



1st General Assembly

“Minutes”

35th IGC – International Geological Congress
(Cape Town, 31st August 2016)

The 1st IAPG General Assembly (GA) takes place in Cape Town (South Africa), during the 35th International Geological Congress (IGC), on 31st August 2016, from 18:00 to 20:00, room 2.61-2.63.

The GA is chaired by the IAPG Vice-President, Shrikant Limaye; the agenda is drawn up by the IAPG Secretary General, Silvia Peppoloni.

The goal of the GA is to outline and share essential information about the last 4-year activity of IAPG, including the financial situation, and to ratify some decisions.

Agenda:

- 1) Welcome greetings.
- 2) Review and approval of the Agenda.
- 3) Introduction: A brief overview on the first 4-year activity.
- 4) Current organization (Executive Council, National Sections, Corresponding Citizen Scientists, Young Scientists Club).
- 5) Affiliations and agreements.
- 6) Financial Report.
- 7) Ratifications:
 - Executive Council 2016-2020;
 - coordinators of the National Sections 2016-2018;
 - institution of the IAPG - International Advisory Committee;
 - institution of the Geoethics Medal;
 - institution of the International Geoethics Day;
- 8) “Cape Town Statement on Geoethics”.
- 9) Discussion on future initiatives: editorial projects, scientific sessions, etc.
- 10) Other business.

Discussion:

1) Welcome greetings

S. Limaye welcomes participants and sums up essential steps that led to the foundation of IAPG in 2012 during the 34th International Geological Congress (IGC) in Brisbane (Australia).

2) Review and Approval of the Agenda

GA approves the agenda without changes.

3) Introduction: A brief overview of the first 4-year activity

Giuseppe Di Capua, IAPG treasurer, illustrates the principal results achieved by IAPG in its first 4-year activity, putting in evidence that they are the results of a clear strategy based on the following key-words: Networking, Sessions in congresses, Lectures, Publications, Society.

The first years of activity have brought:

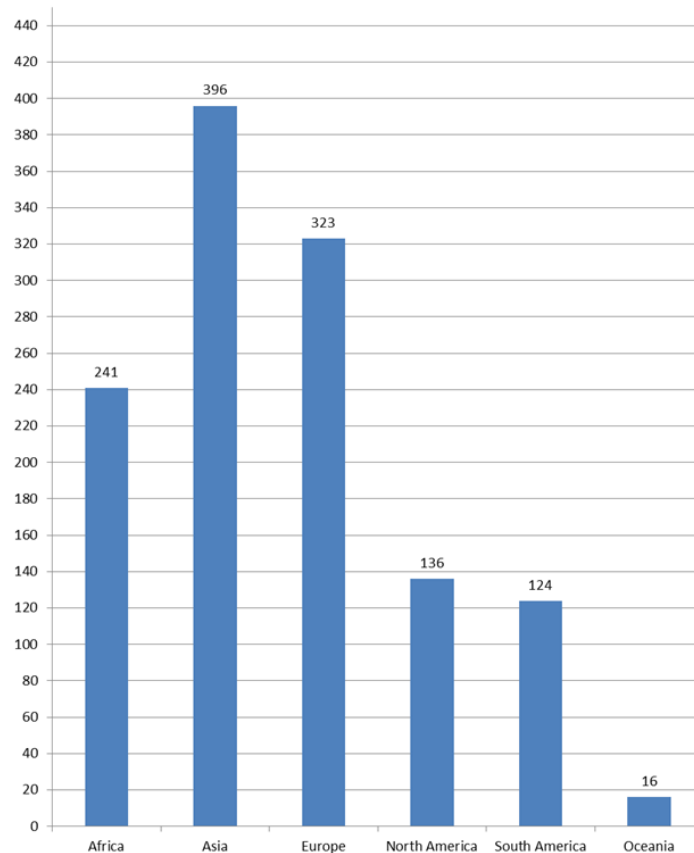
- to build the structure of the association, by the creation of the organization, the website, and social network pages;
- to develop contents on geoethics through research activities.
- to involve the geoscience community, by organizing conferences and sessions in scientific meetings, delivering lectures in congresses, stimulating the participation of colleagues in writing texts for the blog and papers to be published, sharing information about geoethical issues through the IAPG social network pages.
- to transfer geoethical knowledge through the publication of books and articles.

