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Dr. Attila Demény, DSc, Secretary
Hungarian National Committee for IUGS
Institute for Geochemical Research
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Budaorsi ut 45
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Hungary

RE: 2008 ANNUAL REPORT TO IUGS

Dear Dr. Demény,

The Executive Committee of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) greets the National Committee of Hungary thanking the Annual Report for 2008.

The Annual Report was duly considered by the IUGS EC (Sydney, Jan 10-14, 2009), which is most pleased by the activities developed during 2008, especially with regard to the organization of the International Year of Planet Earth, thanks to the IYPE National Committee under the sponsorship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and with the participation of the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest, the Hungarian Geological Society and allied societies, universities and research institutes.

As you probably know the strength of IUGS is related to its constituency, i.e. 120 National Committees representing the international earth sciences community, 46 affiliated organizations of world wide scope covering all field of expertise in the earth sciences, and commissions and task groups involved in geological education training and technology transfer, management and application of geoscience information, geoscience in environmental management, and standards in geosciences.

Main open avenues for future activities are those related to IUGS – UNESCO and IUGS – ICSU joint projects. The IUGS has worked during many years in joint initiatives with UNESCO and ICSU, such as those included in the International Geoscience Program (IGCP), the Geological Applications of Remote Sensing (GARS), the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE 2007-2009), the International Programme for the Lithosphere (ILP) and the Commission for the Geological Map of the World (CGMW).

The IUGS is now trying to improve and enlarge this relationship, especially with regard to: leveraging scientific knowledge for the benefit of the environment and the management of natural resources, contributing to

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International Union of Geological Sciences



disaster preparedness and mitigation, and participating in a more active way in the development of the Global Network of National Geoparks. Especially important is, strengthening educational and research institutions in order to build human and institutional capacities in earth sciences and technology, the collection of relevant scientific data, syntheses and interpretation of existing knowledge, training of personal, and provision of advice and support to data base activities.

In order to achieve the objectives just mentioned it will be important an active participation of IUGS Adhering and Affiliate Organizations through the channels provided by the IUGS. Therefore, the IUGS is looking forward to a closer relationship with the National Committee of Hungary and is open to consider any suggestion or initiative.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'A. Riccardi', is written over a horizontal line.

Prof. Alberto C. Riccardi
President IUGS

cc: IUGS EC