



Newsletter

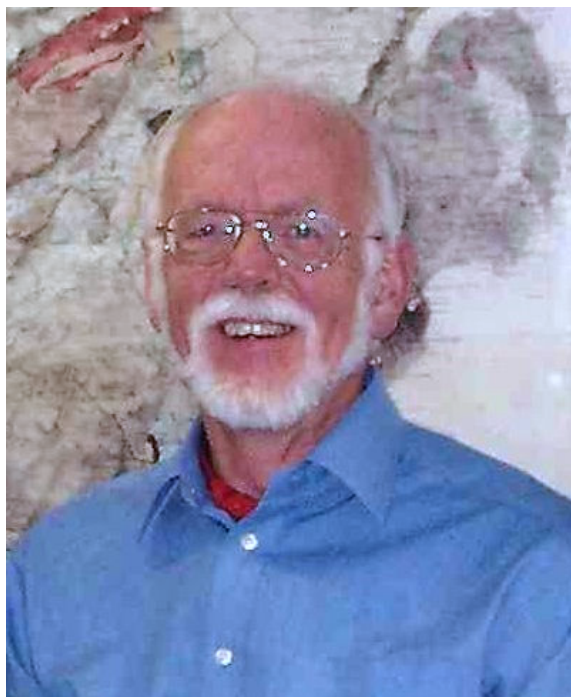
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Presidents Address

A Farewell Word from the President



The last two years have been hectic, or so it has certainly felt. I wish to thank the Board and particularly Kevin Cullen for the support that I have received during the last two years and especially during the last few months whilst I was sick. A strong and active Board, appears to become more difficult to find each year, as people get busier and more committed to other activities. However each year we get another miracle with dedicated workers on the Board.

The IGI is a constantly developing organisation. It is now looking to examine how its relationship with its

founding Sponsoring Bodies, should progress. We will meet with them and discuss how matters should proceed. At present we are talking to one of our Sponsoring Bodies about providing some office facilities at the IGI office. We have been gradually upgrading the office, with the purchase of a new shredder and a new computer, to allow our business to proceed more efficiently.

We have been examining the possibility of providing a category of 'Semi-Retired Member', in addition to that of (fully) "Retired Member", since a number of our members are working part-time after retirement. Unfortunately, we have not yet found a formula which allows this, and also meets the CPD requirements and our international reciprocal agreements.

Whilst we all suffer from the annual chore of making out our CPD return, at least this has been made more straightforward with the redesigned records. We are still trying to refine the interactive aspect of the forms provided on the website, and hope to provide a further improved service soon. We are also preparing a scheme whereby we will accredit companies who require, facilitate and support their geologists to maintain their CPD record. We hope to have this system in place later this year.

We have been pleased to use some of our conference income to provide copies of the excellent new GSI/GSNI geological map of Ireland to all our members. We have had an excellent response to this action. We have also been able to help in the final production of an A4 geological map and text by Padhraig Kennan and UCD and look forward to distributing this to our members soon. This will be made available to schools and throughout the country.

A spin-off from the recent successful meeting with the Concrete Federation of Ireland has been the production of a template of procedures to be followed by quarries when making EISs. This is yet another in a series of publications that the IGI has brought out, which includes the Bottled Mineral Water leaflet and the IGI poster distributed to colleges.

These publications join the final appearance of the IGI Drilling Guidelines that are now in press, with the acknowledged assistance of the Environmental Protection Agency. This has been a huge effort by many members and we are delighted to see this work come to fruition. We expect that further sections will be added to it in the near future.

We anticipate other joint meetings including one on Geothermal Energy to be held in conjunction with the GT Skills geothermal training programme and the Geothermal Association of Ireland later this year. I also look forward to 2009 when the IGI will host the EFG Council Meeting for the first time since 1995.

In 2008, the International Year of the Planet Earth (IYPE) will be celebrated around the globe. The IGI will be supporting the organisation by the Royal Irish Academy of events and lectures. It also has this duty through its membership of the EFG, which is a supporting European body for the IYPE

Finally we will be having our usual Annual Conference at the start of October and I look forward to seeing you all there. Please make sure to support the IGI at this important event.

EurGeol Gareth Ll. Jones PGeo
President

Annual General Meeting

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland Limited will be held at 7.00 p.m. on May 16th 2007 at the Geological Survey, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4 for the following purposes:

1. To receive and consider the Directors' Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended December 31st 2006.
2. To elect Directors.
3. To re-elect Casey McGrath and Associates as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
4. To transact any other ordinary business of the Annual General Meeting.

