



# NewsLetter

## August/September

### 2004

Issue no. 3

## WELCOME

### WELCOME TO YOUR ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER!

Beginning in September 2004 we intend to produce a new electronic newsletter that will be e-mailed to all IGI members. Frank McDermott (IGI Board Member) has taken over responsibility for its production, and our aim is to provide a short (approximately 2 page) newsletter every two months. We hope that you find the newsletter relevant, informative and occasionally entertaining. Ultimately we rely on *you*, the IGI membership to submit articles on an ongoing basis to sustain a bi-monthly production.

The newsletter will continue to reflect the diverse activities and interests of our members. To ensure regular production, rapid turn-around times and in order to minimise production costs we have opted for electronic distribution of the newsletter. Hard copies can be printed from the link on the IGI webpage – [www.igi.ie](http://www.igi.ie)

Feedback on the new format and its future content is welcome. Let us know what you think; all suggestions and items for inclusion will be considered! (e-mail these to the editor, [frank.mcdermott@ucd.ie](mailto:frank.mcdermott@ucd.ie)). Please send any news items for inclusion in future newsletters to Frank at the e-mail address above. Pictures to illustrate news items are particularly welcome (jpeg format preferred, but we can also scan prints etc if necessary).

## IGI WEBSITE

Our website ([www.igi.ie](http://www.igi.ie)) receives a surprisingly large number of ‘hits’ per week, but unfortunately now looks dated and in need of a major overhaul. We are currently in discussions with a professional web-designer and hope to have a new-look IGI website ‘live’ before the end of 2004. In particular we are aiming to make the ‘Geoservices Directory’ section more user friendly, and to make the website more relevant to our membership. Suggestions on how to improve the website to [frank.mcdermott@ucd.ie](mailto:frank.mcdermott@ucd.ie) please!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GEOHAZARDS - Ireland at Risk

Conference at Dublin Castle, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004 to discuss the range of geohazards occurring in Ireland including landslides, flooding, groundwater pollution, radon, erosion and subsidence. Details on late registration can be found on the IGI website.

A Technical Discussion Meeting ‘**An introduction to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive**’ by Dr. Emmet McMahon (EnviroTrain Ltd) will take place at the Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Dublin 4 on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at 18.00 hrs. Tea/Coffee from 17:30 hrs.

### JOHN JACKSON LECTURE - 2004

The 2004 John Jackson Lecture ‘**Groundwater at risk in Ireland – Putting Geoscientific Information and Maps at the Core of Land-use and Environmental Decision-making**’ will be given by Donal Daly (GSI) on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 18.30 hrs. The venue is the RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

### IQUA SYMPOSIUM, NOVEMBER, 2004

“**Atlantic Coastal and Offshore Quaternary: Deposits, Sea-level Changes and Archaeology**”

Date: Friday, November 26th, 2004, all day.

Venue: Geological Survey, Beggars Bush, Dublin  
Organizer: Michael Philcox. Tel/fax 045-865535.  
E-mail: [mphilcox@tcd.ie](mailto:mphilcox@tcd.ie)

This year's IQUA symposium will focus on current work on the Quaternary of the Irish Atlantic coast and offshore. Topics will include results from the National Seabed Survey, inshore bottom surveys in Clew Bay and elsewhere, and coring on the outer shelf. Evidence for post-glacial sea level changes will be presented, providing a background for new findings in coastal archaeology. Much of this work is in its early stages and the symposium will provide an opportunity to learn about what is currently going on in an increasingly important field of research. Up-dated information on the Symposium will be posted on the IQUA website:

<http://www.tcd.ie/geography/IQUA/meet/Met.Hme.htm#2004>

## FIELD-TRIPS

### JOINT IAH/IQUA FIELDTRIP

The joint IAH/IQUA fieldtrip to North Mayo will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2004. The trip will be based in Belmullet and will visit the sites of recent landslides, examine the hydrological and geotechnical aspects of the Corrib Gas Terminal Site and visit several archaeological sites including the Ceide Fields. Fieldtrip leaders are Dr Paul Jennings (AGEC Consulting), archaeologists Michael Gibbons and Noel Dunne, Professor Pete Coxon (TCD) and David Ball (Hydrological Consultant). The fieldtrip cost is €20 per person and interested parties should contact the organiser Fionnuala Collins, RPS-MCOS, Carnegie House, Library Road, Dun Laoghaire.

Tel. (01) 2020870, Fax (01) 2020707 or e-mail [fionnuala.collins.rpsgroup.ie](mailto:fionnuala.collins.rpsgroup.ie)

### JOINT IQUA/QRA FIELDTRIP 2005

A joint IQUA/QRA field meeting will be held between April 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2005 in the west of Ireland. More details will be included in a future newsletter and a provisional programme can be found at

<http://www.tcd.ie/geography/IQUA/meet/Met.Hme.htm#2004>

## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

**Raw Consulting** is pleased to announce that EurGeol **Dr. Davide Gallazzi** PGeo has joined the Company from 11<sup>th</sup> October 2004, as Senior Environmental Geologist in their new West Regional Office in Sligo. EurGeol Dr. Davide Gallazzi PGeo has acquired extensive knowledge of site investigation, assessment and remediation techniques for sites polluted by oil or other chemical products in his professional career over the past 15 years. He has also successfully provided advice and technical support to public bodies and private clients in site investigation and assessment in cases of unauthorised waste disposal and compilation of Environmental Impact Statements ([www.rawconsulting.co.uk](http://www.rawconsulting.co.uk)).

## SAMREC RECOGNITION

The South African Mineral Resource Committee (SAMREC) has recently approved the IGI as an international body whose membership is recognized as one of the qualifications for a competent person submitting a report to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). PGeos are thus recognized as competent persons for the purpose of submitting reports to the JSE.

## INDUSTRY NEWS

**OMAC Laboratories** (Loughrea) have recently installed a new ICP-MS instrument (Model X7 from Thermo Electron) to complement its existing ICP-AES instrument. Both instruments are installed in new clean room facilities with positive pressure to ensure ultra low-blank conditions. This new quadrupole instrument features extremely low detection limits for a wide range of trace elements in geological and environmental samples. The first applications include analysis of those elements that are normally below the detection limits of conventional ICP-AES instruments (e.g. As, Se, Te, Tl, Sn). Isotopic analysis may also be possible for some elements. Sample throughput is about 400 samples per day.

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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