

**INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION ORGANISATION (IGEO)  
NEWSLETTER  
1/08**

Web address: <http://www.geoscied.org/>  
Newsletter editor: Dr Bronte Nicholls: [slab@internode.on.net](mailto:slab@internode.on.net)

**REPORT FROM GEOSCIED V, SEPTEMBER 2006 IN BAYREUTH, GERMANY**

During September, 2006, 278 participants from 23 countries joined the GeoSciEdV in Bayreuth. The program comprised 104 very interesting contributions about:

- Public understanding of earth science,
- Best practice in geoscience instruction including field trips
- Teaching biology, chemistry and physics through an Earth context as well as geography (elementary, secondary and tertiary education),
- Internet and multimedia in geoscience education,
- Geosciences in international comparisons (e.g. Program for International Students Assessment PISA) and
- Teacher training in geosciences.

We were very pleased about the amount of contributions which were based on empirical results. In addition, the focus of some of the field trips on educational as well as on geological aspects was valued highly by the participants. Furthermore the variety of presentations about great outreach experiences reflected the huge creativity of the geoscientific community.

The conference allowed both, interactive as well as "traditional" sessions.

Presenters of the interactive poster sessions prepared a short presentation followed by viewing of the posters where the discussions took place. Thus the interactive session format supported intensive interactions among participants.

The social events started with the icebreaker party in the impressive ecological-botanical garden of the University Bayreuth. An original German castle was the location for a Rustic Dinner and the Conference Dinner took place at the Eremitage, Old Palace situated in a large park east of the city - once a retreat from the excesses of court life - hosts baroque palaces and fountains. See photos from these events on:

[http://www.uni-bayreuth.de/obg/english\\_version/index\\_engl.html](http://www.uni-bayreuth.de/obg/english_version/index_engl.html)

The conference was a splendid experience and we are now looking forward to a great conference in South Africa 2010.

**Sylke Hlaswatsch**

**Conference Convenor and IGEO Vice-President**

**GeoSciEd VI – July, 2010, South Africa  
More information to be released soon!**

**NEW INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER**

From 2007, Sri Lanka joined IGEO, represented by Ashvin Kamal Wickramasooriya of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. He has been actively involved in organizing annual "Earth Science for schools" workshops with the collaboration of Geological Society of Sri Lanka, of which he has been a committee member for 4 years and was the treasurer for 2 years. He is also a committee and editorial board member of the Geoinformatics Society.

**Chan-Jong Kim - President: IGEO**

## IGEO-IUGS SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM AT THE 33<sup>RD</sup> IGC IN OSLO

Once again we are hosting a symposium at the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geological Congress which will be held in Oslo, Norway from August 6<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> 2008.

**IEE-05 Geoscience education for the 21st century** *Ian Clark, Chan-Jong Kim, Chris King (IUGS Commission on Geoscience Education, Training & Technological Transfer)*

The symposium will be broken into three themes:

- Undergraduate Geoscience Education;
- School Geoscience Education; and
- Informal Geoscience Education (museums, parks, etc.).

Each theme will be linked by the questions of "what is relevant for the 21st century?" and "is Earth System Science the most appropriate approach?" The aim of the symposium will be to canvas a wide audience on these topics and to promote geoscience education worldwide.

Please consider making a presentation. **The deadline for abstracts has been extended to 29 Feb 2008**

For more information about the congress go to the IGC website at <http://www.33igc.org/coco>

**Ian Clark – Past President: IGEO**

## THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The First International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) held from Oct. 7 to 15, 2007 in Daegu Metropolitan City and Yungwol-gun in Korea has been completed successfully. Talented Earth science students from 11 countries all over the world gathered together to compete their knowledge and skills in Earth science and cooperated in the outdoor geologic field trip to promote exchange of ideas and friendship. 33 students and 17 mentors from 11 countries, such as India, Indonesia, Korea, Mongolia, Philippines, Taiwan, USA participated in the First IESO. In addition to the mentors, 13 observers also participated from countries including Japan, Mongolia, Philippines, Taiwan, and USA. To help the event about 25 Korean Earth scientists and Earth science educators also participated by developing test items and tasks, and supervising the tests and field trips. The result of the competition showed that Taiwan, Korea, and USA ranked first, second and third respectively.

To experience the Korean culture and high technology, participating students and mentors visited industries, including the Pohang Steeling Company, and culturally significant places such as Gyungju and the Andong area. Participants also presented and shared the natural and cultural heritage of each of their countries. They observed exemplary outcrops in the field, cooperating to collect data, and through discussions with each other, made inferences and conclusions about their observations.

The Second IESO will be hosted by the Philippines in 2008 with the Third IESO by Taiwan in 2009.

**Chan-Jong Kim - President: IGEO**

## INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH

International Year of Planet Earth : <http://yearofplanetearth.org/>

For further information and event updates, please refer to the web link above.

Also:

International Polar Year : <http://www.ipy.org>

## INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES

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

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

Updates on the progress of the International Year of Planet Earth, and the announcement of the 34<sup>th</sup> IGC to be held in Brisbane, Australia in 2012 can be found here.

## NEWS FROM INDIA

### FIRST NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF INDIA ON E-GEO-SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT TEACHING AND LEARNING

#### Preamble

As a part of triennium celebration (2007-2009) of International year of Planet Earth (IYPE) the First National Programme of India on E-Geo-science & Environment Teaching and Learning (EGETL) has been launched under the aegis of Indian Society for Earth, Planetary and Environmental Sciences (ISEPES) and Post Graduate.Department of Geology, Khallikote Autonomous College, Berhampur-760001.

