

IUGS Electronic Bulletin #16

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International Year of Planet Earth

After UN proclamation, December 2005, the International Year of Planet Earth was registered as a not-for-profit organisation under the law of Delaware (USA) by March 16, 2006. UN Proclamation ignited creation of National Committees in 15 countries (June 2006): Australia, Austria, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan (already in 2005), Malaysia, Mongolia, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Sweden, Switzerland and UK. Twenty other nations advanced well in launching such committees, while 15 others are seriously considering doing so. Fund raising activities started and several Partners joined the initiative. In June, two (former) heads of state (Namibia and Tanzania) agreed to become Patrons of the International Year.

All geoscientists in the world are invited to contribute to and participate in this largest ever global event for the geosciences. For more information, please check www.yearofplanetearth.org.

Episodes

The next issue of Episodes (Vol. 29, No.2) is scheduled for release in July. This issue will include, among other important matters, the following themes:

- The International Year of the Planet Earth (2007-2009) – an updated and much more complete presentation than presented in this Bulletin.
- Guidelines and Criteria for National geoparks
- Several articles presenting news from the International Commission on Stratigraphy
- The exploding lakes in Vanuatu
- Presentation of the Geological Map of the People's Republic of China

Please remember to look up the Episode Internet Page (<http://www.episodes.org/>)

Strategic planning

Most of the members of the IUGS Executive Committee will attend the 21st African Geological Colloquium in Maputo July 3-5. This gives us an opportunity to discuss matters of importance for IUGS, promote global geosciences, meet and interact with African geoscientists and plan for a stronger future on the continent. On July 1 and 2 we will have a meeting to discuss matters of strategic importance for the future of IUGS. This includes the future research directions, organisation of the IUGS bodies, and the relation between IUGS and its active members.

On July 6 there will be a meeting with the other representatives from other Geounions that are present at the Colloquium.

Sylvi Haldorsen
(IUGS Vice President)