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Report of the eGY General Meeting, March 13-14, 2006

The full report of the March 13-14, 2006, meeting is now on-line at: <http://www.egy.org/0306mtgrpt.html>

The annual meeting of the Electronic Geophysical Year initiative (eGY), held in Boulder, Colorado, March 13-14, was by far the most effective planning meeting so far, greatly strengthening eGY. The program is diversifying as eGY activities and national committees are becoming established in a rapidly growing number of countries—Australia, Canada, China, India, Italy, Japan, Russia, UK, and the USA.

The meeting succeeded in setting out clear directions and a program for the future. eGY will be launched officially on 1 July 2007 in Perugia and will run until December 2008. Publications and practical demonstrations of modern capability and best practice are to be the major thrust during 2006 for conveying the eGY messages to scientists and others.

The pivotal messages that eGY seeks to convey are encapsulated in the principles set out in the “Declaration for a Geoscience Information Commons.” We agreed on a series of meetings, workshops, publications, and a program of developing demonstration projects. One of the most important of these is a general-use case demonstration—a “proof of concept” showcase of the power of virtual observatories and modern information systems to meet present and future information needs of people who are non-specialist scientists (decision-makers, public, and so on) or scientists who come from other specialist backgrounds.

Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

The Challenge of Public Warning Endorsed by eGY, the Electronic Geophysical Year

The Internet Society has issued a challenge to encourage collaborative actions to assure that standards-based, all-media, all-hazards public warning becomes an essential infrastructure component available to all societies worldwide. This work is well aligned with the eGY mission to promote worldwide cooperation in the application of modern information and communication technologies, in the tradition of the profoundly successful International Geophysical Year 50 years ago. Information about this standards based approach to public warnings was presented to the eGY General Meeting by Eliot Christian of the USGS/Reston.

The challenge is given at <http://www.isoc.org/challenge/>

Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

Earth and Space Sciences Ontologies Workshop: 26 May 2006, JHU/APL, Laurel, MD

This workshop is aimed at both existing projects and science communities and agencies that stand ready to utilize semantic concepts and technologies to meet the challenging explosion of data from instruments and models occurring right now. The goal is to bring together the growing science Ontology community, encouraging interaction and collaboration. We also would like to provide a forum for result dissemination and brainstorming about emerging research projects.

Additional information including a tentative agenda can be found at <http://sras.jhuapl.edu/workshop.html> and to indicate interest in the workshop and to be added to the workshop mailing list, send an email to:

ontology_workshop@jhuapl.edu. Space is limited so please indicate if you will be attending by April 30, 2006.

Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

The Birth Place of Virtual Observatories

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) will hold its general meeting in Prague August 14-25, 2006. (<http://www.astronomy2006.com/>). Of interest to *eGY* participants is the featured session SPS3—The Virtual Observatory in Action: New Science, New Technology, and Next Generation Facilities.

Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

WGISS (Working Group on Information, Systems and Services)

Dave Clark will be attending the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS <http://wgiss.ceos.org/>), May 8-11 in Budapest. At this meeting he will represent *eGY* as well as NOAA and the World Data Centers. WGISS is one of three subgroups supporting CEOS. CEOS addresses coordination of the satellite Earth Observation (EO) programs of the world's government space agencies responsible for civil EO satellite programs, along with agencies that receive and process data acquired remotely from space. The meeting will focus on international coordination and collaborations on the development of systems and services that manage and supply EO data to users world-wide. Dave plans to make an *eGY* presentation to the WGISS. If *eGY* participants have issues or messages relating to WGISS send them to Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu who will forward them to Dave. Dave will submit a note to the *eGY* Newsletter summarizing the results of this meeting.

Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

SEG and *eGY*

The Society of Exploration Geophysicists' (SEG) Ad Hoc Committee on the Electronic Geophysical Year met in Houston, Texas, on April 18, 2006. The committee was formed by Ralph Baird to explore data issues related to SEG. The principle recommendation of the meeting is that stewardship of geophysical data is of vital interest to SEG members.

