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eGY Reports from Recent Meetings

I*Y Meeting, Villa Celimontana, Rome, 6-7 Sep 2005

Leaders of the International Polar Year (www.ipy.org), the International Year of Planet Earth (www.esfs.org), the International Heliophysical Year (<http://ihy2007.org/>), and the Electronic Geophysical Year met at the Villa Celimontana (IGU's "Home of Geography") to explore areas for collaboration. Representatives and leaders from several leading scientific bodies attended – IGU, IUGG, ISPRS, UCCS, GEO, WCRP, WDC Panel, SCAR, and Geological Society, London. The four programs view themselves as complementary and mutually supportive, and expressed a strong desire for cooperation and continuing dialog. This is set out in a formal agreement – the "Celimontana Declaration." Two areas in particular were identified for cooperation: Data and Information Systems and Education and Public Outreach. eGY will take the lead in each. Documentation for the meeting will appear on the eGY website.

IGY+50 and the IUGG Executive Meeting, Perugia, 9-11 Sep 2005

The eGY program received enthusiastic support from IUGG. We are seeking endorsement of eGY at the ICSU General Assembly in Shanghai & Suzhou, 17-22 October 2005. Michael Kuhn, Chair of the IUGG Committee for IGY+50 submitted a proposal for IGY+50 at the IUGG General Assembly in Perugia, 2-13 July 2007. This will be a major

event for eGY, but will also cover the other International Year programs (IPY, IHY, and Planet Earth) as well as a celebration of the history and legacy of IGY.

eGY Meets GEO, 13 Sep 2005

Professor José Achache has commenced his appointment as Director of the Secretariat for the Group on Earth Observations (GEO - <http://earthobservations.org/>). The Secretariat is located in the WMO headquarters in Geneva, and currently has a staff of 10 persons. Discussions were held on 13 September with the eGY International Committee to examine how eGY can be used to help in the development of the Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS). eGY proposed that (i) a GEOSS Interoperability Forum be held in Spring 2006, to commence a dialog between the main contributors to a system of systems, and (ii) a demonstration of GEOSS capability be presented in July 2007 at the IUGG General Assembly, Perugia.

eGY Attends the WGISS Meeting, Kiev, 12-16 Sep 2005

Dave Clark (NGDC and WDC Panel) and Charlie Barton (eGY International Committee) attended the Kiev meeting. The Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS - www.ceos.org) runs a Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS - <http://wgiss.ceos.org/>) that focuses on the provision of products, tools, and services to realise the full potential of Earth observation satellite data.

WGISS meets twice each year, runs a comprehensive program of activities, has considerable technical expertise, and is becoming involved in the development of GEOSS. WGISS will propose to CEOS that a liaison person be appointed for eGY and that the program be formally endorsed.

C. Barton
28 September 2005
Canberra

Received from Charles.Barton@anu.edu.au

US Postage Stamp for the 50th Anniversary of the International Geophysical Year, Dec 31, 2008



The US IGY stamp was issued on May 31, 1958, at Hotel La Salle, in Chicago, Illinois. To my knowledge and research, no scientist and no IGY representative was present at the First-Day-of-Issue Ceremony. There were,

however, dozens of politicians and stamp collectors at the ceremony.

Over 40,000 stamp requests are made every year to the US Postal Service. The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee has specific criteria which eliminate many suggestions, but an IGY stamp meets all of those criteria and therefore deserves consideration. The goal is to encourage the issuance of a postage stamp to commemorate the IGY+50 anniversary and its associated programs—IYPE, eGY, IPY and IHY.

It takes at least three years from proposal to issue of a US postage stamp, requiring popular recognition and support of its importance. Promotion of an IGY+50 stamp is important for gathering support, and can be included in each I*Y's general promotional efforts. Petitions can be handed out at local and regional meetings of IGY-supporting organizations, professional societies and educational groups (schools, universities, national labs).

A specific, common theme must be agreed upon to avoid conflicts between IGY+50, IYPE, IPY, IHY, eGY, etc., and should recognize each component of the I*Ys. Considering the three-year requirement for a US stamp, the possible issue date would be fall 2008 at the earliest. The official US postal stamp proposal process is as follows:

Step One: A joint committee must be formed for the express purpose of promoting and obtaining broad support for a US postage stamp. Part of the committee's responsibility may include petitioning other nations for support.

Step Two: A formal proposal/request must be initiated to the US Postal Service through the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.

Step Three: Thousands of letters must be sent to the Advisory Committee by supporters and sponsors. The Committee then counts the letters received to assess the stamp's popular support.

