

Minutes
M-002-2023-IUGS-COGE
COGE General Assembly 2023

Date:	3rd February 2023
Time:	18.00 hours (AWST)
Place/Type (chair):	Virtual (Zoom meeting, hosted by Sandra Villacorta)
Attendees:	Sandra Villacorta (SV), Ian Clark (IC), Sharon Locke (SL), Gerel Ochir (GO), Yamina Bourgeoini (YB), Clara Vasconcelos (CV), Roberto Greco (RG), Babak Asli (BA), Amiel Nieto (AN) and Tiago Ribeiro (TR)
Apologies:	Susanna Occhipinti (SO), and Maria Bravo (MB), Young-Shin Park (YP)

Item	Description	Responsible	Status
1	Quorum: There being ten (10) committee members present, a quorum was declared, and the meeting proceeded.		
2	Business arising from previous meetings		
	Draft the Chris King medal proposal and submit to the regular members for feedback	SV	Completed
	Send more information about the next International Geological Congress	YP	Completed
	Update the COGE Facebook page and create other social media accounts for the commission to raise visibility	SV	Completed
	Review the application forms and associated documentation supporting each candidate	All	Completed
	Vote using the provided Google voting form to assess each candidate for Regular Membership. (August 2022)	All	Completed
	Create and circulate a Development Survey to consult COGE members and update the official nomination procedure	SV	Completed
	To email inactive commissioners about their continuity in the commission. Note: If no response is received within two weeks, membership will be vacated	IC	Completed
	Encourage identification and invitation of professionals from underrepresented countries to apply for COGE membership.	SV	Completed
	Prepare the budget covering medal costs, IGC/GeoSciEd participation, and estimated registration, accommodation, and travel expenses for medalists	SV	Completed
	Suspend further action on progressing the Early Career Geoeducators funding proposal until IGEO's Executive Committee communicates it officially.	SV/IC	Completed

	To inform the IUGS Executive Committee to support transparency and foster respectful, inclusive collaboration with IGEO.	SV	Completed
	Draft initial Terms of Reference (ToR) or statutes for COGE based on examples from other IUGS commissions and circulate among members to get feedback.	SV	Completed
	Submit a situational report to IUGS outlining operational challenges and internal developments, including the membership case.	SV	Completed
	Conduct a second voting round to confirm the decision regarding the observed membership application.	Board	Completed
	Provide relevant information to the IUGS Executive and the members of the Geoethics Commission about the observed membership case.	SV	Completed
	Set up a meeting with EGU education leaders.	SV	Completed
	Conduct internal evaluations and revisions of COGE's Terms of Reference proposal	SV	Completed
	Conduct a SWOT analysis to assess the Commission's strategic positioning and needs.	SV	Completed
	Prepare the 2023 Annual Work Plan draft and submit to members for feedback	SV	Completed
	Introduce the new members integrated into the commission	Board	Pending
	Inform members about the formal outcome of the IUGS Adhoc review	SV	Pending
	Opening a call for a COGE vice chair and other members of the COGE Board	SV/IC	Pending
	Submit ToR to IUGS EC for formal approval	SV	Completed
	Draft Proposal for the creation of a subcommission to oversee the Geoscience Education Field Officers (GEFO) Programme	SV	Pending
	Send to SV the previous reports and minutes	IC	Ongoing
	Updating website	SV	Ongoing
	Invite professionals from currently unrepresented countries to apply for COGE membership.	All	On going
3	Review of agenda subjects		
	Agenda subject	Action	Responsible
	Members report on national activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> IC mentioned that the Australian Earth Science Convention is happening in the middle of the year and that he will attend, and SV will chair a session. <input type="checkbox"/> On the Australian geoscience curriculum, IC mentioned that it varies from state to state. It 	To submit missing national reports	Members who did not reported

