

NATIONAL GEOSCIENCE CONFERENCE!!!

Annual Conference of the Ghana Institute of Geoscientists

(GHIGCON–2024)

*“Strategic Natural Resources Exploration & Exploitation:
Guarantee for Sustainable Development”*

University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani

8th to 11th October 2024

Announcement and Second Call for Papers

We are pleased to announce that the Ghana Institute of Geoscientists (GhIG) is organising the 2024 Annual Conference (GHIGCON–2024) of the Institute under the theme “Strategic Natural Resources Exploration & Exploitation: Guarantee for Sustainable Development” at the University of Energy and Natural Resources - Sunyani, Ghana from 8th to 11th October 2024. This National Conference, which will also be organized virtually, will include Plenary Lectures, Keynote Lectures and Panel Discussions by eminent personalities from Ghana and abroad, as well as oral and poster presentations from contributed papers. Workshops and lectures on specialised topics will also be organised for interested participants and students.

The program will be divided broadly into two sessions, namely;

1. Professional Session
2. Scientific/Technical Session

The professional session will target industry practitioners and eminent professionals who would be invited to deliver lectures on specific topics or sub-themes related to advances in sustainable exploration and resource recovery as well as geoscience and the environment. Each presentation session will be followed by plenary discussions on the central theme presented. The scientific/technical session will also target academic scientists, researchers, and students who will exchange and share their experiences and research results through oral and poster presentations.

We, therefore, extend an invitation to you to participate in the GHIGCON–2024 and submit abstracts for the professional and scientific/technical sessions under the following subthemes:

Proposed sub-themes for the professional session;

1. Natural Resources, Natural Resource Exploration, Natural Resource Exploitation Development and Production
2. Geology of Basement Rocks and Sedimentary Basins of Ghana and Africa

3. Geotechnical Engineering, Geo-environment, Geo-diversity, Climate Change, Geo-hazards and Disasters, Geo-health and Safety
4. Hydrogeology and Hydrology
5. Resource Policy, Legislation and Regulatory Considerations, Governance, Social License
6. Geo-education, Geo-tourism, Geo-heritage, and Geo-conservation

Proposed sub-themes for the scientific/technical session:

1. Natural Resource Exploration and Exploitation
2. Geology of Basement Rocks and Sedimentary Formations
3. Hydrocarbon Resources
4. Geotechnical Engineering
5. Geo-education, Geo-tourism and Geo-environment
6. Hydrogeology and Water Resources

Important Information

First Call for Abstracts/Contributions	7 June 2024
Second Call for Abstracts/Contributions	20 June 2024
Final Call for Abstracts/Contributions	15 July 2024
Abstract Submission Deadline	31 July 2024
Notification of Acceptance/Rejection of Abstract	14 August 2024
Full Paper Submission Deadline	25 August 2024
Notification of Acceptance/Rejection of Paper	8 September 2024
Deadline for Submission of Corrected Paper	8 October 2024
Conference Dates	8 – 11 October 2024
Submission of Abstracts should be done via	ghigcon.secretariat@ghig.org
Presenters have the opportunity to publish their contributions in a selected journal (<i>optional</i>)	
Student attendees will have the opportunity to contest for the Best Student Oral Presentation and Best Student Poster Presentation	

A. Background

The Annual Conference of the Ghana Institute of Geoscientists (GhIG) has been institutionalized to bring together members of the geoscience fraternity of Ghana and beyond every 2 years to exchange and share their experiences and research results on various aspects of Geoscience with emphasis on Ghana and the sub-region. The GhIG Annual Conference (GHIGCON) provides an excellent platform for experts, professionals, academicians, researchers, and students to share knowledge, explore innovative ideas, update their ideas/concepts, and improve on their professional skills in the field of geoscience. Additionally, GHIGCON provides networking opportunities, including joint research activities and collaborations between industry and academia.

