



Newsletter

April - September

2007

Issue no. 15

Presidents Address

A Welcome Note from the President



Incoming President Kevin Cullen is welcomed by outgoing President Gareth Jones at the AGM, May 2007.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the 2007 Board to all our Members and to set out those areas in which the Board plans to be particularly active in the coming year.

As is customary, the newly elected IGI Board is representative of the broad spectrum of geoscientists that work in Ireland.

I worked mainly in environmental geology and hydrogeology, while the vice President Piers Gardiner has a background in the regulatory aspects of the mining and quarrying sectors. The Hon. Secretary Yvonne O'Connell is a geophysicist and the Treasurer Stephen Bradley represents the geotechnical sector.

On the wider Board, the heritage and regulatory sectors are represented by Sarah Gatley from the GSI and academia by John Walsh from UCD. Fionnuala Collins and Cecil Shine have backgrounds in hydrogeology and environmental geology while John Kelly and Barry Balding work mainly in the extractive industry sector.

The Board's activities continue to be supported by Susan Pyne in the IGI office and by Ethel Stringer who manages the Institute's accounts.

The IGI represents the professional interests of geoscientists in Ireland through its management of the PGeo title. The Board will, with the assistance of the Validation Committee now under the Chair of Mark Conroy, maintain the standards of the application process.

The Board will publish an updated Directory of Members and their areas of professional expertise in the Autumn of 2007 and will maintain a robust CPD reporting protocol.

A membership drive coordinated by Sarah Gatley is already underway using the existing Membership to promote the Institute to work colleagues. With a current membership of around 155 the Board is fully aware of the need to attract geoscientists into the Institute.

The drive to maintain standards and to raise the profile of geoscientists has seen the recent publication of the IGI Well Drilling Guidelines and the Quarry EIS Information Template, both of which were well received by regulators and practitioners. These documents aim to maintain standards within the profession and help to raise the IGI profile among other professions and contractors. The Board plans to add to the Drilling Guidelines with the addition of recommendations for shallow geothermal wells and it is also hoped that an IGI guidance document will be published on aggregate resource definition.

The theme of the IGI Annual Conference has in previous years reflected topics of general or topical geoscience interest. The 2007 Conference addresses the issue of 'Groundwater & Sustainable Development' and will hear from respected national and international speakers. The Conference will take place on October 4th in Dublin Castle and will be officially opened by Minister Eamon Ryan, of the Green Party.

The 2007 annual conference is being sponsored by Investec and Corrib Natural Gas and continues to be supported by the GSI and the GSNI.

The Conference sponsorship allows the IGI to undertake and contribute to other activities and publications without calling for additional funding from the Membership. Examples are the publication of the Quarry EIS Template, the wide distribution of the Well Drilling Guidelines and a contribution to Padraig Kennan's educational map 'The Rocks of Ireland'.

The Annual conference brings the geoscience community into contact with other professions and requires the support of the IGI Membership to be successful. The Board recognizes that any annual theme will be of interest to only certain sectors within the wide geoscience community. However the Board seeks the support of all our Members through their promotion of conference attendance to work colleagues and friends.

The 2008 Annual Conference will be held in Belfast.

Technical courses will continue to be organized under the direction of Cecil Shine and two are being planned for the Autumn/Winter focusing on groundwater source protection and groundwater level monitoring.

The IGI is represented on the EFG Council by Board Members Fionnuala Collins and Piers Gardiner. The IGI will play host to the EFG Council in May/June 2009 and plans are underway (with the assistance of Past President Gareth Jones) to make this important gathering in 2009 an efficient and enjoyable meeting for those attending from all over Europe.

The IGI will be supporting the Royal Irish Academy's conference 'Where Will Ireland Get Its Energy' to be held in Dublin Castle on November 7th this year and will also be contributing to activities associated with the International Year of Planet Earth.

I encourage Members to engage with Board Members Fionnuala Collins and Stephen Bradley to provide material for publication in the Institute's Newsletter and/or uploading onto the webpage. It is proposed to improve communication with Members and the wider public through the updating of the Institute's web page in the current year.

