

## The International Geological Congress (A Brief History)

During the mid 19th century, the necessity of holding an international congress was strongly felt among the community of geologists in Europe and North America. On occasion of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in Buffalo, New York, USA, in 1875, a committee was formed to consider the organization of an international congress on geology. This committee, composed of leading geoscientists of the time, was later called the Founding Committee of Philadelphia by the French Organizing Committee of the First Session in Paris. The Founding Committee inquired the Geological Society of France on the possibility of organizing an international geological convention on the occasion of the Paris Exposition in 1878. The French Geological Society, under President Tournouër, accepted the request and formed an Organizing Committee chaired by Professor E. Hébert. The Committee persuaded the French Government to provide support for convening an international gathering, and succeeded to host the First International Geological Congress, as one of 32 congresses held by the French Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce in the Trocadero Palace during the Paris Exposition, with 310 members from 23 countries in attendance.

Since then, 31 more congresses have been hosted by more than 21 countries throughout the world at 3- to 5-year intervals. The 33rd Session will be held 5–14 August 2008 in Oslo, Norway. The 34th Session is planned for Brisbane Australia in August, 2012.

The International Geological Congress is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization whose meetings are held in collaboration with, and under sponsorship of, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The IUGS holds its General Assemblies in conjunction with Sessions of the IGC. The main purpose of the Congress is to encourage the advancement of fundamental and applied research in the earth sciences world-wide.

### Founding Committee (1875)

*President:* James Hall (USA)

*Secretary:* T. Sterry Hunt (Canada)

*Members:* William B. Rogers (USA), J. William Dawson (Canada), John S. Newberry (USA), Charles H. Hitchcock (USA), Raphael Pumpelly (USA), J. P. Lesley (USA), Thomas H. Huxley (UK), Otto Torell (Sweden), E.H. de Baumhauer (The Netherlands)

### Sessions (Sn.) of the International Geological Congress

| Sn. | Year | Country     | City           | President     | Secretary-General          |
|-----|------|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1   | 1878 | France      | Paris          | E. Hebert     | E. Jannettaz               |
| 2   | 1881 | Italy       | Bologna        | G. Capellini  | T. Taramelli               |
| 3   | 1885 | Germany     | Berlin         | E. Beyrich    | M. Hauchecorne             |
| 4   | 1888 | U.K         | London         | J. Prestwich  | J.W. Hulke, W. Topley.     |
| 5   | 1891 | USA         | Washington     | J.S. Newberry | H.S. Williams, S.F. Emmons |
| 6   | 1894 | Switzerland | Zurich         | E. Renevier   | H. Golliez                 |
| 7   | 1897 | Russia      | St. Petersburg | A. Karpinsky  | Th. Tschernyschew          |
| 8   | 1900 | France      | Paris          | A. Gaudry     | C. Barrois                 |
| 9   | 1903 | Austria     | Vienna         | E. Tietze     | C. Diener                  |
| 10  | 1906 | Mexico      | Mexico City    | J.G. Aguilera | M.E. Ordonez               |
| 11  | 1910 | Sweden      | Stockholm      | G. de Geer    | J.G. Anderson              |
| 12  | 1913 | Canada      | Toronto        | F.D. Adams    | R.W. Brock                 |
| 13  | 1922 | Belgium     | Brussels       | J. Lebacz     | A. Renier                  |

|    |      |                  |                |                 |                                |
|----|------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 14 | 1926 | Spain            | Madrid         | C. Rubio        | E. Dupuy de Lome               |
| 15 | 1929 | Un. of S. Africa | Pretoria       | A.W. Rogers     | A.L. Hall                      |
| 16 | 1933 | USA              | Washington     | W. Lindgren     | W.C. Mendenhall                |
| 17 | 1937 | USSR             | Moscow         | I.M. Goubkin    | A.E. Fersman                   |
| 18 | 1948 | UK               | London         | H.H. Read       | A.J. Butler, L. Hawkes         |
| 19 | 1952 | Algeria          | Algiers        | C. Jacob        | R. Laffitte                    |
| 20 | 1956 | Mexico           | Mexico City    | A. G. Rojas     | E.J. Guzman, J. Gonzalez Reyna |
| 21 | 1960 | Nordic Countries | Copenhagen     | A. Noe-Nygaard  | T. Sorgenfrei                  |
| 22 | 1964 | India            | New Delhi      | D.N. Wadia      | B.C. Roy, R.K. Sundaram        |
| 23 | 1968 | Czechoslovakia   | Prague         | J. Svoboda      | A. Dudek                       |
| 24 | 1972 | Canada           | Montreal       | R.E. Folinsbee  | J.E. Armstrong                 |
| 25 | 1976 | Australia        | Sydney         | N.H. Fisher     | A. Renwick                     |
| 26 | 1980 | France           | Paris          | J. Aubouin      | P. Sangnier                    |
| 27 | 1984 | USSR             | Moscow         | E.A. Kozlovsky  | N.A. Bogdanov                  |
| 28 | 1989 | USA              | Washington     | C.L. Drake      | B.B. Hanshaw                   |
| 29 | 1992 | Japan            | Kyoto          | T. Sato         | S. Ishihara                    |
| 30 | 1996 | China            | Beijing        | Song Ruixiang   | Zhang Hongren                  |
| 31 | 2000 | Brazil           | Rio de Janeiro | U. Cordani      | Carlos Oiti Berbert            |
| 32 | 2004 | Italy            | Florence       | Attilio Boriani | Ernesto Abbate                 |
| 33 | 2008 | Nordic Countries | Oslo           | Arne Bjorlykke  | Anders Solheim                 |
| 34 | 2012 | Australia        | Brisbane       | Neil Williams   | Ian Lambert                    |