

DRAFT 1.0

International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) Information for IUGS E-Bulletin, March 2018

IUGS-IFG and the Italian House of Representatives

On 22 February 2018, the Italian House of Representatives (the Italian Parliament) invited Dr Rosa Maria Di Maggio, IUGS-IFG Officer for Europe, to deliver a presentation on forensic geology, entitled 'The Missing: Social, Technical and Juridicial Issues'. The conference, organised by Italian political parties, was aimed at highlight the Italian 'state of art' at planning, implementing and managing the search for missing persons. In the past decade, IUGS-IFG has developed new and innovative methods to help the police and law enforcement search for burials related to missing persons, serious organise crime and counter terrorism, which was included in the presentation. This event also provided an opportunity to highlight the role of IUGS-IFG in the global development and advancement of forensic geology, and the achievements to-date. Further details can be found on the attachment.

Brazilian Federal Police and Forensic Geology

IUGS-IFG Officer for Latin America, Dr Fábio Augusto da Silva Salvador, delivered presentations on forensic geology in the national academic curriculum at the following two events:

- Quadrennial Conference of the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO): <https://www.ige.unicamp.br/geoscied2018/en/>
- Brazilian Geological Congress: <https://www.49cbg.com.br/>

The federal police promoted the applications of forensic geology and micro-trafficking training applied to federal criminal experts. For the first time this has been included in the official schedule of the National Police Academy. The organisers and instructors are Marcelo Blum, Erich Adams and Fábio Augusto da Silva Salvador. A summary of the current situation of Forensic Geology in Brazil has been submitted to RFG2018 in Vancouver. New projects are being developed, involving the Federal Police and the Universities.

European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), Animal, Plant and Soil Traces (ASPT), Working Group at the James Hutton Institute

Prof Lorna Dawson, IUGS-IFG Treasurer, hosted a group at the James Hutton Institute on 20 to 22 February. The ENFSI working group to provide a soil handling best practice manual for European Accredited Forensic Laboratories. This is a two-year project funded by the EU.

Police Scotland

A series of soil sampling and recovery awareness raising days were held with the Scottish Police Service on 7 and 8 February 2018, at the Police Training College, Tulliallan, Scotland.

Queens University Belfast, Northern Ireland

Queen's University Belfast will be hosting the 7th European Meeting on Forensic Archaeology, on 23 to 24 August 2018.

Forensic Canine Detection

On 7 March 2018, Dr Laurance Donnelly, IUGS-IFG Chair, was invited to attend a forensic canine detection lecture at Staffordshire University, UK. This was delivered by Martin Grime and co-organised by Prof John Cassella. Laurance has been involved in the use of detector dogs for over 13 years to assist with searches for graves. Further research is proposed to better understand geological and hydrogeological influences on the deployment of victim recovery dogs.

Forensic Geology in India

IUGS-IFG has taken positive steps to initiate and develop forensic geology in India. IUGS-IFG chair has held preliminary discussion to hold a forensic geology session at the 36th IGC in Delhi.