I plan to meet with the Presidents of the Sponsoring Bodies in the coming months to explore ways in which the Institute and the Sponsoring Bodies can

jointly and more effectively promote the interests of geoscientists in Ireland.

Finally, I look forward to working with all the Board Members in the coming year in the management of the Institute's affairs and the promotion of geosciences within the wider community.

EurGeol Kevin T Cullen PGeo

President

IGI Committee

The vacant positions on the IGI Committee were filled at the Annual General Meeting held on May 16th 2007 at the Geological Survey, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road. The current committee is as follows:

Position	Name
President	Kevin Cullen
Vice President & EFG Representative	Piers Gardiner
Secretary	Yvonne O Connell
Treasurer & Web management	Stephen Bradley
IGI Office	Susan Pyne
IGI Office	Ethel Stringer
CPD	John Kelly
Education	John Walsh
IGI Courses	Cecil Shine
Mineral Reporting Codes & Legislation, Membership processing & EFG Representative	Piers Gardiner
New Membership & Mentoring	Sarah Gately
Publications, Public Affairs & Information	Barry Balding
Validation Committee Chairperson	Mark Conroy
Communications (Newsletter) & EFG Representative	Fionnuala Collins



Board members at the AGM, May 2007. From left to right: Piers Gardiner, Barry Balding, John Walsh, Yvonne O Connell, Stephen Bradley, Fionnuala Collins, John Kelly, Kevin Cullen and Cecil Shine.

Contact board members at: admin@igi.ie

Forthcoming Conferences

Annual IGI Conference Dublin Castle 4th October 2007. Groundwater and Sustainable Development

The annual conference of the IGI will be held in Dublin Castle on the 4th October 2007. The conference will be opened by Green Party Energy Minister Eamon Ryan. The conference sessions will span the topics of Sustainability and the Irish Planning System; Aquifer Management and Sustainability; Managing and Planning for Groundwater Abstractions.

The conference will be followed by a wine reception. Registration forms are available at www.igi.ie and should be returned with the conference fee of €195 or IGI members or €250 for non members to Ms Susan Pyne, IGI, c/o UCD School of Geological Sciences, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4. Students may register free of charge.

Energy Conference

The Royal Irish Academy will host a one-day conference entitled "Where will Ireland get its energy?" An Energy Conference Sub-Committee of the Geosciences Committee chaired by Dr Julian Menuge is organising the conference with the assistance of the Academy and the support of the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) and the Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI).

The conference will focus on energy research and will bring together invited international experts in a variety of energy-related disciplines. It will be held in Dublin Castle on 8th November 2007 and opened by Minister for Communications, Energy and Resources, Eamon Ryan, T.D. The following have agreed to speak at the meeting: Prof. Bertrand BarrÈ (Areva, France; Nuclear Power), Prof. John Ludden (British Geological Survey, UK; CO₂ Sequestration), Prof. Mark O'Malley (UCD, Ireland; Electricity Grids and Renewable Energy), Dr Burkhard Sanner (European Geothermal Energy Council, Belgium; Geothermal Energy), Mr Wim Thomas (Shell, The Netherlands; World Energy Scenarios) and Dr Richard Yemm (Ocean Power Delivery, UK; Ocean Power).

Early registration (before 21st September 2007) €100
Standard registration (after 21st September 2007) €200
Student registration €50

Register at: www.ria.ie/energy

Forthcoming Public Lectures

Geothermal Energy in Switzerland

Dr. Rudolph Minder, Manager of the Swiss Geothermal Research Programme will give a lecture entitled Geothermal Wells in Switzerland on Wednesday October 3rd at 6pm in the Tailors Hall (opposite Christchurch). The lecture is sponsored by the new company Geothermal Energy Ltd.

