

Yemen International Year of Planet Earth National Committee

YNC_IYPE, Sana'a, P.O. Box: 18558, Republic of Yemen, Tel. / Fax: + 9671 420318 - Phone + 967 733 212 929 – 733 805 454; althourk@gmail.com

What is the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE)?

The International Year of Planet Earth is an ambitious programme designed to foster outreach and research activities with the single purpose of raising worldwide public and political awareness of the vast (but often under-used) potential of Earth sciences for improving the quality of life and safeguarding the planet. The aim is encapsulated in the Year's subtitle 'Earth sciences for Society'. It will run for the three successive years 2007, 2008 and 2009, and aims to contribute to making this planet a better, safer, healthier and wealthier place for our children and grandchildren. This ambition was endorsed by the United Nations when it proclaimed the International Year of Planet Earth for 2008, the pivotal year of the 2007-2009 triennium.



Yemen National Committee

The Yemen International Year of Planet Earth National Committee (YNC_IYPE) was proclaimed and MoU between the International Year of Planet Earth Corporation and Yemen National Committee have been signed on January 20, 2007. The preparatory meeting starts on Wednesday 20th of December, 2006 by several Yemeni geologists and specialists in various fields. Other and wider meetings have been held on the 3rd, 11th and 16th of January, 2007. The meetings pointed **Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour** as a **Chair**, **Eng. Ali J. Alwai** as a **Secretary General**, **Dr. Mohamed S. Al-Haj** as **Treasurer** and **Eng. Mohamed A. Al-Fusail**, **Dr. Mohamed A. Al-Kadasi**, **Dr. Ismail N. Al-Ganad** and **Dr. Ahmed A. Alaydrus** as members.

It also agreed on the composition structure of the YNC for the IYPE as follows: YNC-IYPE Executive Board; YNC-IYPE Secretariat; YNC-IYPE Development, Science Program and Outreach Program Committees, Advisory Board, as well as, 10 YNC-IYPE Supportive Groups: (1) Politicians, (2) Decision Makers, (3) Industry, (4) Academic & Scientific, (5) Social (VIP), (6) Media, (7) Youth, (8) NGO's, (9) International & Regional Donors, and (10) Diplomatic.



Evolution of an idea?

The idea of an International Year of Planet Earth was launched in 2000 at an IUGS Council meeting. Proclamation of an International Year was seen as a potentially powerful means of demonstrating how society could profit from the accumulated knowledge of the solid Earth as part of System Earth.

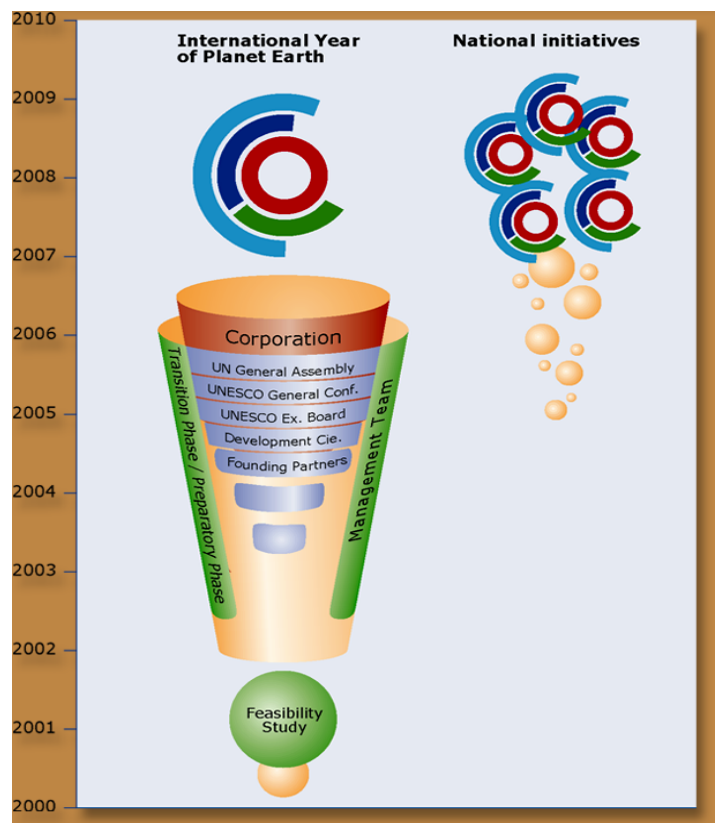
Following a feasibility study, immediate support was provided by UNESCO's Earth Science Division, making it a joint initiative by IUGS and UNESCO (Initiators). After broad consultation, it was decided in 2002 to seek proclamation of the International Year of Planet Earth by the General Assembly of the UN, with a view to providing the best possible exposure to national governments.