	<p>has been updated, and there are arguments over its content and whether it is appropriate for each level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mongolia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ In 2022, GO organised guided visits to the Museum of Geology and Mineral Resources for training high school students in mineral recognition and trips to Mongolian paleontological geosites to encourage them to pursue fields of geoscience. □ GO gave a lecture on geoscience education and sustainability in Papua New Guinea and presented at a Women in Geoscience in Mining event. □ The Mongolian Geological Society organised a series of workshops titled "Geoscience for Society" for high school teachers, including exhibitions, lectures for the public, and student activities through clubs, workshops, Olympiads, and conferences. □ Several open-access and peer-reviewed papers were published in the Mongolian geoscience journal showcasing master's and PhD research work. □ The support of mining companies was also mentioned to develop geoscience education activities. ● Brazil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ RG mentioned Campinas that his research group continued the translation and updating of the Earth Learning idea in Brazilian Portuguese, the translation is published here: https://www.ige.unicamp.br/geoideias/. In addition, they completed the translations of Chris King E-Book <i>Exploring Geoscience</i>. This translation was published on the IGEO website. □ A new edition of the Brazilian Earth Science Olympiad and the Geography Olympiad were held online in 2022, with the last test in Campinas (SP). □ As part of an undergraduate course for future geography teachers 6 lectures, an active learning module on sustainability and diplomacy was held at Unicamp. This activity involves delegations from the United States (in 2022) and Ukraine and Indonesia in 2021. ● Peru <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ SV informed that there is currently no national curriculum for teaching geoscience at school levels, and Peruvian geosciences associations have been supporting geoscience education activities since 2018. □ Events held in 2022: the first Peruvian Earth Science Olympiads, MinerLima: a mineral exhibition which involves workshops and field 		
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	<p>trips for general audience, and organization of webinars on different geoscience fields and participation in the translation of the book “Exploring Geoscience Across the Globe” into Spanish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Upcoming events: the 2nd Peruvian Earth Science Olympiad and MinerLima 2023. ● Chile (information submitted by email) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ MB informed that in Chile, there are two main projects for this year: Select the Chilean team for IESO 2023 through the 2nd inter-school competition on Earth Sciences and enrol more teachers in the Diploma in Didactics of Earth Sciences. Chilean specialists will work alongside Héctor Lacreu and other LAIGEO colleagues in this program created by LAIGEO Chile. ● South Korea (information submitted by email) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The revised geoscience curriculum for 2022 focuses on enhancing basic scientific knowledge, integrating science with real-world experiences, incorporating inquiry-based activities, and expanded science elective courses. The emphasis will be on the connection between the environment and climate change. □ The KESO Olympiad held in 2022 selected students who participated at IESO 2022. As a result, Korean students won 1 gold, 4 silver, and 3 bronze medals. □ The 37th International Geological Congress will be held in Busan, Korea in 2024 and will be organized by several organizations including the Geological Society of Korea and sponsored by government agencies. The Local Organizing Committee will provide support for young and financially disadvantaged geoscientists to attend through the GeoHost program. 		
	<p>Introduction of new COGE members Newly appointed Regular and Associated Members, were invited to briefly introduce themselves during the meeting.</p> <p><i>Regular members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● USA SL introduced herself and mentioned the transition happening in the USA geoscience education community and that she was appointed to the Committee of the Geological Society of America, which has a strong interest in international activities. She explained that the geoscience education in the USA is strong but scattered and there is a need for more international networking. She hopes to support these efforts in the next few years. ● Italy SV informed that the representative from Italy is SO who 	<p>Introduce herself as new regular member and responsible of COGE-GEFO Programme</p>	<p>SO</p>

<p>will introduce herself in the next quarterly meeting. She mentioned that SO gently offered herself to collaborate with COGE overseeing the GEFO Programme.</p> <p><i>Associated members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mexico AN mentioned he is a volcanologist working at a National University of Mexico (UNAM) at the newest School of Earth Sciences at UNAM. He explained there are four hundred students right now. His subject of interest are georisks prevention and Geoheritage, with focus mainly on lava tubes that are found in Mexico. ● Iran BA introduced himself as a PhD student in economic geology at the University of Tehran, which aims to support global geoscience education. Based on his review of Iranian academic research, he proposes using scientometric and GIS mapping to standardize geoscience education policies worldwide. He believes this can help advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. He plans to publish academic papers and launch a related project, and seeks COGE's support to engage international geoscience education organizations. ● Portugal TR, introduced himself as a PhD student in science teaching at the University of Porto and secondary school biology teacher. He shared his interests in geoscience education, geoethics, and citizen science. He highlighted that universities in Portugal offer lectures, workshops, and teacher training to promote science learning. Non-formal education and communication initiatives are held in schools and universities, including summer courses and participation in the European Researchers' Night. He also noted that an EGU Field Officer is active in Portuguese schools, organizing practical geoscience activities such as summer training schools. 		
<p>Presenting COGE's working plan-strategy 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SV opened her presentation by providing an overview of the Commission's background and core functions. She also outlined its current structure and committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chris King Awards Committee – Responsible for managing the CK Medal. The proposal for the award will be presented at the upcoming IUGS Executive Committee meeting in Belfast on February 14th. ○ GEFO Program – Originally established by Chris King in 2019 in collaboration with EGU Education, the program will continue under the supervision of SO. ○ Social Media Committee – Tasked with managing and enhancing COGE's presence on social media platforms. ○ Publications Committee – Oversees the review 	<p>To prepare minutes of this meeting</p>	<p>SV [done]</p>
	<p>To send minutes of this meeting to COGE members.</p>	<p>IC</p>