By Order of the Board

Yvonne O'Connell
Secretary

Dated April 4th 2007.

Colombian Geologists

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION TO THE PUBLIC OPINION

RETAINED 9 GEOLOGISTS IN EL CHOCÓ, COLOMBIA

Bogotá D.C., 17th of March.

The Association of Geologists of the National University of Colombia - AGUNAL, the Colombian Society of Geology - SCG and the Professional Council of Geology - CPG, want to inform that the day Tuesday 13 of March were retained the engineer geologists of the National University of Medellín:

- **Luis Fernando Arredondo Restrepo**
- **Gabriel Arturo Tabares Bustamante**
- **Alejandro Velásquez Gutiérrez**
- **Oscar Coujar Couttin**
- **Luis Fernando Tabares Galvis**

The Geologists of the university of Calda:

- **Leonardo Andrés Sepúlveda**
- **Alonso Guzmán**
- **Yesid Alberto Cárdenas**

and the Head Geologist **René Lugo Primelles**,

when they were making works of mining exploration in the Neguá river, region of Choco'.

We ask the people or the group who have made this retention, to consider that professional are just graduated, who were working in that area fulfilling the plans drawn up by the company for which they are related as geologist's contractors.

We requested that they are released quickly for tranquillity of the geoscientific community and its families.

We insist so that the exercise of geology in Colombia is declared a professional activity of high risk, where the geologists must cross zones of conflict and minefields of the territory.

The above is an official communication informing about the present situation of 9 GEOLOGISTS KIDNAPPED IN COLOMBIA, with the purpose of asking for support, through official communications,

dissemination documents, emails, etc, in where we asks for the respect to the life, the immediate liberation, the right to work, etc, and all those rights arbitrarily stolen to these Colombians.

Please if you want to support this action visit the web page:

www.sociedadcolombianadegeologia.org

or write an email of support to

socogeo@sociedadcolombianadegeologia.org

National Geoscience Programme

The Royal Irish Academy and the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) jointly published the National Geoscience Strategy

(www.ria.ie/committees/geosciences/new.html). It was launched by Noel Dempsey, TD, Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources in the Academy on 21st February 2007. The Programme is the product of collaborative work between the Geosciences Committee and the GSI and constitutes part of the National Development Plan 2007-2013. For the first time, geoscience has been recognised by the Government as a distinct sector, with an impact on economic, environmental and social development in Ireland.



Launch of the Geoscience Initiative in the Royal Irish Academy by the Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Mr. Noel Dempsey with EurGeol Dr. Peadar McArdle Director Geological Survey of Ireland and Prof. Tony Slevin, President Royal Irish Academy.

Irish Concrete Federation Conference

ICF Conference and Geological Guidelines for Environmental Impacts Statements (EIS).

On February 21st 2007, the Irish Concrete Federation Conference (ICF) held a conference concerning current Section 261 planning applications and associated Environmental Impact Statements for quarries.

Sean Finlay PGeo C. Eng, Director of TOBIN Consulting Engineers, presented a paper entitled “Geology in Environmental Impact Statements – Room for Improvement?”

Sean presented his paper with a view to highlighting the level of information required in an EIS to represent the geological and hydrogeological properties of a subject site. He stated that if the proposed information was supplied in an EIS, a high standard of baseline information would be available for the quarry.

Since the conference, these recommendations have been accepted by the IGI and will be published as IGI Guidelines at the end of March 2007.

Other papers presented by IGI members included –

EurGeol Kevin Cullen P.Geo – “Why Here?” –A Site Selection Strategy.

Eugene Daly – “Quarry Inflows and Outflows, Investigation, Evaluation and Assessment”.



Morning Session



Afternoon Session

Pan-European Minerals Day

The International Mineral Association, IMA, is working in the first pan-European Minerals Day to be held between 11 and 13 May 2007, <http://www.ima-eu.org/>

Activities will be at the discretion of the individual companies, but will typically include quarry and plant visits, demonstrations of equipment, presentations of health and safety standards at work and the different phases of quarry life (planning, extraction and land restoration), geological tours, school and youth projects, nature protection projects, fossil hunts, activities for children, concerts, fireworks and exhibitions.

Geothermal Energy

GT Skills are holding a series of training days in 2007 dealing with the installation of geothermal wells, ground source heat pumps and other aspects of shallow geothermal energy.

