



## Newsletter April – June 2008 Issue No. 18

### President's Address



Incoming IGI Board - Back Row: Barry Balding, Stephen Bradley, Fionnuala Collins, John Kelly, Morgan Burke, Craig O'Connor. Front Row: Kevin Cullen, Marie Ryan, Deirdre Lewis, Yvonne O'Connell (past Secretary).

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new members of IGI Board and to set out those areas in which the Board plans to be particularly active in the coming year.

As is customary, the IGI Board tries to be representative of the broad spectrum of geoscientists that work in Ireland. The newly elected Members to the Board are Marie Ryan, Morgan Burke, Sean Moran and Craig O'Connor. Deirdre Lewis was co-opted on to the Board earlier this year.

Marie Ryan works in the planning section of Tipperary (NR) County Council, Morgan Burke works in the waste industry with Greenstar while Deirdre Lewis, Sean Moran and Craig O'Connor work

within the broad geoscience consulting field with CSA, O'Callaghan Moran and Arups and respectively.

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 IGI presently has 131 Full Members of whom 119 are EurGeols. There are also 24 Members in Training, 4 Retired Members, 12 applications being processed and two Associate Members.

A key objective for the Board during the current year will be the development of a mentoring scheme to encourage and support the large number of Members in Training in their efforts to become full members of the Institute.

The Board was anxious to host an event in Northern Ireland in 2008 to reflect the all-island ethos of the Institute. Following consultation with our Northern Ireland colleagues it was decided to host a technical course in Belfast in October and this will replace this year's annual conference, previously held in Dublin during the winter months.

2009 marks the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the IGI and the Board will be anxious to celebrate this milestone in the Institute's history with a suitable event. A working group will be established to canvass the membership to ascertain preferred options. Your cooperation with, and support of, this Working Group would be greatly appreciated.

2009 will also see the IGI play host to the summer Council Meeting of the EFG in Dublin. The IGI delegates Fionnuala Collins and Piers Gardiner (recently elected EFG Treasurer,) together with past president Gareth Jones, are actively completing arrangements for the May 2009 event at Dublin Castle. Plans are underway to incorporate a workshop/conference to coincide with the EFG event, dealing with Resource and Reserve Reporting.

I have recently met with the Presidents of the Sponsoring Bodies to explore ways in which the Institute and the Sponsoring Bodies can more effectively promote the interests of geoscientists in Ireland generally. Hopefully some of the ideas

outlined will lead to a closer working relationship between the various bodies.

Technical courses will continue to be organized to inform and educate geoscientists on a range of topics. A course on Report Writing and Expert Witness will be held in September and further courses are being planned for later this year and in the Spring of 2009.

The Board plans to add to the Drilling Guidelines published in 2007 with the inclusion of recommendations for shallow geothermal wells and it is also hoped that an IGI guidance document will be published on aggregate resource definition.

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.

I would like to thank the immediate past Board Members John Walsh, Cecil Shine, Sarah Gatley, Yvonne O'Connell and Piers Gardiner for their contributions to the operation and management of the IGI Board.

Finally, I look forward to working with all current 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 Cullen PGeo.

## Draft New European Resource Reporting Code

The following is an article by Lawrence Williams posted to *MineWeb*, Wednesday, 18 June 2008.

'Draft proposals for the updating of the existing IMM reserve and resource reporting code were unveiled in London yesterday with a view to code finalisation before the year end.

Accurate and tightly defined reporting of a mining company's resources is vital to the financial and investment community, with various guidelines published to meet the requirements of different nations' stock exchanges. This has given rise to a host of acronyms plaguing the mining community - JORC, SAMREC, CIM, NI 43-101, etc. These are now to be

joined by yet another - PERC (Pan European Reserves and Resources Reporting Committee) - the draft content of which was announced in a well attended meeting in London yesterday.

While all of these codes are designed to meet the needs of various national bodies, they are in fact very close to one another in their demands under the auspices of CRIRSCO (Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards), but there can be subtle differences which can catch out the unwary dual or triple listed mining company as pointed out on *Mineweb* recently (NI 43-101 - Some tricks and traps).