On August 26, 2004, the joint Council of IUGS and the International Geological Congress, together representing Earth science communities in 140 countries and regions, adopted a Declaration on the International Year.

This invited UNESCO's Executive Board to adopt an International Year of Planet Earth, considering that:

- the geosciences can contribute significantly to a safer, healthier and wealthier world;
- this potential contribution is seriously under-used by society and should be substantially increased;
- Proclamation of an international year under the aegis of UN member states would help the Earth sciences to make their full contribution to the sustainable stewardship of the planet.

Proclamation of 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth was effected at the UN General Assembly in New York on 22 December 2005. At least three years will be needed to realize most of the ambitious science and outreach plans, and the Year's triennium will thus run from 2007 to 2009.



Science Programme

A Science Programme Committee (SPC) developed its Terms of Reference in 2002. Ten broad Themes provide the operational framework of the Year's Science programme. Brochures were written by specialists and are available in both printed and electronic forms. Printing of the brochures has been made possible by the generosity of several European geological surveys (Austria, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Spain, and Sweden), Ministries, national scientific bodies, and UNESCO. All brochures may be downloaded from

www.yearofplanetearth.org.

Implementation of the science programmes will closely resemble the successful International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), another joint IUGS/UNESCO Programme. The Year's science programme will operate essentially in 'bottom-up' mode inviting scientists to submit proposals for the 10 science Themes, preferably addressing the 'key questions' mentioned in the science brochures, through Expressions of Interests (EoI's). These EoI's and subsequent proposals will be evaluated by Science Implementation Teams (SITs), one for each of the Themes. These SITs are composed of 8 – 10 experts and have become effective in January 2007.

Outreach Programme

The Outreach Programme Committee has developed a website (www.yearofplanetearth.org), produced flyers, and released thousands of general information brochures, leaflets (in many languages) and, with the kind assistance of the Chinese Ministry of Land and Resources, a dedicated brochure. The outreach programme will essentially operate in a 'bottom-up' mode as well. Individuals and organisations are invited to submit EoI's, followed by proposals for realization through the Year.



Advisory Group

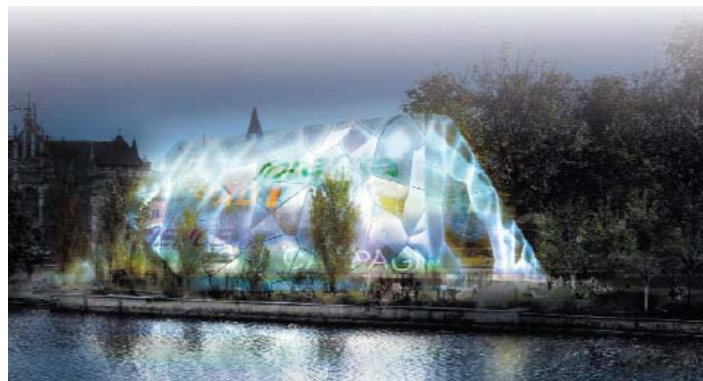
Individuals wishing to contribute to the Initiative and to support various activities through the science and/or outreach programmes may be invited to become Senior Advisers. The individuals making up this group will advise the MT concerning specific contributions to the activities for the Year. Senior Advisers are entitled to represent the International Year and are encouraged to publicise the Initiative as widely as possible. Currently there are 48 such Senior Advisers.

A small number of highly distinguished individuals have agreed to serve as Goodwill Ambassadors for the Year. These include persons with prominent media profiles in the world's major language areas, who are willing to promote the Year and its activities. Patrons include Heads of State and other World leaders who have expressed their willingness to give their patronage to the International Year. By February 1st, four Patrons have accepted our invitation: Sam Nujoma, Founding President of the Republic of Namibia and Benjamin W. Mkapa, until 2006 President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, President of the Board of Anglo-American, and Ruud Lubbers, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands.

