



COGE Achievements Report 2020-2024

I. Introduction

The IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education (COGE), established in 2004, promotes strategic geoscience education globally, focusing on underrepresented regions and modern challenges. COGE comprises 1 Board, 4 Sub-commissions, 5 Committees, 16 Regular members, and 8 Associated members. Communications have been maintained via email, virtual meetings, and local events since 2021. Organizational documents are stored in a corporate Google Drive, and important documents are on the Commission website.

In 2022 and 2023, COGE's Chair and Vice-Chair attended IUGS executive meetings in Belfast and Nairobi, respectively. Membership has been revised from 2022 onward. The Chair also presented at conferences in Perth (AESC2023) and San Francisco (AGU Fall Meeting 2023).

Expenses from 2020-2024 included bank fees, website management, field officer training, and travel for various events. Notable costs were A\$9871.61 for field officer training in 2022 and A\$5572.84 for senior officer travel in 2023. Travel to AGU2023 and Nairobi in 2024 totalled A\$5621.33.

II. Noteworthy Achievements

- **Geoscience Education Field Officer (GEFO) Programme**
 - Reports on the GEFO Programme published in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023
 - Support officers during interactive teacher training in India and Morocco in 2021, Colombia, Burkina Faso and Togo in 2022 and Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Lumbila, India and Togo in 2023.
 - Maintaining the Earthlearningidea website until 2021.
 - Three GEFOs were appointed for Chile, Malaysia and Togo and trained in April 2021
- **Publications:**
 - The IUGS 'Strategy for enhancing geoscience education worldwide' was published as part of COGE Annual Report 2021.
 - Translation of the ebook 'Exploring Geoscience Across the Globe' in Spanish 2022 and Italian 2023.
 - Publications by commissioners in journals and magazines related to geoscience education contributing to the field's academic and practical knowledge base.
 - COGE members collaborated with the edition and promotion of the CGEO-UNAM journal "Teaching and Communication of Geosciences," focused on Spanish language teachers beginning in 2023.
 - Episodes Special issue on "International Geoscience Education Strategies: Innovations, Collaborations, and Future Directions." This issue will be published in December 2024.
- **International Relations**
 - Online event on Geoscience Education and Public Communication with EGU Education in 2021



- Supporting the creation of Latin American and European chapters of the International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO), 2020.
- Supporting the 'My Earth science educator story' section on the IGEO webpage until 2021
- Supporting the International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) 2021 virtual
- Supporting the UNESCO International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme, Regional Office for Science in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO Montevideo) in conducting and publishing an international survey of Earth science education and developing an academic paper from that publication, 2021
- Publicising and running Geoscience Information for Teachers (GIFT) 2021 virtual
- In 2023, two significant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were subscribed. Established with Women in Earth and Environmental Science Australasia (WOMEESA) and the Geosciences Center of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM-CGEO),
- Engaged in constructive dialogues with various organisations, laying the groundwork for MoUs in 2024. MoU with EGU Education has already been approved and will be published soon, and the MoU with IGEO is being evaluated.
- 13 organisations were identified as potential collaborators in late 2023 and contacted in early 2024.
- Renewal of coordination with EGU for the Geoscience Education Field Officer program 2022.
- Supporting and promoting the Barcelona Manifesto of EGU education, 2023
- 2 sessions on Geoscience Education organised at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting 2023 (in San Francisco, USA): A poster session of COGE and a co-organised Town Hall Session with IGEO.
- **Organisation**
 - Formulation and approval of Terms of Reference (2022) and organisational documents (2022 to 2024)
 - Approval of new structure, including 5 committees and 4 sub-commissions in early 2024
 - Addition of eight new members to the commission and 3 new GEFOs.
 - Redesign of the COGE website (2022)
 - Creation of social media platforms for COGE (2022)
 - Creating the internship in the GEFO Program (2023)
 - Setting up the first election of a Board for COGE (2023) and elections for sub-commissions members (2024)
- **Outreach**
 - Support for Earth Science Olympiads in various countries.
 - Approved session for IGC 2024 on International initiatives in Geoscience Education
 - Formulating in 2022 the Chris King Medal to honour outstanding geoscience educators. In 2023, the first awardee was Prof. Hector Lacreu from Argentina
 - Survey aimed at understanding the methods used to teach Earth science in various countries in order to support enhanced Earth science education.
 - Launched the GEFO Internship in 2023



- Collaborating with the organisation and dissemination of the CGEO-UNAM Diploma in Teaching Earth Sciences since 2023 to Hispanic American teachers.
- **Social Media**
 - Monthly updates since 2022 verified a marked increase in followers, particularly on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.
 - Advertised COGE-sponsored publications (in multiple languages) since 2023
 - 2023, connecting with the IUGS social media Team and IUGS Webmaster to promote IUGS and COGE activities
 - Growing presence in Latin America and Australasia
 - Featured awardee on the COGE website and social media platforms (including 3 interviews on our Youtube channel), created Wikipedia projects for IGEO, COGE, Chris King, Geoscience Education, and for the first awardee.

Sandra Villacorta
IUGS-COGE Chair

With contributions from the COGE Board, and COGE Sub-commissions/Committee's leaders

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