



## NewsLetter

May

2006

Issue No. 11

### Academy Committee for Geosciences

The Academy Committee for Geosciences met on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005 and on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006.

#### ES2K

From April 2006, ES2k will publish through its own dedicated pages of the magazine 'Science Spin'; its own magazine will be discontinued. This will enable ES2k to reach a larger audience, and more frequently, as 'Science Spin' is published bimonthly.

#### Academy Lecture – Andy Knoll

Professor Andy Knoll of Harvard University will give an Academy lecture on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006. The lecture will probably be run in conjunction with the Irish Times and held in Trinity College. The title of Professor Knoll's lecture has not yet been finalised but the topic is likely to be 'Mars and life'.

#### International Year of Planet Earth

In December 2005, the United Nations General Assembly formally approved the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). The 'Year' will consist of the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. The aim is to highlight the importance of geoscience in today's world and will feature both scientific research and public outreach activities. The Geological Survey of Ireland will establish an IYPE National Committee for Ireland over the next few months. This National Committee will propose, coordinate and promote activities in Ireland under the IYPE banner. Some of its members will be drawn from the Geosciences Committee, and from other Academy committees.

#### Irish National Seismic Network

The Committee has supported a proposal from the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS) for State funding to establish and operate a modern National Seismic Network for Ireland. The Committee has also supported the proposal that DIAS operate the seismic network.

#### New Chair

Garth Earls (GSNI) has taken over as Chair of the Academy Committee for Geosciences, until the end of the Committee's term in May 2008. The previous Chair, Chris Bean, will continue as a member of the Committee.

Any correspondence for the attention of the Geosciences Committee can be sent to [geosciences@ria.ie](mailto:geosciences@ria.ie). The committee will next meet in early June 2006.

Bulletins and other documents relating to the committee are archived on its web site: <http://www.ria.ie/committees/geosciences/index.html>.

*Committee membership:* Mr Garth Earls (Chair); Prof. Pat Shannon (Vice-Chair); Dr Julian Menuge (Secretary); Prof. Mark Bailey (Representative of the Academy Committee for Astronomy and Space Research); Mr David Ball; Dr Chris Bean; Dr Catherine Coxon; Dr Catherine Dalton (Representative of the Academy Committee for Geography); Dr Eve Daly; Ms Vanessa Berman (Programme Manager, RIA); Prof. John Gamble; Dr Deirdre Lewis; Dr Peadar McArdle; Mr Eoin Moran; Dr Aodhagán Ó Rodaighe (Representative of the Irish Committee on Climate Change); Dr Matthew Parkes; Dr Ian Sanders.

#### Report by Dr Julian Menuge

Secretary, Academy Committee for Geosciences  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

### Congratulations – New Members

Stephen Bradley and Fergal McNamara were approved as PGeos and EurGeols at the IGI Board meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> 2006. Neil McNeilis and Barry Sexton were approved at recent IGI Board meetings as members-in-training (MITs).

## IGI Course – Soils Description

The IGI intends to run a short course on "**The Description of Soils based on the BS5930:1999 Code of Practice for Site Investigations**". It will be given by Peter Ruddy of AGECC in June 2006. The venue and time will be announced shortly.

## Upcoming Meetings

**May 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>:** 'New territories, discoveries and approaches in exploration' will be the title of this year's IAEG weekend conference. The venue will be the Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan. A registration form and a list of speakers and topics can be downloaded from the IAEG website ([www.iaeg.org](http://www.iaeg.org)).

**May 12<sup>th</sup>:** The IAEG pre-weekend short course field trip will visit the **Derreenavoggy Colliery** at Arigna and Gallantas' **Cavancaw** gold mine in Tyrone. A registration form for the fieldtrip can be downloaded from the IAEG website ([www.iaeg.org](http://www.iaeg.org)).

---

### **"Geophysical Exploration of Irish Natural Resources"**

Venue: Green Isle Hotel, Newlands Cross, Dublin  
Date: **Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Details can be downloaded from the Geophysical Association of Ireland website (<http://www.gai.ie>)**

---

### **DIAS 2006 Statutory Lecture**

#### **"The Changing Earth We Live On: The Need For a European Strategy"**

The lecture will be given by Professor Sierd Cloetingh, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> May**, 8pm in the Robert Emmet Theatre, Arts Building, Trinity College, Dublin

There will be a reception after the lecture in the Library of Merrion Square.

