



Newsletter October - December 2007 Issue No. 16

IGI Annual Conference Success

The 2007 IGI Annual Conference was held on Oct. 4th in Dublin Castle on the theme 'Groundwater and Sustainable Development'. The conference was officially opened by Minister Eamon Ryan of the Green Party and was attended by 120 delegates drawn from all over the country and included geoscientists, other professions and drilling contractors.



Minister for Energy and Natural Resources Eamonn Ryan (Centre) with Eibhlín Doyle of GSI and Garth Earls, Director of GSNI (left) and IGI President Kevin Cullen and Vice-president Piers Gardiner (right).

The key note paper was delivered by Prof. Yvonne Scannell of Trinity College and Arthur Cox solicitors. Prof. Scannell's paper examined the legal status of groundwater within the Irish legal and planning systems and together with Donal Daly's (EPA) challenging paper on the Water Framework Directive

set the scene for a most enjoyable and successful conference.

Taly Hunter Williams (GSI) outlined the present understanding of Irish aquifers and was followed by overseas speakers Jan van Wonderen (Mott McDonald) and Rob Sage (Three Valleys Water plc) who outlined the UK regulatory and operator's experiences respectively with large scale groundwater abstractions and their impact on protected habitats.

The afternoon session opened with Peter McConvey (GSNI) describing the implementation of groundwater licensing in Northern Ireland. Geoff Wright, formerly of the GSI and now living in the UK, then outlined the main elements of the IGI's Water Well Guidelines which were published earlier this year. Angelo Papaioannou (Enviros) then described the range of analytical tools available to determine the level of impact associated with groundwater abstractions.

Dr. Les Brown (CSA) and Kieran O'Dwyer presented the closing papers on quarry dewatering and developing major groundwater abstractions within the present regulatory framework respectively.

Eibhlín Doyle (GSI) opened the day's technical sessions on behalf of the GSI Director Dr. Peadar McArdle and Garth Earls, Director GSNI, closed the conference with a summary of the day's proceedings. The Sessions were chaired by Jonathan Durham, Bruce Misstear, David Ball and Prof. Rudolph Minder.

The IGI would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the annual conference and particularly the main sponsor Investec and the supporting sponsor Corrib Natural Gas.

The presentations delivered at the Annual Conference can be downloaded from the IGI web page. The 2008 Conference will be held in Northern Ireland and details will be announced early in 2008.

2008 International Year of Planet Earth

The year 2008 has been designated by the UN General Assembly as IYPE and this is a unique opportunity to promote the contribution that geoscience makes to society.

In Ireland a national committee, managed by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) with the support of the Royal Irish Academy, has devised a series of attractive events, including a series of public lectures.

The IGI is pleased to contribute financially the lecture series. IGI will be the main sponsor of Dr. Patrick Leahy's lecture on 'Climate Change and Increased Water Demand' in Dublin and will contribute to Prof. Chris Clark's 'Landscapes of Ice Age Ireland', Dr. Richard Fortey's and Prof. Pat Shannon's 'Energy For Ireland's Future' lectures in Fermanagh, Belfast and Clare respectively. Details of these and the other public lectures being held as part of IYPE can be downloaded from www.planeteearth.ie.

IGI members are encouraged to visit www.planeteearth.ie and learn of all the activities and events being organised as part of IYPE and to support local initiatives.

GSNI TELLUS PROJECT

Tellus data released by GSNI

After three years of intensive survey and data processing, the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) launched the results of the Tellus Project at a well-attended conference in Belfast in November. The meeting, at the W5 science and discovery centre, was opened by Nigel Dodds OBE MP MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment, which sponsored the project. Minister Dodds spoke of the vital contribution of natural resources to the economy and of the valuable role of the Tellus Project in generating datasets that will both encourage investment in resources exploitation and provide a basis for environmental management. The Minister also opened a new W5 exhibit, initiated and facilitated by GSNI, that illustrates the role of the quarry industry in Northern Ireland's economy.

