

**MINUTES OF THE SEGH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2024 AT 12:00
(LONDON, UK) ON ZOOM**

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last Minutes
4. Report on preparations for Nigeria 2024 Conference
5. Report on preparations for ISCMGEH- Europe Edition Virtual Event and ECR matters
6. Updates on 2025 Conference in Northern Ireland (Dan Middleton- invited)
7. Reports from the Regions
8. Report on Membership and Finance
9. Updates on the website/social media
10. Reports on Fellows' Matters
11. Report on EGAH
12. AOB

Attendance:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. A Argyraki | 11. O Morton-Bermea |
| 2. JK Biswas | 12. A Hursthouse |
| 3. F Onyangore | 13. J Olajide-Kayode |
| 4. A Olatunji | |
| 5. S Potgieter | |
| 6. M Watts | |
| 7. O Humphrey | |
| 8. K Torrance | |
| 9. C Monteiro | |
| 10. M Abdou | |

The meeting commenced at 12:05 (London) as AA welcomed all to the meeting. The Agenda for the day was shared for members to preview.

1. Apologies were received from:

- (i) Gillian Gibson (ii) Diane Purchase (iii) Dan Middleton

2. The Minutes of the last meeting had been received by members prior to the meeting and the matters that arose from it **(3)** were taken as substantive Agenda items.

4. The venue had been booked and all associated costs paid. The Conference programme and Presentation schedule was previewed, and it was added that it would be uploaded to the Conference website in the coming days. The earlier-proposed Geochemical Baseline Workshop was being replaced by a Writing Workshop, due to the costs associated with the former. Some members of the Board had been contacted to facilitate the Writing Workshop for ECRs and

young professional, which would be held on 1 July, 2024. Local facilitators penned down were AO, TL, Prof. Odukoya (University of Lagos) and Prof. Gbadebo (Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta). Lithium mining sites were to be visited during the post-conference field trip, to see their impacts on the environment. It was reported that additional local sponsorship had been received. The Keynote Speakers were Dr. I.J. Agene (*World Banks ACRoSAL Project Task Lead, Nigeria*) and Prof. O.A. Ehinola (*Aret Adams Professorial Chair in Geological Studies, University of Ibadan*), and their talks were scheduled for Days 2 and 3 of the Conference. 35 scientific papers were scheduled for presentation and last minute preparations were on track. AO added that online participation would be possible, and the link would be sent before the Conference.

Action:

AO to send Writing Workshop schedule to AA and MW (Status: Done).

5. On preparations for the ISCMGEH- Europe Edition virtual conference, CM reported that though the preparations were on track, there were no Abstract submitted yet. He added that the logos from partnering Universities were being expected, in order to upload them to the Conference website. AA added that since the Conference was still in November, Abstracts would come in as the Conference start date drew nearer. She enjoined all members to encourage their students to attend and present in the Conference.

On ECR matters, MA asked all members to encourage their student to participate in the ECR Coffee Meetings.

6. DM sent in his report on preparations for “Belfast 2025”, which was presented by AA. The conference venue had been booked and conference dates are 15 - 19 July, 2025. On the sponsorship drive, AA added that she had sent DM a list of potential sponsors. MW had also connected DM with Agilent as they were preparing their 2025 budget quite early. He added that being hosted in Belfast, the 2025 conference stood a good chance of getting sponsorship from the European equipment manufacturers.

7. AA and OH had tried, without luck, to contact Dr. Gopinathan from India for the dates for the SEGHLive India event. It was expected that he would respond soon and the SEGHLive Event would be scheduled.

OM reported that the Americas is planning to resume their four-weekly student seminars, beginning in September 2024. AA advised that a draft schedule should be made, which can be advertised before the seminars commence.

AA reiterated the seemingly lost contact with China. MW said the issue may be the timing of the meetings, stating that the Board used to have two meetings. JO reported that he had sent some emails to Taicheng An (China) and Waqar Ahmad (Australia), to check on them as they had not attended meetings in a while. He got no responses from either. JO suggested that another email may be sent to check on them. On the timing issue suggested by MW, JO opined that 12 noon (London) was 7pm in China, and it wasn't too late for a meeting. OM said even though the

meeting time was 5am in Mexico, she didn't mind if the meeting started an hour earlier, if it would mean more Board members could attend. AA stated that she would mail Taicheng and Waqar to ask if they wanted an earlier meeting. AH added that he would try to get Taicheng, who he had some correspondence with recently, to re-engage with the Board.