Geoscientific Support, Partners

By mid 2003, the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) and the International Geographical Union (IGU) joined this initiative as Founding Partners, a move soon followed by the International Lithosphere Programme (ILP), the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and ISRIC - World Soil Information. Other such Partners are the Geological Society of London and the Geological Survey of the Netherlands (TNO). A consortium of three geoscientific associations/societies, affiliated to IUGS (IAEG, ISRM and ISSMGE) joined by Mid March 2005, the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), the American Geological Institute (AGI) by mid June, the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) by late June, and the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) by early October 2005, when access to Founding Partnership was closed.

Together with the Initiators, the 12 Founding Partners constitute the backbone of the Year. They all have a seat in the Board of the Corporation and are thus responsible for implementation of the International Year. They receive exposure through the Year's brochures, the Business Plan, the website and all other official publications of the International Year. Associate Partners have actively supported the International Year of Planet Earth before implementation. They were invited to participate and bear coresponsibility in the Science Teams securing representation of their scientific interests within the Year's Science programme. Associate Partners also have access to the outreach activities and may suggest such activities to the Outreach Programme Committee. By February 2006, access to Associate Partnership was closed and the final composition was assessed at 26 (listed at the IYPE website).



Political Support

At a high-level information meeting held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on the 11th of February 2004, six nations (China, Russia, Brazil, Argentina, Italy and Jordan) agreed to support proclamation of the International Year of Planet Earth once it had been formally proposed in the General Assembly of the UN. A Draft Resolution, proposed by the United Republic of Tanzania, was adopted (unopposed) by UNESCO's Executive Board on April 28th 2005.

There, 25 nations (Tanzania, Brazil, China, Burkina Faso, Turkey, Egypt, Ghana, Jamaica, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Kenya, Ukraine, Algeria, Morocco, Russian Federation, Mozambique, Germany, Swaziland, Rwanda, Senegal, Mauritius, Italy, Namibia and Canada) voiced their full support, bringing the number of supporting nations at 36.

How can I become involved?

You may contribute by generating ideas for implementation of the IYPE projects or by actively supporting current ideas, on both national and international levels.

•As an individual, you may wish to contact your International Year of Planet Earth National Committee. Contact can be made by way of the IYPE Secretariat. Alternatively, if you would like to support this initiative financially, please contact the Secretariat.

•If you are a representative of the industrial sector or of a Foundation, you may wish to communicate your ideas about implementation and/or sponsoring certain elements of this initiative. Please note that industry and the nations of the world need many more scientists to find and sustainably extract and process Earth materials, without which the advance of human society will be seriously impeded. A national Earth science event held in Germany in 2002 clearly demonstrated that initiatives of this kind can greatly stimulate the renewal of such expertise, thoroughly justifying investment in sustainable use of the Earth while, at the same time, securing its more fragile aspects for future generations. You may wish to support this initiative at the national or international level but, in all cases, please contact the Secretariat.

•If you are a scientist, you may wish to submit research proposals on one or more of the 10 themes by completing an Expression of Interest (EoI) form. You may also wish to contribute by linking existing or forthcoming (applied) scientific research programmes to those of the Year. In either case, please contact the Secretariat.

•If you are a representative of the media or of other sectors in the outreach industry, you are invited to share your ideas with the Outreach programme Committee through the National Committee &/or Year's Secretariat.

•If you are a government representative with suggestions or questions about fitting this initiative into new or current plans on sustainable development, mining, energy, science and technology, international cooperation, environment, land-use planning, or education, please contact the Secretariat.

National committees

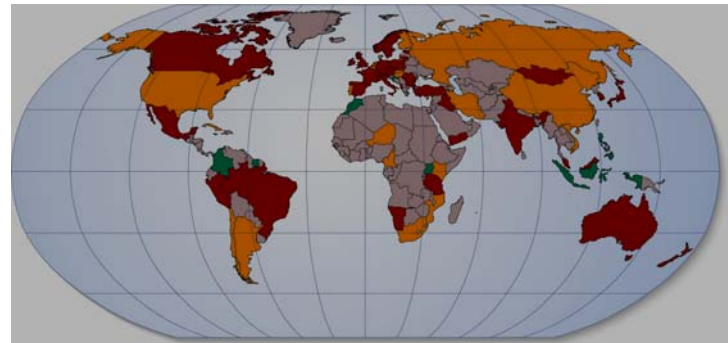
(1/2007)



In operation

In progress

In consideration



Contact IYPE



Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour
YNC_IYPE Chairman

Eng. Ali J. Alwai
YNC_IYPE Secretary General

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2007 - 2009

Why is there an International Year of Planet Earth?

