



NewsLetter

July-September 2005

Issue no. 8

Academy Committee for Geosciences

The Academy Committee for Geosciences met on 2nd September and the following topics were discussed.

1. The case for Geoscience Funding

Following consultation with the geoscience sector in Ireland, in late August a document was submitted to the Government's Chief Science Adviser and to the Department of Communications, Marine & Natural Resources. It outlines the case for greatly increased state funding in the Republic for geoscience research, focusing on four research themes:

1. Energy: Secure and Diversified Supplies
2. Environment and Health: Addressing Emissions to Air and Water
3. Marine: Developing a Unique Source
4. Infrastructure: Building on Sound Foundations with Quality Materials

"The Case for Geoscience Funding" is available from the GSI home page: <http://www.gsi.ie/>

The total sum sought is about 160 million euro over a five year period. Although the document has been submitted, further comments are welcome, particularly on the impact of the geosciences sector on the economy, including multiplier effects, i.e. indirect economic benefits of geoscience. Additional suggestions on implementation of research projects within the four themes are also very welcome. Comments should be sent to GSI Director Dr Peadar McArdle: Peadar.McArdle@gsi.ie

2. Rock sets for schools

The "Promotion of geoscience education in schools" working group (Chair: Dr Ian Sanders) has produced 900 rock sets. Six different kinds of rock – sandstone, mudstone, limestone, granite, basalt and schist – from six carefully selected locations in Ireland have been assembled into packaged sets and are currently being distributed to every second level school in the 26 counties. Several pieces of each rock type are included in each set, so that every pupil will have time to make personal observations and handle the rocks. An explanatory booklet to accompany the rock sets with suggestions for class-work exercises will be on its way to schools shortly. The project has been made possible by a generous donation from Whelan's Limestone Quarries Limited of Ennis, Co. Clare.

3. RIA Geosciences Committee prize awarded

The Committee sponsored a prize for the best student poster at this year's postgraduate students meeting of the British Geophysical Association, which was held in NUI Galway on 1st and 2nd September. The winner was Edward Horncastle (Liverpool University) for his poster entitled "Core flow modelling: constraints from dynamo theory".

4. ES2K

ES2K, which publishes a colour magazine popularizing the geological sciences, has recently become an all-Ireland organisation. It is seeking one or more additional representatives based in the Republic. Most business is done by email and meetings are typically held about four times a year, some north and some south of the border. If you are interested in geological outreach and have the time to help, please contact Dr Tony Bazley: rbazley@btinternet.com

5. Electoral Register

If you know any geoscientists who should be on the electoral register for the Geosciences Committee but who are not, please encourage them to sign up. Apart from eligibility to vote in the next Committee election, everyone on the electoral register receives bulletins such as this one by email. Anyone wishing to sign up has only to email his or her name to Vanessa Berman: v.berman@ria.ie

Any correspondence for the attention of the Geosciences Committee can be sent to geosciences@ria.ie. The committee next meets on Friday, 2nd December, 2005.

Bulletins and other documents relating to the committee are archived on its web site: <http://www.ria.ie/committees/geosciences/index.html>.

Committee membership: Dr Chris Bean (Chair), Prof. Pat Shannon (Vice-Chair), Dr Julian Menuge (Secretary), Mr David Ball, Dr Catherine Coxon; Dr Catherine Dalton (Representative of the Academy Committee for Geography); Dr Eve Daly; EurGeol Garth Earls; Ms Vanessa Berman (Programme Manager); Prof. John Gamble; Dr Deirdre Lewis; Dr Peadar McArdle; Mr Eoin Moran; Dr Aodhagán Ó Rodaighe (Representative of Irish Committee on Climate Change); Dr Matthew Parkes; Dr Ian Sanders.

EurGeol Julian Menuge PGeO
Secretary, Academy Committee for Geosciences
5th September 2005.

Meetings, talks, lectures

IAH (Irish Group)

1 November: Technical Discussion Meeting
The EPA Soil and Subsoil Mapping Project - a Final Overview Spatial Analysis Group, Teagasc

6 December: Modelling future change in Irish Hydroclimatology: Perspectives of the ICARUS Group NUI, Maynooth

Both meetings will be held in the Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4. Coffee at 17:30, lecture at 18:00.

IAEG Lecture

Dr. Rod Page (Australian National University) will present a talk entitled "**Geology and U-Pb SHRIMP geochronology of a Proterozoic sequence containing the world's largest lump of Pb-Zn-Ag (Broken Hill orebody, Australia)**" in the Jackson Library, Geology/Geography Building, University College Cork at 8 pm on Tuesday November 22nd.

IGI Conference 2005 'Breaking Ground'

The 2005 IGI Conference '**Breaking Ground**' will take place in Dublin Castle on November 11th 2005. The focus will be on the role of geology in the successful delivery of major infrastructure projects.

More details and registration forms can be found on the IGI website, www.igi.ie

News of Members

Congratulations to **Dr Bettie Higgs PGeO** (UCC) on being selected as one of the 2005-2006 Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) Scholars. For further details please see

http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/newsroom/press_releases/05.03.1.htm

Dr John Ashton has joined EurGeol John Clifford as an IGI representative on the Combined reserves International Reporting Committee (CRIRSCO).

Exam Success



TES Consulting Engineers are delighted to announce that Leo Brogan (above), has qualified from NUI Galway with a Masters in Applied Science (Hydrology /Hydrogeology). Mairead Hogan, (below), has qualified from Trinity College Dublin with a Diploma in Environmental Engineering.



Congratulations to both scholars!

Siobhán Tinnelly BA (Mod), Dip.Env.Eng.