

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 July 2019

OF 36th INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (36th IGC)

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From the 36th IGC Secretariat desk

Dear colleagues,
Greetings from 36th International Geological Congress!

We are happy to share that the preparations for 36th IGC are going on in full swing. The website of 36th IGC was launched in May 2019. Online submission of application for various categories- Super Early Bird, GeoHost is open now. Submission of abstracts for the scientific sessions has started and we invite the global geoscientific community to submit their contributions in large numbers. Applications for organising workshops/ short courses, GeoExpo and business meetings are also invited from interested entities. Registration for field trips, the major attraction of IGC, is open now. The applications for GeoHost Program are also live now, with an attractive scheme. Elaborate details are available in 36th IGC website (www.36igc.org).

The IUGS delegation have recently visited Delhi to discuss the issues pertaining to preparatory activities for organising the 36th IGC. We had several rounds of stimulating discussions with the delegation and a road map for fine tuning the preparatory activities during the coming months has been drawn up.

While engrossed in the preparations for the 36th IGC, we are also drawing our inspiration from the experiences of the geoscientists who had attended the 22nd session of IGC held in New Delhi in 1964, which was also the first time IGC had arrived on Asian soil. This issue contains a fascinating account of remembrances of 22nd IGC from one of the globally known geoscientists which I am sure, will be an interesting reading for you. You will also read in this issue of newsletter, a glimpse of inclusion of the iconic Makrana marble in IUGS recognised GHSR list.

We look forward to your participation in 36th IGC.

President, 36th IGC

Important timelines of 36th IGC

31 August 2019	Super Early Bird registrations close
15 September 2019	Abstract submissions <i>without any fee</i> close
30 September 2019	Applications for Professional Development Workshop/Short Courses close
15 October 2019	Abstract submissions with a fee of USD 20 close
15 October 2019	GeoHost Support applications close
31 October 2019	Field Trip bookings close
30 November 2019	Early Bird registrations close
31 December 2019	Requests for Business Meetings close
31 January 2020	Standard Congress registrations close
01 March 2020	Late registrations close
02 March 2020	Onsite registrations commence



An IUGS delegation comprising Prof. Qiuming Cheng, President; Prof. Stanley Finney, Secretary General; Prof. Hiroshi Kitazato, Treasurer, IUGS; Dr. Greg Botha, Secretary General, 35th IGC; Prof. William Cavazza, Observer & Vice President, IUGS and Prof. Xixi Zhao, Vice Secretary General, DDE visited India between 17 and 22nd May 2019 to discuss the issues pertaining to preparation and organisation of 36th IGC. The delegation took stock of the preparations through a series of meetings and visit to the venue for 36th IGC.



On 17th May 2019, the IUGS delegation, along with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of 36th IGC visited IEML, the venue for 36th IGC. Based on their observations, the IUGS delegation made recommendations regarding accommodation, provisioning of office space for 36th IGC Secretariat by PCO, appropriate arrangements for business meeting, receptions and bidding events and, security arrangement during the congress. The delegation also made some important observations about the layout planning at IEML.

The important meeting of IGCC with LOC and Executive Committee (EC) was scheduled on 20th May, 2019. Prior to interaction with the LOC of the 36th IGC, an IGCC meeting was convened to discuss the issues pertaining to bidding and organizing the congress. Agenda points were discussed in detail in the meeting. It was decided that the IUGS Award Function will be included in the Inaugural Ceremony of 36th IGC and the Award Lecture will be held during the opening session on 3rd March. It was also decided that during 36th IGC, there would also be facilities for reception to be hosted by the bidders of 38th IGC.



The meeting of IGCC with LOC and EC, 36th IGC took place on 20th May, 2019 wherein the Chairs/representatives of sub committees apprised the visiting delegation of the plans evolved for the congress. The preliminary overview of the preparatory activities was presented by Secretary General, 36th IGC. Prof. Talat Ahmad, Chair, Science Program presented the details of 264 symposia involving about 3500 oral and 2500 e-poster presentations. The program will involve 576 convenors drawn from 44 countries. Dr. N.R. Ramesh, Co-Chair, Field Trip Programme informed that the dry run for the trips with observers have been completed and the details of the trips will be available in the 36th IGC website soon. Chair, Legacy Program, Dr. Fareedudin presented the plans for the forthcoming legacy publication of IGC. The GeoHost Program will offer sponsorship under 3 categories- A. young geoscientists below the age of 40, B. financially disadvantaged geoscientists and C. IUGS officials, youth GeoHost program and Geoquiz winners; the applicant seeking sponsorship needs to be the first author. The preparations of GeoHost Program was presented by its Chair, Prof. R. Shankar. Dr. H.S. Mandal, Convenor, Volunteer, Outreach & Promotion Programs informed that student volunteers have been approached for the program and that some senior scientists will also be approached for the field trips. In the coming months 36th IGC will intensify its promotional activities through participation in major global conferences. Plan for Business Meetings, an integral part of IGCs, was discussed by Dr. Rasik Ravindra, Secretary General, 36th IGC.