Natural disasters, like the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, testify to the Earth's incredible power. More effective use of geoscientific knowledge can save lives and protect property. Such knowledge also enables us to satisfy, in a sustainable manner, the growing need for Earth's resources by an expanding human population. Such knowledge is readily available in the practical experience and publications of some half a million Earth scientists around the world, a professional community that is ready and willing to contribute to a safer, healthier and more prosperous society if called upon by politicians and decision makers.

IYPE Promotion

Following contacts and continuous cooperation between YNC and IYPE Secretariat, both Dr. de Mulder, Executive Director of the IYPE Corp and Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour Chair of the Yemen National Committee for the IYPE have considered the importance of publicize and promote the International Year in the Arab World. Dr. Al-Thour has paid a visit to Morocco from 12th to 17th of February, 2007. During his visit he met several scientists from University of Sidi Mohamed Bin Abdellah, Fas; University of Mohamed V, Rabat; University of Hassan II, Mohammdia. Dr. Al-Thour made a presentation about the International Year of Planet Earth objectives, mission and programs and invite them to establish Morocco NC.

From left to right: Dr. Mohamed Kerbout University of Mohamed V Rabat; Dr. Boutayeb Tag University of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah Fas; Dr. Kacem Joumady University of Hassan II Mohammdia; Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour Yemen NC for IYPE; Dr. M. Brahim Akdim and Dr. Hassane Alkatour University of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah Fas.



On the other hand, Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour Chair of the Yemen National Committee for the IYPE have made contacts and invited other Arabian countries to join the International Year of Planet Earth and support IYPE and benefit from its activities. He also provides advice regarding the importance, organization structure and appropriate methodology to establish their National Committee's for the IYPE.

Where are International IYPE events listed?

International IYPE Events will be listed on the website/web portal. A list of events is currently under construction, together with the International Calendar of events. For the time being, interested parties are referred to the ('new') flyer, as posted on the IYPE website.

Memorandum of Understanding



The International Year of Planet Earth
Earth Sciences for Society
(Triennium 2007-2009)

Memorandum of Understanding

Preamble

The International Year of Planet Earth, as proclaimed by Resolution 60/192 of the United Nations General Assembly at its 60th Session, is a 3-years event (2007-2009) aimed at promoting the contribution to sustainable development of society by using knowledge and information provided by the geosciences. The International Year of Planet Earth is a joint initiative by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and UNESCO, supported by 12 Founding Partners and 26 Associate Partners, sponsors and donors.

Implementation will take place through a Science and an Outreach Programme and will be both at an international and at national levels. The Corporation of the International Year of Planet Earth will be responsible for international implementation and National Committees on national levels. More detailed information regarding the general organization of the International Year of Planet Earth is available in the Business Plan and in the Status Report (www.yearofplanetearth.org). This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) describes the relations between the National Committee on the Year of Planet Earth for Yemen and the Corporation.

The Parties

1. The Corporation of the International Year of Planet Earth
2. The National Committee of the Year of Planet Earth for Yemen (YNC)

Agree to cooperate in terms of this Memorandum of Understanding in the organization and the implementation of the International Year of Planet Earth. They also agree to organize and conduct the business as follows.

The composition of the National Committee

The YNC comprises:

- representatives of the initiating bodies (IUGS and UNESCO),
- Representatives of relevant governmental bodies
- representatives of major non-governmental national geoscientific organisations (such as the geological and geophysical societies, universities, et cetera)
- representatives of Founding Partners, Associate Partners and IGCP
- Representatives of relevant industries.

A list of the above mentioned representatives and the organizational structure is attached as Annex 1.

National Committees-Corporation relationships

The YNC will maintain mutual relationships with the International Corporation to the benefit of both Parties.

The YNC will benefit from:

1. The preparatory work done on an international level including the political awareness raised among the 191 member countries of the United Nations through UN proclamation by the UN General Assembly on 22nd December 2005;
2. The use of the Year's logo;
3. The science, outreach brochures and other documents of the International Year of Planet Earth;
4. The granting mechanism for international science and outreach projects;
5. The attention given to the Committee in the international website and listing of national events on the international calendar of events of the Corporation;
6. The opportunities and synergy with projects in cooperation with the other science years (IPY, IHY and eGY);
7. The other services and assistance provided by the Secretariat of the Corporation upon request.

