
The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is coordinating international efforts to build a GLOBAL OBSERVATION SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS (GEOSS), with the aim of constructing a global public infrastructure for Earth observations that, like the Internet, will consist of a flexible and distributed network that connects users to existing data bases and portals and provides reliable, up-to-date and user friendly information. GEOSS is simultaneously addressing nine areas of critical importance to people and society: Disasters, Health, Energy, Climate, Biodiversity, Agriculture, Ecosystems, Water, and Weather. See <http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss.shtml>. The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is a voluntary partnership of governments and international organizations. (As of March 2009 GEO Members included 77 Governments, the European Commission, and an additional 56 intergovernmental, international, and regional organizations, with a mandate in Earth observation or related issues). Participating Organizations include, among others, ICSU and UNESCO (including the UNESCO-IUGS joint program GARS), as well as some ICSU GeoUnions. Membership in GEO is open to all member States of the United Nations and to the European Commission. (see <http://www.earthobservations.org/ag_members.shtml>)

Need some new Earth-related teaching ideas then try Earthlearningidea <www.earthlearningidea.com>. Earthlearningidea is publishing one new activity every month this year. Last year they published one new activity every week so there are lots of innovative teaching activities - all free to download. Please send Earthlearningidea your ideas, comments and suggestions via the blog at <http://earthlearningidea.blogspot.com> or by email to <info@earthlearningidea.com>

**PUBLICATIONS, JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS**


--The "Earth Science India e-Journal" is now available on the web and can be viewed at <http://www.earthscienceindia.info/>. This open access quarterly e-journal is a not-for-profit website under the umbrella of The Society of Earth Scientists and is devoted to the development of Earth/Environmental Sciences of India.

--The International Erosion Control Association (IECA) is the world's oldest and largest association devoted to helping members solve the problems caused by erosion and its byproduct—sediment. IECA connects to 3500 members who specialize in storm-water management and natural resource protection, in 52 countries and 17 fields of professional practice. IECA's diverse membership supplies a unique network of specialists who are capable of solving a broad range of problems caused by soil erosion and its by-product—sediment. Their official journal publication is "Erosion Control" See <http://www.ieca.org/>.

--UNESCO Global Geoparks Network - keep up to date with current activities at <http://www.globalgeopark.org/publish/portal1/tab59/>

--The Earth Portal <http://www.earthportal.org> provides a comprehensive resource for timely, objective, science-based information about the environment. The Earth Portal has three components: The Encyclopaedia of Earth, The Earth Forum, and The Earth News (a weekly newsletter that you can receive free of charge <http://www.earthportal.org/news/>).

--Earthscan, the leading publisher on climate change, sustainable development and environmental technology for academic, professional and general readers has just released a new journal "Environmental Hazards". This journal addresses the full range of hazards events from extreme geological, hydrological, atmospheric and biological events such as earthquakes, floods, storms and epidemics to technological failures and malfunctions such as industrial explosions, fires, toxic material releases. For more information see: <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=37213> For Enquiries email to: <journals@earthscan.co.uk>

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

For a listing of forthcoming geoscience meetings, conferences, and workshops of interest check the Calendar section of the IUGS website. <http://www.iugs.org/Calendar.html>


September 14-22, 2009. 3rd International Earth Science Olympiad 2009 (IESO 2009), National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan. An event of competition and cooperation in Earth science among young students worldwide, organized to increase public awareness and promote Earth science education. IESO is an important activity of IGEO (International Geoscience Education Organization). The IESO 2009 Local Organizing Committee would like to cordially invite your country to send a team with at least one mentor and two secondary students to Taiwan to participate in this exciting event. The Taiwanese government (Ministry of Education and National Science Council) has been fully committed to funding the third IESO. The local organizer will cover all the local expenses including accommodations, local transportation, field trips to the Chi-Chi earthquake site, tours and etc., but excluding international airfares. More information at: <http://www.ieso2009.tw/main/home/home.html>. Online registration <http://www.ieso2009.tw/main/home/1b_registration.html>. For any additional inquiries, please contact Chun-Yen Chang Chairman, IESO 2009 Local Organizing Committee (email: changcy@ntnu.edu.tw.)


October 12-16, 2009. 3rd Hemispheric Conference on Medical Geology (3rd HCMedGeo), the Holiday Inn Convention Center, Montevideo, Uruguay. Abstract deadline: 15 May 2009 - email your abstract to abstract@geologiamedica.com. For queries email centeno@afip.osd.mil and/or tonycent@comcast.net, with a copy to mmanaya@fq.edu.uy. For information on the program, excursions, participants, etc see: <http://www.geologiamedica.com/>.
October 12-16, 2009. The AGID Working Group for Geoethics are Convenors of the International Section "GEOETHICS" being held at the Mining Pribram Symposium, Pribram, Czech Republic. For more information email Lidmila Nemcova at: lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz. The Geoethics newsletter can be downloaded at <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/search/search.cfm?q=agid+GeoethicsNews> Web: www.bgs.ac.uk/agid/

October 18-23, 2009. The VIII International Symposium on Environmental Geochemistry (8 ISEG), Ouro Preto City, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Jointly with the XII Brazilian Geochemical Congress (12 CBGq). The XII CBGq/VIII ISEG is a forum for discussion and scientific experience exchange in all congress topics. See: <http://www.12cbgq.ufop.br/12cbgq/presentation.htm>

October 25-28, 2009. First World Young Earth Scientists (Y.E.S.) Congress 2009, Beijing, China. Theme "The Young Earth Scientists for Society". This Congress will discuss the main topics of the IYPE: health, climate, groundwater, ocean, soils, deep Earth, megacities, hazards, resources, and life. It is aimed at young representatives from geological associations and institutions, young leaders in politics, and delegates from administrative bodies to meet at the congress to establish a worldwide network between future leaders and policy makers and future earth science advisors. See: <http://www.yescongress2009.org>


November 12-15, 2009. International symposium on Geology, Natural Resources and Hazards in Karst Regions (GEOKARST 2009). Hanoi, Vietnam. For more information contact Assoc. Prof Pham Quy Nhan. E-mail: phamquynhan@yahoo.com

November 22-26, 2009. XII Chilean Geological Congress, Santiago, Chile. The deadline for abstract submission is 30th April 2009. Contact Sociedad Geologica (info@sociedadgeologica.cl) or see <http://www.congresogeologico2009.cl/public/#!>


April 26-28, 2010. 1st International Applied Geological Congress. Department of Geology (IAGC), Faculty of Sciences Islamic Azad University - Mashhad Branch (IAUM) Mashhad-Iran. Theme "New Directions of Investigations in Earth Sciences and Related Subjects": Abstract submission by 15 September 2009. E-mail:info@iagc.ir See <http://www.iagc.ir>