



Newsletter September - December 2006 Issue no. 13

IGI's 2006 Conference 'Ireland's Natural Resources'

The IGI's Annual Conference 'Ireland's Natural Resources' was held on November 15th 2006 at Dublin Castle. The conference proceedings was organised into four major topical sessions on Minerals, Aggregates, Water and Hydrocarbons & Renewable Energy and copies of the presentations given are available at the IGI's website at www.igi.ie.



Mr. Denis Rooney, Mr. John Teeling and Minister Noel Dempsey at the IGI's Annual Conference.

PRESS RELEASE

Industry leaders call for greater focus on development of natural resources

Regulators, exploration practitioners and advisors operating in the development of Ireland's natural resources, gathered today in Dublin Castle, to attend the 4th Annual Institute of Geologists of Ireland Conference. Sponsored by multi-disciplinary consultancy, White Young Green, this year's Conference entitled: 'Ireland's Natural Resources 2006 – 2020: Developing Our Assets' looked towards the future and in particular how Ireland's natural resources will be developed in the coming years.

Against the backdrop of rising energy costs and the need for cleaner energy sources, the consistent message emanating from the Conference was the need to focus greater attention on the drive to develop our natural resources in a sustainable manner and in particular, the important role that policy makers, regulators and planners must play in the process.

The Conference was officially opened by Mr. Noel Dempsey TD, Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

Speaking at the Conference, Gareth Jones, President of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI) welcomed the Minister's commitment to the natural resources sector as exemplified by the current Green Paper on 'A Sustainable Energy Future'. In particular, he welcomed the Minister's commitment to offshore exploration, the development of the Corrib gas field and also to the development of renewable energies, including geothermal energy.

However, the President issued some words of warning, particularly relevant in the light of the difficulties being experienced with the implementation of the Corrib gas pipeline, when he said: "There is an obvious conflict between the need to bring new resources on stream while at the same time protecting our natural and built environments. At the best of times, it is not easy to reconcile the needs of the developer, concerned citizens and the environment. It will become increasingly more difficult to do so as the available natural resource supply line becomes curtailed and the search for new resources moves into other territories."

Keynote speakers included Dr. John Teeling, Chairman, Connemara Mining, Teri Hayes, Director,

White Young Green (WYG) and Graham Brennan, Sustainable Energy Ireland.

Over 100 people attended the one-day Conference, representing the wide range of organisations operating in the natural resource sector.

For further information, please contact:
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Congratulations

At the meeting of the IGI Board on October 31st 2006 Sarah Casey and Dr. Emma Sweeney were approved as a PGeos and Conor Mckeen was approved as a Member in Training.

Industry News

WYG Sustainability Bureau

The WYG Ireland Sustainability Bureau was launched recently at Breakfast Briefings in Belfast and Dublin. The Bureau provides a focal point for clients bringing together all the company's expertise on sustainable development throughout the island of Ireland and is manned by an established team of experts who can be reached through a single phone call. Geology and hydrogeology capabilities play an important role in sustainable planning and design.

Mr Stephen Peover, Permanent Secretary, DoE (NI) attended the Belfast Launch at Belfast Castle as Guest Speaker while Mr David Taylor, Chief Executive, Sustainable Energy Ireland was Guest of Honour at the Dublin Launch which took place at the Berkeley Court Hotel.

Key members of WYG staff also gave presentations at both events on sustainable development topics including Energy, Planning and Environmental Services.

Both launches were Carbon Neutral Events. In Belfast the total carbon dioxide emissions caused by holding the event were calculated and the environmental

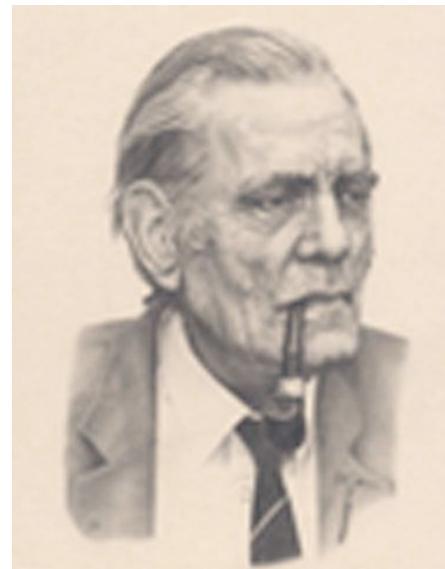
impact was offset by planting trees. At the Dublin launch all attendees received two small rowan trees to take away and plant themselves.

For further information on the Sustainability Bureau please phone:
Tel NI: 0845 603 4104 RoI: 1890 812 046

www.wyg.com/sustainabilitybureau



Ted Nevill



Obituary for former lecturer Ted Nevill

It is with much sadness that alumni of Geology at UCC will learn of the death of Ted Nevill, one of the father figures of modern Geology at UCC. Ted had been unwell for some time and passed away on 11th September 2006. Ted was born in New Ross in 1925 and was awarded a Foundation Scholarship to Trinity College in 1945 and a senior Moderatorship in 1947. He graduated PhD in 1951, evidently the first PhD in

Geology from a University in Ireland. He taught Geology at Trinity until 1959, when he moved to UCC, becoming Statutory Lecturer and Head of a two person Department of Geology.