Actions:

- (i) AA/OH to schedule SEGHLive India event with Dr. Gopinathan (Status: Done).**
- (ii) AA to mail Taicheng An and Waqar Ahmad on meeting time (Status: Ongoing).**

8. (a) KT reported that the Society had a little below GBP 7,000 in her coffers, after transferring the IUGS Nigeria Conference Grant money. AA reiterated that it was decided that those who registered for the last year conference, and got one year membership, would need to be reminded on the validity of their dues. The difficulty in tracking payments pending the time the database would be migrated to Stripe, was restated by KT. However, it was decided that the reminders on membership dues will be done manually pending the time. OH hoped that the migration of the database would be well underway by the next Board meeting.

On whether the Springer Access for LMIC Institutions is still ongoing, MW reported that he got no response, as the person in charge was away for a while. He however stated that he would inquire again.

(b) While it had been decided that the Membership database needs to be migrated from GoDaddy to Stripe and a new three-membership due structure was approved, it was agreed that the current membership structure be maintained on the website until the migration has been done.

Actions:

- (i) OH to give updates on Membership database migration to Stripe at next Board meeting.**
- (ii) JO to continue sending reminders manually once a month (Status: Ongoing).**
- (iii) MW to inquire again about process of Springer's free access for Institutions in LMICs, LICs and LDCs (Status: Ongoing).**

9. On website usage for the period since the last Board meeting, OH stated that there were 349 users (284 of them being new), average engagement time was 3 mins 03 secs and top visitors by country were Nigeria, UK, Greece, US, India, Brazil and China. Most visitors to the website were still in the 18-34 age group. The top pages were *ISCMGEH - Europe, Home Page, Registration page, SEGH 2024* and the *Join SEGH* page. The final blog from the 2023 Conference prize winners had been uploaded to the website. OH further encouraged all Board members to submit blogs, so as to increase traffic to the website.

AA added that the SEGHLive videos on YouTube are now public access and she made posts on the Society's FaceBook page.

10. On AA's proposal to MW and DP on having a Fellows' Talk on *publishing in EGAH*, MW responded that he and DP discussed it and that the Guideline on the website need to be updated first. He however reiterated that there are a lot of tutorial videos on the SEGH website on

writing/publishing. He said the videos are good resources that authors need to watch before submitting to EGAH.

AH is working with GG to populate the schedule for the next series of Fellows' Talks. OM stated that she is planning to host a Fellows' Talk early 2025. AH also inquired what the impact of the public access of Fellows' Talk videos on YouTube has had. OH responded that an update would be given at the next meeting.

Actions:

(i) AH to work with GG on populating the Fellows' Talk schedule for the next series of sessions (Status: Ongoing).

(ii) OH to give updates on Fellows' Talk YouTube video impact at next meeting.

11. In his report, MW stated that 2024 submissions had hit 980, average days to acceptance had reduced to 75 days and overall rejection rate was at 65%. He added that while there were still spill over papers from 2023, the backlog was being cleared by manually contacting and reminding the Editors in charge. The Journal has 70 Editors to reduce the pressure on each Editor and to account for the multi-disciplinary nature of the Journal. He noted that there was a jump in the monthly submission rate since January 2024. He stated that the quality of submissions is still an issue which authors would need to work on. These issues were more from China, India, Iran and Nigeria, mostly due to the volume of submissions from the countries. Reports from Editors revealed that paper handling process with SNAPP had improved. On SIs, he added that the one from CM had been cut due to limited submissions. There was an SI from an Indian Group, which initially had 186 submissions, but which had been significantly reduced after initial assessment. He added that new Editors were being recruited for EGAH from the SI submissions e.g. the Coal SI from 2023. MW further added that in the new *ad hoc* publishing system, each paper from an SI is now released as soon as the review process is completed, as against waiting for all the papers. AA reported that the review process for the SI from the Athens Conference was almost completed, with 12 papers in total in the issue. She also added that the EGAH Editorial had been published. She had sent the link to all delegates from the 2023 Conference and published the link on the Society's Facebook page. It was agreed that OH should publish the link on X (formerly Twitter) while JO sends it to all members.

Actions:

(i) OH to upload Editorial link to X (Status: Done).

(ii) JO to send Editorial link to all members (Status: Done).

12. AA asked JO to send the request on affiliation to IUGS-CGGB to all Board members for their response.

Action: JO to send IUGS-CGGB affiliation request to all members to vote on (Status: Done).

AA thanked all for their time, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned. The meeting ended at 1:05pm (London).