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### **The European Geosciences Union (EGU) and eGY**

The EGU has contacted eGY regarding sponsorship and posting the eGY Declaration on the EGU [website](#). We welcome both initiatives. We look forward to eGY participation in the EGU annual meetings. Suggestions on how this participation should be accomplished should be directed to [Dr. Mauro Messerotti](#), Chair of the eGY European Committee.

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **Open Oceans**

Carl Nettleton, the past president of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation-Pacific Region and the former founding executive director of the San Diego Oceans Foundation has proposed developing a GIS-based ocean infrastructure to bring together ocean information/data and people. He has established a [website](#) where his presentation is posted. It is set up to accept comments and suggestions. Information on how to contact Carl is on the web site.

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **Earth Science Information Partnership (ESIP) Endorses the eGY Declaration**

The Federation of Earth Science Information Partners ([website](#)) is a network of researchers and associated groups that collects, interprets and develops applications for satellite-generated Earth observation information. Founded in 1998 under a grant from NASA, the consortium includes more than 90 member organizations, spanning NASA's and NOAA's data centers, government research laboratories, research universities, education resource providers, technology developers, and nonprofit and commercial enterprises.

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **Highlights and Actions from ITU Workshop on Public Warning**

A very successful "Workshop and Demonstration of Advances in ICT Standards for Public Warning" was held October 19-20, 2006, in Geneva, at the headquarters of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). It was jointly sponsored by the ITU and the Organization for the

Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS).

The “Highlights and Actions List,” a report of the Workshop Co-chairs is available [here](#). Among the items noted are the following:

- A wide range of technical solutions for public warning based on the OASIS Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) are already on the market and serving the growing movement toward standards-based, all-media, all-hazards public warning in societies world-wide.
- Any official source of public warnings can now take advantage of the announced no-charge offer to mount copies of authoritative, authenticated, public alerts in CAP format. The offer was announced in the workshop by Neopolitan Networks, the provider of the Google Earth/Neopolitan CAP Alert infrastructure.
- OASIS and ITU-T will complete the actions necessary to publish the CAP standard also as an ITU-T Recommendation.

*Received from echristian@usgs.gov*

### **International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Resolution Supporting CAP Standard for All-Media, All-Hazards Public Warning**

At the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, Turkey, during November 2006, the Union recognized the need for a common understanding of network infrastructure components required to provide rapidly installed, interoperable, robust telecommunication capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations and the importance of working towards the establishment of standards-based monitoring and worldwide early-warning systems, based on telecommunications/ICTs, that are linked to national and regional networks and that facilitate emergency disaster response all over the world, particularly in high-risk regions. They recommended adoption of an international standard for communication of alert and warning information by appropriate alerting authorities.

The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) is the international standard for all-media public warning. A presentation on the details of the CAP was given as one of the eGY Demonstration Projects in the eGY Booth at the recent AGU meeting in San Francisco.

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **Linking Geosciences Data to Publications**

The ADS system ([www.adsabs.harvard.edu](http://www.adsabs.harvard.edu)) provides a search system for the literature in Physics, Geosciences, and Astronomy. In order to make data more accessible, the ADS indexes descriptions of on-line data sets so they can be searched together with the regular literature. It is free to use for everybody world-wide. The ADS has currently over five million records from many hundreds of journals, conference proceedings, technical reports, and PhD theses.

If you are involved with a data archive and want to make the descriptions of your on-line data sets searchable through the ADS, please contact Dr. Guenther Eichorn at [gei@cfa.harvard.edu](mailto:gei@cfa.harvard.edu).

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **New Journal of Earth Science Informatics (JESI)**

The first issue of JESI is scheduled for January, 2008. This international, English-language journal publishes original, interdisciplinary articles on all aspects of informatics dealing with the Earth system. Informatics is the science of the application of formal and computational methods to the systematic analysis, management, interchange, and representation of information and knowledge. Earth Science Informatics, as a scientific discipline, focuses on two major aspects: (i) the formal representation of the spatial and temporal relationships between entities in the Earth system and (ii) the design, development, and application of computational tools to acquire, store, analyze, visualize, manage, represent, utilize and communicate information about the spatio-temporal dynamics of the Earth system. More information is available [here](#).

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **2008 - The Year of Science and Technology for Africa**

The African Union is proposing that 2008 be declared the Year of Science and Technology for Africa. If this is endorsed by the African Heads of State and Governments Summit in Addis Ababa, January 2008, it will coincide with the UN-declared Year of Planet Earth in 2008, the climax of the International Polar Year (IPY) and the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY), and ICSU General Assembly in Mozambique (2008). As part of the eGY effort to reduce the digital divide, a working group is being formed to address the issue of improving the cyber-infrastructure for science in Africa. This links to IUGG's Geoscience in Africa program, and will oper-

ate through ICSU's Regional Office for Africa. We hope to partner with CODATA in this endeavour. Please email [charles.barton@anu.edu.au](mailto:charles.barton@anu.edu.au) with any enquiries.

*Received from charles.barton@anu.edu.au*

### **Geoinformatics 2007**

The first conference organized by GSA's new Geoinformatics Division, Geoinformatics 2007, will be held in San Diego, 16-18 May 2007. Peter Fox is one of the conference organizers. Click [here](#) for more information.

This conference is not to be confused with Geoinformatics 2007, Nanjing, 26-28 May 2007 ([website](#)).

*Received from charles.barton@anu.edu.au*

### **eGY Nomenclature**

Several sources are now, incorrectly, calling eGY the electronic Geophysical Year. Electronic Geophysical Year is a proper name and should be in Title Case. Only the acronym has the lower case italicized *e*. We appreciate your help in keeping eGY's publicity consistent.

