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International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

Potential Information for IUGS E-Bulletin

Submission for September 2020

Each month IUGS requests a couple of headlines for potential inclusion in the IUGS E-Bulletin, for global circulation to about 16,000 members, in approximately 122 countries. The proposed IFG items for inclusion in September 2020 are as follows:

Maureen Bottrell, FBI Geologist, Receives the IFG Raymond Murray Award

Maureen Bottrell, forensic geologist and forensic examiner, has been named as the first recipient of the '*IFG Raymond Murray Award for Recognised and Distinguished International Contributions to Forensic Geology*'. This was presented to Maureen upon her retirement from the United States, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) laboratory, located at a Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia, USA. The award was presented to Maureen on 26 August 2020 by Laurance Donnelly (IUGS-IFG, Chair), Jodi Webb (IUGS-IFG, FBI Adviser) and Alastair Ruffell (IUGS-IFG Training).

Forensic Geology and the Geological Society of Japan

The latest edition of The Journal of the Geological Society of Japan, 126(8), 405-470, is dedicated to Forensic Geology. This comprises seven papers, most of which are in Japanese language. These papers include; (a) Preface and Developments in forensic geology, (b) An introduction to Forensic Geology (R. Sugita, N. Kawamura, K. Kumisaka), (c) Investigation on forensic soil analysis using quartz shapes and surface microtextures (H. Itamiya, R. Sugita, T. Sugai), (d) Short history of forensic geology in Japan (K. Kumisaka, R. Sugita), (e) The Geoforensic Search Strategy: A high assurance search method to assist law enforcement locate graves and contraband associated with homicide, counter terrorism and serious and organised crime (L. Donnelly, M. Harrison), and (f) Magnetic measurements as a forensic geology tool: a review (N. Kawamura).

Forensic Geology Group in the Abu Dhabi Police

The Abu Dhabi Police (ADP) has approved the establishment a forensic geology branch and laboratory. This will assist with the analyses of geological trace evidence, searching for corpses, hidden weapons and smuggled containers and the analysis of gold and minerals. IUGS-IFG has been collaborating with ADP forensic geologists and has visited Abu Dhabi on two previous occasions to discuss developing forensic geology.

Forensic Geology in Rwanda and Central Africa

IUGS-IFG held preliminary discussions to develop forensic geology in Rwanda and Central Africa countries. This will also include a focus on the use of geology to investigate and mitigate crimes that take place in the minerals and mining industry.

The Geological Society of London, Forensic Geoscience Group (FGG) Conference, December 2020

FGG conference will take place as a virtual meeting on 6 December 2020. This will follow the Near Surface Geophysics Group virtual meeting on 7 December 2020. This will include the presentation of the book, '*A Guide to Forensic Geology*' (publication pending) and crimes that take place in the minerals, mining and metals industries.



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