B. Conference Objectives and General Description

The theme for the National Conference is “**Strategic Natural Resources Exploration & Exploitation: Guarantee for Sustainable Development.**” The objectives of this conference are to,

- Throw light on and promote best practices in sustainable exploration and exploitation of natural resources, emphasizing responsible environmental and social practices, particularly in the context of the green transition.
- Foster collaboration between government, industry, academia, and civil society stakeholders to develop a comprehensive approach to natural resource management that aligns with the sub-region’s green development goals with a special focus on Ghana.
- Identify and address challenges associated with exploration and exploitation, including environmental concerns, social impacts, economic considerations, and ensuring responsible sourcing of minerals crucial for the green transition, such as lithium and other more traditional yet critical minerals
- Showcase innovative technologies and strategies available for responsible and efficient natural resource utilization with a special focus on novel approaches developed within the last few years. The focus will be on minimizing environmental footprint and maximizing resource recovery.
- Provide the knowledge to guide future development by outlining policy recommendations and best practices for ensuring sustainable utilization of natural resources contributes to Ghana's long-term development goals, including its emerging role in the global supply chain for green technologies.

General Description:

Ghana's recent discoveries of lithium and other critical minerals present a unique opportunity to contribute to the global green transition. However, this development comes alongside the legacy of the traditional extractive industry. This conference will explore how Ghana and the sub-region can learn from past experiences and leverage these resources responsibly. Presentations and discussions will focus on fostering economic growth while adhering to best practices for sustainable development and ensuring these minerals are sourced ethically to meet the growing global demand for clean energy technologies.

By bringing together key stakeholders from both the traditional extractive industry and the emerging green sector, this conference aims to identify strategies for Ghana and the sub-region to become a leader in sustainable resource management. This collaborative approach will ensure a greener future for Ghana and the world while mitigating the potential negative impacts often associated with traditional mining practices.

C. Sub-themes and Topics

The organisers of the forthcoming Annual Conference (GHIGCON–2024) invite the submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations that address the themes and topics of the Conference. Contributed papers will be accepted on the underlisted sub-themes.

Proposed sub-themes for the professional session:

1. Minerals Resources, Minerals Exploration, Development and Production
2. Hydrocarbon Resources, Reserves and Economic Evaluation
3. Geology of Basement Rocks and Sedimentary Basins of Ghana and Africa
4. Geotechnical Engineering, Geo-environment, Geo-diversity, Climate Change, Geo-hazards and Disasters, Geo-health and Safety
5. Hydrogeology and Hydrology
6. Resource Policy, Legislation and Regulatory Considerations, Governance, Social License
7. Geo-education, Geo-tourism, Geo-heritage, and Geo-conservation

Proposed sub-themes for the scientific/technical session:

1. Geology of Basement Rocks and Sedimentary Formations
2. Minerals Exploration and Exploitation
3. Hydrocarbon Resources
4. Geotechnical Engineering
5. Geo-education, Geo-tourism and Geo-environment
6. Hydrogeology and Water Resources

D. Contributed Papers, Participation and Registration

Authors must submit the abstracts of their contributed papers before the abstract deadline of **31 July 2024** in order for their abstracts to be considered. All abstracts are to be submitted under a technical category. There is a limit of 1 page including keywords. The abstract should include a concise definition of the scientific topic, goals of the study, methodology, findings and discussion, implications, and significance of the study. With the exception of invited papers or contributions, authors, must present original work.

No fee is required for abstract submissions. Please submit all abstracts, whether oral and/or poster electronically via email account ghigcon.secretariat@ghig.org, following the instructions provided below (Annexes I and II). Please indicate your presentation preference (oral or poster) at the time of submission using the form in Annex III. The decision by the Organising Committee in placing your paper in either an oral or a poster session is final. Accepted papers will be published in the Book of Abstracts. Authors will be informed about the acceptance or rejection of their abstract by **14 August 2024**.

All authors who have been listed on abstracts must consent to being named as part of the abstract at the time of submission, and share responsibility for submitted abstracts. In order to qualify to make either an oral or poster presentation, the presenter must be listed as an author of the abstract at the time of submission or publication. The Conference organisers wish to remind you that at least one author from each submission accepted for the GHIGCON-2024 technical programme is expected to register for and attend the conference at their own expense. Please use the form provided in Annex III to register for the conference.

E. Conference Participation Fee

The Conference registration fees for categories are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES	CONFERENCE FEE
Members	GHS 250.00
Non-Members (Ghanaians/Nationals)	GHS 300.00
Non-Members (ECOWAS Nationals)	US\$ 80.00
Non-Members (Other International Participants)	US\$ 200.00
Students (Members)	GHS 100.00
Students (Non-Members and Nationals)	GHS 150.00
Students (ECOWAS Nationals)	US\$ 30.00
Students (Other International Participants)	US\$ 100.00

F. Working Language

The working language of the Conference will be English. All communications and contributed papers must be sent to the GhIG Conference Secretariat in English.

