

**INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION ORGANISATION (IGEO)
NEWSLETTER
1/14**

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

INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE SYLLABUS, TO BE ENCOUNTERED BY ALL PUPILS BY THE AGE OF 16 A JOINT IGEO/IUGS-COGE REPORT

This joint IGEO/IUGS-COGE report is available for download and can be used by anybody to enable planning and development of their own syllabus.

The syllabus is based on the following principles:

- it is based on existing curricula around the world since a syllabus based on existing curricula is most likely to be globally accepted
- the structure of the international syllabus is clearly apparent, even though such structure is not readily apparent in many existing curricula;
- the syllabus is concisely presented on just one page, since a concise syllabus is more likely to be acceptable to non-Earth science educators and teachers; more detail is also provided
- the syllabus does not aim to indicate progression.

The report can be found through clicking on [this link](#) as a 1.9Mb word file.

Chris King is to be congratulated for all his effort in collating this report.

7th GeoSciEd CONFERENCE – 2014 SEPTEMBER 5-9, 2014 UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD, HYDERABAD, INDIA

The 7th Quadrennial conference of IGEO will be held in India in September. Please check the website below for updates on the conference and contact details.

<http://geoscied2014.webs.com/>

Below is a message from the organisers that many of you would have received in as an attachment to an email:

Dear Colleagues

Greetings from India!

The International Geoscience Education Organization : IGEO; <http://www.geoscied.org/>

an affiliated organization of the International Union of the Geological Sciences, has the motto of promoting Earth Science education worldwide. One of the activities is the quadrennial International Conference on Geoscience Education (GeoSciEd). This conference has been successful in the past in bringing together leading academicians, scientists, researchers, graduate students and others whose mandate/interest is to promote geoscience education at the school-, college- and university-levels and among the general public on a single platform and facilitate intellectual interactions and discussions. The 7th edition of GeoSciEd is being organized in Hyderabad, India during September 5-9, 2014. We invite you to participate and present your contributions at this conference. Geoscience is an umbrella term that includes solid earth, atmosphere, oceans and astronomy.

Please click [here](#) for the 1st circular that gives details of the conference. Kindly share it with colleagues at your institution/organization and also forward it to your friends and colleagues in the region.

Looking forward to your participation and presentation at the 7th GeoSciEd Conference in Hyderabad, India.

Yours sincerely

Prof R Shankar
Mangalore University
Mangalagangothri, India
and
Prof A C Narayana
Hyderabad University
Hyderabad, India
(Organising Secretaries)

Proposed themes are:

1. INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE SYLLABUS

2. GEOSCIENCE TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

- a) Geoscience Teaching Practices - Classroom
- b) Geoscience Teaching Practices - Field
- c) Digital Learning in Geosciences

3. EXPERIENCES IN GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION:

- a) Geoscience Teaching in Primary Schools
- b) Geoscience Teaching in Secondary Schools
- c) Geoscience Teaching in Universities
- d) International Earth Science Olympiad
- e) Geoscience Education Experiences in the context of Environmental pollution.

4. GEOSCIENCE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMS - INITIAL AND CONTINUING

5. GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION THROUGH NON-FORMAL MEANS:

- a) Geoscience Learning in Out-of-school context (such as Geotourism and Geoparks, Natural History Museums, Science Centers, Nature Centers, Home and Community Centers)
- b) Geological Hazards Education and Communication

ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS:

1. Geoscience Education Research: Outlook for the next four years
2. Geoethics: A new point of view for Geoscience Education
3. The impact of IESO and other competitions on Geoscience Education worldwide
4. Geosciences in international assessment tests for students
5. Geoscience Education in the context of local environment and society
6. What type of Geoscience Education is relevant to the Developing Countries?

New sessions may be added depending on the papers that will be received. Papers may be presented either orally or in the form of posters.

