

# International Geoscience Education Organisation Newsletter

## 1/06

Web address: <http://www.geoscied.org/>  
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**Welcome to all of our new members who have registered interest and whose details have been placed on the IGEO membership list since the 32nd IGC in Florence in 2004. Our major conference, GeoSciEd V is fast approaching with the German organising committee and the IGEO Executive committee looking forward to meeting many of our old and new members in Bayreuth in September.**

### **GEOSCIED V – GERMANY 2006**

The National and Local Organizing Committees of the 'Fifth International Geoscience Education Conference' (GeoSciEd V) invite you to the 2006 Meeting in Bayreuth, Germany. Many interesting contributions for talks, posters and workshops have already reached us. Also a big variety of fieldtrips awaits you. The conference fieldtrip on Tuesday will lead us across the Bavarian part of the Bavarian -Czech Geopark and to the German Super Deep Borehole (KTB) (included in the conference fee). Please check the conference web site regularly for new details and register: <http://www.bgi.uni-bayreuth.de/~geoscied5/>  
The program will be compiled soon, so please contact the conference convenors if you have late oral paper/poster/workshop presentation proposals.  
The conference will be of interest to those who teach earth sciences at any level from primary to university and also to those who develop and deliver outreach programs in the earth sciences. The field trips and social program will introduce the natural and cultural aspects of southern Germany to you.  
We look forward to seeing you in Bayreuth in September!

*GeoSciEd V Organising committee*  
Email: [info@geoscied5.de](mailto:info@geoscied5.de)  
<http://www.bgi.uni-bayreuth.de/~geoscied5/>

### **INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE OLYMPIAD**

The first IESO is scheduled to be held in 2007. Information can be found on the web site: <http://ieso.or.kr/>  
For further information, contact: Moo-Young Song, Chair, IESO Coordinating Committee, Chair, Organizing Committee for the First IESO and Chan-Jong Kim  
Chair, IESO Advisory Committee: [chajokim@snu.ac.kr](mailto:chajokim@snu.ac.kr)

### **33<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS – OSLO 2008**

The Nordic Countries invite you to the 33<sup>rd</sup> IGC in Oslo – August 5 – 14<sup>th</sup> 2008. The first circular has been released with an invitation to participate in the planning of the programme.  
Second Circular: January 2007 will present the programme outline and invite registrations for the meeting, excursions, short courses, workshops and to contribute to the symposia.  
For further information including an electronic version of the first circular:  
[www.33igc.org](http://www.33igc.org)

### **NEWS FROM CANANDA**

Vancouver: The Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) is holding its annual conference in Vancouver, May 14-16. As they did last year in Toronto, they will have a significant public outreach and educational component. Check it out at: <http://www.mininginsociety.com/> (click on "public").

Calgary: The Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (CSPG), the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (CSEG) and the Canadian Well Logging Society (CWLS) are holding their 2006 Joint Conference, May 15-18. As part of it they are hosting a Kids in Science pilot program. All details at: <http://www.geoconvention.org/events-kisp.asp>.

An interesting education web site: The Global Education Project  
<http://www.theglobaleducationproject.org>.

Information courtesy of:  
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## NEWS FROM INDIA

The geoscience education network in India is growing stronger, through the efforts of a number of educators including B. Mishra and R. Shankar, who are developing innovative communication strategies within their country to bring geoscience educators together. One of these innovations is a chat group set up in April 2005. This group has been started to form a circle of all those who have an interest and commitment to Earth Science education at the school/college/university level and popularisation of Earth Sciences among children and the general public in India. Through this group, one can share his/her ideas, experiences, reports of activities, information on forthcoming meetings /seminars/ symposia in Earth Science education.

Another significant innovation is the publication, **GEOSPECTRUM**. Popular and Review articles invited for the 2006 volume of GEOSPECTRUM (Formerly Shilalipi), Third edition, Annual. A Popular Journal on Earth System Science and Environment is brought out annually under the aegis of Indian Society for Popularisation of Earth System Science and Environment, Berhampur – 760001, Orissa, India since 2004. Popular and review articles on Earth System Science (earth, ocean, space sciences) and a section – Geo-Panorama (recent geological events) were included in the first edition. The second edition covers wide ranging articles in the fields of geoinformatics, geohazards, mineral resources, petroliferous basins, environmental geology, coal geology, micropalaeontology and its applications, remote sensing technology, sedimentary research, estuarine ecology, marine mineral resources, planetary geology, geological management, geoparks, geoscience and cultural heritage, space exploration, medical geology, profiles on geoscientific institutions etc.

