



NewsLetter June-August 2006 Issue no. 12

IGI's 2006 Conference 'Ireland's Natural Resources'

The IGI Annual Conference 'Ireland's Natural Resources' will be held on November 15th 2006 at Dublin Castle. The conference proceedings will be organised into four major topical sessions on Minerals, Aggregates, Water and Hydrocarbons & Renewable Energy. For further information contact admin@igi.ie

Report from the Royal Irish Academy Committee for Geosciences



Bulletin 5 – July 2006

The Academy Committee for Geosciences met on 16th June 2006.

Government Strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation, 2006 – 2013

On 18th June the Irish Government published a document outlining in some detail its approach to

research, technology and innovation. This will form one chapter of the 2006 – 2013 National Development Plan and can be downloaded from:

www.entemp.ie/publications/science/2006/sciencestrategy.pdf

The Geoscience Committee was briefed on the Government's plans on 16th June by Barry McSweeney, the Research Coordinator of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. The Government's priorities for research will be agriculture and food, health, energy, the environment, and the marine, of which the last three provide clear opportunities for geoscientists. The Geosciences Committee is currently studying the document in the context of its geoscience research strategy.

International Year of Planet Earth

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) has now established an IYPE National Committee for Ireland. The Committee will focus on promotion of geoscience through outreach activities during 2007, 2008 and 2009, the three years of the IYPE. The GSI will soon add IYPE web pages to its web site (www.gsi.ie).

Rapid Response Coordinator

The Committee has appointed David Ball as its Rapid Response Coordinator. He plans to intervene in the media when topical geoscience news stories emerge, in order to promote the relevance and importance of geoscience to society. He will be aided by a number of members of the Geosciences Committee who have received media training.

Energy Conference

The Geosciences Committee is in the early stages of planning an Academy conference on energy research. This conference is likely to take place in autumn 2007.

IUGS and IGCP

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) has taken over from the Royal Irish Academy as the Adhering Organisation for the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). The IGCP was formally known as the International Geological Correlation Programme and retains its old acronym and logo in spite of the name change. The GSI will provide links to the IUGS and IGCP on its web site (www.gsi.ie).

The IGCP is shifting its emphasis from basic to applied science and a call for projects will be issued in

2006. The call for research proposals will include, but not be limited to:

- Geoscience of the water cycle
- Geohazards: mitigating the risks
- Earth resources: sustaining our society
- Global change and life evolution: evidence for the geological record
- The deep Earth: how it controls our environment.

Any correspondence for the attention of the Geosciences Committee can be sent to geosciences@ria.ie. The committee will next meet on 1st September 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 Marie Cowan; Dr Catherine Coxon; Dr Catherine Dalton (Representative of the Academy Committee for Geography); Dr Eve Daly; Ms Vanessa Berman (Programme Manager); 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.

European Geologist 22

This is a call for articles and advertising for European Geologist 22, which will come out at the beginning of December 2006.

A theme on '*Soil protection/Geological Heritage*' is envisioned and articles on that theme will be given priority. However, all other articles are welcome.

Deadline for receipt of copy is **30 September**.

Please note that a theme for the June 2007 issue will be '*Natural Hazards*'.

Please read guidelines for authors on the EFG website (www.eurogeologists.de).

Dr Maureen Mc Corry
Editor, European Geologist

News of Members

Stephen Daly, Frank McDermott and John Walsh, IGI members in UCD, have all been promoted to Associate Professor.



Stephen Daly



Frank McDermott



John Walsh

Oliver Bonham was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists in March of this year.

Donal Daly has left the Groundwater section of the GSI and can be found at the Office of Environmental Assessment in the EPA. Queries to the Groundwater Section can be sent to: Michael Kennedy, Section Administrator. Email: michaelj.kennedy@gsi.ie

Geology and Rugby:

Job Langbroek is the new President of Blackrock College RFC and John Pyne is the new President of St. Mary's College RFC.

Expert Witness Directory 2007

The *Expert Witness Directory of Ireland* for 2007 is presently being compiled. The IGI will not be applying to be listed in the Directory. Those members wishing to have their name included in the directory at their own cost can email Chris Webb at chris.webb@thomson.com

Congratulations

Neil McNelis was approved as a PGeo at the meeting of the IGI Board on February 5th 2006, Stephen Bradley and Fergal McNamara were approved as PGeos at the meeting of the IGI Board on April 5th 2006.

Resources and Reserves: Minerals

The EPA have just published "**Guidelines: Environmental Management in the Extractive Industry(Non-Scheduled Minerals)**" The *Guidelines* are down-loadable from your web on www.epa.ie see Reports and Publications.

Industry News

Tellus Project

On 14th June in Dublin, Weber Shandwick, PR consultants to the Tellus project, won the Public Relations Institute of Ireland Award in the Public Information section of the competition, for their (and the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland) work on the Tellus project.