Important Dates

Deadline for submission of Abstracts	July 15, 2014
End of early-bird registration(@ 200 Euros; @ 100 Euros for accompanying persons) - August 1, 2014	August 1, 2014
Start of registration (@ 250 Euros; @ 150 Euros for accompanying persons) - August 2, 2014	August 2, 2014
Notification of acceptance of Abstracts	July 25, 2014

For further details and to obtain the first circular please contact ineso555@gmail.com cc: rshankar_1@yahoo.com

8th INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE OLYMPIAD IESO 2014 - SPAIN

Thanks need to be passed on to our Spanish colleagues for organising IESO 2014. On April 10, the formal announcement of IESO 2014, to be celebrated in Palace of La Magdalena, Santander (Spain), 22-29 September was made. For further details please contact:

COC - Core Organizing Committee

8th International Earth Science Olympiad - IESO 2014

Magdalena Palace - International University Menendez Pelayo

Santander - Spain

IESO2014-Spain@ucm.es

oiict@ucm.es

35TH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS (IGC)
27TH AUGUST – 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2016 CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

For further information please visit:

<http://www.35igc.org/html/index.html>

More information about the Geoscience education sessions will be provided over the next few months.

REPORT ON THE 7th INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
IESO 2013 - INDIA

Incredible IESO in Incredible India

The International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO) which was the brain child of Korean Earth Scientists in 2003, successfully celebrated its 7th anniversary in Mysore, India during September 11-19th, 2013. The goals of IESO are to raise student interest in and public awareness of earth science, to enhance earth science learning of students, and to identify talented and gifted students in earth science. International Earth Science Olympiad is one among the 14 renowned international science olympiads. It is an annual competition for secondary school students conducted in the form of theory (written) and practical tests. India is the 7th country to host IIESO after South Korea, Taiwan, The Philippines, Indonesia, Italy and Argentina. About 100 participants from 27 countries were tested for their knowledge and analytical skills in subjects spanning all the major branches of earth science like Geosphere, Hydrosphere, Atmosphere and Astronomy. Seven international groups of students with diverse backgrounds and cultures took part in the International Team Field Investigation (ITFI). Each team was assigned to investigate a geological site with a specific task to accomplish under the guidance of a team leader. A new cooperative activity was introduced in the 7th edition of IESO, namely The Earth System Project. In addition to the academic activities, the participating teams including the mentors and observers were taken out for sightseeing in and around Mysore. They also visited local schools in Mysore for academic interaction with school children. They were treated to cultural programs, showcasing the rich Indian culture and heritage.

The historic event was organized by the Geological Society of India (established on 28th May, 1958), a reputed professional society of Earth Scientists, which aims to promote the cause of advanced studies and research in all branches of Earth System Science. The 7th IESO was inaugurated by Shri H.K. Patil, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka. Dr. Harsh. K. Gupta, President, Geological Society of India, presided over the function. Dr. Shailesh Nayak, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, appreciated the venture and extolled IESO as a forum to forge friendship and partnership among international youth. Dr. Harsh K. Gupta said that Earth Sciences have emerged as the most important subject of the 21st

century and that the glacial retreat was a warning of the waning health of the planet. Mr Nagarajan Srinivasan, Associate Vice-President and Head, Development Centre, Infosys Ltd., Mysore, Dr. Sylke Hlawatsch, Chair, IESO, Dr K S Rangappa, Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore, Arunima Sinha, the first female amputee to climb Mt. Everest and Raghav Joneja, the youngest Indian to climb Mt. Everest, and Council members of the Geological Society of India graced the event. The Plenary Talk by Professor R Vaidhyanadhan, an eminent personality in Earth Sciences was a part of the Olympiad. Shri R.H. Sawkar, Chairman, Organising Committee welcomed the gathering and Prof. R. Shankar, Chairman, Scientific Committee of IESO-2013 proposed a vote of thanks. The entire event was financially supported by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and organized on the beautiful campus of Infosys Ltd., Mysore.

Students who excelled in the competitions were awarded at the closing ceremony. The Best Performance Award went to Sirawich of Thailand (Geosphere category), Sangwoo Han of South Korea (Astronomy category) and Taigo Ando of Japan (Hydrosphere and Atmosphere category). Gold medals were awarded to the top 10 % of the students: Hee Jun (South Korea), Pasquale Miglionico (Italy), Chun Ju (Taiwan), Marius (Romania), Pinchun (Taiwan), Ju Ho (South Korea), Chen-yen (Taiwan), Taigo (Japan), Sangwoo (South Korea) and Sirawich (Thailand). The next 20% students were given Silver medals and next 30% Bronze medals. The top three teams in the ITFI and Earth System Project also received awards.

