

**MINUTES OF THE SEGH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 30TH JANUARY 2024 AT
1pm (WAT) 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. Bids for 2025 Conference.
6. Report on Membership and Finance
7. Presidential Handover
8. Adjournment and Closing

Attendance:

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| 1. A Olatunji | 11. F Ajayi |
| 2. G Gibson | 12. O Morton-Bermea |
| 3. O Osano | 13. JK Biswas |
| 4. D Purchase | 14. A Argyraki |
| 5. M Hashmi | 15. J Olajide-Kayode |
| 6. M Watts | |
| 7. O Humphrey | |
| 8. K Torrance | |
| 9. C Monteiro | |
| 10. M Abdou | |

AO welcomed all to the meeting, the Agenda for the day was shared for members to preview. MW suggested an addition of discussion on the SEGH 2025 Conference to the Agenda. This was unanimously accepted by all.

1. Apologies were received from:

- (i) Sanja Potgieter
- (ii) Martin Gabersek
- (iii) Andrew Hursthouse

2. The Minutes of the last meeting was summarised by AO and the matters that arose from it **(3)** were taken simultaneously, viz:

(i) Special Issue for the 38th SEGH Conference: AA reported that four manuscripts had been received. One had been accepted while the other three were being reviewed. She also stated that

the deadline for submission was extended till 25 February 2024, after a poll had revealed that presenters needed more time to submit. MW suggested that a list of the papers expected from the Conference should be provided by AA, so that submissions which were not presented at the Conference would be easily identified and rejected outright.

(ii) Membership matters: KT reported that himself, OH and JO had met a few times on the issue and the major challenge identified was with the Membership Database. More information of those who renew through Stripe need to be captured (e.g. more official details as against personal details). This also affected assignment of the Membership Numbers, which depends on having the Database in order. A proposal for the switch to an annual membership renewal date was given, rather than having memberships expire at different times of the year. MW responded that the decision to move to *Ad-hoc membership* was born out of people not wanting to renew membership or join the Society midway through a year. He suggested improving ways of sending renewal reminders to those concerned. DP suggested having a *pro-rata* membership rate for the first year of the switch, e.g. a mid-way point rate, for example. This would prevent a feeling of “loosing half of one’s membership” if it is renewed midway through the year. After the first year, then a fixed membership renewal date can be adopted. KT responded that the *pros* and *cons* of all the options would be considered and a viable option decided for presentation to the Board. AA opined that a way by which the renewals can be automated would be most suitable. She also added that maybe the membership list on the Stripe database can be cross-referenced with the list on the Website. She offered to do the cross-referencing. AO agreed with AA, stating that if the renewals were tied to Conferences, it means renewals would be delayed should a Conference be postponed, or there would be no renewals at all in a case where a Conference doesn’t hold in a year for whatever reason. He therefore suggested that SEGH should adopt one or a hybrid of all the options discussed; i.e. one that best suits the Society. He opined it will be best to conclude on the matter of membership before the next Conference.

Actions:

(i) A final decision to be taken on the management of the Database at the next Board Meeting.

(ii) OH to grant AA Admin. rights to the Website database. A tutorial Zoom meeting to be set up.

(iii) ECR matters: MA reported that the first peer-review session earlier scheduled was postponed and a new date was yet to be decided.

3. AO reported that monthly meetings were held in preparation for the Conference, and that many members of the Geosciences, Environmental and Health community had shown interest in the Conference. He expressed optimism that more Abstracts would be received as the deadline for submission drew nearer. He also added that the Abstract submission deadline would be extended should there be a need to do so. He said that the Conference will receive strong support from the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS) and the International Medical Geologists Association - Nigeria (IMGANigeria). A repetition of the Geochemical Baseline Data Workshop is being planned for the Conference; for which assurance for partial funding had

been received already from a Local Partner. AO added that the Workshop will be advertised as soon as full funding is obtained for it - to cover travel logistics and accommodation of the facilitator (Alec Demetriades). AO reiterated that he is expecting as many Board Members who can attend the Conference to do so. AA inquired about possible Keynote Speakers. While AO responded that some Board Members were being considered, he welcomed suggestions.

5. AO reiterated that members of the Board were excited to learn of the interest of Brazil in hosting SEGH 2025. MW reported that feedback was expected from Brazil on whether the Conference can be hosted there. Interest for hosting the Conference was also received from Northern Ireland. AO stated that it is a further testament to the traction that the SEGH Conferences (and other activities/events) are gaining. He added that it will be nice to have both bids from Brazil and Northern Ireland presented to the Board. It is hoped that the Bids would be considered at the next Board Meeting.

Action:

Bids for 2025 Conference to be considered at the next Board Meeting

6. KT reported that the Society had GBP6,751.83 in her coffers. He reported that the Society was getting only about three membership renewals per month. The only major expenditure since the last meeting was the payment for the Website hosting.

OH presented updates on website usage for the period since the last Board meeting. There were 320 users, with a slightly improved average engagement time of 2 min, 21 secs. Top visitors by country were Nigeria, India, UK, US and Greece. There was however, some new engagement from China. The analysis further showed that most visitors to the website were in the 18-34 age group; pointing to the importance of the ECR group to SEGH. The *Home Page* was the most visited, followed by the *SEGH 2024* page, the *Join SEGH* page and then the *Conference Registration* page. The section on *Blogs* also drew some traffic, as three new blogs was added since the last update. He added that there is good engagement with the ECR LinkedIn page; which has proved over time as a good place to advertise SEGH Events.

GG stated that the links to the Fellows' Talks she uploads on LinkedIn goes to the SEGH Home Page. She inquired if the link can be set up to go directly to the Talks instead. OH replied that this can be done.

Action:

(i) OH to tweak Fellows' Talks links to go directly to the Talks.

7. AO thanked the Board for their support in the last two years. He was particularly happy that a meeting time which could accommodate most people from all the Regions was arrived at. He appreciated all those who had volunteered to handle a task or the other over the years; particularly GG and AH on the Fellows' Talk - which he said had become a great feature of the SEGH.

He was grateful to AA for stepping up to take over the mantle of SEGH leadership; expressing confidence that she would bring in new energy into the Society. He enjoined all Board Members to give her their full support. GG, on behalf of the Board, gave a vote of thanks to AO for his leadership in the last two years.

In her acceptance address, AA expressed her delight for the support given to her by the members of the Board and the Society at large. She accepted the challenge that the position brings, and enjoined all to work with her in taking SEGH to greater heights.

8. AO thanked all for their time, and the meeting was adjourned with a motion by KT which was unanimously seconded. It was stated the date and time of subsequent Board meetings would be announced later. The meeting ended at 1:48pm WAT.