagement assessment.</p> | <p>EJ</p> | <p>Oct, 2025</p> |
| <p>Any Other Business</p> | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RG expressed concern about the ongoing financial constraints faced by the Commission due to the absence of IUGS funding and | <p>Collect and share result of Development Survey 2025-1</p> | <p>EJ</p> | <p>Oct, 2025</p> |
| | <p>Supervise implementation</p> | <p>SV</p> | <p>Dec, 2025</p> |

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| <p>conveyed hope that support will resume in 2026. He also requested clarification regarding the proposal to integrate the GEFO Programme within the POC Subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SV explained that this proposal stems from internal discussions within COGE leadership, aiming to realign priorities and rebuild trust with the IUGS Executive Committee. Given reports of limited engagement and coordination among GEFO, POC, and the Social Media Team, members agreed that a constructive review of GEFO's current structure and contribution is needed to ensure stronger alignment with COGE's mission. SV clarified that the proposed restructuring will be evaluated democratically through the upcoming Development Survey 2025-1, coordinated by the Governance and Membership Committee. The survey will gather input from all voting members on how to strengthen GEFO's role and enhance COGE's overall outreach capacity. It was also noted that the 2026 Work Plan will be discussed in the next quarterly meeting.. | of follow-up actions based on Development Survey outcomes. | | |
| | Ensure all subcommissions integrate Survey 2025-1 outcomes into their planning to enhance alignment with COGE mission. | All COGE LeaderS | Nov, 2025 |
| | Coordinate with Teams leaders to modify work plans and Terms of Reference based on survey findings | EJ | Dec, 2025 |
| | Coordination of validation of the new COGE structure and updated work plans through approval by all voting members | Governance & Membership Committee | Dec, 2026 |
| Adjournment / Meeting Closure | | | |
| SV would like everyone to continue sharing information and staying connected with everyone using email. thanked everyone for their continuous support and wished everyone a nice weekend. | | | |
| Next Meeting Information | | | |
| Date/Time | | Dec 1, 2025 (tbc) | |
| Place/Type | | Virtual (Microsoft Teams) | |
| Organizer | | EJ | |
| Minute taker | EJ | | |
| Date of Submission to attendees | 10/10/2025 | | |
| Date of Approval by the COGE Board | 20/10/2025 | | |