The first Course A on the CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETION OF A GEOTHERMAL BOREHOLE will be repeated in Cork on April 27th.

The next Course D will cover GEOTHERMAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND EXPLOITATION to be held on May 3rd

It will be followed a few weeks later by Course C ON GEOTHERMAL SYSTEMS, DISTRICT HEATING AND GREEN BUILDINGS.

GT Skills is an Accel funded training course run from the CSA group offices by Gareth Ll. Jones and John Colthurst. Because of the funding regime, the course is only open to employees of limited companies.

For further information contact **GT Skills** or phone 01-2964667 and visit the website www.gtskills.ie



Industry news

Associate Director -TOBIN Consulting Engineers

Congratulations to EurGeol Mark Conroy on his new position as Associate Director of TOBIN Consulting Engineers, Dublin Office.

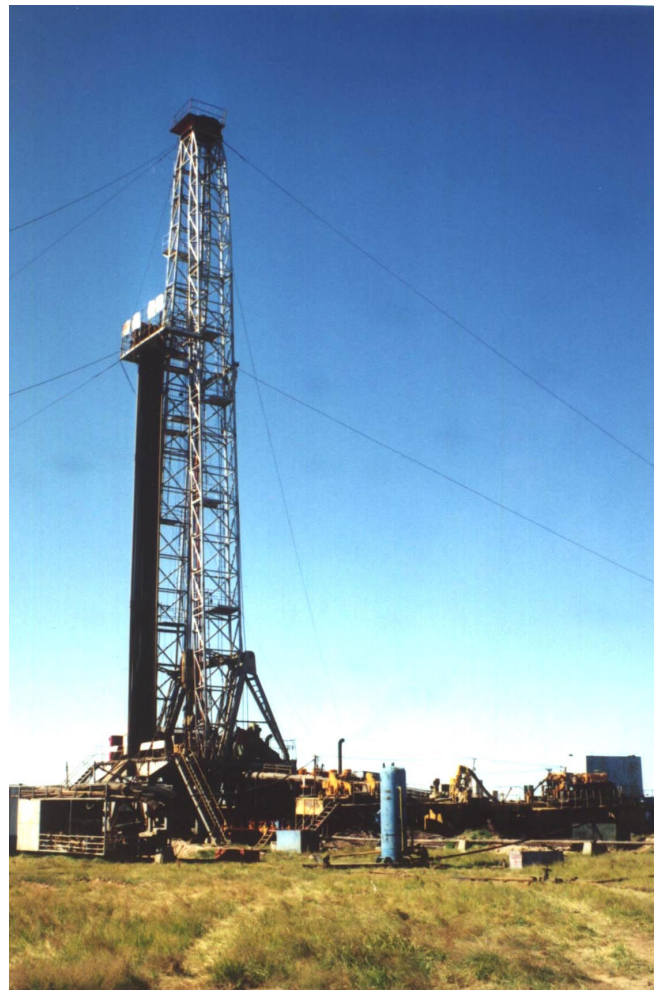
Mark, a Professional Geologist and a member of Engineers Ireland, is a Senior Hydrogeologist who joined TES (former daughter company of TOBIN) in 2000. He has led the growth and development of TOBIN's capability in groundwater development and protection, project management of EIS for a diverse range of projects ranging from landfills, quarries and commercial developments and has appeared as an expert witness at several An Bord Pleanala hearings for such projects.

Integrated Geoscience and the Energy Sector

The need for integrated geoscience research in Ireland has recently been highlighted by the commissioning of two All Island studies by the Department of Communications Marine and Natural Resources, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment for Northern Ireland and Sustainable Energy Ireland related to energy issues. The first study will look at a common approach to natural gas storage and liquefied natural gas on an all-island basis. The second study is an assessment of the all-island potential for geological storage of carbon dioxide in Ireland. The drivers for both of these studies are the need for government to implement energy security of supply and climate change strategies for the island of Ireland. The time for discussion is over. The need for action is clear. What is also abundantly clear is that geoscience is key to providing the options to implement climate change and energy security strategies. Furthermore government departments and agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Sustainable Energy Ireland, the Geological Survey of Ireland, the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, the Petroleum Affairs Division are more than ever before providing joined up thinking to address these urgent issues for government. The commencement of these studies has already highlighted the lack of deep geological data onshore Ireland. There is deep refraction seismic data available over parts of the country acquired by the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies in their deep geological research to understand the composition of the earth's crust. There is borehole data down to several hundred metres acquired by mineral exploration companies and the Geological Survey of Ireland and a very deeper exploration wells drilled by oil exploration companies in the 1960s and 1980s. There is very little 2D and no 3D seismic data onshore Ireland to give us even a hint of deep geological structures.

