

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH IN BRAZIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

The Brazilian Launch Event of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE) took place two months after the organization of the National Committee, on January 25th 2007, in the Estação Ciência (Science Station), an entity of the University of São Paulo, in the city of same name, dedicated to divulge the various areas of sciences, through didactic exhibitions and courses to students, high school teachers and public in general.

The Executive Director of the IYPE Secretariat, Dr. Eduardo de Mulder, was present as well the Vice-Head of the University, Professors, and other authorities. The Exhibition named “Our Earth” was visited by half million people during its six months of existence and was a great success.

2007 was dedicated to the Outreach Year Program amongst geoscientists and students of geosciences through seminars, workshops and meetings in the five geographic regions and at the main Universities of the country, most of them promoted by the Brazilian Geological Society.

One special event occurred in October of that year and brought the IYPE close to the general public and especially to students of all ages and grades. It was the National Week of Science and Technology commemorated every year in whole Brazil, from North to South, East to West, with more than 20,000 activities in the big and small cities, with the theme “*Earth*”, followed by two students contests: one for fundamental and second grade students of the country that selected 20 students by their works presented (paintings and little stories about the ten themes of the Year (“*Planet Earth 50 years ahead from now*”)); the other contest involved students of Universities who should present paintings, poems, texts, videos, films etc related to the IYPE main themes. From a total of 20 selected students, three of them were distinguished to go to the Global Launch of the IYPE at UNESCO’s headquarters in Paris on February 12th and 13th, 2008.

All through 2007 and 2008, events of small and medium sizes were held in many parts of Brazil, most of them in schools, scientific centers and institutes, city halls, and a homepage of the Year was sited at the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Besides the participation of the Brazilian delegation (five members) at the IYPE Global Launch in Paris, five big events were realized during 2008, as follows:

1. The Regional Launch of the Year for Latin America and Caribbean Area;
2. Participation in the Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science;
3. National Week of Science and Technology;
4. Brazilian Geological Congress;
5. World Day of Science for Peace and Development.

1. The Regional Launching took place on 23rd and 24th of April, at the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies and enfolded a Latin America and Caribbean Seminar (“*Planet Earth in our Hands*”) involving oral presentations of the ten themes selected by UN, each of them introduced by a Brazilian and a non Brazilian special invited scientist, in Round Tables, with the participation of at least three Deputies in each of them. Representatives of Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Chile, Cuba were present. Also invited the representatives from Argentina and Colombia were not able to come. The launch was opened by the Ministry of Science and Technology and members of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Education, Mines and Energy, and the President of the Chamber as well as the IYPE National Committee. An Exhibition explaining the ten main themes listed by UN as priorities for the IYPE and their influence in the future of the Planet, showed in two languages (Portuguese and Spanish) remained at the Chamber of Deputies Cultural Area for two weeks and was visited by an estimated public of 100.000 people.

2. The participation in the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science took place in the week of 13-18th of July at the University of Campinas, interior of São Paulo State, and attracted about 15.000 people, including students, professors, politicians, authorities of the local and state governments. Covering a very large *spectrum* of science, the IYPE was marked by four big conferences, a round-table and an Exhibition.

3. The 2008 National Week of Science and Technology was taken under the theme “*Evolution and Diversity*”, providing the opportunity of Darwin’s centennial anniversary of scientific research in Brazil. As it normally occurs, it was commemorated all through the country and offered a good chance for students and people to know about the evolution of life in our planet, as it is recommended by the 10th UN and UNESCO’s theme: Earth and Life. The National Committee participated intensively of this event, mainly through the Research Unities of the Ministry of Science and Technology that are localized in most part of the country.

4. The commemoration of the IYPE in 2008 had its top at the Brazilian Geological Congress, realized in the city of Curitiba, in Southern part of Brazil, with more than 3,500 participants.

Under the theme “Planet Earth in hour Hands” the IYPE activities comprised big conferences, thematic conferences, symposia, round-tables, mini-courses and field excursions. The IYPE Executive Director, Eduardo de Mulder, was one of the invited scientists and introduced a splendid lecture about the YEAR.

A special course was organized for more than 250 of high school teachers during the Congress, with lectures given by eminent scientists, each of them charged of one of the ten IYPE themes and a book with articles related to those themes was distributed during the course. A great success.

5. The World Day of Science for Piece and Development, organized by UNESCO, closed the series of big events of the Year in 2008 and was celebrated mainly in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil.

Again, during the 2008, hundreds of lectures, conferences and exhibitions were taken in many parts of Brazil, for students, teachers, politicians and interviews as well to radio and TV programs about the importance and significance of the IYPE and the Earth Sciences for society

Posters and folders concerning the IYPE have being produced during 2008 and were distributed to Universities, Scientific and Technological Institutes, Fundamental and High Schools, National, State and Municipalities Secretaries of Environment and of Science and Technology.

PLANS FOR 2009

The IYPE commemorations will officially finish by December 2009, and to register that, the Brazilian National Committee for the IYPE intends to organize a Conference in Rio de Janeiro with all the Portuguese spoken countries as it has happened in Coimbra last September, by initiative of the National Committee of Portugal. It may probably occur in July or August, in Rio de Janeiro.

