About the Taskforce

The establishment of the IUGS Taskforce on Global Geoscience Workforce has set a precedent on global science workforce issues that arose during the 33rd International Geological Congress (IGC) in Oslo, Norway, in 2008. The Taskforce was convoked to address the global demand for geoscientists in a post-recession climate.

The IUGS Taskforce on Global Geoscience Workforce identifies the development of international and comparative metrics needed for workforce and talent production issues. The taskforce builds on global workforce studies and the IUGS Global Geoscience Workforce project launched in 2008.

The taskforce, a group of international experts, is focused on creation of a global geoscience workforce baseline (database) and metrics on the performance of the geosciences globally and regionally. The taskforce is also addressing the role of geoscientists in global sustainability and their contribution to global emergency response.

What is a Geoscientist?

The discussion on what constitutes a geoscientist was expected to be one of nuance and finess. Yet, what was lacking was a definition that could be counted and used for comparison. The legacy of this is seen today within the geosciences. Expanding geoscience education and the need for trained professionals have increased over the last 50 years on a global scale. The geoscience definition that has been used to describe the geosciences education worldwide may not accurately describe the needs of humanity.

What about Global Migration?

Global migration is an important component in today’s economy, and is especially true of highly skilled labor. Geoscientists are one of the most skilled labor categories in today’s workforce. Geoscientists are highly adaptable and compete in a global marketplace.

Where are Geoscientists Being Educated?

The presence of geoscience education within countries can be mapped using available databases. Geoscientific education provides the fundamental training to develop a base of geoscientists. Geoscience education is needed in countries that are resource-rich and that need to develop a geoscientific cadre.

What is a Nationality of a Geoscientist?

The concept of a geoscientist includes a nationality. The taskforce is examining the concept of the global geoscientist. The geoscientist is a manager or leader in many geosciences, and the future geoscientists will be leaders and managers in the geosciences.

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