



UNESCO Chair on
Coastal Geo-Hazard Analysis

Research Institute for Earth Sciences
Geological Survey of Iran



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

between

International Association for Promoting Geoethics (IAPG)

and

Research Institute for Earth Sciences – Geological Survey of Iran (RIES)

and

UNESCO Chair on Coastal Geo-Hazard Analysis (UCCGHA)

1. Aim

The aim of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to develop a coordinated approach, where appropriate, for promoting initiatives and events discussing the ethical, social, and cultural implications of geosciences, with a focus on coastal geo-hazard analysis, and favoring high ethical standards in the research and practice of geoscience in order to better serve the geoscience community and society as a whole.

2. Parties

(A) **IAPG** is a multidisciplinary, scientific association for widening the debate on problems of Ethics applied to the Geosciences, with a worldwide membership providing a global network of more than 2900 members in 128 countries on 5 continents. The IAPG is legally recognized as a non-profit scientific association, has its Head Office at the Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia in Rome (Italy), and its network can count on 35 national sections. The IAPG is an affiliated organization of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), an International Associate Organization of the American Geosciences Institute (AGI), an Associate Society of the Geological Society of America (GSA), an Associate Society of the Geological Society of London (GSL), an Observer Member of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES), a member organization of the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPHS). Moreover, the IAPG has agreements for cooperation with EuroGeoSurveys (EGS), European Federation of Geologists (EFG), International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG), International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG), Berufsverband Deutscher Geowissenschaftler e.V. (BDG), Associação Portuguesa de Geólogos (APG), Sociedad Geológica de Chile (SGCh), International Geoscience Education Organisation (IGEO), International Network of Young and Early-Career Geoscientists (YES Network), Geoscientists Canada (GC), Maden Jeologları Derneği-Turkish Association of Economic Geologists (MJD), Geological Society of Uganda (GSU), African Association of Women in Geosciences (AAWG), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IUGS-IFG), etc.



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- (B) **RIES** (The Research Institute for Earth sciences), as a public research institute is affiliated by Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) was established in 1992, which has more than 450 graduates as Master's and doctoral students in its educational records. Administratively, The RIES runs between two ministries of the Science and Technology and the Industry, Mine and Trade in Iran respectively. The main scope and mission of the RIES is making Research and Development in the GSI. The RIES was officially accepted as the host of the UCCGHA on December 3, 2021 (ED/FLI/21/160).
- (C) **UCCGHA** (UNESCO Chair on Coastal Geo-Hazard Analysis) was established by UNESCO Department of Education in 2021 on the platform of the RIES. The UCCGHA is a unique and new platform in the exchange of ideas in the field of geology, oceanography, seismology and Geo-archaeology with the aim of global convergence, equality, outside of gender and beliefs segregation that seeks transparency and access to unlimited information.

The UNESCO Chair Program/ UNITWIN Universities which could be mentioned as the fifth generation of universities covers activities such as education, research and exchange of academics and paves the way for sharing information in UNESCO areas of activity.

3. Terms

The MoU expresses a mutual desire to cooperate on a range of themes in the field of geoethics. It helps to assure a continued IAPG–RIES–UCCGHA cooperation and coordination on issues of common interests, in particular the following:

- Promotion of principles of ethics, research integrity, and professional deontology in geoscientific activities.
- Definition of ethical issues, with accompanying case-studies, where appropriate, affecting the geoscientific community and organizations in Iran.
- Co-organization of scientific events to disseminate concepts of ethics in geosciences, among both the professional and research communities, with particular attention to young and early career geoscientists.
- Production of relevant publications and communications.

Both organizations will establish a liaison to ensure good information flow and cooperation.

RIES and UCCGHA agree to support the “Cape Town Statement on Geoethics” (that contains the Geoethical Promise, a Hippocratic-like oath for geoscientists: <https://www.geoethics.org/ctsg>) and to be included among the list of supporting organizations of the statement.

Moreover, IAPG, RIES, and UCCGHA agree:



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- 1) to promote joint initiatives and events in Iran on themes of common interest through their webpages, social networks, and publications;
- 2) to foster cooperation in projects and activities on themes of common interest;
- 3) when appropriate, to involve respectively RIES, UCCGHA, and IAPG in their publications, in scientific meetings/congresses on ethics, research integrity, professional deontology and geoethics in geosciences organized by RIES, UCCGHA, and IAPG, and in projects.
- 4) to foster diversity, inclusion, and professional ethics in every aspect of in order to build a culture of integrity within the geoscience community.

Finally, IAPG, RIES, and UCCGHA agree to publish their logos and links to homepages in their respective websites.

This MoU will expire after 5 years from signature date unless otherwise extended. It may be dissolved by either organization at any time with 30 days' notice.

The parties to this MoU do not intend to create contractual relations by their execution of the MoU, and this MoU is solely intended as a general outline of the intention of the parties and not an agreement with legal, binding, or enforceable effect.

IAPG, RIES, and UCCGHA have no financial constraints that bind them for the management of this agreement and accept that each organization shall have nothing to claim of any nature from the other one.

This agreement was signed in Rome (Italy) and Tehran (Iran) on 26 January 2023.

Signed:

Silvia Peppoloni

(IAPG Secretary General)

Hamid Nazari

(UNESCO Chairholder)

Razieh Lak

(RIES Director)