As Brazil is a very big country (8,5 million km²), the responses and interests from places from the far North, South, Eastern and Western parts of it make us believe that the objectives of the International Year of Planet Earth are being reached in Brazil.

The National Weeks of Science and Technology of 2007 and 2008 were important ways to transmit the importance of our planet for society to the general public. And this will happen again in October 2009.

The seminars, congresses, workshops etc are also important for professionals on geosciences to acquire knowledge about their importance for society and about the problems which are already affecting our Planet.

At the beginning of this year, a question remains: What to do and how to go ahead after 2009?

Brasília, January 9th, 2009

Carlos Oití Berbert
IYPE Senior Adviser and Board Member
Ministry of Science and Technology
Brasília, Brazil



IYPE Brazilian Launch Event Cerimony - Estação Ciência - January 2007



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IYPE Regional Launching in Latin América and Caribbean Area

23rd-24th of April, 2008

Chamber of Deputies, Brasília, Brazil



Opening Ceremony with Minister of Science and Technology and other authorities



Audience at the Opening Ceremony



Lecture by Dr. José Macharé Ordoñez , from Peru, about “Geosphere – our home”



Lecture by Dr. Carlos Nobre, from INPE/Brazil, about “The tic tac of the climate on Planet Earth”



Lecture by Dr. Enid Gamboa, from Costa Rica, about “Water – everyone’s right, challenge for all”



Lecture by Dr. Avílio Franco, from Embrapa/Brazil, about “Soil – Our dependence, our survival”



Lecture by Dr. Diogenes Campos, President of the Brazilian IYPE Committee, about “Earth and life – passengers of Planet Earth”



Special group of lecturers. From left to right: Drs. Carlos Oití (Brazil), Jaime Urrutia (Mexico), Segundo Urquiaga (Brazil), Enid Gamboa (Costa Rica), Manuel Iturralde-Vinent (Cuba), Marcelo Solari (Chile), José Macharé Ordoñez (Peru) and José Mendo Mizael (Brazil)



Closing Session. Lecture by Dr. Carlos Oití Berbert, IYPE Brazilian Senior Adviser, about “ Earth sciences for society”



Exhibit : Panel on “Earth Crust and Core”



Exhibit: Panel on “Mineral Resources and Energy”



Exhibit: Universitarian students' selected works



Exhibit: Fundamental and high school students' selected works

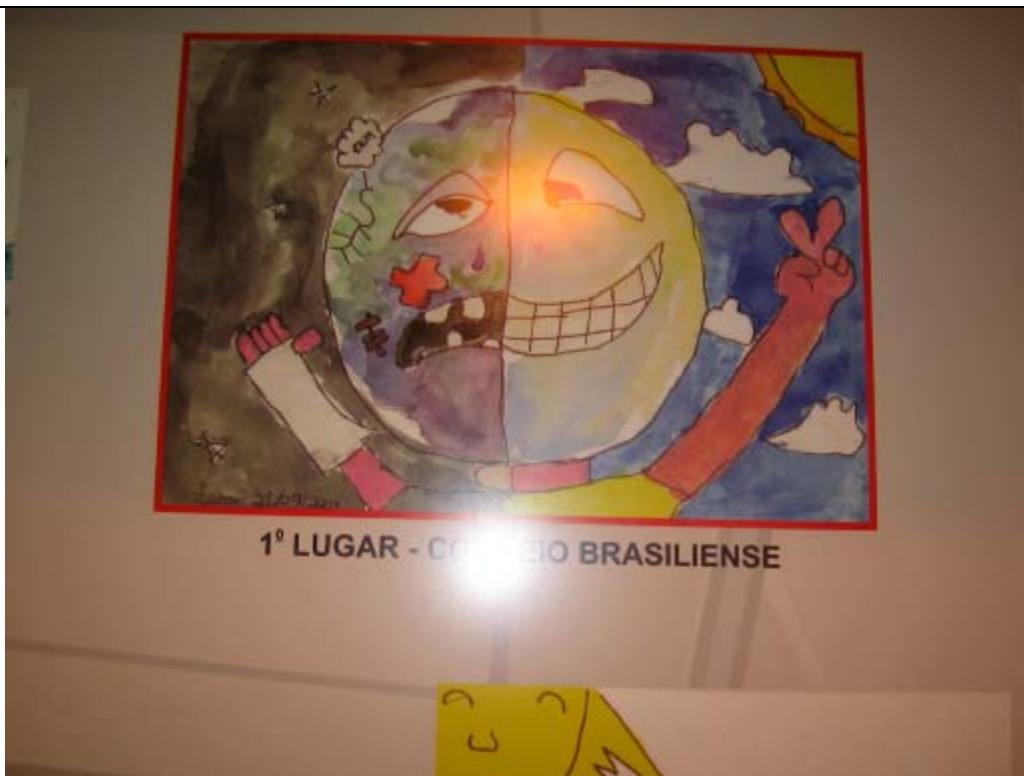


Exhibit: Fundamental school students' work winner