4) Current organization (Executive Council, National Sections, Corresponding Citizen Scientists, Young Scientists Club)

G. Di Capua illustrates the current IAPG organization (upd. 31st August 2016) that can count on:

- 11 members of the Executive Council;
- 23 National Sections, coordinated by 29 colleagues;
- 7 Corresponding Citizen Scientists on different geoethical topics;
- 6 members of the Young Scientists Club.
- 1236 members in 107 countries in 5 continents.

Moreover, G. Di Capua shows the continental distribution of the IAPG members (see the picture below)



5) Affiliations and agreements

G. Di Capua reports on 5 affiliations (IUGS, AGI, GSA, GSL, GIRAF) and 9 agreements for cooperation (EFG, EGS, AGU, IAEG, IGEO, AEG, AAWG, ANGE, GEVAS). Positive contacts will bring in the near future to new agreements, in order to enlarge and strengthen the IAPG network of international cooperation.

6) Financial Report

G. Di Capua reports on Incomes and Expenses for the period 26 March 2013 (date of opening of the IAPG bank account in Italy at the Unicredit Bank) – 22 August 2016:

Incomes: 2,637.92 Euros (Donations, IUGS grants, Bank interest).

Expenses: 791.00 Euros (Bank account fee, AGI fee, Website).

Net income: 1,846.92

Finally, G. Di Capua informs that in 2014 IAPG has started in Italy the procedure to get the tax donations from Italian taxpayers, who can choose to devolve to IAPG a compulsory 5 ‰ = 0.5% ('five per thousand') from their annual income tax return each year. IAPG should receive from the Italian government 505.50 Euros for the year 2014. Regarding 2015 and 2016 data on tax donations have not yet been published by the Italian agency for taxes.

GA approves the Financial Report.

7) Ratifications

- Executive Council 2016-2020:

GA approves the proposal of S. Peppoloni to confirm all members, after to have verified their availability to continue in their position, taking into account the necessity to assure an adequate support to the IAPG management due to the great growth of the Association.

- coordinators of the National Sections 2016-2018:

Regarding the 23 national sections, in order to strengthen their role into the IAPG network, to enlarge the number of IAPG members and to promote new activities, S. Peppoloni proposes to ask to G. Di Capua to make a proposal for some changes among the coordinators of some national sections, in order to assure a more shared responsibility among the members, and to create new opportunities for local networking. In case of sections with only one coordinator, G. Di Capua will seek a co-coordinator. For sections with already two co-coordinators, one of the two could be replaced by the IAPG Secretary General, on the base of activities carried out by them. IAPG Secretary General will choose the names of new coordinators, by taking into account the list of the IAPG members in each country and the potential candidates selected by G. Di Capua.

- institution of the IAPG - International Advisory Committee:

The IAPG Constitution considers the possibility to create an International Advisory Board. After a discussion, GA agrees to evaluate the possibility to transform the group of the Corresponding Citizen Scientists into the Advisory Committee, that is the IAPG Board of experts. In case, IAPG Secretary General will ask an approval to the IAPG EC.

- institution of the Geoethics Medal:

G. Di Capua illustrates the proposal to institute the Geoethics Medal, from an idea conceived during the EGU General Assembly 2016. GA agrees on the institution, that has the goal to reward scientists who have distinguished themselves in favor of applying/favouring/assuring ethical approaches in the practice of geoscience. GA agrees on the necessity to define clear rules for the nomination of candidates, in order to avoid self-recognition or awards among a restricted group of people belonging to IAPG. GA agrees on asking to all the IAPG members, via email, to express their approval to this initiative. The IAPG Secretary General, Silvia Peppoloni, is commissioned to nominate a draft committee for preparing a list of criteria to apply for the nomination of candidates to receive the "Geoethics Medal". The list of criteria will be approved by the Executive Council.

- institution of the International Geoethics Day:

G. Di Capua illustrates the proposal to institute the International Geoethics Day, from an idea conceived during the EGU General Assembly 2016. GA agrees on the institution, that has the goal to raise the awareness of the geoscience community and society as a whole about the importance of ethical, social and cultural aspects of geoscience knowledge, research, practice and education. GA agrees on asking to all the IAPG members, via email, to express their approval to this initiative.

The IAPG Secretary General, Silvia Peppoloni, is commissioned to propose a date for the “International Geoethics Day” to be approved by the Executive Council.

