

ICSU EARTH SYSTEM RESEARCH PRIORITIES AND VISIONING PROCESS

What are the next-generation science questions in Earth system research? In the context of mounting concern and greater public and private willingness to take action against global environmental change, what should Earth system research focus on over the next decade? The Earth System Visioning process is designed to find answers by first collecting the broad spectrum of different views across disciplines and parts of the world and then focusing these down through a peer review process into a set of major international research priorities. The first step is to identify the breadth of perspectives on the critical themes in Earth system research.

The International Council for Science (ICSU) is currently spearheading a consultation process in cooperation with the International Social Science Council (ISSC) to engage that scientific community to explore options and propose implementation steps for a holistic strategy on Earth system research. This research strategy will both encourage scientific innovation and address policy needs. ICSU and ISSC represent the international non-governmental natural and social science community. The outcomes of the consultation process should have a major influence on Earth system research for the next decade and beyond. It will thus have significant implications for all stakeholders with an interest in conducting, supporting, or using science in this field. For this reason, the process is designed to engage all groups in multiple ways. The web consultation (from 15 July to 15 August 2009) at <<http://visioning.icsu.org>> is the first such engagement.

The consultation process is founded on the philosophy that form should follow function. It first focuses on the urgent scientific questions, and then considers the institutional context, including the connections to relevant bodies (e.g., stakeholders, research initiatives, conventions, and assessment processes) in order to shape an approach that will best engage the Earth system research community on the identified needs. The final step will examine how to make the transition from the current approach to the needed approach. Throughout the three steps, broad consultation is emphasized, as is the participation of all stakeholders including the co-sponsors of global environmental change programmes, other organizations that contribute to Earth system research, scientists from all nations, and early career scientists who will increasingly lead us into the future of Earth system research. The ICSU reviews are available as follows:

The World Climate Research Programme

http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2352_DD_FILE_WCRP_Review_2009.pdf

The International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme

http://www.icsu.org/Gestion/img/ICSU_DOC_DOWNLOAD/2351_DD_FILE_IGBP_Review_2009.pdf
(Item Courtesy The IUGG Electronic Journal Volume 9 No. 8 (1 August 2009))

ICSU CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

ICSU and its global biodiversity programme – DIVERSITAS – are working with IUCN to collect the views of the scientific community on a proposal for a new Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). IPBES is proposed to be a mechanism for assessing biodiversity and ecosystems, similar to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It has gathered considerable political support and the current timetable is that a decision on its establishment will take place in the latter half of 2010. Readers are encouraged to submit their views on IPBES by completing an online questionnaire, which can be found at <www.IUCN.org/IPBES>. Could you also help circulate this link to any potentially interested scientists and institutions that you are aware of. The deadline for submissions is 13 September 2009.

UNESCO POSITION AVAILABLE - PROGRAMME SPECIALIST (EARTH SCIENCES)

The UNESCO Office in Nairobi, Kenya, is seeking applicants for this position (Post number AF/RP/KEN/SC/0003). The successful applicant will be responsible for Science and Technology

programmes in the African Region. Applications close 24 September 2009. For further information and electronic application forms please consult the UNESCO Web page <www.unesco.org/employment>. Candidates without access to internet may send a paper application by completing the official UNESCO CV form (available at Headquarters, UNESCO Offices, National Commissions in Member States, or any office of a United Nations Resident Representative) in English or French to Chief, HRM/RCR, UNESCO, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH -- IYPE UPDATE

Work on a set of state-of-the-art scientific books, to be published by Springer Verlag as an IYPE legacy, is in progress. The first book in the IYPE-SPRINGER Series on the themes of the International Year of Planet Earth is "New Frontiers in Integrated Solid Earth Sciences" (see: <<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences/geology/book/978-90-481-2736-8>>). This book highlights the achievements made in the field of Deep Earth during the IYPE triennium. Publication commitments from nine out of ten theme editors have been received. Negotiations are still in hand with respect to a volume on Soils.

Congratulations to Prof. Anne Buttimer, the former representative on the IYPE Board for IGU, who received the prestigious Gold VEGA Medal from the King of Sweden for her contributions to Humanistic Geography.

The IYPE Board has appointed Ted Nield as Goodwill Ambassador for IYPE for his outstanding services to the initiative and his superb role as Chair of the Outreach Programme Committee. Among many other things, Ted has been the person behind the IYPE science and outreach brochures both in terms of content and lay-out.

