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ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) welcomes the Japanese Society of Geo-Pollution Science, Medical Geology and Urban Geology (PMUG) as an International Associate. PMUG's admission to the AGI federation was formally approved by the AGI Board of Directors recently.

PMUG, which is based in Japan, envisions a society based on sustainable development. PMUG publishes *Geo-Pollution Science*, *Medical Geology and Urban Geology* and other publications; holds conferences and other academic meetings; encourages research activity and makes awards for achievements; promotes international research activities or academic exchanges; and carries out additional projects.

"Issues such as international cooperation and sustainability are among the most significant facing geoscientists today," said AGI Interim Executive Director Sharon Tahirkheli. "Welcoming PMUG as an International Associate not only strengthens the AGI federation of geoscience organizations, but also enhances the geoscience community's capacity to address the challenges confronting the world in the 21st century."

"PMUG tries to solve various problems that arise in the relationship between nature and human activities by investigating and studying the laws of nature mainly targeting the geo-environments and reflecting them in the real world," said PMUG representative Dr. Niichi Nishiwaki, Professor Emeritus of Nara University. "PMUG promotes international communication and cooperation for this purpose, and our International Associate membership within the AGI Federation provides one way to achieve that goal."

As an International Associate approved for membership by the AGI Board of Directors, PMUG is now a non-voting participant in the AGI Member Society Council and receives opportunities for partnership and joint ventures and a vehicle to improve international communication. PMUG joins the ranks of AGI International Associates including the Geological Society of Africa, the International Association for Geoscience Diversity, and the International Association for Promoting Geoethics.

To learn more about PMUG, see https://www.jspmug.org/en/index.html. For a list of all AGI's Member Societies and information about other membership categories, go to https://www.americangeosciences.org/member-societies.

About AGI

The American Geosciences Institute (AGI), a federation of scientific and professional associations representing over a quarter-million geoscientists, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving the geoscience community and addressing the needs of society. AGI headquarters are in Alexandria, Virginia.

AGI Contact:

Geoff Camphire, AGI Communications

gac@americangeosciences.org