

Minutes
M-004-2025-IUGS-COGE
COGE International Relations Sub commission 2nd Meeting

Date:	22 th August 2025
Time:	20.00 hours (AWST)
Place/Type, chair:	Virtual (Microsoft Team meeting), hosted by SV
Attendees:	Sandra Villacorta (SV), Sharon Locke (SL), Susanna Occhipinti (SO), Migue Cano (MC), Enas Ahmed (EA)
Apologies:	Romina Celabe (RC)

Item	Description		
1	Quorum: With nine (05) committee members in attendance, a quorum was established, allowing the meeting to proceed.		
2	Business arising from previous meetings/communications		
	Resolution	Responsible	Status: Completed (C), Ongoing (O), Pending (P)
	Inform on the progress of MoU with IGEO	SL	C
	Ask MC how he can contribute to this team	SL	C
	Submit the International Relations Sub commission 2025 Plan for the Board's feedback.	SL	C
	Develop a collaboration framework to operationalise MoUs beyond formal signing.	SL	P
	Send information on COGE activities to the AGU leadership.	SL	P
	Inform on the progress of new MoUs	SL	P
	Follow up on Paraguay collaboration initiative	RC	P
	Follow up on potential collaboration with the DAAD-affiliated education group	EA	P
	Follow up on the LoC EGU Ed-COGE and coordinate communication with Stavros Stathopoulos	SO	P
	Consider regular reporting to MoU partners to promote joint visibility and activity.	SL	P
3.	Review of agenda subjects		
	Agenda subject	Action	Responsible
	Working Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The approved 2025–2026 IR Working Plan was reviewed, noting that several activities will extend into 2026 due to their long-term nature. The team agreed that partnership identification and prioritisation is the core approach, with a clear emphasis on purpose-driven collaborations that generate concrete activities, not just symbolic 	Draft and finalize the communication package for partnership outreach.	SL
		Ensure local COGE members are	

<p>MoUs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibilities for outreach were discussed, with consensus that priority should be given to underrepresented regions (Asia, Africa, parts of Latin America) to expand Commission membership. It was agreed that outreach must always involve existing Commission members in the target country, to ensure legitimacy, avoid duplication, and strengthen impact. For example, in contacting Malaysia, coordination should take place copying Anne James as the national representative. The IR Team will compile contact details of members by country to facilitate this coordination. SL suggested creating a shared spreadsheet (countries, members, potential organisations) in the IR Google Drive folder. SV noted a similar database already exists from previous commissions, which can be updated with new information. 	<p>included in all IR communications with other partners.</p>		
	<p>Update list with countries, members, and potential organisations.</p>		
	<p>Provide to SL the list of Commission members with contact details</p>	<p>Elvaene James</p>	
<p>EGU Edu</p> <p>SO reported she no longer has direct contact with the EGU Education Committee (previous contacts like Berenguer and Cifelli are no longer in the EC). She also reported on her participation at IESO, where colleagues from Vietnam and Malawi expressed interest in joining COGE and noted widespread confusion about the respective roles of COGE, IGEO, and IUGS, during the event and little tangible progress has been achieved in IGEO's internal working groups.</p>	<p>Explore European partnerships via EFG and national contacts</p>	<p>SO</p>	
	<p>Invite Vietnam and Malawi to join COGE.</p>		
	<p>Share a short report summarizing IESO 2025 observations.</p>		
<p>Latin American Organizations</p> <p>SV indicated on behalf of RC who circulated by email a list of organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) proposed for potential partnerships with COGE. She confirmed that this document will be stored in the IR shared folder for team access.</p>	<p>Add RC report to partner list</p>	<p>Elvaene James</p>	
	<p>Provide additional context on the most strategic LAC organizations.</p>	<p>RC</p>	
<p>DAAD</p> <p>EA reported ongoing efforts to explore new partnerships, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up with DAAD Cairo Office, after initial discussions with the local coordinator, who has yet to raise the matter with the DAAD director. The possibility of further partnerships (Geological & Paleontological societies, University, NGOs) through the University of the Egypt–Libya border, once the new dean's objectives are clarified. <p>EA noted that due to the academic calendar in Egypt, concrete progress is expected after October 2025, with a realistic timeframe of six months to formalize</p>	<p>Contact potential partners in Egypt.</p>	<p>EA</p>	
	<p>Provide updates on DAAD and inform to IR/Board</p>		

	agreements, although some opportunities may advance sooner.		
	<p>Asian organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MC presented slides of the Asian organisations he plans to contact in different Asian countries (Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, India, Bangladesh, Brunei, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Singapore). SV suggested before contacting them to prioritize and copy relevant national COGE members (e.g., Elvaene James for Malaysia). MC asked clarification of partnership objectives and benefits. SV mentioned as benefits of Collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Global visibility through COGE and IUGS network. □ Participation in COGE initiatives (events, webinars, education campaigns). □ Recognition of contributions and access to global experts. SL asked MC to share his presentation in the IR folder 	<p>Share presentation in the committee folder.</p> <p>Copy relevant national members when reaching out countries for partnership</p>	MC
5	<p>Other points of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group endorsed the development of a standard outreach package (template letter + benefit outline) to ensure consistency across all IR partnership communications. SL will draft and circulate it for review by the IR Team and COGE Board. A progress review of IR activities will take place in September 2025, ahead of the Members' meeting, to monitor outreach outcomes and refine priorities. SV emphasized that IR efforts must strengthen external partnerships and demonstrate the added value of collaboration, fully aligned with COGE's IUGS mandate. She also clarified that issues related to the IUGS EC operational budget will be addressed at the 2025 meeting in Colombia. Regarding concerns of overlap with IGEO, SV highlighted that it is the responsibility of IUGS leadership to define and clarify mandates. Any cooperation agreements or MoUs with IGEO should be established at the institutional level (IUGS–IGEO) and then communicated to COGE. 	<p>Prepare a template of letters to invite partnerships for review of the team.</p>	SL
		<p>Prepare consolidated outcomes to the Board report at the IUGS EC meeting in Colombia (Jan 2025).</p>	SL
		<p>Report back to the IR Team on any updates from IUGS regarding the IGEO–COGE relations.</p>	SV
7	Next meeting: to be organised by EJ		
	Time	TBA	
	Date	September 2025	
	Place/Type	Virtual (Microsoft Team meeting)	
6	Meeting close: 22:06 hours (AWST)		
Minute taker:		SV	

Review:	
Date:	

