

Report of IGU Geomorphology and Society Commission 2024

- Purpose and scope

The progress of various environmental changes, including global warming, has made geomorphology increasingly important in recent years. Geomorphology seeks to discover the truth about the formation of landforms and their impact on society through observation, analysis, and experimentation. This has led to competition with neighboring disciplines, and it has become a research field such as geophysics, environmental studies, and civil engineering. However, it is essential to rediscover and assert the uniqueness and importance of geomorphology in geography.

Furthermore, in terms of the relationship between geomorphology and society, the themes of landform restoration and landform utilization are important. Contemporary issues, such as the assessment of the impact of large-scale nature modification plans, the consideration of alternatives, and the creation of amenities through landform restoration, are attracting attention, and the importance of geomorphological considerations should be emphasized. Collaboration between physical geography and human geography is essential in such studies.

Based on these concerns, the commission would like to consider the following items on the relationship between geomorphology and society through analyzing the benefits and threats of nature.

- 1) Advanced hazard assessment through topographical interpretation
- 2) Impact assessment and mitigation measures against topographical change
- 3) Geomorphology applicable to Geo-parks and Geo-tourism
- 4) Geomorphological education for understanding potential disasters
- 5) Landform and environmental preservation
- 6) Resilience and knowledge of disasters
- 7) Human and nature symbiosis

- Membership

The following 12 people are the current steering committee members.

Chair

Dr. Yasuhiro Suzuki

Tectonic Geomorphologist

Professor, Nagoya University, Disaster Mitigation Research Center, **Japan**

Chair, Japan National Committee for the IGU

Chairperson, The Association of Japanese Geographers

<https://researchmap.jp/read0043838?lang=en>

Secretary:

Hitoshi Saito

Geomorphologist

Associate Professor, Nagoya University, Department of Geography, Graduate School of Environmental Studies, **Japan**

<https://researchmap.jp/hisaito?lang=en>

SC Members:

Dr. Jiun-Chuan Lin

Professor, Department of Geography, National Taiwan University, **China-Taipei**

Dr. T. Ahmet Ertek

Emeritus Associate Professor, Istanbul University, **Türkiye**

Dr. Mihai Micu

Senior Researcher, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, **Romania**

Dr. Anita Bernatek-Jakiel

Assistant Professor, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, **Poland**

Dr. Maria Carolina Villaça Gomes

Assistant Professor, State University of Rio de Janeiro, **Brazil**

Dr. Zhou Lin

Professor, Zhejiang University, **China-Beijing**

Dr. Dhanjit Deka

Assistant Professor, Gauhati University, **India**

Dr. Elizabeth Rudolph

University of the Free State, South Africa, **South Africa**

Dr. Avirmed Dashtseren

Director, Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Mongolian Academy of Science, **Mongolia**

Honorary member:

Dr. Shigeko Haruyama

Emeritus Professor, Mie University, **Japan**

- Meetings:

Past activities:

The IGU-IAG Joint Committee/Working Group "Geomorphology and Society" is currently organized

jointly by the IGU Committee/IAG Working Group. The organization was agreed by the IGU and IAG at the 33rd IGC held in Beijing in August 2016, after consultations by the IGU's former Committee on Geomorphology and Society and Committee on Hazard Mitigation, the IAG's Geoarchaeology Working Group, and others. It was then approved by the IAG Council in New Delhi, India in November 2017, and subsequently named "Geomorphology and Society: Past, Present and Future" in Vienna, Austria in April 2018. The IGU approved it in April 2018.

Since 2018, the organization has been active, but since 2022, it has been inactive. At the 35th International Geographical Conference held in Dublin, Ireland in August 2024, its continuation was suspended and a call was made to re-establish the organization. In response, new members reconstituted the committee/working group, which was named "Geomorphology and Society".

Upcoming activities:

A research session by the International Association of Geomorphologists and the International Geographical Union Joint Working Group/Committee on "Geomorphology and Society" will be held at the IAG Congress (Timisoara), Romania, in August 2025.