The 8th edition of the International Earth Science Olympiad will be held in Spain, the 9th in Russia (2015) and the 10th in Japan (2016).



Report by:

R. Shankar (rshankar_1@yahoo.com) and R. Baskar (rbaskargjuhisar@yahoo.com),
India

The International Earth Science Olympiad: A way to raise public awareness of geoscience, particularly amongst younger people and enhance the quality of geoscience education internationally.

<http://www.episodes.co.in/contents/2013/september/pp235-239.pdf>

IN MEMORIAM – DAVID THOMPSON

IGEO members will be saddened to hear that David Thompson passed away on the 21st July, 2013. David co-hosted the first International Geoscience Education Conference in Southampton in 1993 and was awarded Honorary Membership of IGEO in 1997. You can read the introduction to this award at: <http://www.geoscient.org/awards/thomson.htm>. His contribution to Earth science education was pivotal over many years, and he will be very sadly missed.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES (IUGS)

Please note that IGEO is officially affiliated with the IUGS and we thank them for their on-going support.

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

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

EARTHLEARNINGIDEA – 500 TRANSLATIONS AND MORE THAN A MILLION DOWNLOADS

Each January, the Earthlearningidea Team reviews progress and reports on the findings to the wider geoscience education community.

The 2014 January review has shown that:

- 173 Earthlearningideas have been published in English on the www.earthlearningidea website;
- more than a million pdf downloads have been recorded (Figure 1);
- Earthlearningideas are being translated from English into eight other languages (or nine, if you count the single Tamil translation);
- the total number of translations so far (Figure 2) is more than 500;
- the Earthlearningidea blog has been accessed in 184 countries (top 10 countries in Box 1) and nearly 8000 towns and cities worldwide;
- the latest series of ideas to be published in English include: geological time, soils, minerals, the solar system and the water cycle;
- series planned for next year include: sedimentary structures, rock cycle games and fieldwork.

The Earthlearningidea Team would like to thank all those who have suggested ideas, who are writing the translations (particularly Xavier Juan in Spain, who has amazingly

produced 39 Spanish (Castilian) and 61 Catalan translations over 2013 for the same fee we get paid ourselves – nothing at all!) and who are our regular users and supporters. If you didn't open, download and use the ideas – it wouldn't be worth our while publishing them.

