



DRAFT 1.0

International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG)

Information for IUGS E-Bulletin

Submission for July 2018

- **Forensic Geology, From Crime Scene to Courtroom, American Geophysical Union (AGU), Washington DC, USA, December 2018:** A session on Forensic Geology will be held at the American Geophysical Union, 10-14 December 2018, in Washington DC. The goal is to make this a wide-ranging session highlighting a variety of methods including case studies and current practices. Geosciences are applied in the criminal justice system in numerous ways. Soil and other geologic materials found on items of evidence can be compared to samples collected at a crime scene, while geophysical, remote sensing, and spatial analysis can aid in locating clandestine burial sites. Provenance studies focus on identifying potential source locations for geological evidence by comparing them with the known distribution of soils, rock types, and pollen. Because of the limited quantity of materials often obtained, many methods commonly used in geology and geochemistry are unsuitable for forensic characterization of geologic materials. This session highlights geoscience methods that can be applied in the criminal justice system including case studies, current practices, and forward-looking methods. Novel forensic geology methods may include LIDAR, multi-spectral imaging, predictive spatial analysis. Analysis of forensic soils may be enhanced with DNA-based taxonomic identification, Raman microscopy, micromorphometry, among others. The abstract deadline is 1 August 2018, further information can be found on the following link <https://agu.confex.com/agu/fm18/prelim.cgi/Session/46981>
- **Forensic Geology in Japan:** Ritsuko Sugita (IUGS-IFG Officer for Japan) delivered an invited lecture on Forensic Geology at an annual workshop of Kawasaki Geological Engineering Co., Ltd. on 28 June. Kawasaki Geological Engineering Co., Ltd. is one of the biggest geological consulting companies in Japan, utilizing geophysical ground search techniques and pollen analysis for their consulting business.
- **Professor Lorna Dawson, CBE.** IUGS-IFG is delighted to announce that Professor Lorna Dawson, The James Hutton Institute, in Scotland and IUGS-IFG Treasurer was awarded a CBE in the Queen's birthday list honours for services to Soil and Forensic Science.