G. Exhibition/Sponsor Presentation

Opportunity will be given to companies/organisations/institutions to exhibit their products or showcase their activities, etc. during the Conference. In addition, our sponsors will benefit from the following:

- Featuring of company/organisation logo on the conference website, session slides, and in the PDF of the programme book;
- Recognition of sponsors at the beginning and end of the conference;
- Social media promotions regarding the sponsorship;
- Recognition in the conference emails and invitations; and
- Featuring of logo and link to sponsor's website on all the GhIG conference promotional or marketing materials

To serve as a sponsor for the 2024 National Conference, and for any questions on sponsorship or discussion of special sponsorship packages, please contact Augustine Appiah Boachie, Crisler Akwei Ankrah (+233244962162), Prince Ofori Amponsah (+233 50 618 0583), Abigail E. Ayikwei (+233 24 491 6974), Elikplim A. Dzikunoo (+233207276969) or info@ghig.org / ghigcon.secretariat@ghig.org if you have any questions.

H. Contacting the Conference Secretariat

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ANNEX I

ABSTRACT PREPARATION SPECIFICATIONS

All Abstracts must be in **Microsoft Word** format and **SHOULD NOT EXCEED 1 PAGE IN LENGTH**, including keywords, in Times New Roman 11-pt regular, single columns, single-line spacing, fully justified, A4 page. The margins should be 2.5 cm or 1” for all other sides. All abstracts are to be submitted under a technical category.

Abstracts should be written in good, concise English (British or American spellings, but not a mixture of both). The abstracts should be informative, clearly stating the scientific scope, major findings and relevant conclusions of the work. The style conventions of SI units should be used throughout. Please send every abstract, whether oral and/or poster, electronically via e-mail ghigcon.secretariat@ghig.org following the instructions provided. The files should be named after the presenting Author’s surname; e.g., Geoscientists.doc.

Abstracts are accepted for review with the understanding that no substantial portions of the paper have been published or are being consideration for publication elsewhere, and that all of the authors have agreed to their submission for publication in the Book of Abstracts. The scientific committee for this conference is only accepting 8 authors for each abstract submitted.

The deadline for abstract submissions is 31 July 2024.

ANNEX II

ABSTRACT FORMAT

Book of Abstracts for the Annual Conference of the Ghana Institute of Geoscientists,
University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani, Ghana

Strategic Natural Resources Exploration & Exploitation: Guarantee for Sustainable Development
(GHIGCON 2024)

CODE ((to be inserted by the Scientific Committee))

**THE TITLE SHOULD BE HERE, ALL CAPITALS, TIMES NEW ROMAN 12-PT
BOLD, 1.5-LINE SPACING, CENTRED, WITHOUT ACRONYMS OR
ABBREVIATIONS**

Names of authors go here separated by commas, full first and last names and initials only for other names; Times New Roman 12-pt regular, single-line spacing, centred; presenter underlined, correspondent asterisked, all identified with superscripts, e.g.,

Daniel G. Institution^{1*}, Paulina Geoscientists², Isaac E. Conference³

¹*Full institutional affiliation; Complete postal address (Times New Roman 11-pt regular)*

²*Full institutional affiliation; Complete postal address (Times New Roman 11-pt regular)*

³*Full institutional Affiliation; Complete postal address (Times New Roman 11-pt regular)*

Abstract (Use “Header 1” Style)

Keywords: One, two, three, etc. (Use “keywords” style; maximum of 6)

*Corresponding author. Tel.: + (please specify); E-mail address: (please specify).

ANNEX III

Registration Form

1. Title:
2. Full Name: First Name Middle Name Last/Surname
3. Name of Institution/Organisation/Company/University
4. City
5. State/Region
6. Country
7. Email
8. Phone Number (s)
9. Address
10. Do you intend to submit an abstract (Yes or No?)
11. Abstract Category/Subtheme
12. Title of the Speech or Proposed Talk
13. Preference of Presentation (Oral or Poster)