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**Meeting Report from Bill Peterson**

Bill Peterson presented remotely by telephone a discussion of eGY to the US Polar Research Board at their meeting on May 5. The US Polar Research Board has strong representation on the international IPY committees and it appears that this presentation and one from IHY were solicited to inform them directly about eGY. Because the presentation was done by telephone, there was little interaction. A copy of the presentation has been put on the eGY web site.

*Received from Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu*

**Status of eGY Funding**

eGY has received modest start up grants from IAGA, IUGG, and NASA. These funds have been used primarily to support travel of key individuals to eGY events and meetings. No funds have been used to date to pay for personnel costs associated with the secretariat. There is currently less than \$20k of these start up funds remaining. Anticipated significant funding from NOAA at the Boulder level will not be available because of the tight budget environment there. Bill Peterson will request more modest, interim funding from the Boulder NOAA office. Dan Baker will submit a three year proposal to NSF to cover a significant portion of the eGY operating costs, including personnel costs.

*Received from Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu*

**Report from the Best Practices Working Group**

The Best Practices Working Group has caucused and agreed on “terms of reference.” The working group will work closely with a task group funded by ICSU’s Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA). The group is

now exploring options for a specialist workshop to be held in Europe in the next year. Options for publishing the proceedings of the workshop are now being explored.

--Herb Kroehl and Eric Kihn, Co-Chairs

*Received from Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu*

**eGY at the IAGA Meeting in Toulouse**

In the evening (1700) of Friday 22 July, eGY will hold an open forum. The location and agenda will be available soon. Dan Baker will give an Association Lecture on Thursday 21 July on IGY+50 and the eGY.

Other sessions of interest include:

- Tuesday July 19: Association Lecture: Le Mouel, “A new era for Geomagnetism”
- Thursday, July 21: GAIH03 Data assimilation techniques for the ionosphere-thermosphere-magnetosphere system
- Friday, July 22: GAIV05 International Heliophysical Year
- Saturday July 23: IHY Community Workshop
- Monday July 25:
  - Association Lecture: David Loper, “The Earth’s Magnetic Field and Life”
  - GAV01 Magnetic observatories: measurements, quality analysis, and data dissemination
- Wednesday July 27: Association Lecture: Sunanda Basu, “Climate and Weather of the Sun Earth System”

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## **eGY Virtual Observatory Working Group Formalized by eGY Steering Committee**

Several planning meetings and sessions were held leading up to, and at, the 2005 AGU Spring meeting, where the VO Working Group has been established. At present, the VO Working Group is focused on outreach in the form of newsletter articles, updating the Web sites and sessions at upcoming meetings. We will also be initiating a documentation effort: collecting definitions, concepts, and scopes of VOs, performing a VO inventory/census, advertising VOs, and promoting community coordination between VOs and efforts such as IHY, IYPE and IPY. We are inviting VO representatives to indicate their specific interest in eGY and nominate their single point of contact to the VO working group.

The purpose of Virtual Observatories (VO) is to enable new science by greatly enhancing access to scientific data and computing resources. The eGY plans to publicize and promote greater use of existing capabilities on the Internet and World Wide Web with the intention to justify and stimulate the development of new virtual observatories. The eGY can be useful for informing the provider/user communities, for coordinating activities, and for promoting international standards.

The chair of the VO WG for eGY is Peter Fox (HAO/ESSL/NCAR, Boulder, CO, [pfox@ucar.edu](mailto:pfox@ucar.edu)), and is joined by Vladimir (Volodya) Papitashvili (University of Michigan, MI, and NSF Polar Programs, [papita@umich.edu](mailto:papita@umich.edu)) and D. Aaron Roberts (NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD, [aaron.roberts@nasa.gov](mailto:aaron.roberts@nasa.gov)) as co-chairs. We are in the process of defining the WG/VO charter which will be in support of the eGY's Declaration for a Geoscience Information Commons (see the eGY website for a copy). The VO WG will coordinate closely with the other eGY WGs: best practices, knowledge discovery, and education/outreach.

Watch for two proposed sessions at the Fall AGU within the new Special Focus Group on Earth and Space Science Informatics: Emerging Better or Best Practices for Virtual Observatories and Ontologies for Earth and Space Sciences. We are also planning an eGY/VO specialist meeting in the UK late in 2005 or early in 2006. In 2006, expect to see follow-up participation at Geo-Union general meetings, society meetings (AGU, EGS, GSA), and CODATA. Suggestions of relevant general meetings in which eGY/VO can participate are welcome.

This working group is not just about meetings—we also intend to continue the formal documentation of VOs with sets of published proceedings, based on invited and contributed papers, in a refereed journal or volume.

If you would like to participate, send an email to [pfox@ucar.edu](mailto:pfox@ucar.edu), and watch for a new eGY VO email list in the near future.

*Received from [pfox@ucar.edu](mailto:pfox@ucar.edu)*

## **eGY and the I\*Ys**

At the New Orleans Meeting, discussions were held with representatives of the International Year (IYPE), and IHY about coordinating activities. Subsequent contacts with the new IPY director, David Carlson, have firmed up a meeting to be held in Europe in conjunction with the IUGG executive meeting in September to address ways the I\*Ys can coordinate and cooperate. Details of the meeting are still being worked out, but eGY, IHY, IYPE, and IPY have all agreed to participate.

*Received from [Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu](mailto:Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu)*

## **eGY at the New Orleans General Assembly**

At the Joint Assembly Meeting in New Orleans, May 23-27, eGY sponsored a Union Session that had a very nice attendance and good discussion at the afternoon poster session. Copies of presentations by Charles Barton, Ed de Mulder, Simon Cox, Barbara Thomson, Emily CoBabe-Ammann, and Ralph Baird are available on the eGY web site.

About 20 people came to the eGY open forum on Tuesday afternoon. Many of them were new to eGY. The main topic of conversation was the newly formed AGU focus group on informatics. Peter Fox, chair of eGY's Virtual Observatory Working Group, was selected as a co-leader of the AGU focus group. The group will sponsor sessions at upcoming AGU meetings addressing topics of interest to eGY.

*Received from [Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu](mailto:Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu)*

## **Preliminary Discussions About a Series of eGY Workshops**

During Charlie Barton's visit to Boulder in May, preliminary discussions were held about a series of workshops to take place in the US, Asia, and Europe in the next few years to lay the ground work for the Scientific and Information Forum that ICSU wants to establish. Each workshop would address a science question, a political question, and a data management question (i.e., Interdisciplinary science, political cooperation, and state-of-the-art data management). The desired outcome would be increased awareness and collaboration across large international data management and observational efforts.

<http://www.egy.org/>

Further discussions of this and other approaches to meeting the eGY objectives will be discussed at the open forum to be held in Toulouse on Friday, 22 July.

*Received from Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu*

### **Information Needed About Upcoming Meetings**

eGY spans a large range of disciplines. We would like to have eGY presentations or posters, and perhaps sponsor sessions at major meetings of most geoscience sub-disciplines. Your secretary has no idea, however, of the meeting names and locations, let alone the important dates and contacts for

them. Please send me information about meetings where an eGY Presentation or sponsored session would be appropriate so that we can find the appropriate individuals to represent eGY at these meetings. Thank you.

*Received from Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu*

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