The Corporation will benefit from:

1. The impact of the YNC activities contributing to the success of the global awareness on the use of the geosciences for society;
2. Your national activities serving as models for international activities and for other NCs;
3. The various inputs from YNC, particularly regarding the performance indicators, in the reports by the Corporation to the United Nations.

Responsibilities of the Parties

The activities of the International Year of Planet Earth will be implemented on international levels by the Corporation and on national levels by the Yemen National Committee. In this respect,

The YNC

1. Selects or all three years of the triennium (2007, 2008 and 2009) as the National Year of Planet Earth and to become effective at the beginning of the triennium.
2. Develops its national science activities so as to contribute to answer some of the key questions posed in the science brochures to assist national and international decision makers. The 10 themes of the Sciences Programme constitutes a framework to identify in Yemen some major questions of national and international interest;

Why was the IYPE proclaimed by the United Nations?

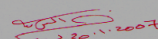
Governments were approached through the United Nations in order to attract political support. In the first instance, the Permanent Delegation of Tanzania gained support for this initiative from many nations of the UNESCO Executive Board at its meeting in April 2005. This was followed by a unanimous vote in favour of the IYPE during UNESCO's General Conference held in Paris in October 2005. The United Republic of Tanzania again took the lead among a core group of 82 nations in co-sponsoring a draft Resolution in the United Nations General Assembly. On 22nd December 2005, the UN General Assembly, with reference to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted by consensus Resolution 60/192 proclaiming 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth. This Resolution requests governments of all 191 UN Member States to report on progress and results with respect to promoting the use of geoscientific knowledge in their decision making.

3. Develops outreach activities so as to generate interest and greater awareness among the general public, decision makers and politicians about the effective application, for the betterment of human society, of the widely available wealth of information in the hands of the Earth science community;
4. Selects and proposes science and outreach projects of a supranational level to be submitted for (co-)sponsoring by the Corporation;
5. Develops a website (www.yemenyearofplanetearth.org) hot-linked to www.yearofplanetearth.org and vice versa.
6. Is responsible for the contents of the national calendar of the International Year of Planet Earth activities;
7. Translates key documents presented on the Corporation's website in Arabic and makes that available on its national but also on the international website;
8. Raises financial support to implement its activities on a national scale;
9. Transfers TV, radio and other media rights to the Corporation;
10. Contributes to the administration costs of the Corporation by providing 3% of the cash income obtained from non-governmental national resources to the Corporation in return for the freely received publicity and facilitation services by the Corporation.

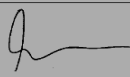
The Corporation

1. Is responsible for the international science and outreach programme of the International Year of Planet Earth activities;
2. Supports science and outreach projects with international dimensions submitted for (seed money) co-funding to the Corporation by the YNC;
3. Assists, if requested, the YNC in its efforts to develop its science and outreach activities, through the Science Programme and Outreach Programme Committees;
4. Provides the Year's logo to the YNC;
5. Keeps a listing of all national events on a worldwide calendar of events;
6. Develops a discussion and communication site for all National Committees on the website (portal) of the Corporation;
7. Maintains service facilities to the YNC through the Corporation's Secretariat;
8. Raises financial support from international resources to implement international science and outreach activities, accessible to YNC as well.

For the National Committee for IYPE for Yemen:


20/11/2007

Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour
Chairman Yemen National Committee for the Year of Planet Earth



For the International Year of Planet Earth Corporation:
Prof. Eduardo F.J. de Mulder
Executive Director

■ Water resources may be destroyed, or increased threefold, depending on how the soil is managed.

Who is behind the International Year of Planet Earth?

The International Year of Planet Earth was initiated in 2000 by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), a non-governmental organization. The IUGS was immediately joined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), an intergovernmental agency. Both organizations have enjoyed several decades of productive cooperation. The initiative has attracted 12 Founding Partners that actively support the initiative.