PERC is not a totally new code, as such, but would be an update of the existing IMM (Institution of Mining and Metallurgy) reporting code developed in 1991 and recognised by the AIM market in London, among others. The new draft code has been drawn up by the IMM's successor organisation IOM<sup>3</sup> (The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining), The European Federation of Geologists (EFG), The Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI) and the Geological Society of London.

A consultation draft was launched in London with a view to producing a final code by the end of the year. To this end, those parties interested in reviewing the PERC draft, and perhaps comment on it, are directed to the PERC website - [www.percreserves.com](http://www.percreserves.com). It is anticipated that the UK Listing Authority, the London Stock Exchange and AIM will adopt the new (or revised) code as an update to the currently recognised IMM code and that other European exchanges will follow suit.

Where does the PERC code differ from say JORC or NI 43-101 (which indeed show minor differences between themselves)? The new proposal specifically includes new and detailed provision for some sectors not adequately served by existing reporting standards - notably diamonds, gemstones, dimension stone, tailings and dumps and industrial minerals and aggregates. Also guidelines on the reporting of historical data have been included. Lacking so far seems to be the tight definition of the various types of feasibility study, which are included in NI 43-101 for example, but this was a point raised from the meeting floor and no doubt will be considered by the Committee.

The consultation stage for the new code is due to end on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2008 with full code release set for December 17<sup>th</sup> 2008.

## Irish Mineral Exploration Update

The resurgence in Irish mineral exploration that began in 2006-2007 has continued into 2008 and shows no signs of abating. The increased levels of exploration spending have started to pay off with a number of companies recently reporting positive results. Exploration is mainly focused on Irish-type zinc-lead deposits but there is also interest in gold, platinum group elements, gypsum, dolomite and coal. As of May 2008, there were some 33 companies holding 430 prospecting licences (covering 15,000km<sup>2</sup>) within the Republic of Ireland.

Currently the most advanced base-metal exploration project is the Xstrata-Minco joint venture on the Pallas Green deposit in County Limerick. The best recent intersections averaged 14.9% zinc and 2.6% lead at depths between 380m and 400m. Minco announced at the beginning of the year that 2008 will see some €6 million spent in the Pallas Green area, mainly on 50,000m of diamond drilling, using up to 15 drill rigs.

Teck Cominco Ireland and joint venture partners Connemara Mining have also discovered significant base-metal mineralisation on a block of ground to the southeast of the Pallas Green licence block. Late last year they announced a 4.0 metre zone (from 376.1 to 380.1 metres depth) of 11.6% zinc and 3.5% lead. Follow-up drilling in 2008 has continued to generate positive results of over 15 metres of 3.25% zinc and 0.33% lead.

In April, Belmore Resources also announced positive drilling results from the site of the old Kilbricken lead mine near Quin in County Clare. A 10 metre interval of 13.8% zinc, 5.5% lead and 63g/t silver (from 448.1 to 458.1 metres depth) was intersected on their 100%-owned prospecting licence.

On the precious metal side, Conroy Diamonds and Gold recently announced a substantial upgrading of the gold resource at its Clontibret project in County Monaghan. The total Indicated and Inferred resource (JORC-compliant) at the project is now estimated at 25.0 million tonnes grading 1.28 g/t gold at 0.75g/t cut-off. This represents a total resource of 1,030,000 oz of contained gold. Drilling is ongoing at the project. Conroy Diamonds and Gold plc also hold adjacent exploration licences across the border in Co. Fermanagh.

Exploration activity in Northern Ireland is also on the rise with exploration expenditure committed by natural-resource companies in Northern Ireland over the next two years estimated at £20 million (~€25 million). A range of commodities are under exploration including gold, platinum and salt.

In June, Galantas Gold announced an updated NI 43-101-compliant resource estimate for the Omagh Gold mine at Cavanacaw in County Tyrone. The deposit is estimated to contain a measured resource of 78,000 tonnes at 6.35 g/t gold, an additional indicated resource of 463,000 tonnes at 5.9 g/t gold, plus an additional inferred resource of 1,229,000 tonnes at 7.47 g/t gold. This represents a total resource of 399,800 oz of gold. The company has been active in exploring both the Kearney vein and other veins near the open pit at Cavanacaw.