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **IPY GeoNorth 2007**

When was the last time you went to Yellowknife? The city in the wilderness known for its gold, diamonds, and now... geospatial data!

IPY GeoNorth 2007, the first conference on Geospatial Sciences and Applications for the North, will be held in Yellowknife, Canada, 20-24 August 2007, during the International Polar Year.

The conference provides an opportunity for users and scientists to share knowledge and learn from past and current experiences on the generation, management and use of geospatial data and information in the northern Arctic environments. It is also an occasion for capacity building and exchange of best practices and to provide opportunities for greater interaction among the Geomatics communities. Our vision is to build and implement the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Abstract submissions are due 19 February.

For more information see [www.ipygeonorth.org](http://www.ipygeonorth.org).

*Received from parsonsm@nsidc.org*

### **eGY Representative to the IPY Data Policy & Management Subcommittee**

The legacy of the new and past International Polar Years is in the scientific data collected. To realize the full scientific and interdisciplinary utility of these data, it is essential to consider the design of data management systems early in the experimental planning process. Vladimir Papistashvili will represent eGY on this important committee.

The first meeting of the data committee will be held in Paris from February 28 to March 2, in conjunction with public events and press conferences marking the beginning of the IPY.

*Received from papita@umich.edu*

### **European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2007, Vienna, Austria, 15-20 April 2007**

Session G10 (Informatics: Distributed Information Systems—Technology and Applications) is offering a platform for all geoscientists and computer scientists who are dealing with the management of geo data and information as well as appropriate services.

More information about the EGU meeting is at the meeting [website](#).

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **eGY General Meeting, Boulder, Colorado, March 13-14, 2007**

The 2007 eGY General Meeting will be held in the [NCAR Center Green Facility](#) in Boulder, Colorado, on March 13-14 2007. The meeting will cover reports from our Working Groups and International groups, and reviews of developments relevant to eGY (WDCs, GEOSS, AGU-ESSI, EGU, ICSU, the other international science years, and so on). A principal objective will be planning eGY events and activities for 2007 and 2008.

A reception with plenty of food will be held on Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome.

The meeting will be of interest equally to eGY participants and newcomers.

The closest hotel (a one minute walk) is the [Residence Inn](#). Travel information for the meeting can be found [here](#).

An agenda will be posted on the eGY web site.

*Received from bill.peterson@lasp.colorado.edu*

### **Boulder, Colorado Data Group Formed**

Dear colleague, do you work or visit the greater Boulder area? Are you a data professional? Want to meet others in the area to exchange ideas, problems, solutions, frontiers, hear something new? Please consider attending any or all of the first three presentation/receptions/activities from an emerging Boulder Data group. Sign up [here](#) and email messages to [data-boulder@googlegroups.com](mailto:data-boulder@googlegroups.com).

February 16: Hosted by [NSIDC](#), starting at 4pm, with food/refreshments at 4:30pm. Featuring short presentations from Mark Parsons (National Snow and Ice Data Center), Eric Kihn (NOAA/National Geophysical Data Center), and Don Middleton (TBC, NCAR/Computing and Information Systems Lab).

March 15: Hosted by NCAR/HAO, at UCAR's Center Green Facility, Building 1, 3080 Center Green Drive, Boulder (see [map](#)), starting at 5pm, with food/refreshments at 5:30pm. Featuring: speakers to be announced that are in town for the eGY general meeting

April TBA: Hosted by NOAA/NGDC, location TBA, starting at 4pm, with food/refreshments at 4:30pm. Featuring: Peter Fox (NCAR/High Altitude Observatory), Mohan Ramamurthy (TBC, UCAR/Unidata) and TBA, as well as: "What's next, how to get involved, what are your ideas?"

RSVP to [pfox@ucar.edu](mailto:pfox@ucar.edu), [eric.a.kihn@noaa.gov](mailto:eric.a.kihn@noaa.gov) or [parsonsm@nsidc.org](mailto:parsonsm@nsidc.org)

---Peter Fox, Eric Kihn and Mark Parsons.

*Received from pfox@ucar.edu*

### **China gets involved in eGY**

Professor Guo Huadong has kindly agreed to serve as Co-chair of the eGY International Committee. [Professor Guo](#) is Deputy Secretary General of the Chinese Academy of

Science, and was a lead organizer of the very successful CODATA Conference held in Beijing last October.

An eGY Committee has been established in China under the leadership of [Professor Liu Chuang](#) (Chair), [Professor Yan Baoping](#), and [Dr. Liao Shunbao](#). The role of the eGY Committee, like all national eGY Committees, is to liaise between the national and international communities that share an interest in the theme areas of eGY, and to stimulate activities to ensure that the eGY opportunity is used effectively to improve access to geoscience data in China.

*Received from charles.barton@anu.edu.au*

### **eGY Participation in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**

The Group on Earth Observations, GEO, was established by a series of three ministerial-level [summits](#). GEO includes 66 [member countries](#), the European Commission, and 46 [participating organizations](#) working together to establish a Global Earth Observation System of Systems. The GEO vision for GEOSS is to realize a future wherein decisions and actions for the benefit of humankind are informed via coordinated, comprehensive and sustained Earth observations and information.

Bernd Ritschel and Eliot Christian attended the Third Plenary session, GEO-III, in Bonn, Germany, on 27-28 November 2006, where eGY was recognized as an observer of GEO. Dr. Ritschel's notes from the meeting are [here](#).

*Received from rit@gfz-potsdam.de*

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

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