These Founding Partners are:

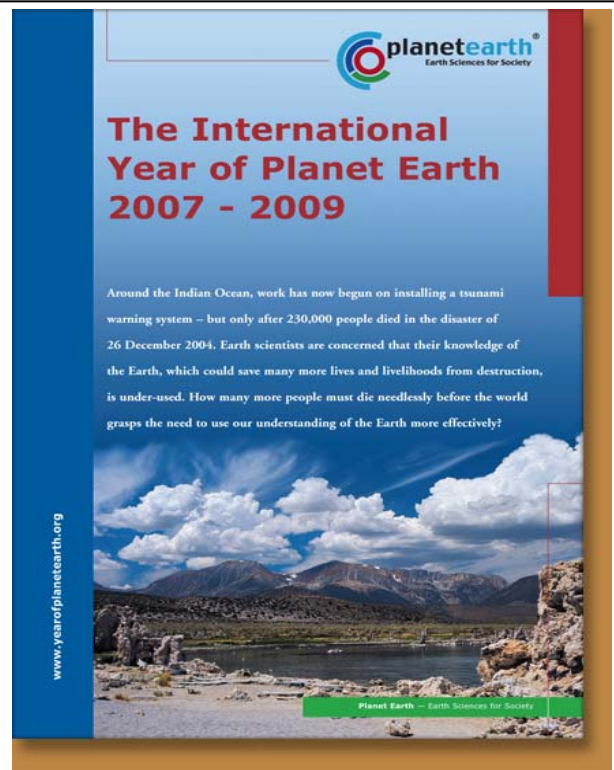
- International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)
- International Geographical Union (IGU)
- International Lithosphere Programme (ILP)
- International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)
- ISRIC - World Soil Information
- Geological Society of London
- Geological Survey of the Netherlands (TNO)
- Federation of International Geoengineering Societies (FIGS), a consortium of IAEG, ISRM and ISSMGE
- International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA)
- American Geological Institute (AGI)
- American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG)
- American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG)

The IYPE also enjoys the support of 26 Associated Partners, including all major international geoscientific and other relevant organizations, and a growing group of International Partners, including:

- Geological Society of America
- Geological Survey of Spain (IGME)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- EuroGeoSurveys
- Norwegian Geological Survey (NGU)
- European Geoscience Union (EGU)
- British Geological Survey (BGS)



Soil profile, Sana'a City



Which nations are involved?

The 33 national and regional committees so far established are -

Albania, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Turkey, UK, Republic of Yemen, E & SE Asia Region

Several other nations, including Argentina, Belgium, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Kenya, Korea, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Vietnam, Ukraine, and USA, are well on the way to establishing such committees, while others are seriously considering doing so.

Regional IYPE Committees are developed in specific regions where these are more readily established than is the case for National Committees. One Regional IYPE Committee has been established in East and Southeast Asia, covering the 11 nations in which the geosciences are looked after by the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP).

National and Regional IYPE Committees are independent bodies linked to the international Corporation through Memoranda of Understanding.

How is the IYPE organized?

The International Year of Planet Earth is a not-for-profit and non-religious 501 (c) (3) Corporation, registered in the USA. It is composed of a Board, a Secretariat and three Advisory bodies.

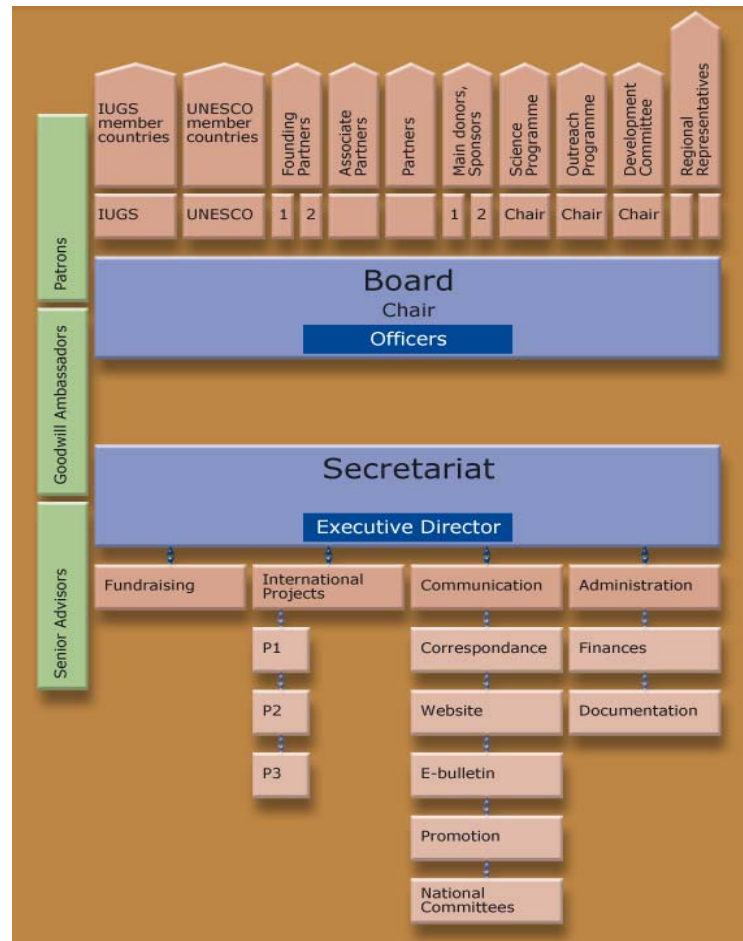
The Board is responsible for all decision-making on strategic and legal matters, and instructs the Secretariat. All stakeholders are represented in the Board. These include the two Initiators (IUGS and UNESCO), each of the 12 Founding Partners, the Associate and International Partners (each group sharing one seat), the Chairs of the three activities (science, outreach and fund-raising), and the national committees by way of 8 Regional Representatives. Major donors and sponsors will be represented on the Board in accordance with the level of their contribution. The Board has a President and a Vice Chairperson. Together with the three Committee Chairs and the representatives of the Initiators, they are the Officers of the Board, who are responsible for regular decision-making, including the final approval of science and outreach project proposals.