In February, Tournigan Gold Corporation announced positive results from to the north of the main resource zone at the Curraghinalt deposit in County Tyrone. In December 2007, the company announced that Curraghinalt contains an indicated resource of 250,000 ounces of gold contained in 570,000 tonnes of material with an average grade of 13.95 grams of gold per tonne and an inferred resource of 350,000 ounces of gold contained in 640,000 tonnes of material with an average grade of 17.15g/t.

Patrick B. Redmond, Ph.D.,  
Teck Cominco Ireland Ltd.  
& Current IAEG President

## Groundwater Vulnerability Mapping – Data Appeal



The Tobin Fleet

TOBIN Consulting Engineers are assisting the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) in the continuation and completion of the National Groundwater Protection Scheme Programme. The programme is scheduled over four years and this year's mapping is concentrating on Sligo, Leitrim, Longford, Westmeath, Louth and Dublin.

The mapping team consists of Orla Murphy, Monika Kabza and Melissa Spillane. Coran Kelly (Tobin), Robbie Meehan (Consultant Geologist), Taly Hunter Williams and Monica Lee (GSI) provide specific expertise and guidance to the project. Collaboration with the Local Authorities is an integral part of the project. Data collection is a critical element of the project and Natalia Fernandez (GSI) has requested information drilling records and borehole logs from consultants.



Orla Murphy, Robbie Meehan, Natalia Fernandez, Monika Kabza and Melissa Spillane

We would like to take this opportunity to request the readership to submit borehole logs and site investigation reports to the GSI. This information would assist in improving the database and knowledge of the sub-terrain environment. Thanks to those consultants who have submitted records. The photographs show the mapping team and the fleet of vehicles being used in the project.

Coran Kelly TOBIN Consulting Engineers

## Geoscience : The foundation of our future – Have your say

The Geosciences Committee, with the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland and the Geological Survey of Ireland, held this one-day conference in Stormont, Belfast, on 19th June. The event, hosted by Mark Durkan MLA, Jim Wells MLA and Brian Wilson MLA, was opened by Arlene Foster, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in the Northern Ireland Executive.



Parliament Building, Stormont (Statue of Irish Unionist Leader and Barrister Lord Edward Carson in dramatic pose in foreground.)

The meeting considered the future of geoscience in Ireland and Northern Ireland, examining the value of the geosciences, presented areas of research importance within the field and perceptions of geosciences within the wider community and perspectives from outside Ireland. Serious concerns were raised that we may not have enough appropriately trained geoscientists to respond to the needs of society.

A summary of the main questions which emerged at the meeting is on the Academy web site [www.ria.ie/committees/geosciences](http://www.ria.ie/committees/geosciences). Here you are also invited to comment by the end of October 2008, to allow your views be taken on board at the follow-up seminar planned for early December 2008.

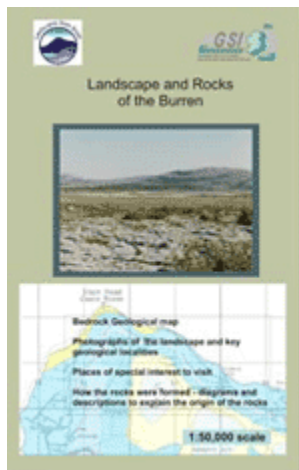
## CSA-JBA join the SLR Group

CSA Group Holdings Ltd. (incorporating the CSA Group and John Barnett & Associates Ltd.) joined the SLR Group ([www.slrconsulting.com](http://www.slrconsulting.com)) on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

SLR is an international consultancy, based near Oxford, with over 650 employees working from 18 offices in the UK, and 24 offices in North America. It has a broad base of blue chip customers in the energy, minerals/mining, waste management, planning & development, manufacturing and financial sectors including, for example, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, BP, Hanson, Honda, Montagu Private Equity, Surrey County Council and The Environment Agency. SLR provides the full range of environmental services and is a leader in the area of sustainable development.

The merger complements and adds to the services CSA-JBA provide to the energy, infrastructure, minerals, mining, waste and water sectors throughout Ireland and internationally. The existing management team in Dublin remains in place with business operating as usual.

## New GSI Burren Map Launched



Minister of State Tony Killeen, T.D., launched the first in a new national series of geotourism maps planned for areas of outstanding landscape and geological heritage. The map has been researched and designed by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI). In the series, the GSI hopes to convey the

message that geology underpins the physical basis of our society – our living, working and recreational environment.