Prof. Xixi Zhao presented the Deep Time Digital Earth (DDE) project of the IUGS under the Big Science Program. DDE aims to establish linked big data hubs that are interoperable with other databases including published and unpublished data. He invited Geological Survey of India to join as one of the founding members of DDE which is scheduled to be launched during 36th IGC.



A tripartite agreement was signed between 36th IGC, IUGS and Geological Society of South Korea for publishing the abstracts/papers from the conference proceedings in form of a Special Publication of *Episodes*.

The IUGS delegation held a meeting with IUGS National Committee on 21st May, 2019. During their interaction with the Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, the IUGS delegation presented an overview of DDE program, aimed at creating an open source knowledge database. President, IUGS invited the ministries and GSI to participate in the program as founding members. Secretary, MoES appreciated the endeavor of IUGS and expressed keen interest in participation of MoES in DDE project.

36th IGC at AGCC 2018

A delegation led by Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Director General, Geological Survey of India with S.N. Bhagat and V. Ramamurthy as members visited the Australian Geoscience Council Convention (AGCC 2018) between 14 and 18 October 2018 at Adelaide, Australia for promoting 36th IGC. As part of outreach and promotion programme, 36th IGC had set up a stall displaying major attractions of the forthcoming IGC. The delegation held business meetings with some of the key global stakeholders. An extension of the existing Terms of Reference (ToR) between Geological Survey of India and Geoscience Australia was signed during the meeting. The short and long term road maps of this ToR are expected to give a fillip to capacity building, technology transfer and mineral exploration activities. Global geoscientists have shown keen interest in the field excursions, science themes, GeoHost and other programs of 36th IGC.



36th IGC delegation at STRATI 2019

A three-member delegation comprising Dr. Deshraj Trivedi, Ankur Kumar Srivastava and Nagaraju Karlapalem, Geological Survey of India participated in the 3rd International Congress on Stratigraphy-STRATI 2019 organized at Università degli Studi di Milano, Milan, Italy during 2-5 July 2019. A large number of international delegates, including emeritus geoscientists, academicians, researchers, representatives from exploration agencies, representatives from International publications, representatives from documentary film production, social media channels had marked their presence in the 36th IGC booth at STRATI and expressed their interest to be part of 36th IGC.



36th IGC at INQUA 2019

A four-member delegation comprising Farida M. Naik, Ministry of Mines, Government of India; Drishya. G and Shanki Yadav, Geological Survey of India and Charu Khanna from PCO of 36th IGC attended the 20th International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) Congress held at Dublin, Ireland from 25-31 July 2019. The delegation promoted the activities of 36th IGC through visual and printed information material and interaction with the delegates.



36th IGC participates in AOGS 2019

A delegation represented by Dr. H.S. Mandal, Palak Kapoor and Tanvi Gupta, 36th IGC Secretariat; Arun Gupta, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India; Rajkumar Chauhan, Geological Survey of India; A. K. Gahlot and Deepti Chhabra, representatives from PCO of 36th IGC attended the 16th Annual Meet of Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) held at Suntec Convention Centre, Singapore from 28th July to 2nd August 2019 to promote and highlight the activities of 36th IGC.

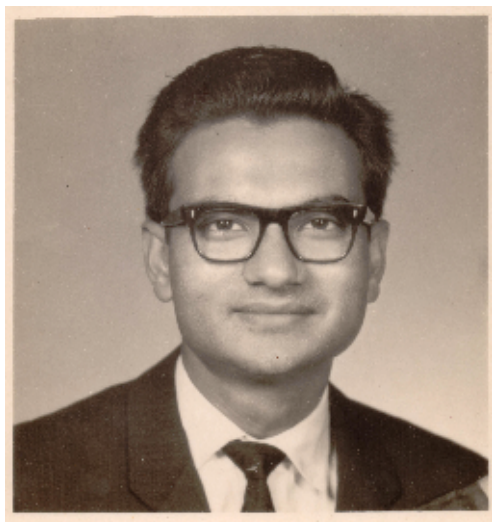
The 36th IGC pavilion was visited by Jawed Ashraf, High Commissioner of India to Singapore and a large number of geoscientists showed keen interest in the Science Program, Field Trips, Volunteer Program, GeoHost Program and other activities of 36th IGC. A promotional lecture highlighting different aspects of upcoming 36th IGC delivered by Dr. H.S. Mandal at the Innovation Theatre stimulated the interest of the geoscientists for participation in 36th IGC at New Delhi.