The Secretariat is responsible for all of the Year's operational activities at the international level, including preparing and implementing the Board's decisions and instructions, maintaining contact with the advisory bodies and the national committees, promoting and representing the IYPE, producing promotional and documentation materials, maintaining the website, correspondence, book-keeping, budget preparation, keeping records of approved IYPE projects, actively contributing to and keeping records of fundraising activities, public relations and press contacts, maintaining the IYPE Calendar, maintaining contacts with all stakeholders and with other science year initiatives, et cetera. The IYPE Secretariat is hosted by the Norwegian Geological Survey, based in Trondheim, Norway. The Secretariat has an Executive Director responsible for all of the Secretariat's operations. The Executive Director acts as a non-voting Secretary of the Board and its Officers.

The Corporation has three Advisory bodies: the Senior Advisers, the Goodwill Ambassadors and the Patrons. They advise the Board and its Officers, the Secretariat and the national committees on all relevant issues.

The International Year of Planet Earth is also represented by national and regional committees. Thirty Four such committees had been established by January, 2007. The national committees are linked to the international corporation through Memoranda of Understanding, signed by both parties.

IYPE Structure in detail



Sana'a Satellite Image



Contact IYPE

Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour
YNC_IYPE Chairman

Eng. Ali J. Alwai
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Dr. Al-Thour IYPE Senior Advisor



Dr. Eduardo de Mulder the Executive Director of the International Year of Planet Earth corporation has officially informed Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour that the IYPE Executive Board have unanimously appointed him as a Senior Advisor to the IYPE Corp. Dr. Al-Thour thanks Dr. Mulder and the IYPE Executive Board for their support and trust.

How does IYPE relate to other International Years?

Three other international science years, none of which has sought UN-Year status, will run concurrently with the IYPE. These are the International Polar Year (IPY), the International Heliophysical Year (IHY), and the Electronic Geophysical Year (eGY). Each of the four international years has its own unique characteristics in terms of target groups, ambitions, and parties involved, but they all share the view that System Earth is a key to the sustainable development of humankind. The four have agreed to maintain close communication and to cooperate with each other, coupling their science and outreach programmes wherever possible and appropriate. This spirit of cooperation is formally stated in the Celimontana Declaration (see the IYPE business plan at www.yearofplanetearth.org). The four initiatives will move forward together to generate greatly enhanced awareness of the relevance of the geosciences to everyday life and livelihood.

Yemen – Germany Scientific Research Cooperation

A future cooperation scientific research program is underway, particularly between the YNC_IYPE, SU and Al-Thour Cultural Protection Foundation, CHPF (Yemen) with Germany International Year of Planet Earth National Committee (GNC_IYPE), Friedrich-Alexander-Universität and other German Institutions (Germany); Dr. Saif A. Othman has been pointed as YGSRC Focal Point. The Yemen projects Coordinators Team of the Science Program of the IYPE have been named as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Groundwater | – Eng. Mohamed A. Al-Fusail |
| 2. Hazards | – Eng. Abdelkhaleq Al-Ghabri |
| 3. Earth & Health | – Dr. Abdelwahab I. Al-Kholani |
| 4. Climate | – Dr. Abdelmalek Al-Jebli |
| 5. Resources | – Dr. Nabil Al-Shawafi |
| 6. Megacities | – Dr. Mohamed S. Al-Haj |
| 7. Deep Earth | – Dr. Mohamed Matash |
| 8. Ocean | – Dr. Hassan Hebba |
| 9. Soils | – Dr. Khaled A. Al-Gasous |
| 10. Earth & Life | – Dr. Manal Oqbah |



