



## **International Year of Planet Earth Q2 2010 Report**

Date: 29 August 2010  
To: Senior Advisors of the IYPE  
From: the Executive Director

This Report on the 2nd Quarter of 2010 covers the period 1 April to 30 June. This is the last Quarterly Report of the International Year of Planet Earth as the IYPE Corporation was dissolved on 30 June 2010.

### **Board**

The Certificate of Dissolution of non-stock Corporation of the International Year of Planet Earth has been duly authorized on 30 June 2010 in accordance with the provisions of Section 276 (b) of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware. On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the Board of IYPE Officers unanimously adopted a Resolution to keep one of the IYPE bank accounts open until the end of 2010 to collect any of the outstanding fees from International Partners.

### **Secretariat**

As IYPE was winding down, activities in the Trondheim office were reduced to a minimum. The Executive Director was involved in preparing the Final Reports for the UN and for the Initiators UNESCO and IUGS. Furthermore, he was involved in the IYPE Event at the UN Committee for Sustainable Development in New York City and in assisting National Committees, particularly in Angola and Cape Verde. Finally, he assisted in further developing the Planet Earth Institute as a legacy of the IYPE.

### **National/Regional Committees**

In Q2, there have been many interactions with National Committees concerning their contributions to the UN Report. 80 contributions, together 15,000 words, were compiled and will be integrated in the Final Report, to be released in October 2010. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, at the occasion of the European Geoscience Union, a meeting for National Committees was held in Vienna, Austria, in which some 12 NCs participated. That was followed by a Town Hall Meeting on the Global Geoscience Initiative. In April, the Executive Director visited Cape Verde to assist the National Committee in organizing a special Symposium on Geoparks, and mid June he participated in meetings with Ministers to assist the National Committee in Angola to organize new events.

### **Financial situation and fundraising**

By the end of Q2, IYPE paid all its debts with the exception of the approved pending invoices by the Executive Director for his services in the Secretariat.

### **Science Programme**

At present, two printed issues in the IYPE-Springer Legacy Series are available. "Changing Climates, Earth Systems and Society" by John Dodson (Ed), is ready for print and 'Medical Geology' by Selinus, Finkelman & Centeno is in the proofing stage. 'Groundwater' by Tony Jones (Ed) will be the 5th issue in this series.

### **Outreach Programme**

With reference to its mandate as expressed in the UN Proclamation for the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), a special IYPE Side Event was organized on the occasion of the high-level meeting of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, on 13 May 2010 at UN Headquarters in New York City. That Event was accompanied by a special exhibition of World Press Photo and followed by a Conference of IYPE's International Partners at the UNESCO Office in New York City.

The IYPE Side Event was attended by some 100 participants, among which the Chair of the IYPE Board of Directors and Officers, Mr. Larry Woodfork, and the Chair of the IYPE Outreach Programme Committee, Mr. Phil Manning. The Side Event was entitled 'The Legacy of the IYPE and looking ahead'. The Event was opened by the Director a.i. of the New York Office of UNESCO and Chair, Mrs. Christine Alfsen. IYPE's Executive Director presented a collection of legacy items of the International Year of Planet Earth. He continued by describing one of the initiatives developed from the IYPE, the 'Planet Earth Institute' (PEI, see below). The next keynote speaker was the Vice President of Honduras, Mr. Victor Hugo Barnica, who spoke about how Honduras is implementing its national sustainable development programme while highlighting the role IYPE played in his country by raising awareness mainly through its education system. Mrs. Gerda Verburg, President of the UN-CSD meeting in 2009, discussed the growing significance of Agriculture in sustainable development issues and highlighted progress made in the UN CSD. In her capacity as Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food security, she announced that the Netherlands explores options to host the Planet Earth Institute Secretariat at Wageningen University. Finally, Mrs. Leonor Sá Machado, representing the Banco Espirito Santo (BESA) and main sponsor of the Event, shared with the audience the mutual benefits of BESA's partnership to both parties and UNESCO. She announced that the Bank has embarked on a long-term support programme to the Planet Earth Institute as the PEI is seen as an effective instrument to implement Earth-related sustainability issues in Africa and in the world. The meeting was closed by the Chair.



Panel of the IYPE Side Event, from left to right: Mr Victor Hugo Barnica, the Vice President of the Republic of Honduras, Mrs Gerda Verburg, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in the Netherlands and past President of the UN CSD, Mrs. Christine Alfsen, Director a.i. of the UNESCO Office in New York City (Chair), and Mrs. Leonor Sá Machado, Director Communications Banco Espírito Santo de Angola.

At the occasion of the Side Event a Summary Report on the IYPE to the United Nations was produced. In broad outlines this 8-page Report describes the background, organisation, implementation, communication, the finances and fundraising, the legacy, the future, the UN involvement, the relation with other international years, an evaluation and some conclusions of the IYPE (download through [www.esfs.org](http://www.esfs.org)). A final report to the UN, to UNESCO and to IUGS will be released in October 2010.

Sponsored by BESA a remarkable contribution was made to the UN-CSD and the IYPE Side Event through a major exhibition of World Press Photo displaying a wide spectrum of photographs made by young, award-winning African professionals on five out of ten IYPE themes. The photographs were exposed all around the main Conference Room and was accompanied by a dedicated book 'Save and protect the Planet'.

The Side Event was followed by a Conference for International IYPE Partners and hosted by the UNESCO Office in New York City. There, a fruitful exchange of views between the IYPE leadership and the International Partners took place. A special focus of this Conference was put on the content of the Planet Earth Institute Programme and how the International Partners might contribute to this. Finally, BESA offered cocktails in the UN-CSD main Hall for participants of the IYPE Side Event and other invited guests.

The 2009 joint American Geological Institute (Earth Science Week) – IYPE Photo Contest asked participants to submit photographs illustrating the theme *Exploring Earth Sciences around the World*. Amy Spaziani, a graduate student in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (USA), won first place (500 USD & a 'Faces the Earth' DVD set) in the contest for a photo featuring geology students examining soft sediment deformation during a field trip near the Guadalupe Mountains, in West Texas. The second place winner, Cassidy Williams of Westland, Michigan (USA) received 300 USD and the third place winner, Daniel McGrath of Boulder, Colorado (USA) won 100 USD.

### **IYPE Legacy Initiatives**

### *Planet Earth Institute*

In Q2, three major developments took place in The Planet Earth Institute (PEI) that has been endorsed by the IYPE Board. Two more organizations embarked on the PEI as Core Partners for a period of 5 (ESCOM) and 10 years (BES), bringing the total at 3 such Partners while securing a minimum annual income of 300,000 €. A second development was the formal announcement by the Government of the Netherlands (at the UN-CSD) to explore options to host the PEI at Wageningen University in The Netherlands. Finally, the Executive Committee of the IUGS, co-Initiator of the IYPE and member of the Geo-Unions, unanimously decided to become a Scientific Partner of the Planet Earth Institute. The PEI will probably be registered as an international non-profit organisation in September 2010. The latest version (13 August) of the PEI brochure can be downloaded via [www.esfs.org](http://www.esfs.org).

### **Miscellaneous**

On 13 April, the Executive Director received the “Public Outreach Award” from the Division of Environmental Geosciences (DEG) of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). Prof. Woodfork, Chair of the IYPE Board, collected the award in New Orleans. He, in turn, handed the award to the Executive Director at UN Headquarters, on 13 May 2010.

On behalf of the IYPE Secretariat I would like to thank the readership of the Quarterly Reports for their comments making this Report a useful instrument in the wide array of IYPE’s communication tools.

Eduardo de Mulder  
Haarlem, 29 August 2010