Science Program, 36th IGC

The Science Program of 36th IGC will host 287 symposia under 45 themes, designed to provide an opportunity to everyone to contribute (details available at <https://www.36igc.org/science-program>). The symposia will include both oral and e-poster presentations. Individuals will be permitted to deliver one oral presentation, but they may co-author multiple oral and poster presentations. Theme 45 has been designed to accommodate 20 symposia proposals from 17 global scientific organisations including 13 IUGS affiliated organisations. The presentations under theme 45 will be only by invitation from convener/proposer of the organisations. Invited speakers of theme 45 will also need to submit abstracts online. 13 plenary lectures covering diverse topics of geoscientific interest are scheduled during 36th IGC. An additional attraction of the science program initiatives will be a public lecture on a popular topic by Prof. K.S. Valdiya. The last date for submission of abstracts without any fee is 15th September, 2019. Abstracts submitted between 16th September and 15th October, 2019 will attract a fee of USD 20.

The 36th IGC is also in the process of collecting information of professional development workshops/short courses through online Expression of Interest (details available at <https://www.36igc.org/workshops>). Last date of submission of proposals is 30th September, 2019.



In the early 1960s, there was a spring in the step of every geologist in India. The 22nd session of International Geological Congress (IGC) was going to be held in New Delhi, India in 1964. More importantly, for the first time, IGC was to be organized on Asian soil.

India, with its geological and geomorphological diversity, was at the centrestage of global attention in 22nd IGC. Apart from the scientific sessions, the other major attraction of the congress was the geological excursions planned across India.

Geological Survey of India (GSI), being the premier geological organization in the country, was identified to play a major role in hosting the IGC. The preparations had begun immediately after India had won the bid in 21st IGC hosted at Copenhagen in 1960.

At the time, I was a young Geologist in GSI, posted in the Panjab and Himachal Pradesh circle. I was associated with the congress in developing geological excursion in the Himalayas and also part of the organising committee for the congress. The Himalayas being an

emerging subject of geological interest, a few excursions were planned across it. The exercise of developing the field excursions was taken up well in advance as field season program of GSI in 1962 and I was part of the team developing a field traverse in Simla Himalaya. The leaders for this traverse were J. Swami Nath and H.N. Singh who had long experience of working in the area. I was entrusted with section measurement between Kalka and Barog i.e. between the Main Boundary Fault and the Krol Thrust. Additionally, I had also carried out detailed mapping of the Jutogh thrust and studies along the section between Tattapani and Naldera.

The excursion in Simla Himalaya was pre-congress. The traverse had attracted some of the eminent geoscientists: Prof John Rogers, A. Berthelsen, B. C. Heezen, Marie Tharp, D.K. Norris, Nalvikin and Bender, to name a few. The terrain was difficult to negotiate, mode of transport was GSI jeeps and one station wagon, which are not used in fieldwork these days. The weather during the excursion was unfavourable with heavy snowfall. Though we as organisers were apologetic, the delegates enjoyed the weather. Prof Berthelsen, who was part of Royal Danish Expedition jointly with GSI in 1952, had commented that it was a typical day in a geologist's life. There used to be very fruitful discussions in the field and in the evening in hotel. Highlight of the excursion was a lunch hosted by the Maharaja of Patiala at Chail Palace. The atmosphere during the traverse was entirely festive. Another field excursion in the Kashmir Himalaya though, had encountered very rough weather; the delegates had been stranded at Srinagar due to heavy snowfall. The participants missed the IGC as they could return only on the last day of the congress!

The 22nd IGC sessions were conducted at Vigyan Bhawan and nearby buildings in New Delhi. I was given the responsibility at the reception counter for USA, along with my colleague Sujit K. Mazumdar. Apart from discharging the assigned role, it had also given me an opportunity to interact with the global geological community, many of them with iconic status in geology. Sometimes though, I would find it difficult to follow the unfamiliar accent. The logistics during the congress was well organized though there were few moments of concern; in one case the electric shaver of a delegate would not operate on our 240 Volt!

The scientific sessions had received very good contribution from the scientists. In the Himalayan part, two papers were in limelight, one by S. P. Nautiyal on Bhutan and another by Dr. K.S. Valdiya on regional geology of the Himalaya.

It is with a gap of nearly six decades that India would be hosting the 36th session of IGC in 2020. I convey my best wishes for a highly successful IGC.

(Dr. Om N. Bhargava, Honorary Professor, Centre of Advanced Studies in Geology, Panjab University is a global name in Himalayan Geology. He had a distinguished career in Geological Survey of India between 1961 to 1996.)



In the spotlight: Makrana marble receives geoheritage statu

The famous Makrana marble, one of the most famous masonry and ornamental stones has been conferred Global Heritage Stone Resource (GHSR) status vide an official notification from IUGS. It is the first stone resource from India and Asia to find a place in the much coveted GHSR list. The new list of IUGS ratified stones has 7 entities including Makrana marble. These new entrants join the existing list of 15 stone resources given recognition previously by IUGS. Awarding of GHSR status is based on fulfilment of a set of requirements.



