



European Geosciences Union

Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) Symposium Vienna, Austria, 13-15 April 2015 «Mineral Resources»

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AND APPLICATION FORM

The 2015-GIFT (Geosciences Information for Teachers) workshop will take place on **13-15 April 2015** during the General Assembly of EGU in Vienna Austria. The general theme of the workshop is «**Mineral Resources**» and it will explore one of the most important challenges faced by modern society as a consequence of rapid global development and population increase.

The expansion of the world population from 6 to 9.6 billions in 2050, the rapid industrialization of highly populated countries combined with an overall higher standard of living are expected to intensify global competition for natural resources and exert additional pressure on the environment, both on land and at sea. It is a fact that reserves of minerals are being exhausted, and worries about access to raw materials, including base and strategic minerals, is increasing.

The rise in the price of several important metals, for example copper, has prompted some industrialized countries to initiate concerted activities to ensure access to strategic minerals, and Europe has launched several initiatives over the last years in the attempt to solve the issue.

Europe, in particular, depends on imports for many of these materials that it needs for construction and for its heavy and high-tech industries. Recycling, resource efficiency and the search for alternative materials are essential, but most specialists agree that this will not suffice and that there is a need to find new primary deposits.

The concern of politicians and business leaders is because deposits are often found in areas with poor access, barring modern exploration technology, and because of the investment required. Exploration requires substantial capital, rare expertise and leading edge technologies in order to secure the lowest extraction costs.

The GIFT 2015 workshop will gather experts of exploration, extraction, policy making, in the field of future mineral resources, including the deep sea frontier. Conventional hydrocarbons will not be addressed in this Workshop.

As in every GIFT Symposium, contributions by the attending teachers on particular “off-the-program” activities that they may have had in their classrooms are particularly welcomed, in the poster session (Science in tomorrow’s classroom) associated with the workshop, even if their subject is not directly related to the theme of the workshop.

Also, a first step will be a guided visit to the Vienna Museum of Natural Sciences, on Sunday April 12, 2015 afternoon, after which teachers will still be in time to participate to the “Ice breaker party” at the Austria Center where the General Assembly of EGU and the GIFT workshop will take place.

Application to participate in the 2015 GIFT Teachers Symposium (April 13-15, 2015)
EGU General Assembly
[Austria Center Vienna \(ACV\)](#)
Vienna, Austria

Mineral Resources

Grants are available to support teachers to participate in the 2015 Geosciences Information for Teachers (GIFT) Symposium at the 2015 European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in Vienna, Austria. Selected teachers will receive a travel /hotel stipend and free registration to the meeting.

Participating teachers will be selected based on their teaching experience and a supporting statement from their school administration. Selected teachers will be expected to attend the entire workshop and submit a statement within 1 year after the workshop on their impression of the workshop and how they plan to use this experience in their future teaching activities.

To apply please submit the following information:

- Applicant name, contact information, E-mail address
- School name and address
- Your teaching experience (how many years?)
- List the subjects you teach, and ages of students
- The workshop will be conducted in English. Please describe your capability to understand and speak English.
- A description of any leadership activities you have taken at your school or in national educational activities (examples: training new teachers, developing curriculum, etc.).
- A letter of recommendation (by attached PDF document), from the senior administrator in your school supporting your application.
- (Optional) There will be opportunities for teachers to present any creative science activities they have developed for their classrooms to other teachers at the workshop. These presentations are in the form of a poster at the associated "Science in tomorrow's classroom". If you would like to present a science activity, please provide a title and description for inclusion in the program.

Applications should be received as soon as possible and in any case no later than November 28, 2014.

Send your application via email to any of the members of the Committee on Education (list at : <http://www.egu.eu/education/committee/>) preferentially the one in your country if there is one, or to education@egu.eu