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IUGG Grant for eGY

Our application to IUGG for an Inter-Association grant for eGY has been funded to the full amount of US \$15,000. The money will be used mainly to cover the costs of planning meetings. At the recent IUGG Executive meeting in Boulder (September 2004), eGY received enthusiastic support from all seven Associations and was officially sanctioned as an IUGG initiative. The allocation of this grant, which is the maximum allowed, adds substance to this support.

Received from Charles.Barton@anu.edu.au

eGY and International Polar Year (2007-2008)

The International Polar Year 2007-2008 (IPY) is an international program of coordinated, interdisciplinary scientific research and observations in the Earth's polar regions. In order to coordinate efforts for the IPY they issued a call for information about who was going to be doing what in the polar regions during the IPY.

The eGY Secretary submitted an *Expression of Intent* to the IPY Committee to January 14, 2005. This notice provided information about our goals and current plans. In particular it noted that the eGY is not proposing field activities, rather open access, and electronic distribution of data from field and laboratory investigations. However, our detailed plans are still in formulation.

Received from Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu

24th CODATA General Assembly November 10-11, 2004; Berlin, Germany

Resolution 14: "CODATA, noting the vast increase in observational data produced since the International Geophysical Year (IGY, 1957-1958), much of them available in near real-time, and the challenges to

progress posed by the ever-growing problems of data stewardship, including preservation, maintenance, discovery, release, and ready access,

noting the potential of modern information management methodologies to cope with these limitations through compliance in sharing information and processing capability, noting the exciting impetus to our understanding of the Earth system that international cooperation in data stewardship offers,

noting the opportunity in 2007-2008 provided by the 50-year anniversary of IGY, which was outstandingly successful in advancing our knowledge of the Earth and geospace through the provision of comprehensive observational data, noting the attraction of a coordinated approach to addressing the data and information issues that are common to many initiatives, particularly the ICSU supported "IGY+50" activities such as IPY 2007-2008,

endorses the adoption of 2007-2008 as the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY) to provide an internationally coordinated framework and focus for a 21st Century approach to information management in the Earth Sciences and beyond.

The CODATA Executive Board will meet in Paris on April 11-12, 2005. The eGY will be part of the meeting agenda and more detailed discussions will take place concerning how CODATA can more actively become involved in these activities taking into consideration human and financial resources.

Received from Kathleen Cass (codata@dial.oleane.com)

UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences Terminated

News has reached the International Union of Geological Sciences that UNESCO has decided to dissolve the Division of Earth Sciences. Following the retirement of Dr. Wolfgang Eder (Division Director) at the end of November 2004, a

decision not to replace the Director was made by UNESCO. Further, UNESCO intends to dissolve the existing Division, reduce funding to the geosciences and to reallocate existing activities amongst other divisions.

Although an “official press release” will not occur until this spring, it is now known that the following activities: IGCP, Geoparks, International Cooperation, Earth Observation and Capacity Building will now be subsumed within the Division of Ecological Sciences. The Disaster Reduction program will be transferred to the Division of Basic and Engineering Sciences.

Most disturbing is the news regarding support for the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). After decades of high profile success in science research, this program will undergo a 50% reduction in funding from UNESCO for 2006. There are no assurances regarding the viability of the programme beyond 2006. Many geoscientists around the world have participated in and benefited directly from IGCP projects and this funding cut will have serious long-term repercussions to our discipline.

The changes described above are part of a larger “restructuring” within UNESCO. Apparently, only political pressure from our National Committees through State Departments or Ministries of Foreign Affairs via their official UNESCO consulates and representatives in Paris will minimize the erosion of the geosciences within UNESCO.

Received from Charles.Barton@anu.edu.au

The eGY planning meeting in Boulder February 14-15, 2005

The eGY concept has been very well received across the number of unions, associations, and agencies. It is now time to more formally develop the infrastructure, governance, and work plan for the eGY. This will be the focus of the eGY Task Force which will meet in Boulder, Colorado, on February 14-15. Issues to be covered at this meeting include:

- Review of progress and establish the Executive and Steering Committees
- Define structure: identify membership and roles
- Develop the eGY Charter (a code of principles for eGY signatories)
- Plan working groups, officers, roles
- Plan national and regional representation
- Plan relationships with partners (I*Ys, NASA, NOAA, NSF)
- Identify new participants and partners
- Plan an outreach and capacity building programs
- Setup timetable and develop communications plan
- Develop marketing plan (articles, brochure, talks, press conferences/releases, etc.)
- Website and newsletter development

- Plan eGY session/talks at coming meetings (Spring AGU, IAGA in Toulouse, WSIS, ...)
- Plan funding (grants, contributions from agencies, sponsorship, benefactor, ...)
- Next planning meeting, eGY symposium?
- What events for 2007-2008?
- Identify a champion for eGY

Received from Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu

The IHY North American Science Planning Workshop February 16-18, 2005

The IHY North American Community Science Planning Workshop will be held in Boulder, Colorado, on 16-18 February, 2004. There will be special discussions on Electronic Issues and eGY, IGY-1957 Historical Preservation, and International Coordination and Communication. Additionally, eGY team members interested in Education and Public Outreach can meet with IHY E/PO team members and attend the working sessions. Details about the meeting can be found at http://ihy.gsfc.nasa.gov/events/feb2005_workshop.shtml. All eGY community members are welcome!