Environment Minister Arlene Foster attended the evening reception, at which other guests included Prof Sir Keith O'Nions FRS, Director General of Science and Innovation at the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills; Derek Davis, Chairman of the Board of the British Geological Survey; Prof James Slevin, President of the Royal Irish Academy; and Dr Peadar McArdle, Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland.

Dr Iain Stewart, presenter of popular BBC-TV geology series such as 'Journeys from the Centre of

the Earth', opened the technical programme with a gripping description of the critical impact of earth processes on human life, society and the economy. Prof John Ludden, Executive Director of BGS, reviewed the new strategy of the Natural Environment Research Council, of which BGS is part, emphasising the new outward looking policy of focusing on research relating to the global environment and energy. In two days of technical, poster and workshop sessions, the 180 delegates heard about the progress of numerous research projects that are already using the Tellus data, in the varied fields of natural resources and geothermal energy exploration, environmental monitoring, water resources, human health, agriculture, radioactivity and geostatistics.



DETI Minister Nigel Dodds, OBE MP MLA with Garth Earls (Director, GSNI, left) and John Ludden (Executive Director, BGS, right) in front of the new display at W5



DETI Minister Nigel Dodds OBE MP MLA (right) with Garth Earls, Director, GSNI.

Conference proceedings will soon be available on the Tellus website, where full information about data licensing can also be found:

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/gsni/Tellus/index.html>

EI CPD Awards

Tobin Consulting Engineers Wins Engineers Ireland Company Of The Year 2007 Award

Congratulations to Tobin Consulting Engineers who won CPD company of the year 2007 in the medium-sized organisation category.



Maura Walsh and Robert Tobin with Minister of State for Labour Affairs, Mr. Billy Kelleher, T.D., and Professor Jim Brown, Vice President of Engineers Ireland.

TOBIN Consulting Engineers, one of Ireland's leading engineering firms for more than 50 years, is pleased to announce that it has won the prestigious 'Engineers Ireland Company of the Year Award 2007' in the medium-sized organisation category of its Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Awards.

Commenting on the Award, Seán Finlay, Director of TOBIN's in Dublin said: "We are delighted with this Award as it demonstrates TOBIN's commitment to professional development within the firm and will further boost our profile across the country."

"In 2006, TOBIN identified a number of critical areas for continued success and growth. A major training programme was implemented across all staff and areas such as contracts, health and safety and risk management systems were developed. This brought about a positive culture change and opened up significant new business opportunities for TOBIN. It is very gratifying that our efforts have been acknowledged by Engineers Ireland in this manner," Mr Finlay concluded.

The Engineers Ireland CPD Awards are designed to identify and share best CPD practices and to celebrate

the achievements of accredited organisations. Now in their fourth year, the 2007 Awards were presented by Minister of State for Labour Affairs, Billy Kelleher, TD.

Forthcoming Conferences

Forthcoming Public Lectures

VOLCANIC AND MAGMATIC STUDIES GROUP MEETING

On the 4th and 5th of January in The Emmet Theatre, Arts Block, Trinity College Dublin

The 51st Irish Geological Research Meeting will take place on the weekend of Friday 29th February to Sunday 2nd March 2008. The meeting will be hosted by the UCD School of Geological Sciences. A circular including a call for abstracts and information on registration will be issued in early January. To join the mailing list, please e-mail geology@ucd.ie quoting 'IGRM mailing list' in the subject header. For regular updates, please visit www.ucd.ie/geology/igrm

Forthcoming Public Lectures

The **Mineralogical Society Distinguished Lecture** will be held on Monday January 7th, 2008. The lecture, entitled "The subterranean machinations of explosive volcanoes" will be given by **Professor Jon Blundy** (University of Bristol). The venue is room G01 at University College Dublin, School of Geological Sciences.

