

# **IUSG Commission on Geoscience Education, Training and Technology Transfer.**

## **Report of Initial Meeting 3-4 November 2004 Boulder, Colorado, USA**

### **Attendees**

Gary Lewis (Chair), Geological Society of America - USA

Wesley Massey (Secretary General/Treasurer), Geological Society of America - USA

Chris King , Earth Science Education Unit, Keele University – UK

Greg McNamara, Geological Society of Australia – Australia

Chang-Jong Kim, Department of Earth Science Education, Seoul National University – Korea

Alan Morgan, Waterloo University – Canada

Hans-Albert Dahlheim, GEO ZENTRUM - Germany

Phone : Prof Eldrige Moores, Vice President, IUGS

Absent : Ian Clark, University of South Australia, President of IGEO - Australia

The Commission met for two full days to discuss the future of the Commission and develop an action plan as well as discrete tasks for the next twelve months and a proposed budget (both attached).

The Commission wishes to make the following points:

- The Commission believes that the fundamental impact of education is so important that it will focus its efforts on K-12 education initiatives and on outreach initiatives and that IUGS consider establishing another commission in the future to examine the issues of Training and Technology Transfer. The Commission should therefore be named the Commission on Earth Science Education (COESE).
- Therefore, the main emphasis of this Commission will be to:
  1. Support developed countries to share ideas, concepts and strategies on Earth Science education and
  2. Provide developing and transitional countries with assistance and appropriate resources to encourage and support them to initiate and strengthen their Earth Science education activities.
- The Commission also believes that part of this focus will be the training of Earth Science educators and that the broader training of professional geoscientists needs to be examined by a later commission.

- The Commission realizes the sense of urgency in education is needed to ensure that a future work pool of earth scientists will move through the education system. Also, the Commission recognizes the need to build an earth science literate population if the earth sciences are to be seen as fundamental science to land management, resources, energy issues and environmental issues.
- The Commission also believes in promoting an Earth System Science approach to geological education with a clear emphasis on the geological sciences component of this system.
- The Commission will strongly encourage the development and operation of earth science education activities with cultural sensitivity to the country in which the activity will be based.
- The Commission recognises that the majority of people working in the field of earth science education are not supported financially by their institutions. In fact, most earth science education programs rely heavily on external funding and grants that will not allow money to be used to support IUGS activities. Therefore, the Commission strongly urges IUGS to assist financially by supporting a face-to-face meeting each year by providing the airfares for appropriate participants.