

MEET OUR EXECUTIVE

In the first of a continuing series of short profiles on the IUGS Executive Committee members, Episodes introduces

JOHN E. CUDJOE OF GHANA



In session at the Executive Committee Meeting, John Cudjoe (right) sits next to another IUGS Vice President, G.P. (Bill) Salas.

For IUGS Vice President John Cudjoe, the "path of duty" is uniquely twofold. An active geologist whose expertise in the industrial use of Ghana's mineral resources has received wide international recognition, he is also the Divisional Chief of Cape Coast, charged with the civic affairs of a region comprising, among other things, a population of 60,000!

John has devoted the better part of his life to the science of geology. After graduating from the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London, England with an Honours B.Sc. in Geology, he went on to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (U.S.A.) to obtain his M.Sc. in Geophysics. He then joined the Ghana Geological Survey where he worked from 1953 to 1973 as geologist, senior geologist and finally Director – the first Ghanaian to head the Survey. He left this position to establish, at the request of the Government, the Ghana National Manganese Corporation, responsible for the mining, processing and marketing of all manganese ores in the country.

His scientific interests and inclinations have been varied. As a petrologist, John Cudjoe's early field of interest was the classification of the Precambrian granites of Ghana. He later shifted to geophysical exploration and published papers on various methods of geophysical exploration in the Precambrian metavolcanics and metasediments of Ghana. More recently, his involvement in the mineral industry has led him into the details of prospecting, mineral evaluation, mining, ore dressing and marketing of manganese ore.

Elected Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1963, John has served on several of its committees, including the Research Committee, was a member of the Presidium of the Academy from 1964 to 1965 and Honorary Secretary from 1972 to 1974. He has also served on the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research from 1967 to date.

John Cudjoe's name is well known on the international scene. As a Vice President on the IUGS Executive Committee since 1972, he has brought conscientious enthusiasm, quick wit and good spirit to the Committee's deliberations. Twice President of the Association of African Geological Surveys (1968-74), he was for many years Vice President (for Africa) of the Commission for the Geological

Map of the World. He is currently President of the National Committee for the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics.

Considerably less well known to the world is his role as "Nana Kodwo Esuanti the First" – Divisional Chief of Ognaa (Cape Coast), sworn in and installed in a traditional ceremony on the 27th of August, 1977. As "Nana" Cudjoe, he occupies the fifth position in the hierarchy of the Traditional Council of 37 chiefs, controlling the civic affairs of the capital (Cape Coast) of the central region of Ghana and its surrounding district.

John Cudjoe regards his new office as a serious responsibility. "I am now in a position to benefit my people more than ever before," he explained in an interview early in February. "My initiatives, based on my past experience and education, will have greater impact on my people because they are coming from their Chief. I look upon this as both an honour and a challenge!"

At 55, John Cudjoe hopes to return to field geology and research before too long to round off the geological work started in the early years of his career.

Scene from the ceremony at which John Cudjoe was installed Divisional Chief of Cape Coast, Traditional Area of Ghana:



"Nana" Cudjoe and his son being carried through the streets.