

SLIDE NOTES for 0711 IST-Africa_Namibia.ppt

SLIDE 1

eGY is a program of IUGG - the International Union of Geodesy & Geophysics
eGY is led by IAGA - the International Association of Geomagnetism & Aeronomy
The Secretariat is at LASP - the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, University of Colorado (LASP)

The main sponsors are the US National Science Foundation (NSF) and LASP
The Electronic Geophysical Year, 2007-2008 (eGY) provides a cooperative international framework for developing the sharing of data and information about our planet and geospace. eGY adopts and extends the ideals of the International Geophysical Year fifty years ago, when the foundations of a global geoscience "information commons" were created. The need for information and understanding about the Earth has become yet more acute, our ability to collect data has mushroomed, and modern information and communications technologies are at our disposal. Several Earth and space science initiatives for collecting, preserving, and providing open access to data are already underway in response to these drivers. For example, the Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS). Scientists and decision makers from rich and poor countries alike can benefit from open access to data and information, but only within the limitations of their cyber-infrastructure. eGY is an opportunity to take steps to improve the cyber-infrastructure available to scientists and educators in Africa.

SLIDE 2

eGY evolved from IGY and marks the 50-year anniversary of IGY
eGY builds on the IGY principles of international cooperation for observing the Earth and sharing data. (IGY successfully established an information commons)
The formal themes of eGY are shown in the lower left section of the slide.
Other "International Year" activities are planned for IGY+50: IPY, Planet Earth and IHY.

SLIDE 4

The fundamental themes of eGY are listed in black, and have been invoked by many bodies (nothing original in them, but all important)

eGY builds on the legacy of IGY 50 years ago - data sharing

The underlying principles on which these themes are based are embodied in the eGY "Declaration for a Geoscience Information Commons" - a statement of aspirations and principles of data stewardship that participants can sign

eGY can be used to develop codes of best practice; certification of compliance

Encouraging and facilitating the development of VIRTUAL OBSERVATORIES is a central function of eGY. The architecture of the Virtual Solar Observatory is shown. VOs (or VxOs) provide open access to distributed data, information, and services (computational, analytical, modelling, and visualisation). The names VO came from the space community; other communities use other names for systems with such characteristics.

A VO incorporates

- User interface
- Data access system
- Data management
- Assimilation into models (simulations)
- Visualisation

SLIDE 5

Explain information commons

Agricultural commons

Demise of the agricultural commons

Information commons

We are entering the information era - driven by our remarkable ability to share information

Slide shows the global telecommunications networks, colour coded according to bandwidth

SLIDE 6

Bodies, agencies, and professional societies around the world are responding rapidly to the opportunities of the information revolution, and expanding their commitment to informatics - the science and applications that fill the gap between end users and modern ICT & computing capabilities.

ICSU's Strategic Coordinating Committee for Information & Data

CODATA's Global Information Commons for Science Initiative

CODATA Task Group: eGY Earth & Space Science Data Interoperability.

<http://www.codata.org/taskgroups/TGegy/index.html>

CODATA Task Group: Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries. <http://www.codata.org/taskgroups/TGpreservation/index.html>

CODATA Task Group: Data Sources for Sustainable Development in SADC Countries

<http://www.codata.org/taskgroups/TGsadc/index.html>

GEOSS - the Global Earth Observing System of Systems, and the GEOSS Data & Architecture Committee

eSDDC – UN-GAID Global Alliance for Enhancing Access to and Application of Scientific Data in Developing Countries <http://www.un-gaid.org/en/node/165>

IUGG's Union Commission for Information and Data

IUGS CGI – Commission for the Management and Application of Geoscience Information

<http://www.cgi-iugs.org/>

AGU's Earth & Space Science Informatics Special Focus Group (ESSI)

EGU's Earth & Space Science Informatics group

Geological Soc. America's Division of Informatics US National Geoinformatics System

CEOS's (Committee on Earth Observation Satellites) Working Group for Information Systems and Services <http://wgiss.ceos.org/>

SLIDE 7

The tasks (opportunities) listed in the slide can be accomplished more effectively through eGY and the framework of international collaboration that such an initiative provides.

Credits: Tap image courtesy Mark Parson, SIDC, Univ. Colorado, Boulder, USA

SLIDE 9

The aim of eGY-Africa is to reduce the Digital Divide by getting better internet access for scientists and educators in Africa. Emphasis is on Universities and similar institutions

Our "weapons" are the voice of the international scientific community and the support & policy statements of various top bodies (e.g., UN ECA) about the need and benefits of effective internet access.

The next steps for eGY-Africa are

1. Expand participation and patronage
2. Develop national groups (use existing networks as much as possible)
3. Survey internet status, performance, problems, and benefits
4. Assemble reference/policy information. Find out who is doing what?
5. Engage with service providers, decision-makers, aid bodies, and governments at all levels to raise the profile of the problem and the benefits of investing in internet access.
6. Hold a workshop in W.Africa in 2009 (with IAP and UN-GAID?)
6. **COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS WITH SIMILAR OBJECTIVES (IST, UN GAID, ICTP, IAP,**

INASP,)

SLIDE 10

Welcome to eGY

Take advantage of eGY and the 50-year anniversary of IGY

Visit the eGY website

Subscribe to eGY News and use it to inform and be informed

Subscribe to the three-tiered email list server (choose the level of detail of communications that suits you)

Become a signatory to the eGY Declaration

Contact Bill to discuss your interests

We provide a list of suggested actions for eGY participants.

THANK YOU

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