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

Potential Information for IUGS E-Bulletin

Submission for November 2019

Each month IUGS requests a couple of headlines for potential inclusion in the IUGS E-Bulletin, for global circulation. The proposed IFG items for inclusion for November 2019 are as follows:

Forensic Geology in Mexico

The 4th IberoAmerican Congress on Forensic Geology, was held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on 28th and 29th October 2019, in association with Reunion Anual de la Unión Geofísica Mexicana (RAUGM). The congress focussed on; ground searches for burials using geophysics, the investigation of tailings dam failures in Brazil, searches for missing persons and graves in Colombia, processes of human decomposition and preservation, and geological methods to support criminal investigations associated with mining, minerals and metals such as; theft, adulteration, substitution, mineral smuggling and conflict minerals. A keynote presentation was given by IUGS-IFG Chair. Training was provided to the conference delegates, comprising; academics, researchers and students, on ground search techniques, crime scene examination and the recovery and analysis of geological trace evidence from a car.

Forensic Geology Award

Prof Carlos Carlos Martin Molina Gallego (The Universidad Antonio Nariño, Instituto Nacional de Medicina Legal y Ciencias Forense, Bogota, Colombia) has received the IFG Award in recognition of outstanding international contributions to forensic geology, and for his pioneering efforts in developing and promoting forensic geology throughout Latin America. This was presented by the IUGS-IFG Chair, in Mexico.



IUGS-IFG training in Forensic Geology (search and crime scene examination), Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Photos: Laurance Donnelly)



IUGS-IFG training in soil sample recovery from the interior and exterior of a car, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Photos: Laurance Donnelly)



IUGS-IFG training in the geological analysis of soil collected from inside a car, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (Photos: Matteo Barone and Laurance Donnelly)