

Minutes
M-002-2025-IUGS-COGE
COGE International Relations Subcommittee 1st Meeting

Date:	24 th May 2025
Time:	07.00 hours (AWST)
Place/Type (chair):	Virtual (Microsoft Team meeting), hosted by EJ
Attendees:	Sandra Villacorta (SV), Elvaene James (EJ), Sharon Locke (SL)
Apologies:	Susanna Occhipinchi (SO), Enas Ahmed (EA), Romina Celabe (RC), Miguel Cano (MC),

Item	Description		
1	Quorum: Meeting proceeded with three regular members to discuss strategic updates among the IR matters.		
3	Review of agenda subjects		
	Agenda subject	Action	Responsible
	About COGE-IGEO MoU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SV extended a warm welcome to SL and EJ for attending the meeting. • SL shared updates on the proposed MoU with IGEO is currently under review by IGEO’s Executive Committee and expected to be approved shortly. • There was a productive discussion about the purpose of the MoU, not only as a symbolic agreement, but as a mechanism to establish a long-term, structured collaboration between COGE and IGEO after both organisation leadership changes. One key priority raised by SL on behalf of the IGEO Executive was the importance of avoiding duplication and ensuring complementarity across our efforts. • SV proposed the following phased actions as a pathway to joint impact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Immediate: MoU as the basis for co-developing a joint Global Strategy for Geoscience Education, in line with the expectations outlined by IUGS. o Medium-term: Collaborate on a White Paper on Global Priorities in Geoscience Education, drawing on both networks’ expertise and outreach. o Long-term: Facilitate IGEO’s involvement in a Second Special Issue on International Geoscience Education Initiatives, which is currently being prepared by our Publications Committee (leading Clara Vasconcelos our new Committee leader). • It was agreed these steps can help to align efforts and add value under IUGS’s leadership; and that formalizing COGE-IGEO collaboration through the 	Follow-up on MOU with EGU Develop a collaboration framework to operationalize MOUs (beyond formal signing)	SL SL

	MoU is a necessary first step toward ensuring long-term coordination and impact.		
	<p>Status update on MoUs in progress with European Geosciences Union - Education section (EGUEd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SV reported that EGUEd rep are seeking to formalize their Memorandum of Understanding, in order to further strengthen collaboration between both organizations and EGUEd chair, Jean Luc is former GEFO leader in Europe. SL reported that EGU and IUGS have already signed an agreement. The new GEFO EGU leader, Stavros Stathopoulos is going to be reached to check MoU proposal Update up to 25.06.25: Stavros replied to SV by email on the subject and was informed that a formal Agreement of Cooperation is already in place between IUGS and EGU at the executive level. In this case, a Letter of Collaboration (LoC) would be the most appropriate mechanism to formalize COGE-EGUEd joint actions. Advantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It builds directly on the existing IUGS–EGU institutional framework, without duplicating or conflicting with it. It allows us to clearly outline our shared priorities and initiatives in geoscience education. It is agile, transparent, and avoids unnecessary legal or bureaucratic complexity. 	Coordinate communication with Stavros Stathopoulos to finalize the LoC	SO
		Formalize collaboration model for GEFO to avoid fragmented regional operations	SO
		Explore sponsorship for IESO 2025 participation from Latin American countries	SV
		Assess potential for white paper and strategy document post-MoU signing	SV
	<p>Status update on MoUs in progress with IAEG Peru</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This MoU seek strengthening collaboration in geoscience education across Latin America. IAEG Peru has been actively involved in coordinating the Peruvian delegation to the IESO and has also contributed ideas to expand participation and secure funding for future IESO teams in the region. Further joint activities under this agreement will be discussed, including outreach efforts, educator training, and regional coordination. Update uop to 25.06.25: The MoU with IAEG Peru has now been formally signed and advertising it in COGE Soc media platforms is required. 	To sign the MoU with IAEG Peru on behalf of COGE	SO [Done]
		To coordinate with EA for advertising the signed moU	SV [Done]
	<p>AGU</p> <p>Sharon spoke with Pranoti Asher of AGU who confirmed that an MoU exists between AGU and IUGS and another MoU is not needed (see email of 9 May 2025). Pranoti would like reports on COGE activities to share with leadership.</p>	Send more info on COGE activities to share with AGU leadership.	SL

	Other of interest		Follow up on potential collaboration with DAAD-affiliated education group	EA
			Follow up on Paraguay collaboration initiative	RC
			Ask Miguel how he can contribute to this team	SL
			Consider regular reporting to MoU partners to promote joint visibility and activity.	SL
4	Closing of General Assembly SV expressed optimism for finalizing MoU and launching coordinated international activities. SL reiterated the importance of actionable outcomes from MOUs.			
5	Next meeting: to be organised by SL			
	Time	TBA		
	Date			
	Place/Type	Virtual (Microsoft Team meeting)		
6	Meeting close: 08:00 hours (AWST)			
Minute taker:		EJ		
Review:		Attendees		
Date:		25.06.25		