The Burren region is the latest in Ireland to investigate the potential of European Geopark status. The new map will be an important element in the proposal for this special part of County Clare to be designated as a UNESCO Geopark.”

The map is available for purchase at a price of €5 from [www.gsi.ie/gshop](http://www.gsi.ie/gshop).

## Historical Australian Map Returned

### Presentation reflects richness of mining and geoscience links between Australia and Ireland

On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008, Minister of State Seán Power, TD, presented a historical map of the State of Victoria in southern Australia to the Australian Ambassador, Anne Plunkett. Making the presentation, Minister Power acknowledged the rich and diverse history of the region and said that the presentation was in recognition of the historic links between Ireland, the State of Victoria and Australia.



Minister of State Sean Power TD, Australian Ambassador Anne Plunkett and Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland, Dr. Peadar Mc Ardle examined the historical map.

The map, which is close to 150 years old, shows the geographical context of the gold discoveries in Victoria in the middle of the nineteenth century. These discoveries led to a gold rush and are an essential part of the history of this region of Australia, transforming its economy and leading to a major increase in immigration. The map was prepared by the State Geological Survey and formed part of Australia’s display at the International Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures in Dublin during 1865. It was subsequently stored at the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) where it was re-discovered last year.

Speaking at the presentation, Minister Power said, “*There is a long tradition of strong and sustained connections between Ireland and Australia in the area of geoscience and indeed one of the authors of this map, Sir Frederick McCoy, who had worked at GSI, went on to become a doyen of Australian science, later being knighted for his contribution in the area of geoscience.*”

*More recently, the INFOMAR mapping project, which provides information on the sea floor around Ireland, benefited greatly from the expertise of two Australian technology companies. These links which began many years ago are continuing today and I am confident that they are set to be maintained in the years ahead.”*

Ambassador Plunkett said: “*This map is of great historical interest to the people of Australia and is part of the fascinating history linking our two countries. It is especially fitting that the return of this item takes place during the International Year of Planet Earth*”.



Ambassador Anne Plunkett addressed the audience at the presentation held at the Geological Survey of Ireland (Minister Power and Dr McArdle in background).

Concluding, Minister Power stated, *“In order to make advances in geoscience, it is important that we acknowledge the geological history of regions. I am confident that this map will further the interest in the diverse history of the State of Victoria and that it will contribute greatly to the study of the area.”*

Article courtesy of DCENR Press Office.

## EFG News

### **Athens Conference: Geology and Water Management: Resources, Risks and Regulations**

A conference entitled ‘Geology and Water Management: Resources, Risks and Regulations’ was held in Athens on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008. The conference was organised to coincide with the Summer EFG Council meeting. The conference was attended by policy makers from the Greek Ministries of Development and of Environment and Public Works, representatives from political parties of the Greek Parliament as well as delegates from Europe and the USA. Fionnuala Collins attended on behalf of the IGI.

Fionnuala presented a paper on ‘Guidance on the Collection, Presentation and Interpretation of Geological and Hydrogeological Information for Quarry Developments in Ireland’. The paper was prepared jointly with Kevin Cullen, President of the IGI. The presentation explained the background to the development of the double-sided laminated template, outlined the template structure and gave examples of

the type of information required. The template is working well in Ireland to facilitate better planning and it was proposed that the template would be applicable in Europe. The template was well received by delegates and is already in use in the UK.

The conference presented information on a range of water issues facing Europe. There were some excellent presentations on Artificial Recharge/Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) from Greece, Israel and the USA, where excess runoff in the wet season is injected into an aquifer for abstraction during drier times when the available resource would not have met the demand.

Other papers included the Terrafirma project - a system to measure ground displacements in uncompressible consolidated deposits using satellite imagery to identify areas susceptible to hazard. Issues surrounding the development of a European Wide Geochemical Atlas were highlighted such as the essential requirement of a common laboratory for all samples across Europe with common sampling procedures and equipment for comparability of results. The views and recommendations of the European Commission on the Groundwater Management Directive were also presented.

A statement from the meeting was released to the press which issued a warning of future water supply problems unless appropriate action is taken to manage the effects of climate change resulting from desertification, soil erosion and flooding.

