UNESCO Earth Sciences

50th Anniversary

Place : Room IV
Fontenoy Building
Paris, France

Click here for webcast link

Agenda **16 March 2023** **1.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.**

Session I - Enabling International collaboration through Geosciences

1.30 p.m. - 2.15 p.m.

Mr Xing Qu, Deputy Director-General and Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences a.i., UNESCO
Opening speech

Dr Mohamed Nabil, Higher Education and Research Minister, Republic of Djibouti
Opening speech

Dr John Ludden, President of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)
Opening speech

UNESCO Secretariat
Capacity-building in Earth sciences

Session II – Vision and Portfolio of the International Geoscience Programme

2.15 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Prof Jonathan Craig, IGCP Council Chairperson
Modern sustainability challenges, what is the role of the International Geoscience Programme?

Dr Gloria Prieto, IGCP Council member for Earth resources theme
Geosciences for Earth resources sustainability

Prof Sobhi Nasir, IGCP Council member for global change theme
Preserved geological records for the future

Prof YoungHee Kim, IGCP Council member for geohazards theme
Natural hazards mitigation through seismic data analysis

Dr Mohamed Jalludin, IGCP Council member for hydrogeology theme
Life on Earth dependance on water and geoscience

Prof Hassina Mouri, IGCP Council member for Geodynamics theme
Advancing human and animal health through medical geology

**Click here for more information on the IGCP Council*

Results of the seventh UNESCO Global Geoparks Council and 2022 new geoparks applications

UNESCO Secretariat
UNESCO Global Geoparks Programme in 2022

Coffee break **3.30 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

Session III - Healing the Earth: Geoscience Solutions for Critical Challenges

4 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. Panel discussion and audience Q & A

How geoscience expertise can tackle current and future threats to human and planetary wellbeing

Session chair

Prof Iain Stewart, UNESCO Chair on Geoscience and Society

Panelists

Dr Mohamed Nabil, Higher Education and Research Minister, Republic of Djibouti

Ms Lisa Rebora, Senior Vice President of Emerging & Future Business at Equinor

Dr Rokhaya Samba Diene, General Manager of the National Geological Survey of Senegal

Mr William L. Cunningham, Director, Office of International Programs, U.S. Geological Survey

Dr Geertje Schuitema, Associate Professor in Consumer Behaviour and Technology Adoption, University College Dublin

Session IIII - Vision Outline and Closure

5.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

UNESCO proposal for a next decade in collaboration with industry and international organizations

Prof Iain Stewart, UNESCO Chair on Geoscience and Society

Prof Jonathan Craig, Chair of the International Geoscience Programme

UNESCO Secretariat

Panelists Biographies

Prof Iain Stewart
UNESCO Chair on Geoscience and Society

Iain Stewart is the El Hassan bin Talal Research Chair in Sustainability at the Royal Scientific Society (Jordan) and Professor of Geoscience Communication at the University of Plymouth (UK). The founding director of the University of Plymouth's 'Sustainable Earth Institute', Iain's long-standing research interests are in disaster risk reduction, climate change, and Earth science communication. His Earth science communication work has built on a 15-year partnership with BBC Science television presenting popular documentary series, such as 'Earth: The Power of the Planet', 'Earth: The Climate Wars', 'How Earth Made Us', 'How To Grow A Planet', 'The Rise of the Continents' and 'Planet Oil; he was also academic advisor on David Attenborough's acclaimed BBC series 'Severn Worlds, One Planet'. Awarded an MBE for his services to geography and geology education, he is President of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, was the Communications Lead and Evidence Chair for the Scottish Government's Climate Citizen's Assembly, and is the UNESCO Chair for Geoscience and Society.

Dr Mohamed Nabil
Higher Education and Research Minister, Republic of Djibouti

Dr. Nabil Mohamed Ahmed holds a PhD in Biology and has been the Minister of Higher Education and Research of Djibouti since May 2011. He recorded great contributions and successes which led to the development of human capital through partnerships, the development of the University of Djibouti, implementation of The Regional Health Training Center, the provision of new laboratories and the expansion of human and material capacities at the Research Center of Djibouti, and the of the "Regional Research Observatory for Environment and Climate" for better regional joint research to forecast and prevent risks and prepare strategies for adaptation and resilience.

