

WELCOME ADDRESS TO THE 28TH COLLOQUIUM OF AFRICAN GEOLOGY AND THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE JULY 6-8, 2022

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Prof. W.G. Kennedy assisted by Tom Clifford convened the first Colloquium of African Geology at the University of Leeds in March 1964. It was eventually taken over by the Geological Society of Africa in 1996. Since then, the Colloquium has grown tremendously and has been hosted in several countries of Europe and Africa, with the last held in Aveiro, Portugal in 2018. This Colloquium was earlier scheduled for 2020, but we are all aware of the global restrictions of the last 2 years.

I therefore have the utmost pleasure to Welcome all again to the 28th Colloquium of African Geology and the 18th Conference of the Geological Society of Africa. This unique colloquium is being hosted by Morocco. It is very unique in that, it is the first time in the history of the Colloquium that it is a completely online event. This I will say is not by choice but driven by circumstance of the COVID 19 scourge. I give kudos to our Moroccan LOC and notably the Chair, for not giving up in the face of daunting challenges. It would have been our utmost pleasure to see the beautiful scenery and pleasant hospitality of Casablanca, but reason must prevail.

It is therefore my delight to welcome all again and write a short preface to this abstract volume of this historically unique colloquium.

This year, despite the virtual nature of the event, a record of over 35 countries from Africa, the Oceania, South America, Asia, Europe and America are represented by their best early career and senior earth scientists. Over 300 registrations and covering numerous themes of symposium, ranging from the core geological themes of evolution of Africa, igneous, metamorphic, tectonics and structural geology to, of course the economic geology themes of mineral resources, and sustainable development are covered. The geoenvironment is adequately covered as themes on ocean sciences, weathering, climate and surface processes, geohazards and natural and human induced environment hazards and geotourism are also adequately captured. The not too new but rejuvenated specialisations of geoscience education, and medical geology have attracted interesting attention. In all, about 150 presentations, comprising oral and poster presentation are expected, with the mineral resources and sustainable development and crustal evolution of Africa themes having the highest number of expected presentations in the three-day event of July 6 to 8, 2022.

In addition, about six plenaries to be delivered by erudite Geoscientists and notable organisations including but not limited to such initiatives as PANAFGEO of the EUROGEOSURVEYS and OAGS, AMREC /PARC of the African Mineral Development Centre and others are expected. It promises to be a rich Colloquium.

It is hoped that these presentations with their depth and resourcefulness, with expectedly new grounds to be broken, will enrich our geoscientific space and do justice to the general theme of the Colloquium- Permit me to reiterate at this opening the objectives of the Geological Society of Africa, which are to:

- Promote the advancement of the geological sciences in Africa by encouraging and supporting geoscience research, education and training; the establishment of national societies; and through the organisation of conferences and other meetings.
- Promote the sustainable and environmentally sensitive development of the mineral, water and hydrocarbon resources of the continent and the wider applications of geoscience to improve the socio-economic conditions and quality of life of the African peoples.
- Facilitate communication and cooperation among members and other relevant organisations.
- Serve as a channel for the expression of views of African geoscientists and to investigate and report on matters of general interest to them.
- Encourage the highest standards of professional competence and ethical conduct in the practice of geoscience in Africa.
- Seek the preservation of important geological sites in Africa.
- Publish a regular newsletter, maintain an active website, and encourage and sponsor publications on African geoscience.

Membership of the Society is open to all those interested in the geosciences and their applications to development in Africa. And I comprise the following categories: Ordinary Member, Associate Member, Life Member, Institutional Member, Fellow and Honorary Member. Currently active membership is over 1000 spanning all the African countries, Europe, North America, South America, Australia and Asia.

We are involved in a number of initiatives and collaborations with the UNESCO, AMDC, and MOUs with European Association of Geologists, Geological Society of America, Organisation of African Geological Surveys (OAGS) amongst others and the collaborations are yielding the desired outcomes in encouraging our early career and senior Geoscientists

It is also hoped the despite the virtual nature of this Colloquium, new concepts, networks, collaborations and cooperation will emerge with beneficial results

It is on this note that I welcome you to this 28th CAG and wishing us all fruitful scientific sessions.

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