

Executive summary  
**Joint bid by South Asian Countries for  
International Geological Congress-2020**  
November 29 - December 5, 2020  
Delhi, India

### **Introduction**

Five countries of the South Asian region: India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka together invite the IUGS to host the 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress in South Asia, 29 November –December 5, 2020. The proposed focal theme of this Congress will be “**Geosciences: the Basic Sciences for Sustainable development**”. If approved, the IGC will come to this region after fifty years. The region has made substantive progress in Geosciences during the recent past, has faced unique geosciences challenges and has made significant contribution to the understanding of the geological processes on the Earth and Moon. The region has a large group of geoscientists who are keen to share their experiences with the global community and learn from them.

### **Geology**

South East Asia offers excellent geology covering the past 3.6 Billion years of Earth’s history, encompassing almost every conceivable landform and geological process. It offers something that will tempt every geologist. Our proposal describes some of the exciting facets of the geology of this region and presents a preliminary selection of over 30 field trips.

### **Congress Schedule**

The dates for this event have been suggested as Nov. 29-Dec 5, 2020 and are based on the timing of the monsoon season in the region. We expect these dates to ensure a pleasant weather across all the host partner countries as also as also reasonably align with the teaching calendars of the universities.

### **The Host City and the Expo Centre**

The Congress will be held in Delhi and the field trips will take place in regions of the host countries. The organizers will facilitate appropriate travel arrangements. The Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi is well connected to most countries and handles over 35 million passengers annually. The proposed venue the India Expo Mart, New Delhi, India is a world class venue that can accommodate up to 10,000 participants. It offers large exhibition spaces, halls with flexible configurations and a hall for plenary lectures. Exhibition spaces comprise both modular stalls as well as large halls. The venue is

equipped with state of the art wireless audio-visual systems. Further details on arrangements and venue details are provided in the proposal document. As a city Delhi is home to beautiful large gardens, historical sites, modern architectural delights and the vibrant Bazaars.

### **Our Goal: An Affordable and Inclusive Congress**

Our goal is to attract a substantive participation of researchers from all over. **The business model of this invitation is state supported, science centric and not-for-profit.** The registration fee has therefore been kept to the minimum possible at US \$800 (early bird). Registration for all students will be 50% of the general cost. We are assured of good financial and operational support from the Governments to help offset costs and make the meeting affordable while maintaining the high standard of infrastructure. We aim to raise additional funds from the corporate sector in member countries and across the world to help scientists requiring financial assistance to attend this meeting. We also propose to pro-active measure to bring a hundred **Future Geo-scientists** (students at the Masters and Bachelors level, selected through an international competition) with full support and this will add to the GEOHOST support for a thousand participants.

### **Field Trips**

The field trips will typically be of 5-6 days duration, costing approximately US\$ 100-150 per day. This will include transport, meals and accommodation. About 30 field trips have been outlined in the bid document. Additional trips will be considered based on interest groups.

### **In summary,**

The IGC-2020 agenda will exclusively be science driven and the effort will be to include all with serious science. In coming together for a joint bid, the host countries have striven as a cohesive group to work for a better scientific environment transcending cultural, political and economic considerations in the process. In doing so, we hope to suggest by example that in every sense Geosciences does not, and need not, know any boundaries. Given a chance to host you, We promise that your experience of our rich geology, ancient cultural heritage and warm hospitality, will truly be memorable. We will also like to point out that IGC 2020 will provide a rare occasion to,

- Collaborate with five south Asian countries and connect with over 1.5 billion people
- Experience Geological Diversity of the region with exciting research opportunities
- Interact and collaborate with some of the new, world class research facilities in the region