INFORMATION RELEASE

International Union of Geological Science’s Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism

BRUSSELS - The Member Organizations of the International Union of Geological Science’s new Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism (TG-GGP) are pleased to report on its recent progress and to announce the launch of its website at www.tg-ggp.org, as a service to geoscientists and the geoscience profession. The TG-GGP will continue to expand this website to add to its value to the profession, globally.

Geoscientists are relied upon to directly serve the public by providing expert services and opinions on which others rely for key decision-making. As a consequence geoscience is a now a recognized profession as well as the scientific discipline it has always been.

Formed by the IUGS at the 34th International Geological Congress in Brisbane, Australia, in August 2012, the Task Group on Global Geoscience Professionalism (“TG-GGP”) recognises this transformation and provides a single global forum for interchange on professional affairs in geoscience worldwide.

The Task Group has been set up by a group of national and international professional geoscience organisations from around the world, representatives of which have formed an executive committee.

• European Federation of Geologists
• Geoscientists Canada
• American Institute of Professional Geologists
• Australian Institute of Geoscientists
• Colegio de Geólogos de Bolivia
• Geological Society of South Africa
• South African Council for the Natural Scientific Professions

The TG-GGP is keen to broaden its network to include other national and international professional geoscience organisations with an interest in participating, especially where new members would broaden its coverage beyond the countries and continents already represented. TG-GGP has already established collaborative links with a number of international organisations with interests relevant to the promotion, regulation and support of professionalism in geoscience (e.g. CRIRSCO, YES,1). The involvement of other such organisations would be welcomed.

1 Currently: Committee for Mineral Reserves International Reporting Standards, CRIRSCO (www.crirSCO.com); African Association of Women in Geosciences, AAWG (www.aawg.org); Young Earth Scientists Network, YES Network (www.networkyes.org); International Association for Promoting Geoethics, IAPG (www.iapg.geoethics.org); International Association for Geoethics, IAGETH (http://www.icog.es/iageth/)
As a Task Group of the IUGS, TG-GGP offers benefits to society and serves the global geoscience community by facilitating collaboration on professionalism in geoscience at local, national, and international levels by facilitating a more ‘joined up’ geoscience community through:

• Offering a venue for knowledge transfer;
• Providing information on work permitting, registration and/or licensure requirements for geoscientists in different countries to assist those wishing to work in other jurisdictions;
• Linking geoscientists in all areas of professional practice and at all stages of their careers with sources for practical guidance and support on professional matters;
• Sponsoring symposia and technical sessions to allow exchange and dialogue on professionalism in Earth Science; and
• Acting as a resource to members of the IUGS, and others, of material and speakers to present to geoscientist groups – in particular young Earth scientists – around the world on professional practice matters.

In speaking about the new Task Group and recent accomplishments including the launch of this website, Ruth Allington, Chair of TG-GGP and immediate Past President of The European Federation of Geologists, remarked: “The collaboration that this new Task Group is already achieving is very exciting and timely indeed for geoscience. We aim to develop an agenda for supporting the global geoscience community informed by addressing the following key questions:

1. Without understanding the skills and expertise needed by ‘industry’, how can educators in geoscience subjects prepare students for the workplace?
2. Without understanding societal needs, how can researchers design research which is truly relevant to those needs?
3. Without access to high quality graduates and excellent underpinning research, how can geoscientists in ‘industry’ deliver their expertise effectively?”

With 121 national members, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) (www.iugs.org) aims to promote development of the Earth sciences through the support of broad-based scientific studies relevant to the entire Earth system; to apply the results of these and other studies to preserving Earth’s natural environment, using all natural resources wisely and improving the prosperity of nations and the quality of human life; and to strengthen public awareness of geology and advance geological education in the widest sense.

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-30