### **Summer Council Meeting**

This year's summer Council meeting was held in Athens on the 31st May and 1st June 2008. The meeting was attended by 27 people from 18 member countries across the Federation. A five person delegation from the IAPG (USA) also attended the meeting as Associate Members. Piers Gardiner and Fionnuala Collins attended on behalf of the IGI. Gareth Ll Jones attended as an observer in his capacity as Past EFG President. John Clifford, Past Delegate and Board member was also present.

Cyprus (160 members) and Croatia (365 members) were elected as new members of the Federation.

Iceland, Poland and Slovakia were suspended as the link with these countries has been lost and/or membership fees unpaid. However, they can remain observers for a maximum of three years. EFG are trying to forge new connections with them.

A new Secretary General and Treasurer were elected to replace outgoing Board members. The Vice President was re-elected for a second term. The other board members continue in their two year term. The new 2008-2009 EFG board is as follows:

- **President:** Manuel Regueiro, Spain
- **Vice President:** Dirk de Coster, Belgium
- **Secretary General:** Seppo Gehor, Finland
- **Treasurer:** Piers Gardiner, Ireland
- **EU Delegate:** Herald Ligtenberg, Netherlands



*The New EFG Board: Left to right - Herald Lighenberg, Manuel Regueiro, Seppo Gehor, Dirk De Coster and Piers Gardiner*

Visibility of the European Federation including marketing of the *European Geologist Magazine*, modernisation of the website and progression of the Bologna agreement for a European Qualifications Framework were among the meeting's topics.



John Clifford in Athens

### **EFG Medal of Merit Award**

Congratulations to John Clifford who was awarded the EFG Medal of Merit in recognition of his long and valued contribution to the promotion of geology across and beyond Europe and in particular for his work for the Federation on minerals resources and reserves reporting.

Congratulations also to James Paul Tierney from Ireland who was among the newly elected European Geologists.

## **International Year of Planet Earth Update**

### **Photography Competitions**

International Year of Planet Earth is now half way through its designated year and we would like to update you on some exciting photography competitions.

The **IYPE – Du Noyer Photo Competition** is accepting entries. This competition seeks to encourage a creative blend of artistic and scientific skills through the medium of photography. For more information see [www.planeteearth.ie](http://www.planeteearth.ie)

A major international competition that coincides with the American Geological Institute's Earth Science Week (ESW) celebration. This competition is open to anyone of any age, anywhere around the world.

The **IYPE-ESW 2008 Photography Contest** promises to engage a wide range of people from around the world in earth-science exploration, study, and aesthetic contemplation. The theme of the contest is "Exploring Earth Science Around the World." Entrants are encouraged to submit photos that show people engaged in earth science exploration in the natural environment of their part of the world. Further information on this competition can be found at <http://www.earthsciweek.org/contests>. This competition is open to anyone of any age, anywhere around the world.

Finally, a reminder that the closing date for entries for the **ESAI 2008 Photography Competition** is 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2008. For more details check [www.planeteearth.ie](http://www.planeteearth.ie).

### **An Post launches IYPE Stamps**



An Post has celebrated International Year of Planet by producing a set of 2 stamps. The two 55c self-adhesive stamps feature hand moulded plasticine sculptures of our planet by school children Conor Reid and Mohammed Rahman. They were created during an environmental education workshop entitled "Earth's future" attended by a class of 11 year olds

from Sancta Maria Primary School in Dublin 8. The stamps and booklet were designed by Richard Chaney with photography by Fionn McCann.

A key design element of these two new stamps, and a first for An Post, is that, like the planet itself, they are round. The intention being to bring to life to the belief that each of us "holds the world in our hands", which is a core theme of International Year of Planet Earth.

### **Video - Why Earth Science?**

A video entitled 'Why Earth Science' has been developed by the American Geological Institute to promote the value of geology to society. This short video can be viewed via the following web address: [www.agiweb.org/education/resource/index.html](http://www.agiweb.org/education/resource/index.html).