Received from Barbara.J.Thompson@nasa.gov

eGY session approved for Spring AGU/ Joint Assembly

An AGU Union session on the Electronic Geophysical Year entitled *U08: e-Science for Geoscience* will be held at the Spring meeting, which will be a Joint Assembly with the Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG), the Solar Physics Division of the American Astronomical Society (SPD/AAS) and the North American Benthological Society (NABS). The Assembly will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, May 23-27, 2005. The session description and co-sponsoring sections can be found on the AGU website at: <http://www.agu.org/meetings/sm05/?content=program>

Topics in the session cover e-Science developments and the broad range of eGY-related issues: electronic access to comprehensive geoscience data and tools, data release, data discovery, data preservation, development of virtual observatories (libraries, etc.), global observing systems, data and resource networks, and grid computing infrastructures.

CALL FOR PAPERS

SESSION U08 “eGY: e-Science for Geoscience”

The Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY - www.egy.org) is an initiative of the IUGG to provide, in 21st Century terms, a forward boost to the geosciences as did the IGY fifty years ago. Topics covered in this session include: electronic access to comprehensive geoscience data and tools, the issues of data release, discovery, and preservation, and the development of virtual observatories, global observing systems, data and resource networks, and grid computing infrastructures.

3 February - Abstract Deadline (postal mail)

10 February - Abstract Deadline (WWW)

20 April - Pre-Registration Deadline, Housing Deadline
INFORMATION AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:

<http://www.agu.org/meetings/sm05/>

CONVENERS

Dan Baker (LASP, Colorado)

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Received from Daniel.Baker@LASP.Colorado.edu

ISGI 2005: International Symposium on Generalization of Information Berlin, Germany, September 14-16, 2005

Generalization as one of the basic principles of scientific work is also a basic tool for understanding our environment in all its appearances, influences and dynamic behavior. The interdisciplinary treatment of the topic also includes the proliferation of best practice in the special types of generalization methods and techniques in the various sciences. The term information is to be treated in its widest sense, i.e. from a semiotic structural point of view (syntax, semantics, and pragmatics), requirements of generalization in its theoretical basis, its complex application scenarios, and its use in decision making, as well.

Call for Papers

Contributions are solicited not only from the mathematical fields of numerical analysis, statistics, algebra etc. but from all fields of science and could cover aspects in:

- Geometry, Potential, Force
- Emergence of Order
- Cognition, Patterns
- Change and its dynamics including macroscopic effects
- Characteristics of Generalization in the natural sciences, humanities, technical sciences, anthropological aspects
- Time Structure and its relevance to Action Structures
- Behavior Representation, Complex Social Systems
- Singularities (of action space)
- Black and white views as a generalization principle
- Symbolization/Categorization/Abstraction/Model Building
- Ontology, Multiple Representations, Representation Change / Transition
- Information Mining
- Dimensionality reduction, Clustering
- Trend analysis and application, periodicity, use of transforms (Fourier transform / frequency space / attribute spaces, action spaces)
- Uncertainty propagation in Generalization
- Continuous vs. Step-by-step generalization
- Algebraic Properties of Generalization

- Transforms (recursiveness, inverse properties, invariants)
- Generalization of dynamic 3+ - dimensional phenomena : e.g., of Movement Patterns
- Context

Important Dates

Abstract submission deadline: February 2, 2005

Notification of acceptance: March 15, 2005

Paper for publication: June 15, 2005

Printed Proceedings: September 1, 2005

Symposium: September 14-16, 2005

Symposium Chair:

Horst Kremers

office@horst-kremers.de

www.codata-germany.org/ISGI

Members of the Program Committee:

Jacques-Octave Dubois, France

Nahum Gershon, U.S.A.

Milan Konecny, Czech Republic

Robert Laurini, France

Harlan J. Onsrud, U.S.A.

Werner Pillmann, Austria

Anne Ruas, France

Steve Rossouw, South Africa

Tapani Sarjakoski, Finland

Monika Sester, Germany

Pavel Slavik, Czech Republic

Alan Stevens, S.A.

Robert Weibel, Switzerland

Symposium Venue

The Berlin Institute of the Physikalisch-Technische

Bundesanstalt (PTB), Abbestr. 2-12, D- 10587 Berlin

<http://www.berlin.ptb.de>

Symposium is organized by CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology of the International Council of Science ICSU in cooperation with ICA International Cartographic Association

Received from Charles.Barton@anu.edu.au

New eGY participants

New eGY Team Member:

Paul Berkman <berkman@bren.ucsb.edu> University of California - Santa Barbara, who is involved in IPY and will share IPY-eGY liaison responsibilities with Alan Rodger and David Clark <David.M.Clark@noaa.gov>, Assistant Director, National Geophysical Data Center, Boulder, Colorado.

New Participant:

Luigi Fusco <luigi.fusco@esa.int>, Earth Observation Science and Applications Department, European Space Agency, Frascati, Italy.

Editor: Volodya Papitashvili, papita@umich.edu; 2005-01-28