

IUGS E-Bulletin #21

April 30, 2007

1. The Year of the Planet Earth Quarterly Report 01 January – 31 March 2007

Board

The IYPE Board met for the first time on 9 and 10 January in London, UK under the hospitality of the Geological Society of London. The IYPE initiators (IUGS and UNESCO) announce that Larry Woodfork will be Acting Chair of the Board until a permanent appointment is made. Dr. Stephen Wells (GSA President) was appointed representative for the International Partners for 2007. The Board approved the IYPE Statutes and Bye laws and agreed on a second meeting in 2007 to be held in Paris, on June 20 & 21.

Secretariat

By electronic ballot, the Board approved the Agreement regarding the IYPE Secretariat which started its operations on January 1st. The Executive Director is in frequent contact with the technical support staff in Trondheim (Norway) and a first evaluation took place on March 30.

National/Regional Committees

Since January 9th 2007, eight additional countries announced creation of a National IYPE Committee: Iran, Korea, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Turkey and Yemen. This brings the total number of National Committees to 39. In addition, the Board approved a proposal to create Regional Committees and the first such committee was established in East and Southeast Asia, covering the 11 nations operating under the umbrella of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP). The CCOP Director, Dr. Chen Shick Pei, has been declared Chair off the Regional Committee. During this quarter, the Executive Director interacted with most of the National Committees electronically and has met their representatives of Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, Namibia, Norway, Spain, Tanzania, Turkey, and the UK.

Launch Event

On 12 and 13 February 2008 the official IYPE Launch Event will take place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Among the about 850 guests we hope to welcome some 500 young students from UNESCO Associated Schools from all parts of the world. Heads of State, leading scientists and CEOs of major international companies will address four key issues dealing with Earth Sciences for Society, provisionally entitled: the future of Earth resources, hazards and space, food for the city, and System Earth.

Science Programme Committee

The IYPE Board voted John Dodson in as a Vice Chair of the Science Programme Committee. The Science Implementation Teams expanded from 8 to maximally 10 experts. It is expected that the first (modest) funding for the Science programme for international projects will become available in the course of 2007. Science proposals on primarily national issues should be dealt with by the National Committees for IYPE.

Outreach Programme Committee

Major IYPE outreach activities took place in various countries (India, UK, Brazil, Japan, France, see www.yearofplanetearth.org) and many more will follow in the course of 2007. A new website (web portal) is under design and will be finalized before the end of this quarter. This also holds for a new IYPE power point presentation. A combined major Science and Outreach Project (OneGeology) integral with the IYPE, involving some 60 Geological Surveys from around the world and attracting widespread media attention, took place in Brighton, UK, 12-16 March (www.onegeology.org).

Advisory Boards

The appointment of two new Senior Advisers was approved by the Board (Ralph Baird, and Khalid Al-Thour), and one new Goodwill Ambassador (Werner Janoschek).

For News about IYPE, please check: www.yearofplanetearth.org

3. The 2nd International Symposium on the Development within Geoparks:

12-15 June, 2007

Theme: Environmental Protection and Education

Place: Lushan, Jiangxi Province, China

Contact addresses: dic@cags.net.cn, cagsdic@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.cags.net.cn/2nd-geopark/>

2. Upcoming meetings in Africa

I. Workshop on Natural and Human-induced Hazards and Disasters in Africa

(21-22 July 2007, Kampala, Uganda)

II. Conference on the East African Rift System (EARS-07)

(23-25 July 2007, Kampala, Uganda)

Organisers of both meetings:

- The Geological Society of Uganda (GSU)

- IGCP 482/489

- The ICSU Regional Office for Africa

- In collaboration with: the Department of Geology, Makerere University, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment

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