

**INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION ORGANISATION (IGEO)  
NEWSLETTER  
1/09**

Web address: <http://www.geoscied.org/>  
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**GEOSCIED VI – JULY, 2010, SOUTH AFRICA  
More information to be released soon!**

**GEOSCIENCE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT (GeoDev)  
Dhaka Bangladesh - October 26-31, 2009**

Geoscientists from all over the world are cordially invited to attend the International conference on GEOSCIENCE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT (GeoDev) to be held in Dhaka Bangladesh on October 26-31, 2009. The conference will be organized jointly by AGID (Association of Geoscientists for International Development), BGS (Bangladesh Geological Society), GSB (Geological Survey of Bangladesh), and IGEO (International Geoscience Education Organization).

**The date of submission of Registration Form and Abstracts for the International Conference on Geoscience for Global Development (GeoDev) have been extended upto 31 May 2009**

#### **THEMES**

##### **Development Activities**

- Geoscience for development activities: Development of cities & industries and construction of highways, dams & bridges.
- Impact of development activities on the natural environment.
- Natural hazards assessment and infrastructure development.
- Climate change, ecology and bio-diversity

##### **Natural Resources**

- Exploration, exploitation and management of natural resources.
- Combating energy crises and researching alternative sources.
- Water resources development, management & quality assurance.
- Role of NGO's in natural resource management and environmental protection.

##### **Geoscience Education**

- Geoscience education and awareness for mankind.
- Women in geo-education and geo-development.
- New approaches in geoscience education & research.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

- Acceptance of Abstract by **15 April 2009**
- Submission of full paper by **30 June 2009**

- Second & Final Announcement by **15 July 2009**

For further information, contact:

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**33<sup>rd</sup> IGC OSLO - 2008**

IGEO held an academic session during IGC33 in Oslo, with the theme of 'Geoscience education for the 21st century'. There was a total of 32 presentations, twelve oral and 20 poster. . After the session, the International Council Meeting of IGEO was held with discussions and reports, including the progress report of the next GeoSciEd VI International Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2010, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> International Earth Science Olympiad, and measures to expand membership and business of IGEO, including developing a new global geoscience syllabus.

**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/>

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

**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>

**THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE OLYMPIAD  
IESO 2009 – Taiwan**

For information please go to:

<http://www.ieso2009.tw/main/home/home.html>

## Report for the THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

### Bicol Hosts “Cooptition in Addressing Climate Change” Through The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Earth Science Olympiad

*Miguel C.Cano*



For the first time in history, the Philippines hosted an International Science Olympiad – the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Earth Science Olympiad (2<sup>nd</sup> IESO) --- with the theme, “Cooptition in Addressing Climate Change,” on Aug 31- September 8, 2008. USA, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines participated in the event. Each delegation is composed of four high school students (18 years old and below), two mentors and observers. Parents from Singapore also came. There were 67 international participants.

The Olympiad had two main activities, the “competition” (written and practical tests) and the so-called “cooperation” (field investigation). The competition phase was held at the UP National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development (UP NISMED), Diliman, Quezon City from September 1 and 2. All the participants then flew to Legazpi City on September 3 to commence the cooperation phase of the Olympiad. For five days, the participants were billeted at Blacksands Beach Resort in Sto. Domingo.

The main activities in Bicol started with the Welcome Program, where the BU president Dr. Fay Lea Patria Lauraya greeted the participants in 6 languages with a fair amount of dexterity. Mayor Noel Rosal, likewise, welcomed the participants to Legazpi and

sponsored a meal on the third day of the Olympiad. Mr. Nong Rangasa of CIRCA and Mr. Eduardo Laguerta of PHIVOLCS also graced the occasion. The BU-sponsored Welcome Dinner at Casablanca followed where participants were entertained by the Bungcul Singers, Circuit Dancers, and other talents from BU. Student Olympiad participants even had the chance to show that they could dance too when they danced with the Circuit dancers.

On the second day, the fieldwork at Mayon's Mabinit channel proved a challenge to the Olympiad trekkers. What



delightfully amazed the foreign participants was the use of the colorful jeepneys instead of the conventional four-wheel drive and a wide-brimmed *caragumoy* hat instead of the usual field cap. Notwithstanding basking under the sun for an hour or so and the kilometric trek, the participants enjoyed this aspect of the Olympiad, especially when they finally stood before the awesome lava front. A respite was provided by a stint at Cagsawa Ruins and

Mayon Resthouse. The mayor of Tabaco, Ms. Krisel Lagman-Luistro, provided native delicacies (*suman* and *halo halo*) and recreation while at the Resthouse.



A trip to BacMan Geothermal plant in Sorsogon marked the third day of the Olympiad in Bicol. The Energy Development Corporation (EDC), the former PNO, warmly welcomed the participants at their base camp. Tour to the BotongTwin Falls, the *Inang Maharang* Boiling Mud Pool, and the view deck made the participants want to stay for more days in the place. Perhaps of some divine intervention, Mayon had been showing her majestic beauty since the participants arrived in Legazpi. As such, the view deck at BacMan became the best spot for photo takers wanting to get the best picture of the cloud-free volcano. During the sumptuous meal sponsored by EDC, the participants were entertained by the live band of Basud Elementary School. This was followed by the presentations of the international teams; each team composed of members from each of the participating



countries. Each presentation was about the team's field investigation in Mayon and their interview of some locals; dubbed "Living with Fire: Life on the Slopes of Mayon."

The penultimate day in Bicol was the highlight of the cooperation aspect of the Olympiad – the Round Table Discussion on Climate Change. The international teams were joined by local high schools in Bicol including Tabaco National High School, MORMS, Philippine Science High School- GOA, Legazpi City High School, Aquinas Science Oriented HS, BUCE-ILTS, among others. The participants enjoyed the discussion with Hon. Gov. Joey Salceda who talked on the initiatives of the Province of Albay on Climate Change adaptation and mitigation. Each group presented their outputs on addressing various issues of Climate change. Dinner and entertainment were provided by Gov Salceda at the Governor's House.