PlanetEarth Radio, an initiative by the USA National Committee for IYPE, completed the series of 10 radio programmes by adding the Earth & Health and Soils themes. The total number of impressions created through this network has been 120 Million and the number of headline impressions from the earthsky.org homepage was 2,379,116.

Plans for IYPE video displays on big screens in major cities (PlanetEarth TV, or PE TV) The first real PE TV performance is now scheduled for Hungary, in late August following on from the first video display at EGU in Vienna, in mid April. PE TV aims at transmitting the IYPE message to the public at large in short video messages including contributions by National Committees and some advertisements making this eventually a profitable operation for IYPE.

The Annual Fall meeting of The American Geophysical Union (AGU) held in San Francisco, California, USA, from 14 – 18 December will include an AGU Session on the IYPE, entitled "The Fruits of IYPE - Implementing Long-Term Activities". Preparations are in progress and Session Convenors have been selected. This Session will be chaired by Dr. Fred Spilhaus, former Executive Director of AGU. IYPE National Committees are invited to submit papers and to present posters on IYPE achievements in their countries. The deadline for abstracts is 3 September 2009.

For more IYPE activity regularly check the website at <http://www.yearofplanetearth.org>.

PUBLICATIONS, JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS

--The latest edition of The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) Electronic Journal is available at: <http://www.iugg.org/publications/ejournals>.

--The International Association of Hydrologists' "IAH Groundwater eNews" is available at online: http://www.iah.org/news_enews.asp.

--The "Earth Science India e-Journal" is now available on the web and can be viewed at <http://www.earthscienceindia.info/> <http://www.earthscienceindia.info>. This open access quarterly e-journal is a not-for-profit website under the umbrella of The Society of Earth Scientists and is devoted to the development of Earth/Environmental Sciences of India.

--The International Erosion Control Association (IECA) has their official journal publication "Erosion Control" available at: <http://www.ieca.org>.

--UNESCO Global Geoparks Network - keep up to date with current activities at <http://www.globalgeopark.org/publish/portal1/tab59/>

--The Earth Portal <http://www.earthportal.org> website information includes a free weekly newsletter that you can receive at: <http://www.earthportal.org/news/>

--Earthscan, has a new journal "Environmental Hazards" addressing the full range of extreme geological, hydrological, atmospheric and biological hazard events. For more information see: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=37213>. For Enquiries email to: journals@earthscan.co.uk.

--The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) Bulletin 114 (May 2009) is now available on the website - both in high resolution (13 Mb) and low resolution (5 Mb). See: <http://www.iuss.org/index.htm>.

--ProGEO The European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage publishes a quarterly newsletter ProGEO NEWS available online at <http://www.progeo.se/index.html>.

--The latest International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme NEWSLETTER of the can be download at: <http://www.igbp.net/page.php?pid=231>.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

For a listing of forthcoming geoscience meetings, conferences, and workshops of interest check the Calendar section of the IUGS website: <http://www.iugs.org/Calendar.html>

September 2-6, 2009. 13th Congress RCMNS (Regional Committee on Mediterranean Neogene Stratigraphy), Naples, Italy. The RCMNS is a Sub-Commission of the Neogene Stratigraphy within the IUGS - ICS. Congress details at: <http://www.sociedadgeologica.es/documentosPDF/CircularRCMNS2009.pdf>.

September 14-22, 2009. 3rd International Earth Science Olympiad 2009 (IESO 2009), National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei. IESO is an important activity of IGEO (International Geoscience Education Organization). More information at: <http://www.ieso2009.tw/main/home/home.html>. Online registration http://www.ieso2009.tw/main/home/1b_registration.html. For inquiries, please contact Chun-Yen Chang Chairman, IESO 2009 Local Organizing Committee (email: changcy@ntnu.edu.tw).

September 28 - October 10, 2009 "Advanced School on Non-linear Dynamics & Earthquake Prediction." Trieste, Italy. Online applications only at: http://cdsagenda5.ictp.trieste.it/full_display.php?ida=a08182.

October 5-8, 2009. 99th Annual Meeting of the Geologische Vereinigung (GV). Held at the Geoscience Centre GZG, Universität Göttingen, Germany. (NOTE originally scheduled for September 2009 but now changed to the dates shown) Theme "Earth Control on Planetary Life and Environment". For information see: <http://www.gv-tagung2009.de>. Queries to Gerhard Wörner email: gwoerne@gwdg.de.