The sole objective of this publication is to popularize and promote Earth System Science (earth, ocean and space sciences) and related environmental aspects inviting popular and review articles and touching fundamentals and advancement in this science and technology with simple and lucid explanation within reach of the understanding limit of students of colleges, universities and different spheres of geo- community; public understanding and awareness of earth science events such as the cataclysmic natural disasters ( earthquake, tsunami, cyclones, floods, hurricane, volcanic eruption, drought and landslides) , their effects and ways of management.

If you wish to subscribe to this publication or to propose an article for publication, please contact:  
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*N.B : E-mail correspondence and electronic mode of submission of manuscripts are preferable. Correspondents are requested to quote cell phone and land phone numbers during correspondence.*

(Thank you to B. Mishra and R. Shankar for regular correspondence with the IGEO newsletter editor about geoscience education in India.)

## NEWS FROM THE UK

### **ESTA Conference, Bristol, 15 – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

The annual Earth Science Teachers' Association Conference will take place at Bristol University from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, with its usual mix of workshops, lectures and field excursions for primary, secondary and post-16 teachers of Earth science. Details can be found at: <http://www.esta-uk.org/main.html> – by clicking on the Bristol 2006 button. If you are planning to attend GeoSciEd V in Germany, why not drop into the UK on the way and sample the delights of a national Earth Science education conference first?

### **ASE Conference with its 'Earth Thread', Birmingham 4 – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

The annual Association for Science Education conference is being planned for Birmingham in January 2007 and normally draws some 3000 science teachers. Following the success last year of a full 'Earth theme' running through the conference, the same is being planned for Birmingham – with some 'Big name' speakers. Sir Crispin Tickell, will be focussing on the Gaia Hypothesis and Prof. Aubrey Manning, will be discussing his high profile TV work in geology and biology. See: [http://www.ase.org.uk/htm/conferences/annual\\_conference\\_2006/venue\\_dates\\_2006.php](http://www.ase.org.uk/htm/conferences/annual_conference_2006/venue_dates_2006.php) for more details.

### **Do you call a bunch of Forums, Fora?**

Several different Forums have been formed in the UK in recent years to support and develop the teaching of Earth science across the country.

The first was the **Scottish Earth Science Education Forum** (SESEF - <http://www.scottishgeology.com/SESEF/>) which, since its appointment of a full time Development Officer and its development of close links with several key organisations, including the Earth Science Education Unit (ESEU) – has been very successful in arguing for an increased role for Earth science in the Scottish curriculum and providing workshops across Scotland for primary teachers of Earth science.

Soon afterwards, the **Earth Science Education Forum (England and Wales)** formed to 'promote earth science in education at all levels' and 'to bring together all relevant organisations in pursuit of the above' (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/esef/home.htm>). It has successfully brought together a wide range of organisations and provided key networking opportunities. ESEF (EW)'s Development Officer also supports the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Earth Sciences, which holds regular high profile meetings for Members of Parliament and interest groups to raise the profile of Earth science in general, and in education in particular, across the nation.

**Earth Science Education Forum - Cymru**, is the Welsh branch of ESEF (EW), and was launched recently. It has already been very effective in bringing together those with a common interest in supporting Earth science education across Wales in meetings that have attracted more than 50 people at a time.

**ES2K** was launched in Northern Ireland in the year 2000, and has become so successful that it is now an Ireland-wide group, publishing a regular newsletter. See <http://www.habitas.org.uk/es2k/> for more details. As I write, ES2K is in the throes of its annual Geology Week – and is planning to host the ESTA Conference in September 2007.

Could Fora be the way forward for your county or region – they are doing much to support the promotion and development of Earth science education across the UK.

Chris King.  
Chris King: IGEO Past President  
Executive committee member  
[chris@cjhking.plus.com](mailto:chris@cjhking.plus.com)

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH

*(An extract from a recent letter from Eduardo Mulder on the progress towards the Year of Planet Earth)*

The International Year of Planet Earth is a joint initiative of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and UNESCO. The Year, proclaimed for 2008 by the UN General Assembly in late December 2005 will be the central year in a Planet Earth triennium that will begin in January 2007 and end in December 2009.

