



More Support for the International Year of Planet Earth	1
Public Warning and the WSIS Events in Tunis	1
Profile: Alliance for Earth Observations	2
Practices for Virtual Observatories and Distributed Data Systems	2
Endorsements for the eGY Declaration	2
eGY Planning Meeting in Boulder	2
eGY at the Fall AGU Meeting	2
I*Y Activities	3
Bridging the Digital Divide, Indian Style	3

More Support for the International Year of Planet Earth

A Draft Resolution on the proclamation of the International Year of Planet Earth in 2008 was been adopted by Commission III of UNESCO’s 33rd General Conference on October 12th, 2005, adding another 15 nations (Afghanistan, Botswana, Chile, D.R. Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Togo and the United States of America). As of October 25, 51 UN member countries have explicitly expressed their support for the initiative, together representing more than 4.7 billion people, which is 74% of the world population.

On 19 October a Resolution passed the UNESCO General Conference unopposed recommending the United Nations General Assembly at its 60th session adopt a resolution declaring 2008 as the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth. Moreover, the resolution invites the UNESCO Director General to support all efforts leading to the United Nations General Assembly proclaiming 2008 as the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth. Further, it also invites UNESCO National Committees to create national groups for the implementation of the Year and collaborating with the earth science societies and groups throughout the world, including the developing countries. Again, the United Republic of Tanzania will be taking the lead of a core group of some ten nations co-sponsoring a Draft Resolution in the United Nations General Assembly. We anticipate adoption of the UN Year of Planet Earth (2008) by late December 2005.

Received from e.demulder@planet.nl

Public Warning and the WSIS Events in Tunis

The upcoming World Summit on the Information Society (<http://www.itu.int/wsiv>) is an opportunity to encourage providers of information and communications technology to bring out standards-based solutions to alert the public about major hazards and to communicate warning messages via all available media.

As stated in the Challenge of Public Warning (<http://www.isoc.org/challenge>):

“Collaborative actions are necessary to assure that standards-based, all-media, all-hazards public warning becomes an essential infrastructure component available to all societies worldwide.”

This Challenge statement has been endorsed by a wide range of organizations worldwide, including: the Internet Society, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the UN/ISDR Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning, the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure, the Cellular Emergency Alert Service Association, the Emergency Interoperability Consortium, the AMBER Alert Consortium, MCI, the U.S. National Weather Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey, among others.

Please share this message with any discussions list or individual who may have an interest in public warning and may have a connection to the WSIS events.

Received from echristi@usgs.gov

Profile: Alliance for Earth Observations, an Industry Sponsored Forum on Earth Observations

The Alliance for Earth Observations is a publicly and privately funded initiative of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies to promote the understanding and use of land, air and sea observations for societal and economic benefit (<http://www.strategies.org/alliance>). The Alliance is involved in the development of GEOSS in general and IEOS in particular (IEOS, “the Integrated Earth Observing System,” is the US contribution to GEOSS). Forums run by the Alliance provide a venue for members of the private sector, academics and government leaders to interact and address key issues in the planning and implementation of a global Earth observation system.

Presentations from a workshop on “Earth Observation System Architecture: Enabling an Entrepreneurial Environment,” held in Washington, DC, October 27-28 are now available at:

http://www.strategies.org/Alliance/GEOSS_Architecture/Presentations.html

Included here are PowerPoint presentations by Eliot Christian on the GEOSS Architecture and Bob Chen on the integration of data and models to understand the natural processes that produce hazards.

On 15-16 February 2006, the Alliance will host their second Forum on Earth Observations II (Managing Risk in the 21st Century) in La Jolla, California: <http://www.forumoneo.org/>.

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

Better, or Best, Practices for Virtual Observatories and Distributed Data Systems

A session entitled: “Better, or best, practices for Virtual Observatories and Distributed Data Systems” (EGU/US4) at the European Geophysical Union Meeting to be held in Vienna, April 2-7, 2006.

Information about the meeting is at:

<http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2006/>

The deadline for abstracts is January 13.

Received from pfox@ucar.edu

Endorsements for the eGY Declaration

Endorsements of the eGY Declaration are adding up. In the past few weeks formal endorsements from the following organizations/programs have been received:

- The International Council for Science (ICSU)

- INTERMAGNET
- The Asia Ocean Geophysical Society (AOGS)
- International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)
- International Year of Planet Earth
- Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics
- University of Innsbruck
- International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS)
- International Association of Geodesy
- Society of Exploration Geophysicists
- International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans
- International Union of Soil Sciences

In addition we have formal endorsements from more than 20 individual scientists.

We encourage you to have your organization/program formally endorse the eGY Declaration. There's a link to it on our [web page](#). If you haven't yet personally endorsed it, all you have to do is send an e-mail to Bill Peterson saying “I endorse the eGY Declaration.”

We plan to put the list of individual, organizational and program endorsements on the web site soon.

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

eGY Planning Meeting in Boulder

Save the dates of March 1-2 (Wednesday-Thursday) for an eGY planning meeting in Boulder, Colorado, to assess our current situation and plan for the future.

Further information about the meeting will be in future newsletters.

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

eGY at the Fall AGU Meeting

The eGY Virtual Observatories Working group in collaboration with the newly formed AGU Focus Group on Earth and Space Science Informatics will be sponsoring a series of sessions at the Fall AGU Meeting. In particular we note: sessions on Emerging Better, or Best, Practices for Distributed Data Systems and Virtual Observatories (Oral session Tuesday PM, Posters Wednesday AM) and Ontologies for Earth and Space Sciences (Oral session Thursday AM, Posters Thursday PM).

The eGY Education and Public Outreach Working Group will be co-sponsoring a poster session on Global Geoscience

Education and Outreach: International Geophysical Year 2 to be held Monday Morning.

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

I*Y Activities

Ed de Mulder of the International Year of Planet Earth reports that on November 11th, a Draft Resolution on proclamation of an International Year was adopted by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly by consensus, clearing the way for proclamation of 2008 as the International Year at the plenary Session of the UN General Assembly. The UN Assembly will vote on the resolution in late December.

The International Council of Science (ICSU) at their triennial General Assembly in China 19-21 October 2005 officially sponsored the International Polar Year (2002-2008) which is co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Received from Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

Bridging the Digital Divide, Indian Style

Prof. U. Aswathanarayana, Chair of the eGY Indian National Committee brings our attention to an article by M.S. Swaminathan in *The Hindu* of Nov. 25, 2005, entitled "Mission 2007: Every Village a Knowledge Centre." It outlines an ambitious plan for establishing Information and Communication Technology based Village Knowledge Centers in each of the 100,000 villages in India. At least two persons, one woman and one man, will be trained to run each of these centres, which will serve a variety of developmental purposes: health, drinking water, agriculture, hazards, etc.

To read the full article, please click [here](#).

Received from uaswathanarayana@yahoo.com

Editor: Marissa.Rusinek@lasp.colorado.edu; 2005-11-28

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