This re-established Geology as a separate discipline at UCC. He published the then standard text "Geology and Ireland" in 1963 and retired in 1986. Dr Ivor MacCarthy was his first PhD student and the first PhD Geology graduate from UCC. Ted remained active in Geology and the Department long after his retirement, residing in office space provided in the gate lodge by the main entrance to campus. Ted was legendary for his encyclopaedic knowledge of natural history and Irish Geology, his wit and his stories, we will all miss him. To mark Ted's contributions to Geology in UCC, we are planning to inaugurate an annual Neville Lecture, and will be opening a fund to sustain this event later in the year. The first lecture is planned for early 2007.

Prof. John Gamble, Dr. Ivor MacCarthy, Dr. Ken Higgs.

Ronholman.net

In order to encourage the dissemination and discussion of technical data directly without the formalities required for acceptance by journals (and believing that most exploration geologists have neither the time nor resources needed to meet their exacting standards) Ron Holman has put a number of reports out on his own web site as notes in an intelligible form without the need to conform to any particular journal's requirement.

To access the reports visit ronholman.net.

Perc Report, October 2006

Report on the PERC Meeting on Wednesday 4 October 2006 at IMMM, Carlton House Terrace at 2.00pm

The first part of the meeting involved a presentation by Dr. Graham Woodrow, Deputy Chief of the IMMM, on the role of the Institution in professional accreditation. The second part of the meeting dealt with the business matters of PERC.

Dr Graham Woodrow, IMMM (the "Institute")

Graham started off by explaining that professional bodies in the UK are incorporated under "Royal

Charter" given directly by the Crown as opposed to the Companies House. The Institute's role is to ensure that professionals practicing in the disciplines covered are competent in the roles they fulfil.

The Institute provides a peer-reviewed test of competence for candidates applying for membership, involving 2-3 peers. There are 3 recognised qualifications for which written evidence is required:

- (i) Academic – minimum 4 year course
- (ii) Appropriate regime of practical training
- (iii) A position of responsibility with competence held for at least 2 years.

The reviewing committee make a recommendation as to whether the candidate should be elected. If elected, Members can be registered as Chartered Engineers (CE) and Chartered Scientists (CSc) through an arrangement with the Engineering Council and Science Council respectively.

Members are expected to maintain their competence and knowledge (Continuing Professional Development – CPD) through a code of conduct. However, the CPD is not compulsory.

Any Members defaulting are investigated under the disciplinary rules of the Institute. Following a "hearing", if they are found guilty of breaching these rules they can be struck of the Institute register and lose their CE or CSc status.

A discussion took place following Graham's presentation, focussed on how CPD is followed up and how many members has been struck off as a result of disciplinary procedures. Basically, a Disciplinary Panel meets to review the circumstances of a complaint by an external party against a member. If the Panel decides that the complaint warrants further investigation, then the relevant member is notified. In all cases to-date, the members had subsequently resigned from the Institute upon such notification.

The discussion moved to CPD and what is recognised in CPD in different organizations. In most instances, day-to-day aspects of work are excluded. The IMMM is addressing an online register for CPD for members.

PERC Business Matters

- Some discussion took place of a "skills register", comparing the benefits of such a register with the practicalities of maintaining it. It was agreed that it would be better for PERC to have links to accrediting institutes.
- Terms of Reference – A correspondence received from John Clifford proposing that the code be renamed the PERC Code was agreed by the Committee. It as also agreed that the code

would be reviewed and Steve Henley would identify aspects and sections of the code for relevant Committee members to review. The next meeting could be dedicated to a revision of the code.

2. *Administrative Matters*

- Steve Henley informed the Committee that Gordon Riddler had tendered his resignation as Chairman and invited nominations for the position. After some discussion on possibilities, Steve Henley agreed to be Acting Chairman. Paul Gribble agreed to be Acting Secretary.
- Funding for PERC was discussed. Funding is required to cover various expenses, in particular those of the Chairman. Some Committee members felt that funding was unlikely to come from mining companies or NOMADs, and it was better to seek funding from the government or IMMM. European (Brussels) funding was also a possibility. Committee members agreed to follow up on these possibilities and also find out how other organisations such as JORC are funded.
- Discussion moved to the Russian sub-committee and a forthcoming press release on the “convergence” of the International and Russian Codes. After minor modification, the press release as approved for release.
- The AIM regulators are preparing an update to the Guidelines released in March. It was agreed that it is important that PERC see a draft ahead of publication, and Steve Henley agreed to contact Ray Knowles, Head of AIM Regulation.

The meeting concluded around 4.40pm

The next meeting is provisionally scheduled for the 2nd week in January 2007.

We invite all members to forward items of news or general interest to fellow members to info@igi.ie