

# INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION ORGANISATION NEWSLETTER

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<http://www.geoscied.org/>

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## GEOSCIED V

The conference will be hosted by Germany and will be held in the Bavarian city of Bayreuth. The dates of GeoSciEd V have been set to be in September 2006 with pre- and post-conference field trips. Final dates will be distributed once they have been confirmed. The main conference field trip, as proposed, will be boarder-crossing to the main coal area in the Ohre-rift and the famous spa town of Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), Czech Republic.

The Bavarian State Minister of Environment, Health and Consumer Protection Werner Schnappauf has agreed, with pleasure, to be the Honorary Chairman of GeoSciEd V.

Since GeoSciEd Conferences should also address the regional educators in the host countries, there will be scheduled an additional Session in German for the German teachers. This will be parallel to the international session with the usual conference language. The Bavarian State Ministry of Education has indicated to validate the conference participation as professional training for the Bavarian Teachers.

During the summer of 2006 there will be a border-crossing Bavarian -Czech State Garden Show in the nearby towns of Marktredwitz and Cheb. It will end during GeoSciEd V. Since the location is in the middle of the Czech-Bavarian Geopark, major earth science school activities are proposed to occur during the 2005/2006 school year with nearby Bavarian and Czech schools. Their activities should be presented during the State Garden show and the best contributions should/will be recognized during GeoSciEd V. It will be also a major regional contribution to the proposed "International Year of Planet Earth". The State Minister of Education has been invited to act as the Honorary Chairman for these Earth science school events.

As indicated by IUGS representatives, GeoSciEd-Conference V could be a key event during the proposed International Year of Planet Earth.

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH

A joint International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and UNESCO initiative is to proclaim an INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH through the UN General Assembly in September 2004.

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), represents about one million geoscientists in 115 countries, and constitutes, in living form, the largest database of information about the PAST and PRESENT status of planet Earth.

The International Year will be proclaimed through the United Nations, and has already been adopted by the UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences as one of its core activities. Preparations for implementing this initiative are now fully in hand.

The AIM of the International Year of Planet Earth is two-fold.

- To demonstrate the fundamental contribution being made by the Earth Sciences to knowledge of the Earth upon which we are dependent, and to wiser use of Earth's environments and resources; and
- To formulate and refine strategies that will ensure a safer and more prosperous Planet in the future.

The initiative will seek to raise the awareness of the contribution to, and role of the geosciences in society in the minds of politicians, decision makers, the media and the general public. A digital copy of the brochure may be downloaded from <http://www.esfs.org/>.

The International Year was formally announced during the Opening Ceremony of the 32nd International Geological Congress in Florence, Italy, 2004 with plans to sustain it with increasing momentum until 2007 (the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year).

A strategy designed to attract external finance has been developed and, sponsorship is sought from industries, consultancies, institutions, organizations etc., concerning a broad range of activities linked to, or based upon the geosciences and their applications.

It seems that almost \$20 million US has been allocated for the "International Year". There will be a strong **educational** and **outreach** component to this activity and IGEO is expected to take a leading role in this initiative.

## **INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE OLYMPIAD COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chan-Jong Kim, Chair of the IESO Committee

### 1. IESO Committee finalized.

IESO Committee was finalized on August, 2004 as Ted Nield, Chairperson of the Outreach Program, PlanetEarth joined to the Committee. Now the Committee has ten members representing countries from all over the world. The Chairperson of the Committee is Chan-Jong Kim (Korea), and the members are Nir Orion (Israel), Jose Selles-Martinez (Argentina), Ian Clark (Australia), Miguel Cano (Philippines), Celso Dal Re Carneiro (Brazil), Chun-Yen Chang (Taiwan), Moo-Young Song (Korea), Yoshisuke Kumano (Japan), and Ted Nield (IUGS).

### 2. Tentative Schedule for IESO

At the Council Meeting held in Florence, Italy during 32<sup>nd</sup> IGC, tentative schedule for IESO was reported and accepted. The schedule has three steps towards the First International Earth Science Olympiad. The first step is the Seoul Invited Conference,

which will be held on November 26-27, 2004 in Seoul, Korea. The goal of the conference is reaching international agreements on the participants, content, and method of IESO competition. Argentina, Bangladesh, India, Israel, Korea, Philippine, Spain, Taiwan, and IUGS were invited and will participate.

The next step is the National Earth Science Olympiads during the 2005. Countries that hope to participate in the First International Earth Science Olympiad should have a national Earth science Olympiad in their country to select national representatives for the First IESO.

The final step is the First International Earth Science Olympiad. During the Seoul Invited Conference, participating countries will discuss the First Olympiad, and an organizing country will be decided.

## COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

### CANADA

The following items come courtesy of Christy Vodden, Secretary/Treasurer CGEN.

1. Stella Heenan has been working hard to get the earth sciences front and centre at this upcoming major conference for Ontario science teachers. The result, she reports is a super selection of geology-specific earth science sessions, and excellent presenters for the mini-theme “Eyes on Planet Earth”.

CGEN members based in Ontario can help by getting this information to teachers and encouraging them to come to the conference. More information about the conference can be found at

<http://www.stao.ca/stao-conference/2004/2004-conference.htm>

2. The Calgary Science Network has undergone some significant developments.

It has released a new and greatly improved web site at

[www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca](http://www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca) and has also been a part of a major review of school visit programs in Alberta. This review, commissioned by the Alberta Science Literacy Association ([www.asla.ca](http://www.asla.ca)), was highly positive and is, as far as we can determine, the only high quality review of a “scientist-in-the-schools” program anywhere in the world. A summary of this review is available on the web site at:

<http://www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca/highlights.html>. It is a very heartening endorsement of this type of outreach and a strong validation of the program in Alberta. If any of you would like the full text of this report (it is large) please contact the Calgary Science Network as indicated on the web site.

To find out more about Earth Science Education in Canada:

[www.whatonearth.org](http://www.whatonearth.org)

## INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE CONGRESS, 2008 & 2012

### **33rd IGC, 2008**

The 33rd IGC will be held in Oslo, Norway, in August of 2008.

### **34th IGC, 2012**

The Australian Geoscience Council will host the 34th IGC in Brisbane, Australia, in August of 2012.