IAH TECHNICAL DISCUSSION MEETING

A lecture entitled '**Engineering characterisation of fluvio-glacial gravels in Cork**' will be held at the GSI, Beggars Bush on Tuesday 8th January 2008. The lecture will be given by Mike Long of UCD and is a joint lecture of the Geotechnical society and the IAH.

Tea/Coffee 17.30; lecture 18.00 hrs.

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

IGA NEW YEAR LECTURE

By Prof. Monica Grady (Open University) – 'Seeing the universe in a grain of sand' on the 17th January 2008 in The Davis Theatre, Arts Block, Trinity College Dublin

[Further information on all lectures can be found on the events page of the IGI's website – igi.ie](#)

Forthcoming Training Courses

Groundwater Monitoring Early 2008

A workshop on the **Validation & Interpretation of Water Level Data** will be held in the **Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road on Tuesday February 26th 2008**. The workshop is organised by the Institution of Geologists of Ireland. Full details including registration will be emailed to IGI members and posted to the IGI website in the New Year.

Congratulations

Congratulations are extended to Piers Gardiner who has recently been awarded European Geologist status.

Siobhán Tinnelly and Marie Fleming have joined the IGI as Members in Training.

IMQS Annual Dinner



IGI President Kevin Cullen and his wife Ann with Dr. Peadar McArdle, Director of GSI as guests of IMQS President Fergus Gallagher at the recent IMQS annual dinner dance. (photo courtesy of Plantman Magazine).

European News

EFG Elects New Spanish EFG President

Congratulations to Manuel Regueiro the newly elected Spanish President of the European Federation of Geologists. Regueiro was elected at the recent EFG Committee meeting held in the Service Geologique de Belgique, Brussels on December 1st and 2nd 2007.

The IGI was represented by Piers Gardiner (IGI Vice-president) and Fionnuala Collins (IGI Committee Member). Gareth Jones also attended in his capacity as former EFG President.



The newly elected President of the EFG: Manuel Regueiro

Herald Lightenberg was re-elected as EU Delegate elected for a second term. In the absence of a nomination for Treasurer, Umberto Puppini kindly agreed to continue in that capacity until the Summer meeting in Athens.

Regueiro's Presidential Plan in the forthcoming emblematic International Year of the Planet Earth is to modernise the EFG and develop the EFG Strategic Agenda. Manuel plans to develop closer contact with the National Boards such that they are fuller aware of the functions and activities of the EFG.

The Spanish Presidency sees 2008 as a Golden Opportunity to promote the role of geology in society and to improve the image of geologists worldwide. The President will be in touch with European Geologist title to ask them for their support, proposals and ideas. And in the words of Gonzales Barros, Spanish delegate to the EFG, in 2008, 'Ask not what Planet Earth can do for you but what you can do for Planet Earth'.

The EFG Medal of Merit was awarded to Dr. Pieter Lagar Director of the SGB for his considerable support for the EFG office hosted by the Belgian Geological Survey. Citation was given by Acting President Dirk de Costa of UBLG.

The Special presentation was given to Peer Andersen of Århus, Denmark, husband of Marianne Vasard Nielsen, former EU Delegate for all his work on the EFG website. He was presented with a Danish music Leksikon.

Advertising

European Geologist Magazine is currently accepting advertisements for the March issue. The rates for 2008 are the same as those in 2007. Those organisations who wish to advertise should admin@igi.ie for further information.

The IGI Board are currently planning the Summer meeting of the EFG which is to be held in Dublin in 2009.

Briody Drilling

The IGI would like to acknowledge the support of Patrick Briody & Sons Ltd for the 2007 IGA Directory. Due to an oversight their advertisement was not included in the final draft.

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.

IGI Website

Maternity Waiver

The IGI remind members that a CPD waiver for members on maternity leave has been introduced. For details please contact admin@igi.ie

Christmas Wishes

The board of the IGI wish all IGI members a happy and peaceful Christmas season.