## **Forthcoming Fieldtrips**

### **Environment and Heritage Service and the National Trust in Northern Ireland Field Excursions.**

The field excursions listed below last for 2-3 hours. Further details are available from Ian Enlander, ([ian.enlander@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:ian.enlander@doeni.gov.uk)), tel: (0044) (28) 90569647

#### **26<sup>th</sup> July 2008, Down**

**"Where the ice met the sea - understanding the geology of Killard Point" with a member of the EHS staff.**

**Meet:** 2pm Mill Quarter Bay lay-by, grid ref J 599 441.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> August 2008, Antrim**

**"Understanding the Geology of Murlough Bay and Fair Head" with Philip Doughty.**

**Meet:** 2pm at the Murlough Bay bottom car park, grid reference D 195 422.

#### **9<sup>th</sup> August 2008, Down**

**"Understanding the Geology of the Kearney Coast" with Bernard Anderson.**

**Meet:** 11am Kearney Village car park. Grid ref J 648 517

#### **16<sup>th</sup> August 2008, Antrim**

**"Lava in Life? – understanding the geology of Portrush" with Philip Doughty.**

**Meet:** 2pm In front of the Portrush Coastal Zone, Landsdowne Crescent, grid ref C 857 410.

#### **23<sup>rd</sup> August 2008, Antrim**

**"Up the Glen - understanding the geology of Colin Glen" with Tony Bazley.**

**Meet:** 2pm Colin Glen Trust Centre, 163 Stewartstown Road, Grid Ref J 284 705.

#### **30<sup>th</sup> August 2008, Down**

**"Changing Sea Levels – understanding the geology of Ballyquintin Point" with a member of the EHS staff.**

**Meet:** 2pm Ballyquintin Point Car Park. Grid ref J 625 462

#### **6<sup>th</sup> September 2008, Antrim**

**"Journey to the centre of a volcano- understanding the geology of Carrick-a-rede" with Paul Lyle.**

**Meet:** 2pm Carrick-a-rede visitors facility (front). Grid ref D 051 447.

#### **13<sup>th</sup> September 2008, Antrim**

**"Rocks, sea stacks and springs - understanding the geology of Ballintoy Harbour and White Park Bay" with a member of EHS staff**

**Meet:** 11am Ballintoy Harbour. Grid ref D 038 453.

For full details of forthcoming IYPE events visit [www.planetearth.ie/events](http://www.planetearth.ie/events)

#### **Sat 27<sup>th</sup> & Sun 28<sup>th</sup> (half day) September 2008**

**IAH Annual Fieldtrip - 'Break for the Border' Lower Lough Erne - Cuilcagh Mountain hydrogeology and Marble Arch Geopark.**

Hosted by the International Association of Hydrogeologists, this fieldtrip to the Lower Lough Erne region includes Cuilcagh Mountain hydrogeology and a trip to the Marble Arch Caves.

**Contact:** Peter McConvey GSNI, Belfast.

Tel: 028 9038 8445 (ext: 82645) / 048 9038 8445 ROI  
Textphone: 028 9052 9304 / 048 9052 9304 ROI

[peter.mcconvey@detini.gov.uk](mailto:peter.mcconvey@detini.gov.uk)

## Heritage Week 24th to 31st August 2008

This year's Heritage Week will promote the geosciences. For a range of walks and talks in your area, refer [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie).

### Forthcoming Public Lectures

**Climate Change and Increased Water Demand - A Volatile Mixture?** By Dr Patrick Leahy

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008

**Venue:** Trinity College Dublin, Burke Theatre. 6pm

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> September 2008

**Venue:** National University Galway. 8pm

### Forthcoming Courses

#### 1/2 Day IGI Report Writing and Expert Witness Course

This half-day course will provide guidance on the planning and writing of technical reports including feasibility study reports, technical proposals, EISs and proofs of evidence. The course will introduce delegates to the giving of evidence at oral hearings and in courts of law. The course will be of particular interest to those writing and/or contributing to external technical reports that may be subject to third party review. The course will also be of benefit to those who may have to give evidence at oral hearings or under oath in a court of law.

**Date:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, September 2008, 08.30 – 13.00.

**Venue:** Morans Hotel, Leopardstown, Dublin 18

**Cost:** €130.00 for IGI Members and €150.00 for non-members. Includes tea/coffee & light lunch.

**Course Convenors:** Bruce Misstear, Kevin Cullen.

**Booking:** Send a non-refundable cheque payable to the IGI to Mrs. Susan Pyne, Institute of Geologists, UCD School of Geological Sciences, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, by **Friday 15/8/08**.