IYPE is a joint venture of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and former Earth Science Division of UNESCO. The main thrust of this year is to highlight and create awareness and research on ten socially relevant themes viz., groundwater, health, climate, hazards, resources, megacities, ocean, soil, deep earth and life.

In this era of electronics and information technology, advanced and updated knowledge on geo-science & environment should reach students, researchers, academicians, geoscientists and technocrats of our country to develop and enhance the potential of human resource to interdisciplinary knowledge based society, which would in turn have some contributions to solve societal problems.

#### Objectives

The main objective of this National Programme is to provide information to students, research scientists, academicians on advanced and updated knowledge & development in the field of geo- science & environment touching ten socially relevant themes viz., ground water, health, climate, hazards, resources, megacities, ocean, soil, deep earth and life along with IGEO and AGID thrust areas and other aspects of earth system science & environment followed by interactive programme through electronics and communication technology (online discussion, receipt of articles through e-mail and circulation, creation of a web site: <http://www.essforsociety.org> (under development), E-Quiz competition, development of geo-animation technology with 3-D live demo through software development, e-service to students for their employment in different companies, enterprises etc),

#### Procedure of registration

Students, research scientists, academicians and technocrats interested in this National Programme can register their names as members by sending resume / biodata

/curriculum vitae (passport/stamp size photograph, name, designation, present address, telephone/cell no, date of birth, educational qualification, experience, specialization etc) to; [egeologyteaching@rediffmail.com](mailto:egeologyteaching@rediffmail.com) for free registration.

### **Request**

Academicians, research scientists and geo-technocrats of our country and abroad are requested to come forward to extend their benign support and co-operation for successful implementation of this National Programme by contributing good articles (study/reference materials), relevant & strategic photographs, notes, geo-news, video footage, conference/seminar details and particulars on publication of books & journals and websites related to Earth System Science and other aforementioned themes to [egeologyteaching@rediffmail.com](mailto:egeologyteaching@rediffmail.com) followed by a soft copy in CD-ROM to the chief co-ordinator by post for circulation among 1000 readers at present.

### **Enquiry & Correspondence**

**Dr. B. Mishra**, Chief Coordinator, National Programme on E-Geo-science & Environment Teaching and Learning (EGETL), Science Communication Division, Indian Society for Earth, Planetary and Environmental Sciences (ISEPES), ChandrapravaStreet-2,Berhampur-760001,Orissa,India,

E-mail: [egeologyteaching@rediffmail.com](mailto:egeologyteaching@rediffmail.com): [bmishrageol@rediffmail.com](mailto:bmishrageol@rediffmail.com)

Tel: +91-0680-2223966, Cell: 094384 68934 , 094379 73748

Joint Co-ordinator –

**Dr. V. Balaram**, Vice-president, ISEPES ; Joint Coordinator of the National Programme and Scientist G & Head, Geo- Chemistry Group, National Geophysical Research Laboratory (NGRI), Hyderabad-500 007,Andhra Pradesh, E-mail: [balaramv1951@yahoo.com](mailto:balaramv1951@yahoo.com), Tel:+91- 040-2717014 (O), 040-23434800 (R)

**Dr. B. Mishra**

**GEO-SPECTRUM** – A Journal of Indian Society for Earth, Planetary and Environmental Sciences (ISEPES)

Web site : <http://www.geospectrum.org>

### **NEWS FROM CANADA**

Christy Vodden continues to keep Canadian Geoscience Education Network – CGEN members up to date with the latest happenings in Canada and around the world. She has advertised some fantastic teaching resources including the one below.

“ and for everyone, a game on a deadly serious topic: the Stop Disasters Game (from the UN's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction group) at: <http://www.stopdisastersgame.org>.

Check out their website on: <http://cgen.bio.ns.ca/>

### **NEWS FROM THE UK** **Earthlearning**

This will be of interest to educators looking for low cost teaching ideas or an opportunity to connect into an international community of Earth science educators.

Chris King, an IGEO past president, makes the following excellent offer. His group at Keele University will be publishing a new idea for teaching Earth science every week during the International Year of Planet Earth, 2008. The ideas are for use in classrooms

that have minimal resources and should develop scientific understanding and thinking skills. Each one will encourage discussion through a blog to develop a global network of those interested in Earth science education.

Click on <http://earthlearningidea.com> to see how it works. You can provide feedback through the blog <http://earthlearningidea.blogspot.com>. If you would like to hear more, or sign up, the email contact is [info@earthlearningidea.com](mailto:info@earthlearningidea.com).

Please pass this along to any educators in your circle who might be interested.

### **FIG Workshop E-learning - 11-13 June 2008**

Sharing Good Practices. E-learning in Surveying, Geo-information Sciences and Land Administration

This workshop is jointly organised by the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), Commission 2 and Commission 7, and the International Institute for Geo-information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)

This international workshop aims to bring together professionals engaged in eLearning and distance education in Surveying, Geoinformation Sciences and Land Administration. The workshop is meant to be an active event, offering the participants the opportunity to demonstrate and/or try out good practices and to share their experiences. eLearning in Surveying, Geo-information Sciences and Land Administration in technologically less advanced countries will get special attention. Also, the changing requirements priorities in the application fields will be addressed.

ITC, Enschede, The Netherlands

E: [fig-elearning2008@itc.nl](mailto:fig-elearning2008@itc.nl)

I: [www.itc.nl/fig\\_elearning2008](http://www.itc.nl/fig_elearning2008)

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 by **April 1, 2008**. Please contact me if your contact details have changed or if you wish to be removed from the membership list.

**IGEO Newsletter editor:**

**Dr Bronte Nicholls:** [slab@internode.on.net](mailto:slab@internode.on.net)

**12/01/08**