



MINUTES: 3rd Open Session of the IGCP Council 21 February 2018

Venue: UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Present:

IGCP Council members – Guy Narbonne (Chairperson, Canada); Brigitte Vlaswinkel (Vice-Chair, Netherlands) Yongje Kim (Rapporteur, South Korea), Alik Ismail-Zadeh (Azerbaijan), Maria-Julia Orgeira (Argentina)

IUGS – Qiuming Cheng (President)

IGCP National Committees, UNESCO National Commissions; CGMW, UNESCO IGCP secretary, UNESCO Member States representatives (annex 1)

All presentations can be found:

<http://www.unesco.org/igcp>

1. *Welcome by the Dir a.i Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences of UNESCO – Miguel Clusener-Godt*

Mr *Clusener-Godt* warmly welcomed Mr Qiuming Cheng, President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Mr Guy Narbonne, Chair of the International Geoscience Programme Council, IGCP Council Members, IGCP National Committee Members, Distinguished representatives of UNESCO's Member States to the open meeting of the 3rd IGCP Council and the presentation of the new UNESCO Global Geopark applications. He expressed his thanks to the IUGS for their on-going support to the IGCP programme. Mr *Clusener-Godt* Science expressed also his appreciations to the IGCP Scientific board and council members for supporting voluntarily to IGCP programme and he explained that this is another example of the strength of UNESCO networks and the commitment and dedication of the people who constitute these networks. He explained scientific outcomes of the IGCP programme which is entering its 47th year contributes to the SDGs 5, 6, 7, 13 et 17 working with the scientists from all around the world supporting developing countries as well as young and female earth scientists. He explained that ADG/SC encourages the creation of new projects making use of UNESCO designated sites jointly (UNESCO Global Geoparks, Man and Biosphere reserves as well as World Heritage sites) as learning sites. Mr *Clusener-Godt* explained that the details of IGCP Programme's 2017 activities and outcomes as well as new Geoparks applications will be presented by the IGCP Secretary and IGCP Council chair, she wished a successful meeting and hoped that participants will find it interesting.

2. *Welcome by the President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) – Quiming Cheng*

The President of IUGS thanked member states for providing scientific support to the IGCP programme, he also thanked UNESCO for hosting and organising IGCP meetings. Prof Cheng reminded that IGCP is a very successful international collaboration program which supported over 300 project since 46 years. IGCP programme funds multidisciplinary scientific projects combining wide range of research topics including energy, water, geohazards and deep earth. IUGS president invited member states to increase their collaboration to the IGCP program and thanked IGCP council members for their voluntary contributions to the programme.

3. *Welcome by the International Geoscience Programme Secretary – Patrick Mc Keever*

The International Geoscience Programme Secretary welcomed all participants and extended his thanks to the IGCP Council members for their work during their second year as an IGCP council member.

4. *Overview of IGCP project assessments - Chairperson and IGCP Council members*

IGCP council members provided five minutes presentations explaining the objectives of each IGCP theme as well as project highlights in 2017. IGCP Council member presentations are available from the website.

5. *IGCP project participant videos explaining IGCP projects- IGCP Project leaders provided brief videos registered during their 2017 IGCP meetings. IGCP Secretariat combines these videos, which were projected during the meeting.*

6. *Report on the Programme by the IGCP Executive Secretary- Annual report and presentation is available from the website. Mr McKeever explained that Jeju Province Development Corporation (JPDC) from the Republic of Korea will financially support the International geoscience and geoparks programme providing \$500k/5 years and he thanked to the permanent delegation of the Republic of Korea for their supports during the development of this partnership.*

7. *IGCP National Committees: Reports and discussion- the representatives from: Portugal, Czech Republic, France, Iran, UK, Ireland, China, Turkey, Japan, Brazil, Republic of Korea and Morocco explained their involvements to the IGCP. The reports of the IGCP National Committees are available from the website.*

8. *Earth science projects in Africa- Felix Toteu, Consultant from UNESCO Nairobi explained recent developments regarding Earth Science projects in Africa, these projects are funded by Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and Mr Toteu thanked Sweden for their supports, the presentations is available from website.*

9. *UNESCO Global Geoparks aspirants 2018 - Patrick Mc Keever explained that:*

- a. In 2017, the UNESCO Global Geoparks Council examined 16 new applications and 2 previously deferred applications. They decided to approve 14 new UNESCO Global Geoparks. These decisions will go forward to the 204th session of UNESCO's Executive Board for endorsement, the details of new applications are available from is available from the website.
- b. During the period October-November 2017, UNESCO received 21 new applications from areas wishing to become UNESCO Global Geoparks plus 2 extension applications of more than 10%.
- c. All applications will be subject to a field inspection between May 15 – August 15 2018. An additional 33 UNESCO Global Geoparks will also be revalidated during this period.
- d. In January 2018, at a meeting at the Conmarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark (Mexico) the GeOLAC – Latin American and Caribbean Geoparks Network was founded.

10. UNESCO Permanent Delegations: Feedbacks and discussion: The permanent delegation representatives from Japon, Brazil, France, Sweden and The Republic of Korea took the floor.
- a. Japanese delegation: Thanks for the presentations, asked the origin of the funds for the programme and the Secretariat explained that the IGGP projects are funded by UNESCO SC regular programme budget as well as the contribution of IUGS and for the first time in 2018 JPDC will fund IGCP projects.
 - b. French delegation explained that they provide scholarship awards for young scientist and encouraged IGCP to disseminate this opportunity to the scientists from developing countries.
 - c. Swedish delegation: thanked for the presentation about SIDA funded projects in Africa.
 - d. The Republic of Korea delegation: congratulated successful delivery of the IGCP projects and recent developments regarding UNESCO Global Geoparks, expressed their support for the collaboration between JPDC and UNESCO and indicated their wish to increase the visibility of the programme and its contribution to the young/female scientists from developing countries.
 - e. French delegation: They indicated that 29% of female scientist participation is similar to the trend observed for their doctoral/postdoctoral scholarship programme but they also expressed their wish to increase the participation from Latin and Central American countries.
 - f. UK delegation: Asked the list of successful projects, IGCP secretariat explained that they will be published on the IGCP website.
 - g. Chinese delegation: Indicated that the IGCP is very important, they proposed two suggestions: the visibility of the programme should be increased as it has a high impact but the visibility could be better; the cooperation between the UNESCO Global geoparks and IGCP projects could be increased and IGCP should have more funds to support more projects.
 - h. Morocco: very pleased to see that Moroccan scientists are collaborating with neighbour countries, they are very supportive of this ambitious programme and would like to support their neighbour countries for the development of new geoparks in Africa.
11. *Any other business*
- All participants agreed that worldwide IGCP and UNESCO Global geoparks participation are required as well as further collaborations between IGCP projects and UNESCO Global Geoparks.
 - Patrick McKeever thanked participants for their contribution and attendance to the 3rd Open Session of the IGCP Council and presentation of the new UNESCO Global Geoparks applicants meeting.

Drafted by: Özlem ADIYAMAN
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