Half Gone: Peak Oil meets Climate Change

An Irish Times / Royal Irish Academy public lecture entitled "Half Gone: Peak Oil Meets Climate Change" will be held on 7th November at 6 pm at the Conference Centre in Dublin Castle. The speaker is Dr Jeremy Leggett (Solar Century, UK; Climate Change and Fossil Fuels), a geologist and long-time renewable energy campaigner. The lecture precedes the one day conference 'Where will Ireland get its Energy' to be held in Dublin Castle on 8th November 2007.

IAH TECHNICAL DISCUSSION MEETING

A lecture entitled 'Attitudes of the public to scientists/engineers and scientific information' will be held at the GSI, Beggars Bush on Tuesday 2nd October 2007. The lecture will be given by Dr. Mary Kelly School of Sociology University College Dublin.

Tea/Coffee 17.30; lecture 18.00 hrs.

Future IAH TDMS

"Web mapping and downloadable digital data - sites of interest for hydrogeologists and environmental engineers", 6 November 2007.

Including demos of the following sites: Geological Survey of Ireland, Environmental Protection Agency, Exploration and Mining Division, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Ordnance Survey Ireland, Office of Public Works.

The IAH (Irish Group) will host the Annual General Meeting immediately after the technical discussion meeting during which refreshments (a buffet, including wine) will be provided.

For further information contact either Donal Daly (01-2680186), Gerry Baker (087 7731071) or Taly Hunter-Williams (01-6782780)

Forthcoming Training Courses

Geophysics in Geothermal Exploration 27 Sept '07

GT Skills continue their series of training days dealing with the installation of geothermal wells, ground source heat pumps and other aspects of shallow geothermal energy.

These courses are open to employees of companies and sole traders in the Republic of Ireland involved in harnessing geothermal energy. A certificate will be issued at the end of the course.

Course G will be held on **THURSDAY the 27th September 2007** and will be an introduction to geophysical principles in geothermal exploration.

It will be held at the **Castleknock Hotel & Country Club** in west Dublin. Registration is from 09.20. Refer www.castleknockhotel.com for location.

To **register for the course, download, complete & return** the registration form from the website www.gtskills.ie and **send a company cheque for €160 per attendee** made out to **GT Skills** and post to Gareth Ll. Jones or John Colthurst at **GT Skills, 7 Dundrum Business Park, Windy Arbour, Dublin 14 Ireland**, 00353 1 2964667. gtskills@csa.ie

This course costs €50 per trainee, but due to Accel funding, the course is offered for just **€60**. Companies may become sponsoring members of the GT Skills project for €500, in which case their trainees may attend at the reduced rates of €20 and €60 respectively per course.

Best Practice in Groundwater Source Protection Workshop October 30th and 31st 2007

A two day workshop on Best Practice in Groundwater Source Protection will be held at the Geological Survey of Ireland in Beggars Bush on October 30th and 31st 2007. The course is being co-organised by the EPA, the GSI and the IGI. The course fee is €350. Registration forms are being circulated this week.

Groundwater Monitoring Early 2008

A groundwater monitoring workshop is to be held by Peter Dumble of Waterra in January or February 2008. The course will highlight best practice and pitfall/limitations in the use of automated systems. Details will be posted to the IGI website as well as announced in the December issue of the newsletter and by email to IGI members.

Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to the following candidates have been awarded IGI affiliation as Professional Geologists. European Geologist awards were also made.

EurGeol. Paul Gordon, PGeo.
EurGeol. Kevin McNulty, PGeo.
EurGeol. Craig O'Connor, PGeo.
EurGeol Miller O'Prey P.Geo
EurGeol Dr. Chris Bonson P.Geo
EurGeol Titus Haggan P.Geo
EurGeol Patrick Laffly P.Geo
EurGeol Ric Pasquali P.Geo
Gerry Baker P. Geo

The IGI welcome the following Members in Training.

Dino Gandara
Julian McDowell
Simon Scholl
David Plunkett

Maternity Waiver

The IGI wish members to be aware that a CPD waiver for members on maternity leave has been introduced. If you wish to apply for maternity waiver please contact admin@igi.ie for further information and application details.

