



Geological Society of Africa
(GSAf)
Société Géologique d'Afrique
<http://www.geologicalsocietyofafrica.org/>



23rd Colloquium of African Geology
(CAG23)
23^{em} Colloq de la Géologie Africaine
<http://www.cag23.co.za>

Message from Dr Hassina Mouri
Chair: CAG 23 Organising Committee
Secretary General, Geological Society of Africa (GSAf)



Welcome to CAG 23 - South Africa 2011
University of Johannesburg
January 8-14th / 2011

“Together in Africa for a Leading Role in Geosciences”

Dear friends and colleagues:

On behalf of the Organising Committee, I would like to invite you to attend the 23rd Colloquium of African Geology (CAG23), which will be held at the University of Johannesburg from the 8th to 14th of January 2011.

The "Colloquium of African Geology" (CAG) is a major biannual meeting, which provides opportunities to present advances and unsolved problems in geoscience topics related to Africa on a continental-scale. Although this colloquium has taken place in other African countries, South Africa has yet to host this important colloquium.

There are many reasons why CAG23 should be hosted by South Africa, for example:

- Since CAG was launched in 1965, this biennial meeting, which can attract up to 600 delegates, has taken place seventeen times in Europe and only five times in Africa (Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Morocco, Mozambique and Tunisia). We believe that it is necessary to host this prestigious event as many times as possible on the African continent and bring **Geologists** to the “**Home of Geology**”.

- It is worth noting that CAG has never taken place in **South Africa**, one of the most fascinating “**Natural Geological Laboratories**” on Earth.
- South Africa and more precisely Johannesburg is the economic hub of Southern Africa with excellent access to all neighboring countries in the SADC region which includes Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Namibia. By holding CAG in such a strategic location, we hope that a large number of researchers and students from these different countries will be able to attend. In addition, most international flights to Southern Africa are routed through the International Airport in Johannesburg, which makes South Africa a cost effective destination for African and non-African participants.
- Three of the country’s leading universities with large geology departments (University of Johannesburg, University of the Witwatersrand, and University of Pretoria), as well as government departments (e.g. Minerals and Energy, Water Affairs), governmental institutions and para-statals (the Council for Geoscience, Water Research, NECSA, the CSIR) relevant to geology and mining, are all based in the Johannesburg-Pretoria area, providing a ready audience for the CAG.
- Several important and unique Geological sites are located near Johannesburg and Pretoria including: The Vredefort Dome, the Cradle of Humankind, the Bushveld Igneous Complex, the Barberton Mountain Land, the Witwatersrand Basin, the Limpopo Mobile Belt..etc. In addition to several mines such as: the Rustenburg Platinum Mines, the Cullinan Diamond Mine, the Wits gold mines etc...

Furthermore, South Africa is one of the most diverse and captivating countries in the world. Exotic combinations of landscape, fauna and flora, wildlife, climate, people, history and culture offer a unique and exciting experience.

The event will take place at the Auckland Park Campus of the University of Johannesburg, while the opening ceremony will take place on the “*Soweto*” Campus located in the core of “Soweto” city. This is a city with an interesting historical background and cultural heritage, a city that has seen the birth of a number of South African artists, a city that is home to some of the most important and known South African personalities amongst them Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, a city which became a symbol for struggle and freedom...

Please come and join us in this Geo-historical event. When it is **cold** and **grey** in northern hemisphere, remember it is **warm** and **sunny** in southern hemisphere...!!

We look forward to seeing you in South Africa.

Hassina Mouri
 Department of Geology
 University of Johannesburg
 Auckland Park Campus
 South Africa

Message from Prof. Aberra Mogessie, President of the Geological Society of Africa (GSAf)



The Geological Society of Africa (GSAf) has its objectives related to developing research and education in the earth sciences in Africa. The biennial Colloquium of African Geology is one of the most important international scientific meeting that is jointly organized by the Society and the country that has won the bid to organize it. The CAG 22 was held in Hamammet, Tunisia from Nov.4-6, 2008, and I would like to thank Prof. Inoubli and his team for their hard work and the successful conference.

At Hamammet, the Geological Society of Africa also had its 13th Conference on Nov. 6, 2008, where new council members were elected. A decision was made at this meeting to organize the CAG 23 in South

Africa, after the presentation of an excellent bid by the chair of the South African bid Committee, Dr. Hassina MOURI of the University of Johannesburg. Since Dr. Hassina Mouri is also the newly elected Secretary General of the GSAf, it has become easy for me to communicate with her and follow up the progress of the CAG 23 preparation. During this colloquium we expect to have special symposiums dealing with different aspects of the earth sciences; we will have reports and workshops related to the progress of the AEGOs; the launching of the UNESCO initiative on earth science education in Africa. These are just few examples where the GSAf is actively working with international organizations in the field of the earth sciences in Africa. As such I expect the participation of as many South African Geologists as possible, plus a number of geologists from other African countries as well as colleagues from abroad who are engaged in earth science research and education in Africa. I also believe that the participants will have a chance to know South Africa, its beauty and its remarkable geology, which will motivate them and plan to attend the IGC 35 in Cape Town in 2016.

As President of the GSAf and in the name of the council members, I would like to thank all South African Geological Institutions, and especially the University of Johannesburg for the support they are providing for the successful organization of this colloquium, which will be held at the University of Johannesburg in January 2011. I look forward to seeing you at the Colloquium.

