

# IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE)

<http://www.geoed.com.au/IUGSeducation/indexcomm.html>

## Background and history on the Commission on Geoscience Education

### *Our history*

In previous years, IUGS conducted a programme in the area of Geoscience Education and Training. The programme was organised under the status of a Working Group or a Commission. The IUGS level of activities in past years in Geoscience Education (COGEOED) was generally low and so the IUGS Executive Committee considered this body dormant. The IUGS Strategic Planning Committee recommended in its report that, 'Technology-transfer and geological education focusing on developing countries should continue to be key-activities of the IUGS'.

### *Commission is formed*

In its session at Rio de Janeiro (2000), the IUGS Council decided to create a new Commission on Geoscience Education. Shortly after that decision the International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO) approached IUGS to become an Affiliated Member, the application was approved during the 48th IUGS Executive Committee Meeting in Hyderabad. The IUGS Executive Committee considered IGEO as a potential vehicle to partly fulfil the earlier Council decision on this issue. This consideration was reflected in the position taken in the Strategic Action Plan (2001), which stated: "The Executive Committee concluded that concerning technology-transfer no immediate action was considered necessary since the current activities through DMP, GARS and IGCP address this issue adequately. With respect to education, the Executive Committee concluded that recent contacts with IGEO should be intensified by exploring the possibility to develop a joint initiative on geoscience education".

A Task Force was charged to further explore possibilities for cooperation with IGEO to develop an IUGS body addressing the Geoscience Education issue. In its 49th session in China, September 2001, the IUGS Executive Council decided to produce Terms of Reference for such a body and invited Vice President Nyambok to chair the Task Group committed to this issue. In April 2002, Prof. Nyambok reported back to the IUGS Executive Council with a draft Terms of Reference.

In 2003, the IUGS President approached Mr. Gary Lewis, Director of Education and Outreach of The Geological Society of America, and asked if he would be interested in forming the educational Commission based on the Terms of Reference. Mr. Lewis agreed to assist and to chair the Commission, and the first meeting was planned for November 2004 in Boulder, Colorado, USA.

### **Our main objective**

The main objective of the Commission on Geoscience Education, Training and Technology Transfer (COGE) is to advance the level of education training and technology transfer for the geosciences at all levels throughout the world, with special focus on developing countries and countries in transition. The Commission website is: <http://www.geoed.com.au/IUGSeducation/indexcomm.html>.



*Commission group photo.*

### **Our specific functions**

- Identify gaps in education, training and technology transfer both conceptually and geographically.
- Together with other relevant bodies in or outside the IUGS family, develop strategies for the coordination of existing and development of new programs in geoscience education, training and technology transfer based on the identified gaps.
- Produce a 5-year Action Plan together with an annual plan of action including budget.
- Organise meetings, conferences and workshops for geoscience educators and to disseminate information on new trends and topics in the field of geosciences.
- Develop specific programmes on the continuation and coordination of training courses, especially through generation of teaching materials and provision of training courses.
- Encourage publications of handbooks or textbooks at an international level to help bridge recognised gaps in the training of and education of geoscientists.
- Facilitate the harmonisation of geoscience presentation with different cultures in order to enhance the development of ethics in geoscience education.
- Assist in the distribution of geoscience teaching materials, including books, videos, equipment etc.

### **Current members**

**Gary Lewis** (Chair), Geological Society of America, USA  
**Wesley Hill** (Secretary General/Treasurer), Geological Society of America, USA  
**Chris King**, Earth Science Education Unit, Keele University, UK  
**Greg McNamara**, Geological Society of Australia, Australia  
**Chang-Jong Kim**, Earth Science Education, Seoul National University, Korea  
**Alan Morgan**, Waterloo University, Canada  
**Ian Clark**, IGEO President, University of Adelaide, Australia

Our first meeting as a Commission was held in Boulder, Colorado in 2004 in conjunction with The Geological Society of America's annual meeting. At that time, a five year strategic plan