These two studies provide a unique opportunity to promote co-operation between geoscientists in various government departments, state agencies, third level institutes and the private sector to combine their geological and reservoir engineering skills in the search for the appropriate geological structures for gas storage and carbon dioxide sequestration in the future. The drilling of a number of deep slim-hole exploratory wells onshore Ireland will have produce data of benefit to many research initiatives but more importantly provide data that will assist near term investment decisions that must be made by

governments to implement current energy security of supply and climate change strategies.



Academy Committee for Geosciences

Griffith Geoscience Research Awards

Following from the National Geoscience Programme, the first round of Griffith Geoscience Research Awards

(www.gsi.ie/Geoscience/Geoscience_Initiatives.htm#Griffith) was advertised on 16th March 2007. The closing application date is 18th April and it is anticipated that successful applicants will be informed in mid-May. Proposals from research groups on the island of Ireland are sought in four areas:

- 1) To facilitate open access to GSI data on a web-enabled basis.
- 2) To establish an Irish Geoscience Graduate Programme on an all-island basis which will provide access to specialised geoscience modular courses.
- 3) To produce and distribute geoscience outreach products to schools.

4) To conduct high quality research on key geoscience areas.

Energy Conference

In December 2006, the Academy agreed to host a one-day conference entitled “Ireland: where will we get our energy?” An Energy Conference Sub-Committee of the Geosciences Committee, chaired by Dr Julian Menuge, is organising both the one-day conference and the public lecture with the assistance of the Academy and the support of the GSI and the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI).

The conference will focus on energy research and will bring together international experts in a variety of energy-related disciplines and will be held in Dublin Castle on 8th November 2007. The following have so far agreed to speak at the meeting: Prof. Bertrand Barré (Areva, France; Nuclear Power), Prof. Mark O'Malley (UCD, Ireland; Electricity Grids), Dr Richard Yemm (Ocean Power Delivery, UK; Ocean Power) and Mr Wim Thomas (Shell, The Netherlands; World Energy Scenarios).

The conference will be preceded by an Irish Times / Royal Irish Academy public lecture on the evening of 7th November. Provisionally, this will be given by Dr Jeremy Leggett (Solar Century, UK; Climate Change and Fossil Fuels).

International Year of Planet Earth

The year 2008 has been proclaimed as the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) by the UN General Assembly. The rationale for the IYPE is that geoscientists worldwide must demonstrate the importance of geoscientific knowledge, research and practice to governments and the general public. At the international level, IYPE activities, which may span the years 2007-2009, are organised into a Science Programme and an Outreach Programme.

The GSI, with the support of the Geosciences Committee, established a National Committee for IYPE in August 2006. A web site has recently been established (www.planeteearth.ie/). The IYPE committee will facilitate the Irish contribution to the IYPE on an all-island basis. It published a draft IYPE plan for Ireland on the web on 27th February 2007 and comments received have been posted on the web site. A series of newsletters will be produced to keep the geoscientists and the general public informed, the first of which is on the web site (www.planeteearth.ie/NEWSLETTERS/IYPE%20Newsletter%20Issue1.pdf).

IUGS and IGCP

The GSI and the Academy now jointly pay Ireland's subscription to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The GSI pays the larger proportion and it is now Ireland's Adhering Body to the IUGS and consequently also the to the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). New national committees for both the IUGS and the IGCP were established by the GSI in August 2006. Both consist of Dr Peadar McArdle (Chair), Ms Mary Carter (Secretary) and Dr Julian Menuge (Representative of the Geosciences Committee). The Academy Geosciences Committee, whilst no longer the national committee for either body, will continue to be closely involved in IUGS and IGCP business.

The IUGS Board met in Belfast on 21st September 2006 at the Geoparks Meeting. The Board then met in Dublin the following day with representatives of the Academy and Geosciences Committee, and with the GSI and the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

Dr Robert Missotten, IGCP Secretary, updated the Geosciences Committee on IGCP developments at its meeting on 30th March and delivered a lecture in GSI later that day.

IGI Website

The IGI website is being continually being updated, in particular the events guide and employment pages. If members have activities or positions they wish to advertise they are encouraged to send them in to info@igi.ie

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