



**ASSOCIATION OF GEOSCIENTISTS FOR  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**(AGID)**

**GEOSCIENCE NEWSLETTER**

**82th Issue:**

**December 2021- January 2022**

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The Oath for Geoscientist: I promise that I will practice geosciences being fully aware of the societal implications, and I will do my best for the protection of the Earth Systems for the benefit of future generations.

### **From the Desk of Honorary Editor**

On the Global Scale, Covid pandemic has changed our lives: the way we travel, eat, meet, study and work. 'On-line' meetings and 'Work from home' is the lifestyle now. Schools and Colleges have been re-opened but the attendance is less than normal. In my city of Pune, India the schools and colleges were opened and again closed, due to rise in the number of Covid and Omicron patients.

On-Line meetings cannot be fully effective due to varying time zones and availability of internet facilities in different countries. A real, personal meeting like the International Geological Congress (IGC) attracts around 3,000 to 5,000 delegates and is a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. I happened to attend the IGCs in Paris (1980), Moscow (1984), Rio (2000), Florence

(2004), Oslo (2008), Brisbane (2012) and Cape Town (2016) and thoroughly enjoyed the technical content and the excellent organization.

The 36<sup>th</sup> IGC (2020) in India was unfortunately cancelled due to Covid pandemic. AGID sponsored session in this IGC were as follows:

### **Theme no.1 (Geosciences for Society)**

**1.9** Role of Medical Geology to Protect Human Health from Toxic and other Harmful Elements in the Environment (Proposed by AGID and SEGMITE)

**1.10** Geoparks, Geoheritage & Geo-Tourism in Low-Income Countries (Proposed by AGID)

### **Theme no. 45: (Special Symposia and Sessions)**

**45.15** Geoscience in Sustainable Development (Proposed by AGID) **45.16** Ground Water Development for achieving food security and improving rural health in low-income countries (Proposed by AGID) **45.17** Socio-Geology & Socio-Hydrogeology: Taking Geosciences to the Society (Proposed by AGID)

After the IGC was cancelled, the Organizing Committee (OC) got engaged in giving refunds to the registered delegates of the amounts paid towards Registration and Accommodation fees. I personally have some reservations about the refund process because the OC is delaying the refund of the amount paid for Accommodation through the OC. This is because the O.C. had entrusted the job of providing Accommodation to a private Agency and the Agency is refusing to give the refund. Moreover, while refunding the money to foreign delegates, the OC is refunding at the current rate of exchange of the Rupee, with the result that the delegates are getting about 10% to 12% less amount in foreign currency, which they paid to the OC several months ago. This is due to the decline of Indian Rupee against foreign currencies over the period of 8 months or so. I think this is

unethical. The Government of India was sponsoring the 36<sup>th</sup> IGC and it should have borne any loss in the refund process rather than making the delegates suffer due to the decline in the value of Indian Rupee.

The next 37<sup>th</sup> IGC is at Busan in Korea and I have requested the Organizing Committee (O.C.) to formulate a policy for refund and publish it in the first circular of the IGC. In the 37<sup>th</sup> IGC, AGID will promote sessions on Topics of relevance to the needs of low-income countries. The O.C. is going to contact me while finalizing the Science Program of the 37<sup>th</sup> IGC.

### **Mining Companies, Local Villagers and Environment**



Villagers often have a non-cooperative attitude towards Geologists coming to rural areas for mineral exploration. They fear that if any mineral deposit worthy of exploitation is found in the area, then mining companies would rush to get mining licenses and start their operation. Mining companies are rich and have muscle power to solve any conflicts with the local population in villages around the mines. The above picture by Prof. Barbara Zambelli Azevedo, of the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, illustrates this conflict.

The villagers also complain about the loss of a serene environment, disturbance in agricultural activities and consumption / pollution of water resources due to the mining activities. On the other hand the

mining companies try to compensate by providing employment to the local population, starting a school for employee's children which also allows admission to village children, providing recreational activities

and promoting women's groups to establish cottage industries like processing of agro-products, making handicrafts and starting poultry or dairy units.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

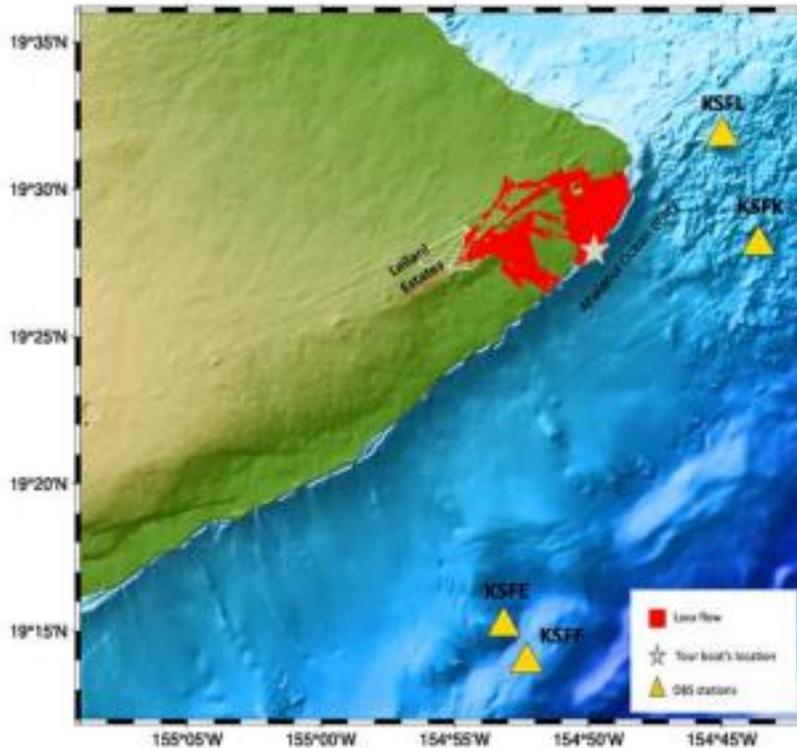
### **Hundreds of Volcanic Explosions Detected Underwater at Kilauea (One of the Hawaii Islands)**