IGI Agreement with IMQS

In April the IGI were delighted to reach an agreement with the Irish Mining and Quarrying Society to host them at the IGI office. They will attend the office on one morning each week from Mid October.



Fergus Gallagher, President of IMQS and Gareth Ll. Jones then President of IGI, at the signing of the agreement in April 2007.

Academy Committee for Geosciences

Griffith Geoscience Research Awards

Following from the National Geoscience Programme, the first round of Griffith Geoscience Research Awards was advertised on 16th March 2007, seeking proposals from research groups on the island of Ireland:

- To facilitate open access to GSI data on a web-enabled basis.
- To establish an Irish Geoscience Graduate Programme on an all-island basis which will provide access to specialised geoscience modular courses.
- To produce and distribute geoscience outreach products to schools.
- To conduct high quality research on key geoscience areas.

The winners of the 2007 Griffith Geoscience Research Awards were formally announced on 5th July by Eamon Ryan, T.D., Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. Details of the successful applicants may be downloaded from:

<http://www.gsi.ie/Geoscience+Initiatives/Griffith+Awards+Announcement.htm>

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.planetearth.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.planetearth.ie/NEWSLETTERS/IYPE%20Newsletter%20Issue1.pdf).

Irish Science Open Forum

The Irish Science Open Forum (ISOF) is an independent body representing science in Ireland. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the value of Irish Science, both in Ireland and Abroad. ISOP intends to operate by organising large scale events in collaboration with partners that share its aims. The first event is planned for Irish Science Week in November 2008. The event will be promoted and publicised in the Science Spin website and magazine.

European News

European Federation of Geologists recognised as ROPO.

The European Federation of Geologists has been added to the list of Recognised Overseas Professional Organisations (ROPO) accepted for the purpose of reporting in accordance with Appendix 5A of the Australian Stock Exchange listing rules (the JORC Code). Note that it is only members entitled to the professional title EurGeol belonging to member associations of the EFG that are recognised as fulfilling the requirements for recognition as members of a ROPO, not members of the EFG generally.

Entities reporting to the Australian Stock Exchange (“ASX”) on mineral Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves are required to comply with Appendix 5A of the listing rules, being the most recent edition of the Australasian Code for Reporting of Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves (the “JORC Code”). The JORC Code requires that Competent Persons (as defined) must belong to The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (“The AusIMM”), or the Australian Institute of Geoscientists (“AIG”), or a Recognised Overseas Professional Organisation (“ROPO”) ROPOs are overseas professional organisations that ASX, acting on advice from JORC and its parent organisations, accepts as bodies to which Competent Persons may belong for the purpose of preparing documentation on Exploration Results, Mineral Resources and Ore Reserves on which reports to ASX are based.

The ROPO scheme was introduced in 2003 as a joint initiative between the Australasian Joint Ore Reserves Committee (“JORC”), the parent organisations of JORC (The AusIMM, AIG and Minerals Council of Australia), and ASX. The IGI was recognised as a ROPO in May 2003.

The EFG are currently forging a similar relationship with South Africa.

Summer Council Meeting, Rome, 25-26 May 2007.

The summer meeting of the European Federation of Geologists was held in Rome in May 2007 in the Tempio Di Adriano in the heart of the city. The meeting was attended by delegates from the National Associations of member countries throughout Europe with observers from the American Institute of Professional Geologists. EurGeol Fionnuala Collins P Geo attended on behalf of the Institute of Geologists (IGI). Russia (NAEN – Russian Soils and Subsoils Association) and Serbia (Serbian Geological Society) were elected as new members of the EFG.



President (EurGeol. Prof. Dr. Istvan BERCZI) addressed the EFG Council

During his report to the board, the outgoing President (EurGeol. Prof. Dr. Istvan BERCZI - Hungary) highlighted the 'erosion of geological knowledge' as a result of the profession of geologists being sidelined in the development process by other professionals claiming to have that knowledge. This has enhanced the lack of awareness of the public of the role of geology in the contribution to quality of life. Professor Berczi suggested the creation of honorary positions for high profile personalities to promote geology.