	<p>and dissemination of all COGE-related publications, including academic articles, abstracts, and books.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ International Relations Committee – Coordinates and oversees formal cooperation agreements with external organizations. ● SV noted that the Commission’s SWOT analysis had been integrated into the 2023 Work Plan. She also emphasized that the expected outcomes remain open to additional proposals, including efforts to increase COGE-related publications. 		
	<p>2023 Budget Request</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IC presented the 2023 budget proposal, noting a carryover balance of \$5,000 from 2022. The proposed budget includes allocations to support the GEFO Programme (specifically for replenishing equipment and materials), representatives’ travel to conferences, website management, bank fees, and the newly established Chris King Medal. ● A significant expense identified was the Chair’s participation in the IUGS Executive Committee meeting, originally scheduled for Nairobi but recently relocated to Belfast. This adjustment requires an additional request of \$9,000, which will be considered by the IUGS Executive at its 78th meeting. ● SV informed that a multi-year financial plan covering 2023–2025 is under development. The draft was circulated for member feedback prior to its submission to the IUGS Executive Committee. 	<p>Inform on the budget 2023 approved by IUGS Executive</p>	<p>IC</p>
	<p>GEFO Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IC reported on the meeting held on 27 January between the COGE Board and EGU Education representatives to review the status of the Geoscience Field Officer (GEFO) Programme. COGE and EGU Education will jointly share funding and responsibilities for the initiative. ● SV informed, as historical background, that the GEFO Programme was designed to promote effective geoscience teaching and help teachers develop strong educational programs in their respective countries. She mentioned the minutes from the meeting are under review and will be shared on COGE’s website soon. ● IC informed that in the recent meeting with EGU Education, it was established that this year, training will be coordinated by EGU, while COGE provides complementary support. The main goal is to consolidate and evaluate the programme’s current performance rather than appointing new GEFOs. ● SV confirmed that SO has begun formally overseeing the COGE-GEFO Programme and is actively coordinating with EGU Education representatives. 	<p>To share the minutes of the Jan-2023 meeting with EGU Education</p>	<p>SV</p>

	<p>Presentation on scientometric research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA presented his research on applying scientometrics to track and evaluate geoscience education activities, based on the analysis of 2020 IGEO member reports. He identified 100 types of activities, which he grouped into 14 categories and five overarching supergroups, reflecting both national contexts and professional profiles. The study concluded that informal and inconsistent reporting hinders global coordination. BA recommended adopting globally aligned strategies and highlighted the role of scientometric analysis in advancing efforts toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals. He also proposed applying these methods to help standardize and document COGE members' activities. • SV thanked BA for his contribution and noted that his proposal would be included in a forthcoming development survey to gather feedback from voting members. 	<p>To request the opinion on the BA proposal using an online voting form</p>	<p>IC</p>
	<p>Closing of General Assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SV expressed her gratitude to the commissioners who reviewed the 2022 Annual Report and contributed to the 2023 Work Plan. • IC highlighted the importance of member engagement. He encouraged members to support organizing the evaluation panel and promote the call for the Chris King Medal. He also emphasised the need to share responsibilities more broadly, acknowledging that SV has shouldered much of the commission's workload. • SV reiterated the call for members to take on leadership roles in committees that are still without coordinators. She emphasized COGE's vital role in advancing global geoscience education and underscored that member support is essential to sustain and expand the Commission's initiatives. 	<p>Launching the call for nominations for the Chris King Medal on the COGE website</p>	<p>SV</p>
		<p>Calling the formation of the Chris King Medal panel evaluator</p>	<p>IC</p>
		<p>Request volunteers for committees without a leader</p>	<p>SV/IC</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Post-Meeting Developments</p>		
	<p>Membership Updates In response to concerns raised in 2022 regarding underrepresentation within the Commission, the COGE ToR express a commitment to enhancing regional diversity. The broader regional participation observed in this General Assembly, particularly the inclusion of new voices from underrepresented areas, marks a positive step toward that goal, with a focus on engaging African representatives. The updated ToR, approved internally by COGE members, has been submitted to the IUGS Executive Committee and is currently under review, with a decision expected at the upcoming meeting in Belfast.</p>	<p>Inform on the assessment of COGE's ToR by the IUGS Executive</p>	<p>SV</p>
		<p>Look for responsible for each committee</p>	<p>SV/IC</p>
		<p>Launch a social media campaign to call other members of underrepresented regions.</p>	

	<p>IUGS Adhoc review The Board was informed that the independent review conducted by the IUGS Commission on Geoethics was completed in December 2022. The review concluded that the matter in question reflected a personal or institutional disagreement, rather than an ethical breach. The Commission now awaits the formal resolution and final decision by the IUGS Executive Committee regarding the status and continuity of COGE.</p>	<p>Inform members about the formal outcome of the IUGS Adhoc review</p>	<p>SV</p>
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5	<p>Next meeting: to be organized by SV</p>		
	Time	20 hours (AWST)	
	Date	31-03-2023	
	Place/Type	Virtual (Zoom meeting hosted by SV)	
6	<p>Meeting closure: 19:10 hours (AWS)</p>		

Minute taker:	SV
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Review:	Minutes of the 3rd of Feb accepted
Date:	31-02-2023
Update (04-06-2025)	The Governance and Membership Committee of IUGS–COGE reviewed and updated this document to ensure accuracy, transparency, and integrity of institutional records on decisions and follow-up actions based on a review of official correspondence and governance records for the period during which these minutes were written.