This represents island-wide recognition of the work that has been undertaken to ensure the successful dissemination of information regarding the airborne and ground programmes. Media figures indicate that there is a very high public awareness of the project with 'media penetration' of 6 million people.

Integration of TES Consulting Engineers with TOBIN Consulting Engineers

TES has been a fully owned subsidiary of TOBIN since 2003.

TES was originally a joint venture between TOBIN and Grontmij Consulting Engineers of the Netherlands; TOBIN bought out Grontmij in early 2003.

Since that time, TES with 22 professional staff has expanded and grown into one of Ireland's leading environmental consultancy companies, providing specialist advice on all aspects of the environment for a wide range of infrastructural, residential and commercial developments in the waste management, extractive industries and civil engineering sectors.

Since early 2005 TES has been supported at its West Dublin base in Blanchardstown by a team of TOBIN's Civil and Structural engineers.

From July 1st 2006, these combined Civil, Structural and Environmental services will continue to be provided from TOBIN's Dublin Office by a team of 45 professional staff.

Both **Sean Finlay** and **Damien Grehan**, directors of TES, have been appointed to the Board of TOBIN and will continue to provide the leadership for **TOBIN's Environmental Division based in Dublin**.

The other TOBIN directors in Dublin are **Ciaran O'Keefe** (Civils) and **Paul Halpin** (Structures), while **Fred Renkema** is an Associate (Structures).

O'Neill Groundwater Engineering are moving

As of the 28th August 06 the new address for O'Neill Ground Water Engineering Ltd will be:

O'Neill Ground Water Engineering Ltd .
Unit D5
M7 Business Park
Newhall
Naas
Co. Kildare

The telephone numbers remain the same.

National Hydrology Seminar

The Irish Committee on Climate Change of the Royal Irish Academy and the National Committees of the International Hydrological Programme and the

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the seventh National Hydrology Seminar to be held on 14th November 2006 in the Tullamore Court Hotel.

SEMINAR OBJECTIVE

Climate change is an issue of increasing concern to the public, and also among policy makers and professionals responsible for managing its potential impacts on water resources and associated risks of increased flooding and water shortages.

The objective of this seminar is to present an overview of the drivers and potential impacts of climate change on the hydrological cycle at both international and national levels. Issues to be considered will include the policy and practical aspects of managing the potentially wide-ranging effects of climate change, including those related to the Water Framework Directive, flood risk management, the climate change strategy, licensing and regional planning. The seminar will also assess the existing and necessary future scientific requirements to provide an improved understanding of the likelihood, scale and location of such effects.

The seminar will be held under four thematic sessions, each tackling a major issue within the overall objective:

- Overview of Climate Change Internationally and in Ireland
- Impact of Climate Change on Floods & Droughts
- Impact of Climate Change on Water Quality
- Management and Planning

Information regarding the National Hydrology Seminar 2006 is now up on the "Hydrology Ireland" web-site. <http://www.opw.ie/hydrology/> go to - "Seminars".

CRIRSCO

The Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards (CRIRSCO) a committee of the National Mineral Reserve Reporting Organisations of Australia, Canada, Chile, South Africa, USA, UK/Ireland and Western Europe, has launched the **CRIRSCO International Reporting Template**. Now publicly available for the first time, the International Reporting Template may be freely downloaded from CRIRSCO's new and improved web site at <http://www.crirSCO.com>.

JORC Exposure Draft: Proposed Changes to the "Inferred Resources" Definition

The Committee of JORC held an important meeting in Sydney on 31 October 2005, to discuss the practical implications of the existing JORC Code definition (and guidelines) of an "Inferred Resource" and consequently whether it is satisfactory or requires amendment. In addition to the members of JORC, the meeting was attended by a number of interested parties who had prepared presentations or position papers on the subject. The agenda specifically addressed these issues:

- Inferred Resources - what do the current definition and guidelines mean?
- How influential are the guidelines?
- What should the definition and guidelines mean, or what is it desirable for them to mean?
- What definitions have been formulated by international bodies concerning estimation and reporting of mineral resources and mineral reserves.

An Exposure Draft document has been prepared presenting recommendations made by the Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) relating to public reporting of Inferred Mineral Resources. A copy can be read or downloaded at http://www.jorc.org/pdf/inferred_resources_exposure_draft.pdf. This document was released for public exposure and comment on 23rd August, to coincide with the opening of the 6th International Mine Geology Conference in Darwin. JORC will allow two months for public comment; the comments will be collated and reviewed to compile a final recommendation to JORC's parent bodies. Comments should be sent to: JORC Secretariat The AusIMM by email atmsarder@ausimm.com.au or by fax to: (03) 9662 3662 before the! 23rd of October.

Newsletter Items

We invite all members to forward items of news or general interest to fellow members to info@igi.ie.