The President went on to identify four cornerstones required to transform EFG into a strong civil organization:

- 1) . *Sustainability: efforts to **maintain, cultivate and develop** the organization as a safeguard of professional excellence;*
- 2) . *Visibility: extend our **national influence and reach**;*



EFG delegates at Tempio Di Adriano, Roma

3) . *Credibility: observe rules of professional ethics in the practice **profession across international boundaries**;*

4) . *Portability: achieve a global recognition of our **professional credentials**.*

The election of a new President and the other candidacies (EU delegate and Treasurer) was deferred until the formal meeting in December. Until then, there is an interim governance under the existing Vice President, Dirk De Coster. Each member country has been asked to put forward a delegate for the vacant positions.

Expert Panels

Expert panels are being developed and supported by the EFG to strengthen lobbying. Key areas for which experts are sought are:

- Geological Heritage
- Soil Protection
- EIS and Groundwater
- Geothermal Energy & CO2 sequestration
- Natural Hazards

Should any member wish to apply for expert membership please contact admin@igi.ie

Forthcoming EFG Council Meetings.

The next EFG Council meeting will be held in Brussels on the 1st and 2nd of December.

The EFG Summer Council Meeting will be held in Athens in May/June 2008. Groundwater has been selected as a special topic for a one day conference to be held in advance of the meeting.

TAIEX

The 2007 TAIEX workshop will be held on 8-14 October 2007 in Romania on the topic of *Geodiversity* and EU legislation.

Taiex is the the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange, an instrument of the Directorate-General Enlargement of the European Commission and helps countries apply and enforcement of EU legislation for new member states, candidate countries and neighbours. For further information, refer <http://taiex.ccc.eu.int>

European Geologist Magazine - Call for Articles and Cover Photographs

Members are invited to submit articles of a high standard for the European Geologist Magazine. The deadline for submission of articles for the December issue is 30 September 2007. It is suggested that articles relate to one of the expert areas i.e. Geological Heritage; Soil Protection; EIS and Groundwater; Geothermal Energy & CO₂ sequestration or Natural Hazards. There is a joint theme for the December issue, i.e. 1) Climate Change & Renewable Resources; 2) International Year of Planet Earth. Please note that excel tables for articles should not be embedded in the article but should be sent separately. Next years summer issue (June 2008) will be on the topic of Groundwater.

Suitable good quality photographs are required for use on the cover of the magazine. So, for those budding photographers among you, if you have any high quality photographs representative of an area of geological science, please forward to fcollins@bma.ie who will forward to the EFG. Portrait orientation is requested. The photographs used would relate to a specific main theme of the magazine. See above for upcoming themes.

Advertising

European Geologist Magazine is currently accepting advertisements for the December issue. Those organisations who wish to advertise should admin@igi.ie for further information.

Lobbying

The need for lobbying was highlighted to raise awareness of the importance geology among land use planners; architects, designers and engineers. This could be achieved by training courses with support

from appropriate Ministry; ensuring site investigations and geology are incorporated into Building Law; conferences; seminars. Support from the EFG and EU can help the national cause. The Geological Society of London has an excellent series of brochures available on their website which provide excellent tools to raise awareness. It was suggested that the youth also be targeted. A good co-ordinator for the expert panels will strengthen the lobbying process. Modern e-communications are a great tool to help spread awareness of the role of geology in society.

The Summer meeting of the EFG is to be held in Dublin in 2009, hosted by the IGI.

AIPG News

The American Institute of Professional Geologists will hold their Annual Meeting on September 21-25, 2008 in Flagstaff Arizona. Full details can be found on www.aipg.org. The meeting will be preceded by a rafting/camping trip for (6 days/7 nights) over a 188mile stretch of the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon from the 8th to the 14th September 2008 in advance of an AIPG meeting later that month. The trip will be led by an experienced geological guide and included guided side hikes within the Canyon. The trip is now full but those interested in attending can join a waiting list for cancellations by contacting aipg@aipg.org

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