

World Community of Geological Surveys (WCOGS)

WCOGS is a new initiative to revitalize the global community of Geological Survey Organisations (GSOs) in order to respond to pressing global issues, which extend beyond geographical borders. We are hoping that renewed relationships amongst the world's GSOs will encourage international collaboration and discussion of best practices within the geological survey community.

In the midst of the global COVID-19 epidemic, we aim to support the world's GSOs as they are continuing their work through the development of relationships and interesting activities. New events that will be taking place in the near and mid-term future are outlined below. We are also making progress in developing the new WCOGS organisation following the indications of support received so far from the community.

In Memoriam: Dr. Victor F. Labson

The global geoscience community was saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Victor F. Labson, geophysicist and Director for the Office of International Programs at the United States Geological Survey, on November 3, 2020. Victor was a friend to many across the world's GSOs and he embodied the principles of diplomacy and integrity. Victor was a founding member of the WCOGS Steering Committee and was integral in creating a vision for WCOGS. He believed in building a strong international community of GSOs where members could share best practices and work together to address issues of global importance. Victor's unique perspective will be sorely missed at the WCOGS table. As we move forward with this initiative, we will strive to achieve his vision of a global community in his memory. Rest in Peace.

World Community of Geological Surveys – Organisational development

Over the course of the last three months, the WCOGS Steering Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss Terms of Reference for a "Board of Governors" of WCOGS. On October 28, the Steering Committee held consultation meetings with some of the world GSO associations (EuroGeoSurveys, The Iberoamerican Association of Geological and Mining Surveys, Organization of African Geological Surveys) and a few GSOs (United States Geological Survey, Geological Survey of Canada) to determine the WCOGS future organisation and its priorities. A future meeting will take place with our colleagues from Asia and the South Pacific region. We have used the feedback received over the course of the June 2020 WCOGS event and the March 2020 PDAC WCOGS workshop to scope the future path. Minutes from the March 2020 PDAC meeting can be found [here](#).

Upcoming events

1. WCOGS Webinar : Responding to societal needs with 3D geology: An international perspective – November 2020

The Geological Survey of Canada, Illinois State Geological Survey, British Geological Survey, Alberta Geological Survey, Minnesota Geological Survey, and TNO, Geological Survey of the Netherlands have organized a two-part webinar series on how Geological Survey Organizations (GSOs) have been helping society face economic and environmental challenges for over 150 years. The technological transformation of geoscience is presenting new opportunities for GSOs, and the wider geoscience community, to respond to the societal challenges of our time, and lay the foundation for a sustainable future. Three-dimensional geological modelling is providing a valuable tool for informed decision making and risk reduction – from planning urban infrastructure, managing groundwater resources, and sourcing renewable energy. To capitalize on this capability, new data infrastructures are required to share and integrate information across government and the private sector.

This webinar series is championed by the World Community of Geological Surveys and will be presented through the American Geosciences Institute Webinar platform.

This two-part webinar series will feature leaders in the field, presenting the latest developments, and will be of interest to students, academics, private sector practitioners, and other government agencies.

Part 1: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 10h00 EST / 16h00 CET | 1 hour 45 min

Part 2: Thursday, November 19, 2020 10h00 EST / 16h00 CET | 1 hour 45 min

Register at www.americangeosciences.org/webinars/responding-societal-needs-3d-geology-international-perspective

We encourage you to distribute this information to anyone who may be interested. Over 400 participants have registered so far. Please contact Hazen Russell at hazen.russell@canada.ca with any questions you may have about this workshop.

2. WCOGS Webinar : WCOGS Forum on critical minerals – First Circular – February 2021

Global solutions to the critical mineral challenge: New results from geological survey organizations Governments and international geological survey organizations are addressing Critical Minerals knowledge gaps by improving cooperation, data-sharing, and by investing in geoscience research. The proposed event will bring together representatives from several geological surveys organizations to provide an update on the latest critical mineral research and to discuss future research directions around the concept of mineral “criticality”. Presentations will focus on advanced mineral system models that are applicable to critical minerals and new methods for modelling mineral potential in buried, remote, and/or other challenging mineral exploration settings. Global efforts to expand this international collaboration, including the development of an online geochemical portal for critical mineral deposits, will be discussed as part of this special session and is open to further contributions, research, and analysis.

This virtual critical mineral session will be split into three regions to address some of the current challenges of hosting a global event: (1) Americas; (2) Europe and Africa; and (3) Asia and Oceania. Each region will host a live plenary presentation and discussion session. Live parts of the program will also be recorded to make them available to everyone. Time allocated during each discussion session will focus on three themes: (1) the role of geological survey organizations to support critical mineral research (Americas); (2) the past, present, and future research directions of critical mineral research (Europe and Africa); and (3) geoscience to support critical mineral discovery (Asia and Oceania).

The live links to each region’s plenary and discussion will be free and open to everyone, but the timing will be optimized to maximize attendance for the hosts. Because all of the presentations and discussion sessions will be recorded and posted online, the entire critical mineral event will be open to everyone.

Region	Timing of pre-recorded presentations	Live plenary and discussion
Americas	Posted online starting week February 8–12, 2021	February 11 or 12, 2021 Tentatively
Europe and Africa	Posted online starting week February 15–19, 2021	February 18 or 19, 2021 Tentatively
Asia and Oceania	Posted online starting week February 22–26, 2021	February 25 or 26, 2021 Tentatively

Please contact Christopher Lawley at christopher.lawley@canada.ca with any questions you may have about this workshop.

Finally, we would welcome any further input on the future of WCOGS and encourage you to follow us on Twitter [@WCOGS1](https://twitter.com/WCOGS1), and to cross-post with [#WCOGS1](https://twitter.com/WCOGS1).

Please do not hesitate to contact and provide us with further feedback at worldgeosurveys@gmail.com.