October 5-9, 2009. 2nd International Symposium on the Geology of the Black Sea Region, Ankara, Turkey. Register through the website at: <http://www.mta.gov.tr/isgb/>. Email contacts: isgb@mta.gov.tr or okay@itu.edu.tr.

October 9-13, 2009. IUGG Scientific Workshop on 13 October to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the IUGG. Melbourne, Australia. At this venue the IUGG Executive Committee, and the IUGG Bureau, will hold their annual meetings from 9-12 October.

October 12-16, 2009. 3rd Hemispheric Conference on Medical Geology (3rd HCMedGeo), the Holiday Inn Convention Center, Montevideo, Uruguay. For queries email centeno@afip.osd.mil and/or tonycent@comcast.net, with a copy to nmanay@fg.edu.uy. For information on the program, excursions, participants, etc see: <http://www.geologiamedica.com/>

October 12-16, 2009. The AGID Working Group for Geoethics are Convenors of the International Section "GEOETHICS" being held at the Mining Příbram Symposium, Příbram, Czech Republic. For more information email Lidmila Nemcova at: lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz. The Geoethics newsletter can be downloaded at <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/search/search.cfm?q=agid+GeoethicsNews> Web: www.bgs.ac.uk/agid/

October 18-21, 2009. Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America, Portland, Oregon USA. Theme "From Volcanoes to Vineyards: Living with Dynamic Landscapes" Note this meeting will include an exhibit booth organised jointly by the IUGS and the 34th IGC. For details about the GSA meeting see: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2009/>.

October 18-23, 2009. The VIII International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry (8 ISEG), Ouro Preto City, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Jointly with the XII Brazilian Geochemical Congress (12 CBGq). The XII CBGq/VIII ISEG is a forum for discussion and scientific experience exchange in all congress topics. See: <http://www.12cbgq.ufop.br/12cbgq/presentation.htm>

October 25-28, 2009. First World Young Earth Scientists (Y.E.S.) Congress 2009, Beijing, China. Theme "The Young Earth Scientists for Society". This Congress is aimed at young representatives from geological associations and institutions, young leaders in politics, and delegates from administrative bodies to meet at the congress to establish a worldwide network between future leaders and policy makers and future earth science advisors. See: <http://www.yescongress2009.org>

October 26-31, 2009. International conference on GEOSCIENCE FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT (GeoDev). Dhaka, Bangladesh. Jointly organized by AGID (Association of Geoscientists for International Development), BGS (Bangladesh Geological Society), GSB (Geological Survey of Bangladesh), and IGEO (International Geoscience Education Organization). For more information see: <http://www.geosced.org/GeoDevFirstAnnouncement.doc>

November 12-15, 2009. GEOKARST 2009 International symposium on Geology, Natural Resources and Hazards in Karst Regions. Hanoi, Vietnam. This symposium is dedicated to better understanding the geology, natural resources, natural and anthropogenic hazards, in karst areas as well as wise use and sustainable management of karst areas. Sponsors include: UNESCO, Hanoi University of Mining and Geology, Vietnam; International Research Center on Karst, China; University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria; University of Roma "La Sapienza", Italy; International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Austria. Submission of extended abstracts closes 15 September 2009: Details at: <<http://www.humg.edu.vn/geokarst/>> Contact: Assoc. Prof Pham Quy Nhan. E-mail: phamquynhan@yahoo.com.

November 15-18, 2009. IAH-WRC Groundwater 2009 Conference. "Groundwater - Pushing the Limits". Somerset West, South Africa. Organised by the Geological Society of South Africa. See: <http://www.kruger-associates.com/groundwaterconference2009/home/default.asp>

November 20-22, 2009. The Planet Earth Lisbon Event 2009 (PELE2009). Hosted by the Portuguese Government, will be a major event in Lisbon, to commemorate the end of the IYPE triennium, and to launch new initiatives for the next decade building on the IYPE legacy. All IYPE International Partners will be invited to participate in the meeting with the IYPE leadership and to expose their products in a special exhibition. Fundraising has started and a professional Congress office selected. See <http://www.planetearthlisbon2009.org/>

November 22-26, 2009. XII Chilean Geological Congress, Santiago, Chile. Contact Sociedad Geologica (info@sociedadgeologica.cl) or see <http://www.congresogeologico2009.cl/public/?/>

