

IUGS Electronic Bulletin#23
August 16, 2007

IYPE News

1. The number of countries that established a National IYPE Committee raised to 47
2. One new International Partner joined IYPE: the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG)
3. The official Global IYPE Launch will take place on 12 and 13 February 2008 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The Event will be chaired by DG Matsuura. There will be four debates (Resources, Hazards, Soils & Cities, and System Earth). We expect to invite 700 guests, including award-winning 350 students.
4. All 18-22 years old students are invited to submit an essay, poem, or other personal contribution the one of the 10 themes of the IYPE to their National Committees, or, if no such committee exist yet, to the IYPE Secretariat at NGU in Norway, before November 15, 2007. The National IYPE Committees will select the best (maximum) 5 works and (normally) collect the funds to cover the trips of the award-winning students to Paris. Rules and guidelines can be downloaded from www.yearofplanetearth.org.
5. A second Board meeting was held on 20 and 21 June in Paris.

33rd IGC News

33rd IGC registration opens on September 1:

September 1 is the opening date for registration, abstract submission, and application for the Geohost stipend programme to the 33rd International Geological Congress. The scientific programme consists of more than 350 symposia and over 50 different pre – and post-Congress excursions are being offered. These go to all the Nordic countries as well as to Svalbard, Greenland and NW Russia. The programme is updated regularly on the Congress website (www.33igc.org), and on September 1, the scientific programme will be split in the first and second part of the Congress for those who choose to register for only a half conference. 33IGC also offers a large area for the exhibition GeoExpo 2008. The invitation to exhibitors is available on the website, or can be sent in the mail on request to geoexpo@33igc.org. When registration opens, more details will also be available on other parts of the Congress arrangement, such as accommodation, social and cultural programme, youth programme, etc. The 33 IGC organisers offer rooms for business meetings, and particularly invite all IUGS affiliated organisations and projects to plan their meetings of 2008 for the Congress. Requests for this are to be directed to the Secretary General (as@ngi.no). Leaders of IUGS affiliated organisations and projects should also encourage their members to register for the Congress!

For updates on all parts of the 33IGC programme, visit www.33igc.org.

Earthlearningidea needs your help:

We want to forward to you the following message from Earthlearningidea:

Earthlearningidea will publish a new teaching idea every week of 2008, the International Year of Planet Earth. The ideas are aimed at teacher trainers in science and geography who will be training teachers in the teaching of Earth science - but we hope they will be widely used by classroom teachers who have access to the internet too. The ideas will be accompanied by a blog to encourage discussion around each of

them as a means of building up a worldwide discussion network of Earth science educators.

Each of the ideas involves simple practical activities or ‘thought experiments’ that require minimal resources so that they can be used in almost any classroom. The activities are designed to educate pupils about the Earth, in ways that will engage and interest them, whilst teaching important scientific or geographical principles and developing thinking skills – and they should be fun as well! The ideas are being developed by voluntary effort, since no funding is immediately available, and are based on the development of a free website, <http://www.earthlearningidea.com>. By clicking on the website you will get access to a sample activity (see photo below). We would welcome feedback through the blog on this initiative and on the sample activity (see <http://earthlearningidea.blogspot.com>).

Earthlearningidea needs your help to contact teacher educators in your country or region to alert them to the ideas as they appear and to encourage them to discuss the ideas through the blog. If you want to add the email addresses of ordinary classroom teachers who might be interested at the same time – that will be fine.

For each contact, please email us the:

*Country *Name *Email address *Institution name
of the individual at info@earthlearningidea.com

Also, Earthlearningidea plans to set up a support group of scientists/ geographers/ educationalists who will respond to technical queries raised through the blog and so enhance the discussions that will develop. If you would be willing to help Earth science educators across the world with any queries they may have, which might range from the trivial to the profound – please send your email address and area of expertise through an email to info@earthlearningidea.com.

Meeting

ProGeo TAIEX Workshop INFRA25176

New Practices in Geodiversity for a Sustainable Development of the Regions,

The meeting is held 8 to 10 October 2007 in Sibiu, Romania. If you are interested in participating in this workshop please submit your *registration form* before 5 September 2007. Costs of travel and lodging will be paid by the EU if you are a member of one of the TAIEX country involved in this workshop. For further information, please contact: jonas.satkunas@lgt.lt

Geoheritage Journal

A consortium of IUGS affiliates and commissions has reached an agreement with Springer Verlag to start publication of a new Geoheritage journal in 2008 (four 100-page parts per annum, in colour).

Sylvi Haldorsen
IUGS Vice President