The ad hoc Committee will make specific recommendations to the SEG Executive Committee. The purpose is to recog-

nize the contribution of discovery, measurement and analysis of geophysical phenomena on the sustainability of improved life on Earth including utilizing existing developed world geophysical methods to solve developing world problems.

The committee anticipates that the SEG shall participate in the IGY Gold Program; adapt its 2007 and 2008 annual meetings to themes that reinforce *eGY* 2007-2008 awareness; provide IGY historical and SEG *eGY* training materials to its affiliated societies and local and international groups; identify existing SEG initiatives to be affiliated with *eGY* initiatives including digital data standards, data stewardship and EPO functions; sponsor conferences to communicate geophysical passion to public awareness programs with the goal to attract the next generation into the geophysical sciences; take proactive steps to improve relations between the academic and national lab geosciences community and the professional geosciences community; establish the "Where Will You Be" advertising to point to October 4, 2007, as international recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the very successful launch of SPUTNIK I.

Received from ralph@bairdpetro.com

***eGY* Symposium Proposed for CODATA-20**

eGY has proposed a symposium to be included as part of the October 23-25 conference of the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA). The Symposium is entitled "Next Big Things in Managing Data and Information: 50 Years after the International Geophysical Year"

Symposium abstract: The Electronic Geophysical Year, 2007-2008 (*eGY*), the International Polar Year (IPY), and the International Heliophysical Year (IHY) are focusing attention on science and data topics presaged 50 years ago during the International Geophysical Year (1957-1958). Providing open access to data, turning data into information and facilitating common services unite these international science years. The symposium will cover the central data themes of *eGY*, IPY, and IHY: innovative ways to manage and extract information and knowledge, the challenges of developing Virtual Observatories, pathways to encourage adoption of better or best practices, progress towards a Global Earth Observation System of Systems, and a showcase demonstration of GEOSS interoperability. The Symposium will be structured as: five formal sessions; a workshop to explore ways forward; and, planning for a demonstration project linking diverse data from different data centers—one of which will be a World Data Center. Finally, the symposium will include a practical demonstration of the power of interoperability standards in meeting the challenge of all-hazard, all-media public warning worldwide.

The eGY Symposium Committee will be working with CODATA to implement this program which is expected to be finalized in June. The meeting web site is:

<http://www.codataweb.org/06conf/>

Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

NASA Sponsored Data Mining Workshop

We've just learned of a NASA sponsored Data Mining Workshop that will be of interest to eGY Participants. It will be held in Pasadena, California, May 23-24. The conference web site is <http://datamining.itsc.uah.edu/meeting06/>. It is too late to submit papers, but not too late to register to attend the meeting.

If you know of meetings or conferences of interest to eGY Participants please pass the relevant information to Marissa Rusinek (Marissa.Rusinek@lasp.colorado.edu) or Bill Peterson (Bill.Peterson@lasp.colorado.edu) preferably well before the date abstracts are due.

We are looking for Volunteers to actively and regularly conference announcements and report relevant ones so that they can appear on the eGY Calendar (<http://www.egy.org/calendar.html>) and/or as notes in the eGY Newsletter. If you are interested in taking on this responsibility, please contact Bill Peterson.

Other upcoming meetings include:

- 10-12 May 2006: Geoinformatics 2006--Reston, VA, ([Website](#))
- 14-19 May 2006: International Virtual Observatory Alliance ([IVOA](#)) Interoperability Meeting, Victoria, Canada ([Website](#))

- 17-18 and 21-22 August 2006: Virtual Observatory session at the IAU General Assembly, Prague—"The Virtual Observatory in Action: New Science, New Technology, and Next Generation Facilities." ([Website](#))

Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu

Special Session at the Baltimore Joint Assembly

eGY and the other international years are sponsoring three Union Sessions at the Baltimore Joint Assembly. Wednesday afternoon Union sessions U33A and U34A will be held in Room 310. Speakers include Dan Baker, Dave Carlson, Ed de Mulder, George Siscoe, Rodger Smith, D.J. Hofman, Jose Achache, Eliot Christian, Mark Parsons, Joe Davila, Eric Donovan and M. Rabello-Soares. An associated poster session will be held on Thursday AM in the convention center.

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

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

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