**Note:** Places are limited to 20 therefore it is advised to book early to avoid disappointment. Non-IGI members are welcome to attend. The course qualifies as a CPD activity.

Bruce Misstear is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering, Trinity College Dublin. Kevin Cullen has written and contributed to numerous EISs and other technical reports and appeared as an expert witness at An Bord Pleanála and EPA oral hearings and in the High Court.

#### 1 day course: Collection, Interpretation and Use of Groundwater Level Data for Assessing Hydrogeological Settings

This one day course will be held on October 8<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, Colby House, Belfast and is a repeat of the course held in Dublin earlier this year.

#### 2 day course: Groundwater Source Protection

Following the success of, and demand for, this two day course held last year, it will be re-run in November 2008. Details will be provided later to the membership and posted to the IGI web site [www.igi.ie](http://www.igi.ie).

All course Queries to IGI office at 01-7162085 or [admin@igi.ie](mailto:admin@igi.ie) or refer to our website at [www.igi.ie](http://www.igi.ie).

### Forthcoming National Conferences

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Environment Ireland Conference 2008

**Date:** 9th - 10th September 2008

**Venue:** Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin

Environment Ireland, is Ireland's largest conference on environmental policy and management. The two day programme includes over 35 expert speakers, from both Ireland and further afield.

**Course Organisers:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. **Further details:** [www.environmentireland.ie](http://www.environmentireland.ie)

## Forthcoming International Conferences

### **33rd International Geological Congress** **Oslo 6 - 14 August 2008**



The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Geological Congress will be held in Oslo from August 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2008. This important event will bring together... and aims to encourage the advancement of fundamental and applied research in the earth sciences world-wide.

The International Geological Congress is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization whose meetings are held in collaboration with, and under sponsorship of, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS).

For a detailed programme see [www.33IGC.org](http://www.33IGC.org)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> International Professional Geologic Conference** **September 20-24, 2008, Flagstaff Arizona.**



*In conjunction with:*

***The AIPG 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting,  
The Arizona Hydrological Society - 21<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Symposium & the Association of Earth Science  
Editors Annual Meeting***

The conference theme is 'Changing Waterscapes and Water Ethics for the 21st Century and Global Geoscience Practice, Standards, Ethics, and Accountability'. For further information refer [www.aipg.org](http://www.aipg.org).

### **The II European Conference of the International Association for Engineering Geology "Euroengeo 2008"**

**Madrid, 15-20 September 2008.**

The main theme of the Congress will be "Cities and their underground environment". In this Forum experts and specialists will hold meetings and exchanges of ideas about geology applied to engineering.

More information on: <http://euroengeo.com/english/>

## Congratulations

### **Tobin Team Complete Four Peaks Challenge**



Three members of TOBIN Consulting Engineers recently took part in the Focus Ireland Four Peaks Challenge for the second year in a row -hence the team name "TOBIN Take Two!"

The Four Peaks Challenge consists of teams of between three and five walkers plus a minimum of two drivers per vehicle to climb the highest mountain in each of the four provinces over one weekend and raise a minimum of €4,500 in sponsorship to help people who are homeless. The mountains include Carrauntoohil (Kerry), Mweelrea (Mayo), Slieve Donard (Down) and Lugnaquilla (Wicklow).

TOBIN members included Siobhán Tinnelly, Mairead Hogan and Grainne Warren. Peter Mahon (Manager of Bunratty Quarry, Roadstone Provinces Ltd.) volunteered to transport the team safely from province to province, which was no mean feat. Each team climbed a staggering 11,937 feet and completed a road trip of over 800 miles.

### **International Association of Cryospheric Sciences Appointment**

Dr Stephen McCarron (NUI Maynooth) has become Ireland's National Correspondent to the newly-formed International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) of the IUGG. *The cryosphere is the component of the Earths system that contains water in its frozen state.*

### **IGI Website Re-design**

The re-designed IGI website will be online from August 2008. The web address remains the same [www.igi.ie](http://www.igi.ie). Members are encouraged to submit suitable geological photographs for possible inclusion on the new web pages to Susan Pyne at the IGI Offices: [admin@igi.ie](mailto:admin@igi.ie).

### **Thanks**

Many thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. We encourage all members to forward items of news or general interest.

