

IUGS Commission on Geoscience Information  
COGEOINFO2  
**Terms of Reference (second draft, April 27, 2002)**

**Rationale**

The IUGS Commission on the Management and Application of Geoscience Information COGEOINFO results from a merger of the former IUGS Commissions on Geodata (COGEODATA) and on Geological Documentation (COGEODOC), effected in 1992. After a highly active and productive period of some seven years COGEOINFO became dormant . Because the IUGS Executive Committee of IUGS considers the further development of Geoscience information systems to be highly relevant to the Union, the Committee decided at its meeting in Lower Hutt (February 2002) to re-active the Commission.

**Issues to be addressed by the Commission**

Major issues to be addressed are:

1. Support the advancement of Geoscience Information systems and programmes
2. Stimulate international cooperation and coordination in the area of Geoscience Information
3. Stimulate development and management of Geoscience Information standards in
4. Stimulate international dissemination of best practice in Geoscience Information systems and programmes.

Since other professional organisations are considered to be actively developing new Geoscience information systems, the *development* of such systems is not seen as a primary task for the Commission. IUGS acknowledges the fact that several international initiatives on cooperation currently exist in this field, mainly addressed by a limited number of key players. IUGS considers the management of Geoscience Information standards in general and dissemination of benefits and results of Geoscience Information best practice to other countries, as a principle task for the Union. The Commission should actively seek cooperation with other organisations to implement this task.

**Organisation of Commission and staffing**

As with all IUGS Commissions COGEOINFO2 will operate according to the IUGS Statutes and By-laws and the IUGS Rules for Commissions, attached to this document. The Commission will have a leadership consisting of one Chairperson, a Vice-chairperson, a Secretary-General and a limited number of other officers. All officers should have an excellent record in the area of Geoscience Information, have an active position in, and be supported by, a geoscientific or an information science organisation. The team of officers should demonstrate a reasonable geographical spread and include representatives from both developing and developed countries. In addition, the composition of the team should reflect IUGS's positive attitude towards incorporating people from under-represented groups.

**Finance**

As with all active IUGS Commissions COGEOINFO2 will receive seed money funding by IUGS when the Commission operates to the satisfaction of the Union. As a rule such seed money is not meant for salary costs and/or travel expenses for the officers of the Commission. In addition, the Commission will be expected to attract additional external funding to enable it to perform the tasks allotted to it.

**Planning**

In the preparatory phase the initiators will develop a work plan and prepare a list of officers to be submitted to the IUGS Bureau for consideration. If considered appropriate the Bureau will submit these documents to the Executive Committee for approval. Once accepted the

Commission will be installed pending approval by the IUGS Council. It is anticipated that the Commission will provide its first annual report by November 2002.