MEET OUR EXECUTIVE...

A continuing series of short profiles on the IUGS Executive Committee members

John A. Reinemund of the U.S.A.

According to Walter Bagehot's interpretation of the English constitution, if the Crown is deemed the 'fountain of honour', then the Treasury is surely the 'spring of business'. In IUGS, as in many other non-profit international organizations dependent on voluntary service and national contributions, the task of transforming the trickle of incoming resources into an effective and meaningful flow of productivity falls largely on the ingenuity of the Treasurer. Few organizations, however, non-profit or otherwise, can boast of having as talented and as competent a man heading their Treasury as John A. Reinemund, U.S.A.

'He is a diplomat, through and through,' the President of IUGS remarked recently, describing John Reinemund. Indeed, it is this innate diplomacy, along with his remarkable organizational skills, the foresight of his scientific judgement, and a calm human compassion that have earned for John Reinemund the respect and admiration of the IUGS family. As one Vice President concluded at the end of an Executive Committee meeting, 'When John Reinemund speaks, we listen.'

Dr. Reinemund's expertise is based on years of leadership in fostering earth science research and cooperation around the world. Currently Chief of the Office of International Geology in the U.S. Geological Survey at Reston, he first joined the Survey in 1942 to carry out strategic minerals investigations, including iron, lead and zinc deposits in New York, Washington, and Nevada. Two years later, he was assigned to the Office of Scientific Research and Development to undertake oceanographic research (at the Naval Electronics Laboratory in San Diego) on density currents as they affect underwater sound and buoyancy. Following a brief period of service in the U.S. Army, he returned to resource appraisal work and geological mapping of the Deep River coalfield in North Carolina, and, for a year, of the Machari coalfield in Korea.

'Much of my work before 1956 was for the Survey's Fuels Branch,' he recalled, 'and it involved, primarily, energy-related investigations in central U.S.A.' As regional supervisor of the mid-continent region for geological research in fuels, he organized the first Fuels Geology Laboratory and established its program.

In the late 1950's and the 1960's, over a period of nine years, Dr. Reinemund served as chief of a 30-man USGS field party in Pakistan under the U.S. Technical Assistance Program for developing countries. 'Pakistan was really my initiation into some of the complex problems facing international geology,' he explained. It was an experience that was just as much appreciated by Ruth Reinemund, whose delightful candor complements her husband's low-key, unassuming manner.

In Pakistan, John Reinemund mapped the geology of the Sor Range Daghari coalfield - a major coal producer for Pakistan, and made a study of the status of Pakistan's coal resources as a basis for evaluating the country's energy position. Equally as important, however, in terms of Pakistan's development, is the fact that a broad range of laboratory, training and institutional activities were initiated under his direction, which led to the establishment of a viable indigenous geological community and eventually, the Geological Survey of Pakistan itself.

On his return to the U.S. in 1964, first as Chief of the Foreign Geology Branch, then as Chief of the Office of International Geology, John Reinemund devoted his energy to organizing and implementing earth science programs for developing countries within their various political, economic, and social frameworks. 'Our objectives have been to develop

and direct worldwide programs of international reciprocity in the earth sciences, through technical assistance, exchange programs, international symposia, research programs and professional development, and the like,' he said. He sets much store in personal contacts; his friendship with officials in many countries and his extensive travels to guide negotiations and maintain contacts or monitor the Survey's overseas projects have undoubtedly contributed to the prestige with which the USGS is now regarded abroad.

He frankly admits that he no longer notices the differences between the countries he visits. 'After years of travel, what impresses me more are the similarities - in human nature and aspirations, in social and environment problems, and in some of the possible solutions that we as scientists can offer globally.'

It was primarily in response to the worldwide energy crisis that Dr. Reinemund took a strong interest in the Circum-Pacific Map Project, an effective international effort started in 1973 to compile and synthesize the most recent geological and geophysical data of the Pacific Ocean Basin and the fringing landmasses with a view to determining where future scientific investigations are needed and where sources for badly depleted resources might be identified. His enthusiasm and commitment as Chairman of the Project have encouraged the participation of over 100 earth scientists from more than 25 countries, and substantial progress has been accomplished in the form of published base maps, as well as geological and resource maps.

A graduate of Augustana College, Illinois, and the University of Chicago, Dr. Reinemund has authored many research publications on the geology of the mineral resources of the U.S.A. as well as countries such as Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, and the Philippines. He has also prepared numerous reports on earthquake investigations and remote sensing as applied to mineral resource studies in developing countries. With Prof. Janet Watson, he co-authored in 1978 'Achievements of the International Geological Correlation Programme as Related to Human Needs' (see EPISODES 1978, No. 2, p. 3-11), having served as a member of the IGCP Board since 1973. Keenly supportive of the current emphasis on the needs of developing countries in IUGS, IGCP, and ICL activities, John Reinemund sees a major immediate challenge in effectively transferring the advanced technological know-how of the developed world to the less-developed countries, especially in the areas of Landsat imagery applications and computer-based techniques.

In recognition of his significant contributions to furthering international geological research, particularly in developing countries, Dr. Reinemund received in 1980 the Distinguished Service Award - the highest honour bestowed by the U.S. Department of the Interior. A fitting tribute to a gentleman and a diplomat - in the best sense of the word.