Dr. Nabil Mohamed Ahmed is the leader of the Djiboutian Space Program which is in phase to launch two satellites built by young Djiboutian engineers and technicians in collaboration with the University Space Center of Montpellier. In January 2023, he signed an MoU with Hong Kong Technology Group for the construction of Space Port in Djibouti.

For his valuable contributions and commitments, Dr. Nabil Mohamed Ahmed received high awards such as "Officier de l'Ordre du 27 Juin" in 2008 and "Commandeur de l'Ordre du 27 Juin" in 2018 at the national level and the "Commandeur des Palmes Académiques Françaises" award in 2019 at the international level.

Ms Lisa Rebora
Senior Vice President of Emerging & Future Business at Equinor

Lisa is the current Senior Vice President of Emerging & Future Business at Equinor, with a career spanning over 25 years across the energy sector. Lisa has held several senior roles at Equinor having begun her leadership in Oil & Gas Exploration, moving up to Senior VP Exploration in 2018 before stepping into her current role. Current responsibilities include heading up the newly established 'Emerging & Future Business' team that looks beyond the core business to find new energy solutions for tomorrow.

Lisa began her career at Schlumberger, as a Geophysicist in 1995 working in seismic acquisition and processing, before moving to ARCO & Vastar Resources as a Geophysicist. She spent 4 years at the company with exploration and production in the Central North Sea and the Gulf of Mexico shelf and deepwater. In 2000, Lisa moved to BP as a Senior Geoscientist where she completed exploration and appraisal across Angola and Egypt – working at the company for 9 years. Following BP, Lisa worked at Statoil (now Equinor) from 2009 to 2016, working her way up to the role of VP Exploration where she was the Head of Exploration for the Regional Southern Hemisphere and subsequently VP Safety, Security & Sustainbility. As Statoil rebranded to Equinor in 2018, Lisa continued to progress her career to the senior role she is in today.

Lisa holds a BSc (Hons) in Petroleum Geoscience & Geology as well as an MSc in Petroleum Geoscience, both from Imperial College London.

Dr Rokhaya Samba Diene
General Manager of the National Geological Survey of Senegal

Dr. Rokhaya Samba DIENE is a doctor-engineer in applied geology from University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (UCAD) after attending the Institute of Earth Sciences of Dakar where she became in an engineer geologist in 1993.

She is also specialized in Public Administration of Mines (CESAM) from the National Superior School of Mines of Paris, and Executive MBA in Advances Finances and Management of West African Polytechnic University (UPOA) in Dakar.

She has successfully completed a course on Regulation and Management of mineral resources at Curtin University, Western Australia, as part of the Australian Awards for Africa in 2011, in addition to a course on "mining policy and commercial contract negotiations" at the African Institute of Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) in 2012.

She served successively at different positions in the Ministry of Mines and Geology, as a Director of Geology, Director of Prospection and Mining Promotion, head of the Documentation and Mining Cadaster Center of the Department of Mines and Geology, Chief of the Division of Mines and Careers, Head of the Regional Mines and Geology Service of Dakar.

Currently, she is the President of the Organisation of African Geological Surveys (OAGS), President of the Senegal-Australia Alumni Association (SEN3A) and Member of the Board of Women In Mining Senegal (WIM SENEGAL). She had coordonated the six bi-annualeditions of the Senegalese International Mining Exhibition (SIM SENEGAL)

Mr William L. Cunningham
Director, Office of International Programs, U.S. Geological Survey

Bill Cunningham is Director of the USGS Office of International Programs. In this role, he serves as the principal advisor to the Director, other USGS senior leaders, and the Department of the Interior regarding a broad spectrum of international scientific cooperation and assistance in geologic, hydrologic, natural hazards, biological, and geographic research and scientific investigations.