Lava from Kilauea formed a small new island on 13 July 2018 (left). A molten lava bomb busted through the roof of a Lava Ocean Tours Boat 3 days later while tourists watched the lava (right).

On 16 July 2018, a lava bomb from the Kilauea volcano tore through the roof of a tour boat just off the Big Island of Hawaii. Sightseers on the boat described blobs of molten rock smashing into the boat out of nowhere—injuring 23 passengers and breaking a woman's leg.

Now, scientists have collaborated with those on the boat to pinpoint the acoustic fingerprint of lava explosions. The finding helped researchers identify hundreds of blasts in the area that year.



Map no.1 : The map of the southeastern flank of the Kilauea volcano on Hawaii's Big Island. Red lines trace the flow of the lava as it met the sea, the gray star shows the location of the tour boat that was struck, and the yellow triangles are the underwater hydrophones placed by the researchers. Credit: Puja Banerjee and Yang Shen

Shortly after Kilauea entered a new eruptive phase in May 2018, geophysicist [Yang Shen](#) and his collaborators installed ocean bottom instruments at 11 locations near the southeastern flank of the volcano. The sensors, placed between 700 and 5,000 meters deep, recorded underwater signals from earthquakes and the outpouring of lava into the sea.

[Lava-water explosions](#) in the ocean are steam-driven blasts that in some instances, shoot blobs of lava hundreds of meters into the air,

called lava bombs. These outbursts have unique underwater sound signatures, too. “It’s very different from earthquakes or submarine landslides,” said Shen, a professor of oceanography at the University of Rhode Island (URI).



### **Message from World Water Forum (Dakar, Senegal)**

Good quality water supply for drinking and for domestic use means Happy Women & Happy families.

### **RECENT PUBLICATIONS:**

The Association of Global Groundwater Geoscientists (AGGS ) has published its Newsletter which is attached to the Email by Dr Mayilswami, Secretary, AGGS and can be accessed through the address given below:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGmtXDbqZXPLVvqnRqPqKwtPplc?messagePartId=0.1>

### **COMINGEVENTS**

## **March**

**22 - 23 March 2022**

International Mining Geology Conference 2022, Brisbane, Australia and online Website: <https://www.ausimm.com/conferences-and-events/mining-geology/> **April**

**3 - 8 April 2022**

EGU General Assembly 2022, Vienna, Austria

Website: <https://www.egu22.eu/>

## **May**

**5 - 6 May 2022**

EUROGEO Conference 2022, Mytilene, Greece

Website: <https://www.eurogeography.eu/conferences/lesvos-2022/> **23 - 25 May 2022**

16th International Congress of the Geological Society of Greece, Patras, Greece Website: <https://gsg2022.gr/>

**29 May - 1 June 2022**

7th World Conference on Research Integrity, Cape Town, South Africa Website: <https://wcri2021.org/>

## **June**

**June 2022**

COV11 - Cities on Volcanoes, Heraklion, Greece

Website: [www.citiesonvolcanoes11.com](http://www.citiesonvolcanoes11.com)

**19 - 24 June 2022**

3ECEES - 3rd European Conference on Earthquake Engineering & Seismology, Bucharest, Romania

Website: <https://3ceees.ro/>

**27 June - 1 July 2022**

FORAMS 2022 - International Symposium on Foraminifera, Perugia, Italy Website: <http://www.forams2022.it/>

## **July**

**4 - 8 July 2022**

ReSToRE 2 - Researching Social Theories, Resources, and Environment International Summer School, Dublin, Ireland

Website: <https://www.icrag-centre.org/restore/>

## **September**

**5 - 9 September 2022**

WMESS 2022 - 8th World Multidisciplinary Earth Sciences Symposium, Prague, Czech Republic

Website: <https://mess-earth.org/index.html>

**17 - 21 September 2022**

12th International Conference on Geosynthetics, Rome, Italy

Website: <https://www.12icg-roma.org/>

**17 - 21 September 2022**

47th INHIGEO SYMPOSIUM 2022, Les Eyzies in the Périgord region (France) Website: <http://www.inhigeo.com/france2022>