## COMMISSIONER McCREEVY MARKS RECENT OPENING OF NEW OFFICES FOR TOBIN

TOBIN Consulting Engineers, one of the largest independent Irish owned consulting engineering firms, recently (1st March) celebrated the first anniversary of their new office in Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15. The event was conducted by the European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, Charlie McCreevy.



TOBIN Consulting Engineers provide a complete multi-disciplinary engineering consultancy service through their network of offices in Galway, Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Castlebar and Dundalk. The company specialises in six main streams of engineering: civil, structural, transportation, environmental, mechanical & electrical and project management.

Speaking at the event, Commissioner McCreevy said "I congratulate TOBIN on the recent opening of their new office – it is representative of the growth of the company since 1952. It is great to witness an Irish engineering company prosper and make a real contribution to the roll-out of important infrastructural projects throughout the country."

Over the past 5 years TOBIN has grown from a workforce of 80 to 200 people, 50 of whom are located in Dublin, reflecting our growing workload in the Greater Dublin Area.

TOBIN are currently involved in major water and sewerage schemes in Leixlip, Maynooth, Ashbourne/Ratoath and on a number of major retail, commercial, residential and hotel projects in the Greater Dublin Area.

## UNESCO International Conference on Geoparks



### Geological Survey of Northern Ireland

The Geological Survey of Northern Ireland will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNESCO International Geoparks 2006 Conference in Belfast from September 17<sup>th</sup> to September 21<sup>st</sup> 2006.

A link [www.geoparks2006.com](http://www.geoparks2006.com) has been placed on the IGI website.

## European Federation of Geologists

The EFG Office will edit each month a page of **GeoNews** in accordance with an EFG Council decision in December 2005.

The current EFG GeoNews page has information that may be of interest to IGI members, including:

- Jobs opportunities
- News from European Legislation Process
- Relevant upcoming events.

More information and the current GeoNews page can be found at <http://www.eurogeologists.de/events.htm>

## EPA Hosted Soils Workshop

The EPA are hosting a Soils Workshop on 17th May 2006 in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, County Offaly. Entitled 'A Showcase of recent progress in Soils Research, and Identification of future requirements and challenges for the EPA Soils Research Strategy 2007-2013', the workshop will be of great value to soil scientists, geologists and hydrogeologists, hydrologists, agricultural scientists, local authority engineers, consultants, planners, environmental scientists and public health officials.

The morning session will host papers on recently completed and ongoing soils research funded by the

EPA, with the afternoon session comprising two keynote addresses by two leading and highly experienced British soil practitioners. This should broaden and stretch our understanding of topics at EU level and outside Ireland, and will be followed by an extended open floor discussion where interested parties will discuss Irish Soil Research requirements for the short to medium term. This is an opportunity for all interested in soils research to have their say and have a bearing on future research foci in the soils research area in Ireland. The crucial question is 'what soils research should have priority in Ireland over the next ten years?'

For more information on the workshop and to register, please consult the EPA website at <http://www.epa.ie/EnvironmentalResearch/Events/EPAsoilsWorkshop2006/>

The latest date for registration is the **10th May 2006**. Please note that as places may be limited, they will be attributed on a first come, first served basis. There are no registration fees.

## IAH Conference Proceedings available for purchase

The IAH Irish Group recently held another successful annual conference in Tullamore, with over 200 registrants, on '**It doesn't just go away, you know! - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Groundwater Monitoring**'. Copies of the proceedings can be purchased for EUR40 (plus EUR3 postage) from the Education & Publicity Secretary - for contact details see the IAH (Irish Group) website: <http://www.iah-ireland.org/>

## News of IGI Members

IGI members Deepak Inamdar and Geoff Wright are retiring from the Geological Survey of Ireland later this month.

## IGI AGM reminder

IGI members are requested to attend the Institute's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday May 17th at the Geological Survey of Ireland at 7 pm.

*Newsletter compiled and edited by EurGeol Frank McDermott PGeo. ([frank.mcdermott@ucd.ie](mailto:frank.mcdermott@ucd.ie))*