

IUGS Commission on Geosciences for Environmental Management (GEM) - IUGS-GEM

At the International Geological Congress held in Florence, Italy in August 2004, the Council of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) approved the formation of new Commission on Geosciences of Environmental Management. This new Commission was formed to continue IUGS activities in promoting environmental sustainability following the closure of the IUGS Commission on Geological Sciences for Environmental Planning (COGEOENVIRONMENT), which completed its term in 2004.

The IUGS Commission on Geosciences for Environmental Management (GEM) builds on the excellent work of the former COGEOENVIRONMENT. While the former Commission has achieved much in stimulating discussion of, and raising awareness of environmental geosciences amongst scientists, it remains true that scientists in many part of the world still have great difficulty in convincing policy makers that environmental geosciences are of great importance to sound, safe and economic decision making.

GEM provides guidance to geoscientists on how best to integrate geosciences into environmental policy and to communicate the concepts to potential interest groups such as policy makers, politicians, environmental organizations, other science disciplines and the general public.

The Commission operates with a management team of international experts meeting annually to monitor progress and formulate new programmes and activities.

Objectives

The objectives of GEM are:

- To increase awareness of policy makers, planners and decision-makers about the essential contribution of geosciences to sound management of the environment;
- To strengthen the interest and participation of the geosciences community in environmental management by providing relevant information on policy, environmental economic and social issues;
- To encourage greater application of geosciences in sustainable use of land, mineral, energy, soil, water and other resources for the benefit of society;
- To further the contribution of geosciences in solving problems affecting society, which are from natural and human-induced hazards and pollution;
- To promote multidisciplinary initiatives for better understanding of environmental processes and for the development of new approaches, tools and techniques to forecast and solve environmental problems;

- To identify, build links, communicate and collaborate with relevant stakeholders for interchange of ideas pertaining to sound environmental management.

GEM seeks supporting members

The new IUGS Commission on Geosciences for Environmental Management (GEM) is now seeking Supporting Members. Supporting Members are individuals, and organizations (such as Geological Surveys, Ministries, Universities, Laboratories, Oil and Mining Companies, Consultants etc.) that wish to contribute to the aims and objectives of the Commission. Supporting Members receive selected publications of GEM, and upon request may be permitted to use the Commission's name for promotional purposes. The annual fee for Supporting Members is USD 50 for individuals and USD 500 for organizations. All interested in becoming Supporting Members please contact the Secretary-General of GEM.

Corresponding members of GEM

GEM is seeking Corresponding Members for the new Commission. Corresponding Members are active contributors to the aims and objectives of the Commission. They take initiative to provide the Secretary-General regularly with information on the state of the environment in their countries and progress made in the field of geosciences for environmental planning and management. Corresponding Membership is on a personal basis only and is free of charge. In return Corresponding Members are required to supply the Information Coordinator with contributions at least once in two years. They are also encouraged to host workshops and meetings of GEM in their countries. Corresponding Members receive selected publications of GEM. Application for membership should be submitted to the Secretary-General of GEM.

Contacts

For further information on GEM, please contact:

Dr. Joy Jacqueline Pereira
Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI)
Universiti Kebangsaan, Malaysia
Email: joy@pkrisc.cc.ukm.my

Dr. Jonas Satkunas (Secretary General)
Geological Survey of Lithuania
Email: jonas.satkunas@lgt.lt or vilejonas@takas.lt
Informations: <http://www.lestari.ukm.my/iugsgem/>.