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NASA funds development of Virtual Observatories

NASA Recently announced the winners of a competition for developing Virtual Observatories for Solar and Space Physics Data. Selected investigations are:

Rapid development of a focused Virtual Magnetospheric Observatory and its integration with VxOs for S3C data, Jan Merka/University of Maryland, Baltimore County

VITMO: A VxO for S3C Data for the Ionosphere-Mesosphere-Thermosphere Community, Daniel Morrison/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab

Virtual Heliospheric Observatory: a VxO for S3C Data, Adam Szabo/NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

VMO for S3C data: A Virtual Magnetospheric Observatory, Raymond Walker/University of California, Los Angeles

VxO for S3C data: The Virtual Radiation Belt Observatory (ViRBO), Robert Weigel/University of Colorado and George Mason University

Data Services Upgrade: Web and Data Server for Ulysses HI-SCALE Data, Carsten Denker/New Jersey Institute of Technology

Data Services Upgrades: Integration of Type II radio burst and CME data, Natchimuthuk Gopalswamy/NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Virtual Observatories: Legacy Data System Upgrade, Joey Mukherjee/Southwest Research Institute

LASP Interactive Solar IRadiance Datacenter (LISIRD) Data Services Upgrade, Martin Snow/University of Colorado

Data Services Upgrades: Geotail and ACE Energetic Particles, Jon Vandegriff/Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab

Complete Abstracts of selected proposals are available <u>here</u>.

 $Received\ from\ bill.peters on @lasp.colorado.edu$

*e*GY at the Asia Oceania Geophysical Society (AOGS) Meeting

eGY is organizing a session entitled "The international science year programs (eGY, IPY, IHY, and Planet Earth) and GEOSS - information and discussion" at the AOGS meeting in Singapore on Thursday, July 13. eGY Participants are encouraged to attend.

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eGY at the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) Meeting in Beijing

eGY is in the process of planning a splinter meeting focusing on eGY and I*Y issues at the COSPAR meeting in Beijing, July 16-23. The meeting will be held Thursday, July 20, from 18:45 to 19:45 in the COSPAR Council Meeting Room (Second floor of Friendship Palace), which is close to the COSPAR Assembly welcome area.

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The Challenge of Public Warning Endorsed by eGY

eGY, the Electronic Geophysical Year, strongly endorses the goal to assure that standards-based, all-media, all-hazards public warning becomes an essential infrastructure component available to all societies worldwide. eGY is in complete agreement that collaborative actions are necessary and eGY is beginning to act immediately. As a first step, eGY is bringing this Challenge of Public Warning to the attention of scientific organizations worldwide that play a role in the detection and communication of all manner of hazards and threats. 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 the Challenge is available at http://www.isoc.org/challenge/.

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International Polar Year Data Management Report Released

A report that compiles recommendations from a data management workshop for the International Polar Year (IPY) is now available.

Participants developed specific recommendations on engaging archives, data discovery and access methods, standards and interoperability, and ways to ensure that all IPY data are captured and readily available. Workshop participants aimed to develop an implementation plan for the IPY Data and Information Service (IPYDIS). A final workshop report, Glaciological Data Report 33, is now available here. For additional information and follow-up details from the meeting, see the workshop Web site (http://nsidc.org/events/ipydis).

NSIDC and the IPY Programme Office hosted the data management workshop at the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, England, on March 3 and 4, 2006. More than forty participants from thirteen countries participated in the workshop, which followed the first meeting of the IPY Data Policy and Management Subcommittee. Vladimir Papitashvili, Mark Parsons, and Alan Rodger represented *e*GY.

The International Polar Year is a period dedicated to intense interdisciplinary study of Earth's polar regions. To ensure

that researchers may study both polar regions in summer and winter, the period will run from March 2007 through March 2009.

IPY is co-sponsored by the International Council of Science and the World Meteorological Organization. For more information about IPY, visit the organization's Web site at http://www.ipy.org/.

Received from parsonsm@nsidc.org

Second EGU Humboldt Conference, 5-9 March 2007

The European Geosciences Union will hold the Second Alexander von Humboldt International Conference on The Role of Geophysics in Natural Disaster Prevention in Lima, Peru, on 5-9 March 2007.

All scientists are cordially invited to submit an abstract. The submission deadline is 30 November 2006.

Please see http://www.meetings.copernicus.org/avh2/ for abstract submission and registration.

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CODATA 2006 Scientific Data and Knowledge within the Information Society, 22-25 October 2006, Beijing

Call for Papers: http://www.codataweb.org/06conf/call.html

Deadline for paper submission: 30 June 2006

Virtual Observatories in the Geosciences

Conveners:

Peter Fox (HAO/ESSL/NCAR, Boulder, CO USA), Mauro Messerotti (INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Trieste and Department of Physics, University of Trieste), Tatsuki Ogino (Solar-Terrestrial Environment Laboratory, Nagoya University).

Between the oral presentations and a panel discussion, this session is intended to address the following questions:

- What have we learned in developing and deploying distributed data systems and virtual observatories?
- How can proper attribution of sources of data be made and tracked in a data-world that is increasingly 'virtual?'
- Can we clarify the role semantics (ontologies, knowledge representation) may play in developing search and access systems and how these capabilities may change the way our communities develop crossdisciplinary science applications.

- Are VOs (or an analog paradigm in fields where 'observatories' are not the usual construct) changing or ready to change the way our communities perform science using ever-increasing amounts and diversity of data?
- How can educators make use of VOs and DDSs that were designed for use by experts?
- How will knowledge representation technology help educators?
- Are VOs ready to significantly aid scientists in integrating science data from diverse and heterogeneous sources, extract useful knowledge from vast data repositories
- What are the best practices emerging from VO efforts?

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Upper Atmosphere Network, Database and Server Under Development

The Upper Atmosphere Physics Unit of the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (Rome-Italy) supports observations at both poles. As part of their collaborations with IHY and IPY, they are developing real time access to these data sets. More details are here.

Received from lucilla.alfonsi at ingv.it

eGY Showcase Projects

At our March meeting in Boulder we agreed to develop and provide concrete examples of the eGY Principles in "eGY Showcase Projects." These projects illustrate eGY principles and connect disparate (VO/DDS) efforts to advance public awareness, education, science and community, attracting the next generation of students into geophysical sciences. We plan to have several of them completed so that they could be demonstrated at the formal eGY Kick Off in Perugia on July 1, 2007. We are also making arrangements also for a booth at the Fall AGU meeting to demonstrate

progress on the showcase projects as well as an Informatics session proposal related to these showcase project (please consider submitting an abstract for possible oral/poster presentations).

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Workshop on Public Warning

A "Workshop and Demonstration of Advances in ICT Standards for Public Warning" will be held October 19-20, 2006, in Geneva, Switzerland. It will be at the headquarters of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and jointly sponsored by the ITU and the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS).

The two-day event will feature an emergency management interoperability demonstration of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) OASIS standard, as well as presentations by various players active in public warning and discussion of relevant technology issues that may also have public policy implications.

More information about this workshop is available from Eliot Christian (echristian@usgs.gov).

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