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IYPE GLOBAL LAUNCH EVENT

<http://www.yearofplanetearth.org>

The IYPE Global Launch event took place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris February 12-13. Leading politicians, heads of geoscientific organizations and many others participated in this successful launch. In his address the UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura noted that IYPE is a timely and pertinent initiative. Never before in the history has the Earth been subject to so rapid and profound changes, both in terms of the physical environment and in social transformations.

Students from all over the world had responded to The International Student Contest and contributed approximately 130 essays, poems, drawings and video messages. Three out of the award-winning submissions were selected to perform or display and comment upon their work on stage during the Global Launch. This and the large student choir singing the Geo Song "Mother Earth" were two of the many highlights during the IYPE Launch Event.

The scientific sessions included the following Themes:

1. Population growth and climate change challenges for planet Earth.
2. Earth resources: threat or treat?
3. Geohazards: minimizing risk, maximizing awareness.

In his address the UNESCO Director General Koïchiro Matsuura trusted that the activities of the Year of the Planet Earth would lead to a long overdue recognition of the important contribution of the Earth sciences to society.

THE IYPE AFRICA LAUNCH

The Launch of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) in Africa is set to take place in Arusha, Tanzania 8-9 May 2008.

FIRST WORLD YOUNG YEARTH SCIENTISTS (Y.E.S.) CONGRESS 2009.

<http://www.giovanigeologi.it/iype.asp>

YES Congress will take place in Autumn 2009 and will last four days. During the Congress young earth-scientists (under 35 yrs) from different backgrounds and nations will discuss future trends in earth-system science, comparing also job/research future opportunities in respective countries. The Congress will be organized on the bases of different disciplinary roundtables going on in parallel. The different roundtables will allow young representatives from primary geological associations, institutions, universities, young leaders in politics,

administrative bodies, etc. from around the world to sit down together and discuss issues affecting the world, in order to individuate a short list of long-term international actions to be taken, involving their respective institutions. The aim of the congress is also to create a long-term strong inter-cultural network to help future improvement of research and working opportunities globally for young geo scientists and professionals. For more information, look at the website:

33RD INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

<http://www.33igc.org/coco/>

More than 6000 abstracts were submitted before the March 7 deadline. You may still submit abstracts, but oral presentations are no longer guaranteed: this depends on time available at the symposia. There is, however, space available in the poster sessions. If you have submitted an abstract, please remember to register as a Congress participant. The deadline for early registrations at the lowest rate has been extended to April 30. Because of limited hotel capacity in Oslo, it is important to book accommodation early. The Local Organizing Committee urges participants to make their hotel booking online when registering for the Congress.

IUGS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The 58th IUGS Executive Committee meeting was held in Marrakech, Morocco, March 17-21.

Sylvi Haldorsen
IUGS Vice President