The most awaited part of the Olympiad was the awarding ceremonies. Like the first International Earth Science Olympiad in Korea in 2007, Taiwan and Korea again bagged the gold medals. Our very own Philippine team who were winners of the 8<sup>th</sup> Earth



Science Quiz sponsored by the Earth Science Teachers Association of the Philippines (ESTAP) received bronze medals. The team from Taiwan performed a modern dance to, sort of, invite all the participants to the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Earth Science Olympiad in Taipei, Taiwan in September 13-22, 2009. Prof. Miguel C. Cano, faculty of Bicol University and chairman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Earth Science Olympiad gave the closing remarks, thanking all the

participants, the sponsors (DOST-SEI, Vibal Publishing House, Hapee Toothpaste, Philex Mining, Hope Christian HS, PNOC-EDC BacMan, PHIVOLCS), the governor of Albay, the mayors of Legazpi, Tabaco, and Sto. Domingo and Bicol University, through the president, dean of the College of science, faculty, and students for hosting this aspect of the Olympiad. Everyone deserves a gold!

## NEWS FROM INDIA

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

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

**Dr. B. Mishra**

## 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.

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

## NEWS FROM THE UK Earthlearning update

There have been many Earthlearningidea developments since our update in August 2008. By early January 2009, we had nearly 10,000 visits to our blog from 120 countries and we have decided to continue the project this year. However we are now asking you to contribute; details of what to do can be found on the home page of our website [www.earthlearningidea.com](http://www.earthlearningidea.com). Throughout 2009 we shall be publishing one new activity per month. Also, on the home page, you will find an invitation to evaluate the ideas; the results of these evaluations should help future educators to use their time and resources most effectively to support global learning.

The posts on the blog <http://earthlearningidea.blogspot.com> will continue throughout 2009, so please send us your comments and ideas. We are hoping to extend our 'extension ideas' based on your suggestions on the various activities.

Some extracts from the comments on the blog:-

**From Italy** – *"I'd like to thank Dr.Greco (responsible for Italian translations) and ELI: the interactive methodology is very interesting and easy to learn. I like it. I'm sure my students will enjoy the activities very much too."*

**From Sri Lanka** – *"I am highly appreciative of these valuable teaching aids related to Geoscience education. These Earthlearningideas are very nice and I hope that all the ideas are very useful to educate school children. The students can simply learn basics of Earth Science by experimenting with these ideas."*

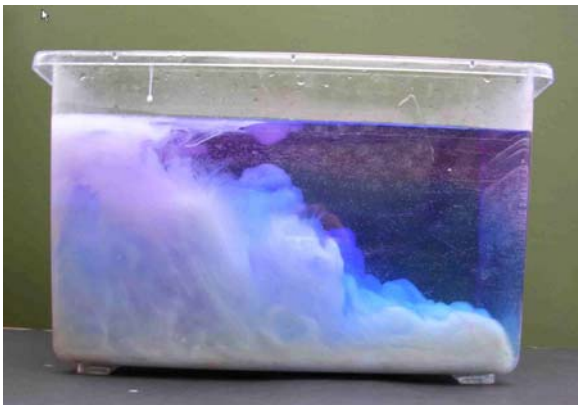
**From Taiwan** – *"I think there are many teachers from Taiwan who have visited this excellent blog and used the activities. I think the language is not a problem for teachers in Asia."*



This photo is from the Earthlearningidea 'Dinosaur death – did it die or was it killed? Was this a Cretaceous crime scene? – using rock and fossil evidence to find out'.

**From UK**

"I just wanted to say what an excellent activity this latest dinosaur forensic geology activity will make for my A level (16 – 18 years) students. Great idea. Thanks for the resource."



This photo is from Earthlearningidea 'High flow, low flow?: atmosphere and ocean in a tank. Hot, cold and particle-filled density currents as they flow in the atmosphere and ocean'

**From USA** - *The activity was great fun and provided a lot of meat for discussion and anticipation/prediction of what might occur; a good thought-provoking activity with a lot of different applications - atmosphere, oceans, deltas, turbidity currents, and fun as well.*

Photo: Peter Kennett

We have added a new Contents page to the website based on keywords, either listed alphabetically or in one of eight categories. This should make it easier and quicker for teachers to find the topic they want. Also, there are three new links: a list of associated, useful websites and an acknowledgements page. In the latter, we mention particularly our friends and colleagues who are translating Earthlearningideas into Spanish, Norwegian and Italian. Is there anyone else who could do some translations for us? Also, please look at the third new link showing 'ELI around the world', the countries and cities where ELI is most being used. Can you help Earthlearningidea to reach the countries still shown in white on the world map?

**Earthlearningidea Team**

Chris King, Professor of Earth Science Education, Keele University  
Peter Kennett, Earth Science Education Unit, Keele University  
Elizabeth Devon, Earth Science Education Unit, Keele University

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.

#### OTHER CONFERENCES

#### **6th European Congress on Regional Geoscientific Cartography and Information Systems – EUREGEO**

[http://www.lfu.bayern.de/veranstaltungen/euregeo2009/scientific\\_programme/index.htm](http://www.lfu.bayern.de/veranstaltungen/euregeo2009/scientific_programme/index.htm)

#### **XIX Congress of the Carpathian Balkan Geological Association**

The CBGA 2010 Congress will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece, on **23-26 September 2010**

<http://www.cbga2010.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 by **June 1, 2009**. Please contact me if your contact details have changed or if you wish to be removed from the membership list.

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**20/04/09**