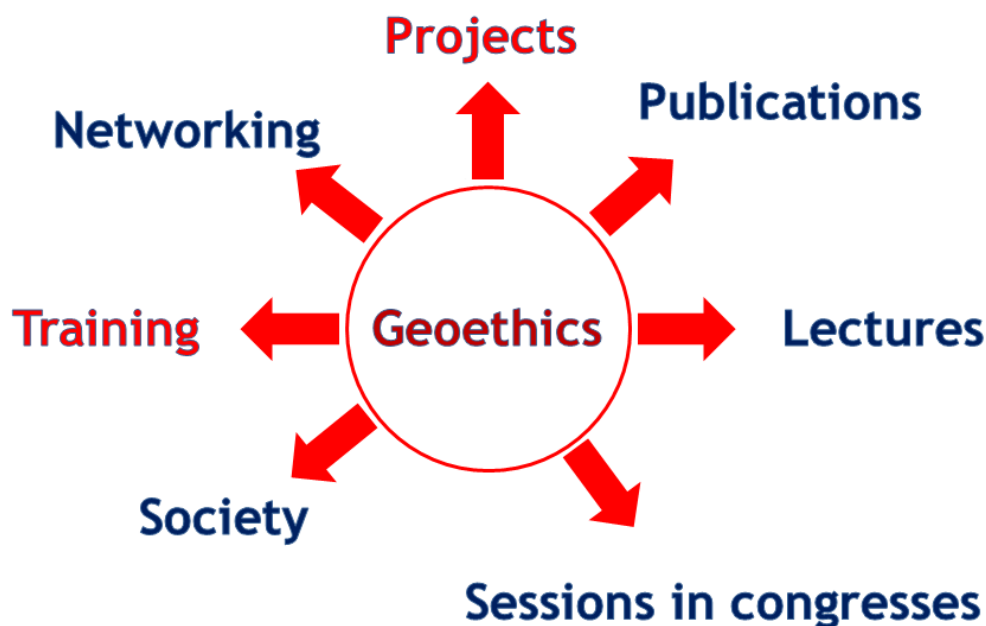
8) “Cape Town Statement on Geoethics”

S. Peppoloni underlines that we can consider the 35th IGC in Cape Town the event that opens a new phase for Geoethics and for IAPG. In order to celebrate this passage, the IAPG Drafting Committee, formed by Giuseppe Di Capua, Peter Bobrowsky and Silvia Peppoloni, has put together the “Cape Town Statement on Geoethics” (CTSG), a document to be considered as the product of an international effort to focus the attention of geoscientists on the development of shared policies, guidelines, strategies and tools, with the long-range goal of fostering the adoption of ethics in the geoscience community. The final document sums up all the values, concepts, contents developed in the first 4-year activity of IAPG, giving a perspective for the future development of geoethics. The CTSG has been announced during the opening keynote speech by S. Peppoloni in the first IAPG session on geoethics at the 35th IGC. After the congress, the draft version will be sent for comments and suggestions to all the IAPG officers (EC members, Coordinators of the National Sections, Corresponding Citizen Scientists) and to the 35th IGC Champions of the Theme “Geoscience Professionalism and Geoethics”. Once improved, the final version will be ratified by the Executive Council of the IAPG and published in the IAPG website.

9) Discussion on future initiatives: editorial projects, scientific sessions, etc.

G. Di Capua reports on future editorial projects, scientific sessions and other events in preparation in Nigeria, USA, Italy, Austria, Canada, Peru.

S. Peppoloni illustrates the new IAPG strategy for the period 2016-2020. The strategy developed so far (from 2012 to 2016) should be implemented with other two objectives: Projects and Training on geoethics.



10) Other business

S. Peppoloni underlines some key-points to be carefully considered by all the IAPG members:

- IAPG is not only a scientific association, it is a great global project.
- IAPG Officers have to increase their knowledge about current achievements of geoethics.
- IAPG members have to be coherent and intellectually honest.
- IAPG needs a greater involvement of members to carry out activities.
- IAPG's approach to problems has to be scientific and rational, based on shared values. The IAPG style in dealing with Geoethics has to be not moralistic.
- Geoethics cannot be used to denigrate studies of colleagues with different ideas. Scientific controversies and "personal squabbles" should not be included in geoethics.
- IAPG website is the fundamental point of reference for the IAPG community.

S. Limaye closes the GA at 20:00 and thanks all to have attended and contributed to the discussion.