A hydrogeologist by training, Bill has conducted resource assessments using groundwater models, investigated environmental contamination problems, and developed data networks at the USGS. From 2012-2017, he was Chief of the USGS Office of Groundwater, overseeing the development of tools and methods for the USGS operational program, transferring technology to USGS groundwater data and investigative activities throughout the Nation, providing a system of quality controls to assure the technical excellence of groundwater field programs, and providing national direction and program coordination for USGS groundwater science. Prior to joining the Office of International Programs, Bill was the Director of the Earth System Processes Division of the USGS Water Resources Mission Area, managing about 120 USGS scientists engaged in water resource assessments and process studies, research, and development across the U.S.

Bill is a liaison to the US National Committee for the International Union of Geological Sciences.He served on the Expert Panel on Groundwater for the Council of Canadian Academies (2008-09); as Chair, U.S. National Committee for the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (2016-18); and serves on the Advisory Board of the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Security.

Dr Geertje Schuitema
Associate Professor in Consumer Behaviour and Technology Adoption, University College Dublin

Geertje Schuitema is an Associate at University College Dublin. Prior to joining University College Dublin, she held positions at the University of Groningen (Netherlands), Aberdeen (UK) and Aarhus (Denmark). Geertje is an environmental psychologist who researches sustainable consumers behaviour in related to complex sustainability issues, such as the use of natural resources, energy transition, and climate change. Her research focusses on which psychological processes underpin behavioural change, including emotions, trust, fairness and social norms. Geertje Schuitema is director of the Researching Social Theories, Resources, and Environment (ReSToRE) International Summer School. This is a bi-annual International Summer School that runs under the patronage of UNESCO and facilitates global and interdisciplinary discussion on how to reconcile different views and perspectives about Earth's resources.

Conference Concept Note

UNESCO Natural Sciences sector invites UNESCO Member States' Government representatives to join global geoscience leaders, economists, policy makers, industry, and academic experts to identify how the science of our planet can help find people-centered solutions to many of society's 'grand challenges'.

The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP)'s 50th anniversary celebration

UNESCO, the only United Nations organization with a mandate to support research and capacity building in geology and geophysics, and its flagship programme, the International Geoscience Programme, actively contribute to society and to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Since 1972, UNESCO, through the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) and in partnership with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), has harnessed the intellectual capacity of a worldwide network of geoscientists to lay the foundation for our planet's future, focusing on responsible and environmental resource extraction, natural hazard resilience and preparedness, and adaptability in an era of changing climate. In its 50th anniversary, the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) supported 60 geoscience research projects in 2022.

Targeting UNESCO's member states and the communities who are connected with earth scientists (natural and social sciences community, private and public sector, youth), UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector and IUGS are inviting Members States to the Conference entitled **'Healing The Earth: UNESCO and Earth sciences past, present and future'** on the 16th March 2023.

The Conference will showcase IGCP's achievements and impact; status and to provoke a discussion about the role of UNESCO and IUGS in international earth science cooperation during the next 50 years to address the challenges our society is facing today.

We will demonstrate the scientific contribution of the IGCP to our society and its intent to provide a mechanism to involve geoscientists from developing countries to engage in research with geoscientists from the developed world. That has been and remains the primary strength of IGCP, and the relatively modest seed corn funding it provides often leverages other more substantial in-country and international funds. We highlight how, even today while big geosciences projects are delivered through big, internationally funded programmes, led by 'big', recognised names and adopted by the major funding agencies, IGCP empowers early-career geoscientists to establish their name and give them opportunities to flourish (in 2022, 379 project leaders from 94 countries, 41% female, 50% early career scientist brought together more than 5000 geoscientists to deliver the objectives of 60 projects).

This Conference aims to develop multi-stakeholder partnerships to:

- promote the success of this programme for 50 years and network of more than 10,000 geoscientists from UNESCO Member States,
- extend IGCP's offer and networks to UNESCO designated sites (World Heritage Sites, Biosphere reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks),
- make this unique Earth science programme financially stronger to provide further opportunities for young scientists to enhance their capability building and networking skills by joining wellestablished international research and training programmes organized by highly respected academic institutions and industry,
- Provide solutions to the MSs on geosciences: geotourism and sustainable communities, water and climate security, energy transition, disaster risk reduction.

Contact
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