Step Four: Support letters are solicited from every US state and territory. Letters are submitted on official letterhead from Senators, Representatives and Governors. Endorsements from College and University Presidents are also significant. Additional support from the National Academies is recommended.

I would be very disappointed if a US IGY+50 postage stamp is not issued, or even if one is not already in the planning stages. The broad public interest for a stamp, its educational value, and the continuing, permanent historical value it would represent, would be excellent promotional material for all of the I*Ys. Even if the effort to get a stamp issued fails, commemorative envelopes can be substituted and an I*Y-associated stamp identified in 2007 or 2008. Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the IGY could boost overall interest in the I*Ys and help them leave an important legacy.

Received from ralph@bairdpetro.com

The EGEE (Enabling Grids for E-science) Project

eGY Participants may want to explore the activities undertaken by the European Commission sponsored EGEE. This project builds on recent advances in Grid technology and is developing a Grid infrastructure which will be available to scientists. Information is available at <http://public.eu-egee.org/>.

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

New I*Y Funding in Canada

On September 21, the Canadian Government announced it will provide \$150 million in new funding over six years to carry out an innovative, interdisciplinary program for the International Polar Year (IPY) along with international partners. Details are in the press release at: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/September2005/21/c2390.html>.

Received from parsonsm@nsidc.org

INTERMAGNET Endorses eGY

Dr. David Kerridge, Chairman of the INTERMAGNET Executive Council informed eGY that the INTERMAGNET Executive Council and the Operations Committee have formally endorsed eGY. INTERMAGNET is an international federation of institutions responsible for the operation of magnetic observatories. The common objective of all observatory operators is to collect, over the long term, high-quality data of value for scientific research advancing fundamental understanding of Earth processes and properties.

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

IHY International Steering Committee Representative

Brian Fraser has been appointed Australian representative on the IHY International Steering Committee.

Received from Brian.Fraser@newcastle.edu.au

Potential NASA Funding Opportunity for I*Y Science

NASA's Science Mission Directorate will probably amend their ROSES 2005 call to include proposals for IHY and IPY. A committee, including representatives of eGY and IYPE, has been formed for the purpose of exploring and articulating the synergies of these two programs for NASA as well as identifying the special cross-directorate opportunities either or both programs offer NASA.

In response to an enquiry we learned that NASA feels that the central interests and objectives of eGY can, and indeed must, be part of any IHY or IPY activity that NASA engages in. We also learned that there will be call for IHY proposals. It will specifically mention IPY as a forthcoming opportunity. It will likely be out by early October, with a proposal deadline of about mid-January.

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

IPY DIS Receives a Strong Endorsement from the International IPY Committee

As noted in an earlier Newsletter, eGY participated in the IPY Data and Information Service (DIS) proposal submitted on June 30 by Mark Parsons of the World Data Center for Glaciology in Boulder and member of the eGY Working Groups on Best Practices and Data Integration and Knowledge Discovery. On August 25, Mark Parsons and Bill Peterson received letters from the ICSU/WMO Joint Committee for IPY stating that the IPY DIS is a "strong component of IPY and demonstrates a high level of organisation and of international coordination, [... and] will constitute a prominent and essential part of the IPY programme." The Joint

Committee recommends national and international financial support for this activity.

Mark was also requested, with Taco de Bruin of the Netherlands, Chief Officer for the Joint Committee for Antarctic Data Management, to co-chair the IPY Data Policy and Management Subcommittee.

*Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu
and parsonsm@nsidc.org*

Conference of Interest to eGY Participants

Ensuring Long-term Preservation and Adding Value to Scientific and Technical Data (PV 2005)

21- 23 November 2005
Royal Society, Edinburgh, UK

Information at: <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/pv-2005/>

Received from paul@evresearch.com

eGY Planning Meeting in Boulder, Colorado, February 2006

We are in the process of scheduling a ~2 day planning meeting for eGY in February 2006. If you are interested in attending please notify Bill Peterson and be sure to mention intervals when you will NOT be able to attend.

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

eGY Website Update

egy.org has a new look and is hopefully easier to navigate. Anyone who may have bookmarked the "New" area before the switchover will have to update their bookmark. If anything is missing, please let Marissa know. Enjoy the new site!

Received from Marissa.Rusinek@lasp.colorado.edu

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For back issues of eGY News, visit <http://www.egy.org/>.

IPY News Archive: <http://www.ipy.org/news/index.php>

IHY Newsroom: <http://ihy.gsfc.nasa.gov/newsroom/newsroom.shtml>

IYPE Website: <http://www.esfs.org/>

To request removal from an eGY Mail List, please contact Marissa.Rusinek@lasp.colorado.edu