

Prof. John LUDDEN
IUGS President

Dr. Ranjit RATH
Co President & Secretary General
36th IGC-LOC

December 2020

Subject: Refund of Registration & other fees towards the 36th International Geological Congress

Dear Members & Colleagues,

Given the widespread continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated uncertainty, IUGS and the 36th IGC-LOC have been constrained to revisit the twice rescheduled 36th IGC planned initially for March 2020 and then the latest during August 2021. In the prevailing scenario and near future, owing to the global health crisis, the risks of attracting a global audience to a physical meeting are simply too high. Therefore, a wider consultation process means that organising the event in its present form and structure is not feasible.

We understand this will be upsetting to all those delegates who were hoping for the meeting to go ahead and especially for all those who have invested considerable time in organising the meeting.

The 36th IGC LOC has already reimbursed some of the registration amounts and has held all contributions to the following registrations in separate bank accounts. These are: meeting registration, field trip registration, Ge-Expo registration, sponsorship, abstract fees and short-course registrations. The 36th IGC LOC have already started the process and will continue to reimburse these amounts to the delegates without levying any transaction charges & banking fees. These transaction charges are being debited to the 36th IGC as a liability.

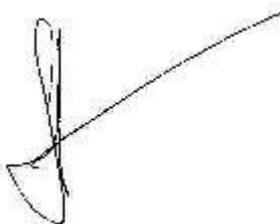
However, in some of the cases the refund process is not getting through to members due to incorrect / insufficient account details of the delegates. Therefore, the 36th IGC LOC has requested that the IUGS national delegations, where possible, help them in arranging these reimbursements, where the bank account information for the transfers is required and they will communicate a list of registrant's country by country, with the IUGS acting as an intermediary in forwarding the information, and with the 36th IGC LOC ultimately remitting the fees.

It is considered that any third-party arrangements for hotels, transfers and travel are not part of the reimbursement, and are part of the liability of the 36th IGC LOC, as are payments to the conference venue, caterers, publishers, vendors and the PCO.

Both IUGS and the 36th IGC LOC are in continuous engagement to revisit the structure and format of 36th IGC with a basic tenet for resolution of this crisis-laden event owing to COVID-19. Given that the 37th IGC planned to be organised in Busan is scheduled during 2024, we will work out a schedule and thematic event and apprise the geoscience fraternity shortly.

The inconvenience caused is deeply regretted and we assure that remittance of registration & other fees is a commitment of 36th IGC LOC, which might take a longer time due to the processes involved and the constraints of COVID-19. Kindly bear with us.

Your sincerely



Professor John Ludden CBE



Dr. Ranjit Rath

To: Dr. Rasik Ravindra, Secretary General, 36th IGC
Prof. V.P. Dimri, President, 36th IGC



Re. Postponement and reschedule of the 36th IGC

June 20, 2020

Dear Dr. Ravindra,

Upon the information conveyed by you on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of 36th IGC on June 6, 2020, which informed that “...under the prevailing circumstances holding of 36th IGC on rescheduled dates (9-14th Nov., 2020) may not be a viable proposition due to uncertainty about continuance of the Covid-19 pandemic situation worldwide.”, “the proposed re-revised dates of 16-21 August 2021, for holding the 36th International Geological Congress have been approved by the Secretary, Ministry of Mines & Chair, Governing Body of 36IGC as also by the Hon'ble Minister of Mines, Government of India”, President Cheng immediately informed IGC Committee (IGCC) and the IUGS Executive Committee (IUGS EC). Both IUGS EC and IGCC had respective open discussions and reached censuses of agreeing the proposal of rescheduling the 36th IGC in the new dates.

On June 18 the IGCC had a motion (“...IGCC approves to postpone the 36th Geological Congress (36th IGC) from November 2020 to 16-21 August 2021 as proposed by the LOC of the 36th IGC...””) which was electronically conducted by the IGCC members. It was approved unanimously by the 8 members of the IGCC.

Therefore, I write on behalf of the IGCC to you, the LOC of 36th IGC, to implement the rescheduled IGC for the new dates in 16-21 August 2021.

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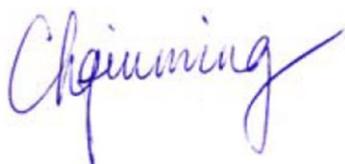
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The IGCC appreciates and urges the Government of India to continually provide necessary support to the LOC for planning for the rescheduled congress. It is essential for the LOC to closely work together with IUGS to rebuild the program and attract more participants to enhance the attendance of the congress. A new Memorandum of Understanding needs to be developed based on the existing one.

Finally, the IGCC appreciates the assessment of the potential impact of COVID-19 on planning for the postponement of the IGC. IGCC hopes, with the strong support from the Government of India and collective efforts of the LOC with other relevant organizations, the rescheduled 36th IGC to be a success.

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Qiuming Cheng
President, International Union of Geological Sciences
Co-Chair of IGCC



Prof. V.P. Dimri
President of the 36th IGC
Co-chair of IGCC

Cc:

Dr. Greg Botha, Secretary General 35th IGC, IGCC member
Prof. Richard Viljoen, President 35th IGC, IGCC member
Prof. Neil Williams, President 34th IGC, IGCC member
Prof. Stanley C. Finney, Secretary General of IUGS, IGCC member
Prof. Dr. Hiroshi Kitazato, Treasurer of IUGS, IGCC member
Dr. Rasik Ravindra, Secretary General 36th IGC, IGCC Secretary General
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