The central aims and ambitions of this triennium are to demonstrate the great potential of the Earth sciences in the building of a safer, healthier and wealthier society, and to encourage more widespread and effective application of this potential by targeting politicians and other decision-makers, educational systems, and the general public. UN proclamation implies that all 191 UN nations have adopted these aims and ambitions and are all willing to contribute to their implementation. Never before have all nations on Earth expressed their dedication to learn from and apply geoscientific knowledge in both day-to-day and longer term policy and practice. During the preparatory phases of the International Year, a Management Team brought the initiative to the United Nations, attracted 12 Founding Partners and 26 Associate Partners, and raised the funds necessary to pave the way for implementation. For more information, please check the website: <http://www.yearofplanetearth.org/>, under Secretariat.

The Science and Outreach programmes have been in place for some time. Science Implementation Teams, the primary tasks of which are to evaluate Expressions of Interest and Project Proposals, are now in process of formation. We plan to dedicate about half of the income for the International Year to outreach activities and the other half to science projects for the ten selected Science themes (see website).

A particularly important action that is fundamental to the successful implementation of the Year is the establishment of National Committees of the Year of Planet Earth. At the time of writing, 10 such National Committees are up and running (in Austria, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Mongolia, Namibia, New Zealand, Sweden and the UK). In twenty other countries such Committees are being actively developed and the process has been initiated in a further 13 countries. Such National Committees are independent bodies while, at the same time, having links with the International Corporation. The success of the International Year very much depends on quality and range of activity at the national level, not least because of the need to attract, in a sustained way, the attention and engagement of both public and political life at all levels.

We call upon all members of the geoscience community around the world to recognize the opportunities offered by this global initiative, and to provide their support at all scales, from global to local, to make this a 'once in a lifetime' event. Given the Year's worldwide political support, rising commodity values, and a profession that increasingly recognizes the need for strong mutual support in the realization of the societal potential and value of Earth science, the situation has never been more favourable.

Seize the day.

Eduardo F.J. de Mulder  
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## NEW GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION RESOURCES

The U.S. Geological Survey would like to announce a Web site that may be of interest to you. We have recently finished the most comprehensive Web site about "The Water Cycle" anywhere. It features a wonderful diagram of the natural water cycle and an in-depth discussion of each of the 15 topics on the diagram. The diagram is available in over 55 languages, and the summary text is available in multiple languages. The URL is: <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle.html>. The site is part of the existing Water Science for Schools Web site <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/index.html>. Any questions or comments can be directed to: Howard Perlman USGS - Georgia Water Science Centre Atlanta, Ga. 770-903-9114 [hperlman@usgs.gov](mailto:hperlman@usgs.gov)

## School for Land Administration Studies established

On 23 March 2006 the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) and the Netherlands Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency ('Kadaster') signed an agreement to cooperate in the establishment of a School for Land Administration Studies at ITC. The issue of land and land administration is increasingly claiming the attention of the international community. In a recent interview in ITC News magazine Professor Hans van Ginkel, rector of the United Nations University of which ITC is an Associated Institution, said: "We have to start work and find solutions that are fair and humane to all parties involved. Zimbabwe has attracted the attention of the international media, but in many countries there is a problem as to who owns the land and how it is registered. Redistribution is a touchy subject. It is in the collective interest to reassign functions to land in both urban and rural areas but with adequate government compensation. And this is a major issue in Europe too. For example: once land is known to be eligible for urban expansion, the price rises. It should be possible to set a price on such plots early on and so reduce the element of speculation. This is a problem shared by developed and developing countries."

The School will deliver land administration education and research within ITC, and will manage and execute a joint land administration programme with the United Nations University. This programme consists of a series of seminars, short courses, and networking.

For further information:

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## INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Keep up with what's on through their Electronic Bulletins available on:

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

If you have any articles, conference updates, courses or links of interest to other IGEO members, please email them to the Newsletter editor for inclusion in the next edition, planned for July 2006. Please contact me if your details have changed or if you wish to be withdrawn from the membership list.

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