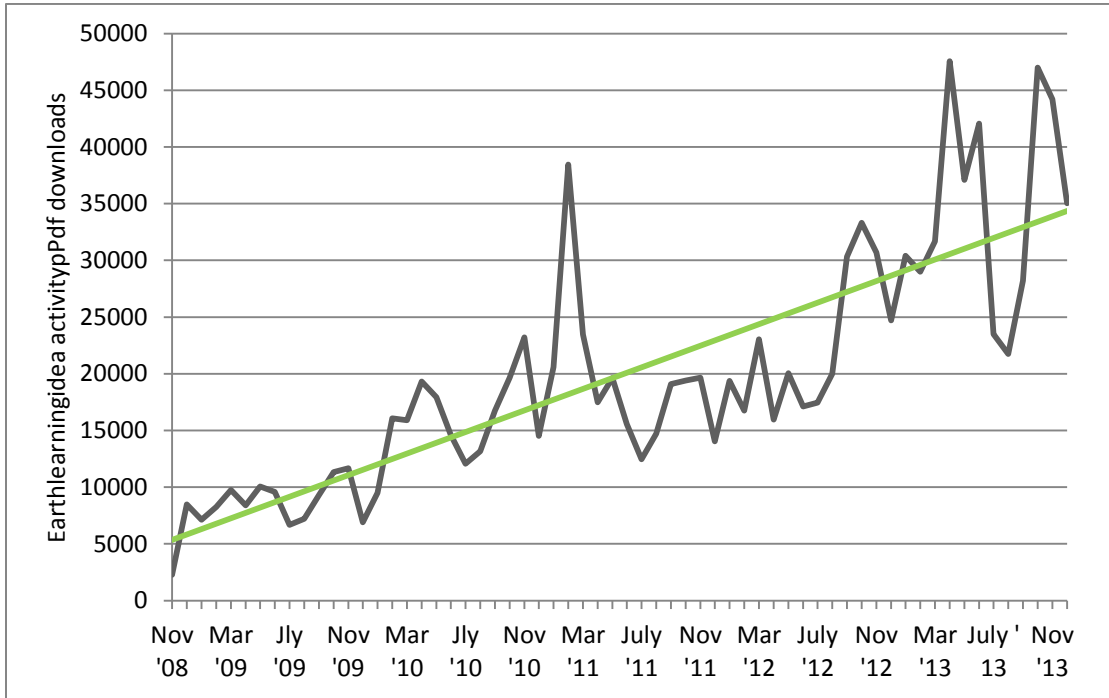


Figure 1. The number of Earthlearningidea pdf downloads by December 2013, totalling 2,230,511.

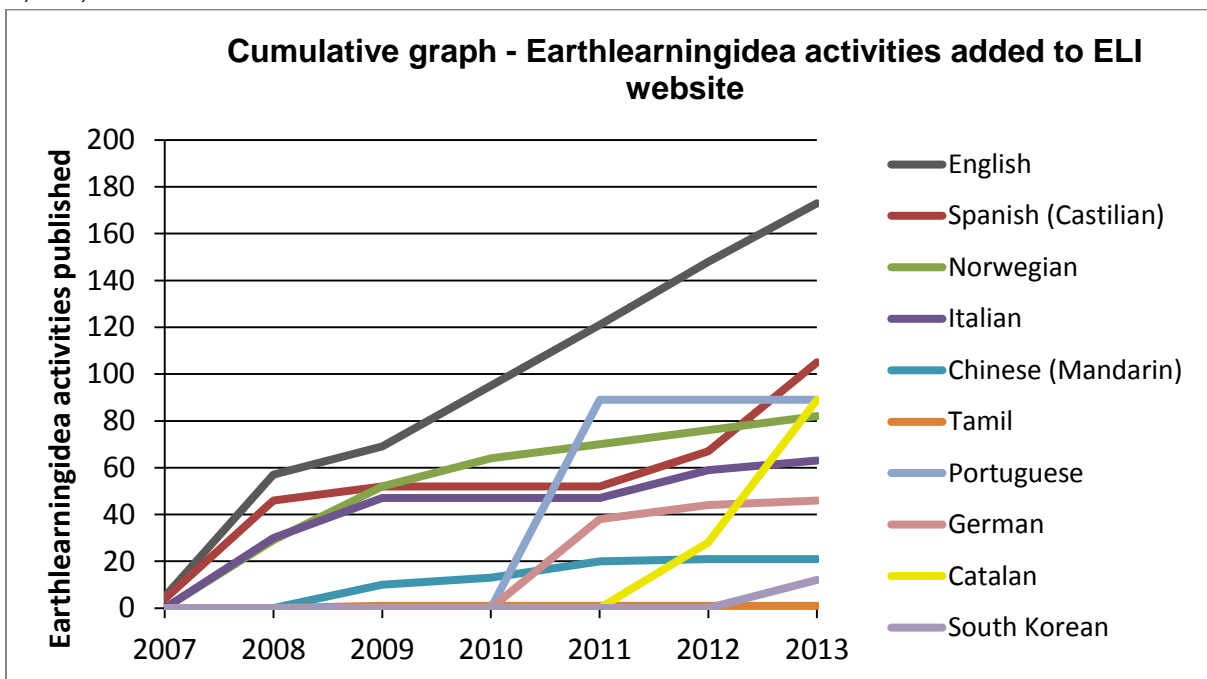


Figure 2 The number of Earthlearningidea translations by December 2013.

1. United States
2. United Kingdom
3. India
4. Canada
5. Spain
6. Italy
7. Australia
8. Philippines
9. Germany
10. New Zealand

Box 1. The 'top ten' countries accessing the Earthlearningidea blog.

Report by Chris King, Peter Kennett and Elizabeth Devon.

Editor's note: On behalf of Geoscience educators around the world, I would like to thank the Earthlearning team for their efforts in providing engaging, easy to follow and resource ideas for classroom teaching.

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 **4th July, 2014**. 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