December 1-5, 2009. The 6th Symposium on the Atlantic Iberian Margin -MIA 09. Geology Department, Oviedo University, Oviedo, Spain. See: <http://www.uniovi.es/mia09/index-ing.html>

December 3-4, 2009. 2nd International Workshop on Sinkhole Phenomena. Auditorium, ISPRA-Geological Survey of Italy, V. Curtatone 7, 00185. Rome, Italy. This workshop is free to attend and is open to all earth science related researchers. Online registration is necessary by 30 November 2009. Go to: http://www.isprambiente.it/site/en-GB/Archive/Events/Documents/090520_sinkhole.html

April 11-17, 2010. The 5th Conference of the African Association of Women Geoscientists. Grand-Bassam, Cote D'Ivoire. Theme: "Women & Geosciences for Peace" - organised by The African Association of Women Geoscientists (AAWG). For Circulars see: <http://www.aawg.org/AAWG/spip.php?rubrique20>

April 26-28, 2010. 1st International Applied Geological Congress. Department of Geology (IAGC), Faculty of Sciences Islamic Azad University - Mashhad Branch (IAUM) Mashhad-Iran. Theme "New Directions of Investigations in Earth Sciences and Related Subjects". Abstract submission by 15 September 2009. E-mail: info@iagc.ir; See <http://www.iagc.ir>

April 26-30, 2010. INTERPRAEVENT 2010 International Symposium in Pacific Rim. Taipei, Taiwan. The main topic of the symposium "Natural Disasters Mitigation Including Floods, Storms, Debris flows, Mass movements and Earthquakes etc." Deadline for submission of full-paper manuscript 30 November 2009. Abstracts submitted on the web at: <http://congress.interpraevent.at/> For more information see: <http://interpraevent2010.nchu.edu.tw/index.aspx>

July 5-11, 2010. INHIGEO 2010 Annual Meeting. Almadén-Iberian Pyritic Belt, Spain. Theme: "History of Mining and Mineral Resources". Details available by the end of 2009. See <http://www.inhigeo.org>.

May 21-23, 2010. Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM) Field Conference on "Microbial Mats in Siliciclastic Sediments from the Archean to Present" Denver, Colorado, and Dinosaur Ridge, Denver, USA. Abstract submissions start 1 September 2009 and closes 1 December 2009. Visit the website at: http://www.sepm.org/activities/researchconferences/microbial/microbial_home.htm Convenors: Nora Noffke nnoffke@odu.edu and Henry Chafetz hchafetz@uh.edu).

June 3-6, 2010. International Geobiology Conference 2010 (IGC2010). China University of Geosciences, Wuhan, China. Sponsors include: ICS, IPA, IGCP507, IGCP555, IGCP572, NSFC etc. Abstract submission deadline 10 December 2009. Full details at: <http://www.geobiology.net.cn/2010meeting>

July 10-18, 2010. The 8th International Conference of INZA on the Occurrence, Properties and Utilization of the Natural Zeolite "Zeolite 2010", Sofia, Bulgaria (including field-trip). See: <http://www.zeolite2010.org>

August 1-6, 2010. The 19th World Congress of Soil Science, Brisbane, Australia. Theme "Soil Solutions for a Changing World". Papers must be submitted using the on-line process no later than 31 October 2009. See: <http://www.19wcss.org.au/>

August 29–September 4, 2010. SEISMIX 2010. The 14th International Symposium on Deep Seismic Profiling of the Continents and their Margins. Cairns, Australia. Major sponsors – Geological Society of Australia, Geoscience Australia, and IGCP 559, Research School of Earth Sciences, Australian National University. Contact Seismix10@ga.gov.au. For further information see: <http://www.earthscrust.org/earthscrust/seismix2010.htm>

September 30–October 9, 2010. Society of Economic Geologists 2010 Conference (SEG2010). Keystone Resort, Colorado, USA. "The Challenge of Finding New Mineral Resources: Global Metallogeny, Innovative Exploration, and New Discoveries." Pre-and post field trips and short courses planned. For contacts and abstract dates etc visit <http://www.seg2010.org/>

August 22-26, 2011. 25th International Applied Geochemistry Symposium (IAGS 2011). Rovaniemi, Finland. Jointly organized by the Geology section of the Finnish Association of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering, the Geological Survey of Finland, the Institute of Geosciences-University of Oulu, the Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG), and with support from professionals in the mineral exploration industry. Deadline for abstracts 31 March 2011. Full details at: <http://www.iags2011.fi/>

With best regards,
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