Makrana marble has been used in many famous architectural monuments like Taj Mahal, Victoria Memorial, Humayun's tomb in India; Moti Masjid in Pakistan and Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi. These are also used in handicrafts, sculptures etc. Makrana, a small town from which this famous marble has drawn its name is located about 100 km WNW of Jaipur in India. The marble is exposed to the west of Makrana town as five NNE-SSW trending bands intercalated with calc-silicate and calcareous quartzite of Delhi Supergroup. Around 850 marble quarries are operational in the area.

GeoHost Support Program, 36th IGC

The GeoHost Support program of the 36th IGC is unprecedented, offering full support for travel, registration and local hospitality for 1000 delegates each. These may be awarded as either full or partial support. Applicants who can obtain partial funding from other sources will get preference.

The GeoHost Support program is designed to enable young and financially disadvantaged geoscientists to attend the International Geological Congress (IGC).

To encourage early career researchers and students (Category A GeoHost awardees), a Congress Theme Workshop Series (CTWS) is being organized during the 36th IGC for capacity-building. GeoHost awardees under Category B or geoscientists of international repute (preferably from international scientific bodies) will be the resource persons for these workshops.

GeoHost Application is live now. GeoHost form can be accessed during the abstract submission process. For additional queries, reach us at geohost@36igc.org.

Field Trips, 36th IGC

The Indian subcontinent, by virtue of being a constituent of several older supercontinents, has common geological ancestry with many parts of the globe. The present day landform of the sub-continent is a result of the breakup of the Gondwanaland, movement of the Indian landmass northward for over 5000 km and its docking against the Eurasian plate resulting into the rise of the mighty Himalaya. The subcontinent is the geological milieu hosting wide range of geological marvels - from the Archaean crustal nuclei to the present day volcanism.

Bestowed with picturesque landscapes and unique geology, the Indian sub-continent welcomes the geoscientists to be part of 36th IGC field trips. More than 60 fascinating field trips across the Indian sub-continent are on offer during the 36th IGC.



Book your field trips at <https://www.36igc.org/all-field-trips>. Field trip bookings close on 31st October 2019. For queries related to field trips please reach us at fieldtrips@36igc.org.

GeoExpo, 36th IGC

A GeoExpo will be held alongside the Congress to showcase the products, services, capabilities, achievements, aspirations of agencies/organizations in the geoscience sector.

Two types of schemes are available - Shell Scheme, in which pre-fabricated booths will be sold, and Raw Scheme, in which only floor space will be sold. The exhibitor can build a customised booth in the raw spaces. To avail the discounted rates, exhibitors can book their booths by 31st August 2019.

For queries related to GeoExpo please reach us at expo.sponsor@36igc.org.

Booth Specification

Booth Type	Price in INR/USD (GST included)			
	Advance Purchase Price		Regular Price	
	Book and pay in full by 31 August, 2019		1 September, 2019 onwards	
	INR (per sqm)	USD (per sqm)	INR (per sqm)	USD (per sqm)
Standard Shell Scheme	33040	472	37170	531
Raw Sapace	28910	413	33040	472

Exhibition Schedule

2nd March 2020, Timings: 1615 -1900 hrs
 3rd - 7th March 2020, Timings: 0930 -1900 hrs
 8th March 2020, Timings: 0930 - 1300 hrs

BUSINESS MEETINGS at 36th IGC

36th IGC invites interested organisations for submitting their requirements to conduct Business Meetings during the Congress. The Business Meetings are scheduled from 7 PM onward during 3-7 March 2020. However, organisations interested in booking for the entire day may communicate their proposals specifically. Rooms for Business Meetings will be free of charge; any special set up required, will have to be taken care of by the client organisations.

Requests for Business Meetings will be accepted upto 31st December 2019. The attendees of Business Meetings must register themselves for 36th IGC.

For queries related to Business Meetings reach us at bm.wsc@36igc.org

The venue for 36th IGC: IEML

The 36th IGC will be organised at India Expo Centre and Mart, located in the Greater Noida Expressway, Delhi-NCR. This first integrated exhibition-cum-convention centre of India is spread over an area more than 2,32,000 m². It has the capacity to accommodate 10,000 delegates and run more than 60 parallel sessions, each with seating capacity for 200 delegates. The centre has 29 meeting rooms, 14 halls, 3 restaurants and an area over 25,000 m² for GeoExpo. The venue is well connected with Delhi and other parts of NCR. Accommodation in wide budget ranges are available within close proximity of the venue.



Contact us

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Panoramic view of Bramhaputra basin



Rock cut caves at Jogighopa, Assam



**36th International
Geological Congress**
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