On the other hand, Prof. Horst Kopp has made three presentations last March in cooperation between the YNC_IYPE and Sana'a University. The presentations titles are as follows: Yemen Development Issues Seen from a German Geographer: Past – Current – Future; Recent Trends in Human Geography; and Landslides.

How can I submit a proposal for a science project?

Ideas for science proposals should comply with a number of criteria before they are submitted to the International Secretariat through Expressions of Interest (Eols) in the first instance. Applications must meet the funding requirements of the Board of the Corporation. In order to do so, project applications should -

- be of high quality and of substantial scientific significance
- be substantially achievable within a time-frame of three years
- be soundly based in the geosciences
- aim to address one or more of the key questions, as stated in each of the Science Theme brochures
- be truly international in scope and global in relevance
- be holistic in nature and socially relevant
- be conformable with the principles of sustainability
- (preferably) include scientists from the less developed countries for reasons of capacity-building
- have the potential for the development of outreach activities
- take advantage of the opportunities provided by the wide spectrum of the Earth sciences and the practical benefits of interdisciplinary co-operation
- have a clear set of objectives and deliverables
- build on existing money flows, avoiding overlap with current programmes
- be designed to make use of most modern technologies.



All Expressions of Interest (Eols) should be submitted to the IYPE Secretariat in Trondheim whose staff will acknowledge receipt and will transfer the Eol to the Chair of the Science Programme Committee. The Eol will then be forwarded to the appropriate Science Implementation Team (SIT) leader for evaluation. SIT leaders will inform applicants of the success or failure of their Eols. In the event of failure, SIT Leaders will notify applicants of the grounds for the decision. When Eols comply with the IYPE criteria, the proposers will be invited by the SPC Chair to write a full proposal. It is important to note that approved proposals may be funded only at seed money level, grants being made only if sufficient Corporation funds are available. Full proposals should be sent to the IYPE Secretariat where they will be registered and filed, prior to their evaluation by the SITs according to the published criteria.



Absence of sewage system, Amran

- Groundwater recharge accounts for about 10,000 cubic kilometres annually, (c. 0.1% of all groundwater resources). Thus, only a tiny proportion of the total volume of groundwater reserves is recharged each year, compared to the large volume in stock.

How can I submit a proposal for an outreach project?

Ideas for outreach proposals should comply with a number of criteria before they are submitted to the International Secretariat, initially as an Expression of Interest (EoI). Applications must meet the funding requirements of the Board. In order to do so, project applications should –

- be of high quality
- be substantially achievable within a time-frame of three years
- preferably address one or more of the key questions, as stated in each of the Science Theme brochures
- be truly international in scope and global in relevance
- be socially relevant, and conform with the principles of sustainability
- have the potential to link with the IYPE's science activities
- have a clear set of objectives and deliverables
- build on existing money flows

All Expressions of Interest (EoIs) should be submitted to the IYPE Secretariat in Trondheim. The Secretariat will acknowledge receipt of the EoI, and will then transfer it to the Vice-Chair of the Outreach Programme Committee (OPC). The OPC will evaluate the EoI and inform applicants of the success or failure of their outline proposals. In the event of failure, the OPC will set out for the applicant the grounds for the decision. Proposers of EoIs that comply with the IYPE criteria will be invited by the OPC Vice-Chair to submit a full proposal. It is important to note that approved proposals may be funded only at seed money level, grants being made only if sufficient Corporation funds are available.

Full proposals should be sent to the IYPE Secretariat, where they will be registered and filed. They will then be evaluated by the OPC according to the published criteria.



International Year of Planet Earth

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) FORM

Explanatory notes

This form is for people who wish to register an interest in applying to the International Year of Planet Earth for funds to pursue either scientific research or outreach activities under the auspices of the Year. Please note that this form must be accompanied by evidence that the applicant has obtained, or applied to obtain, money from other sources. International Year of Planet Earth is a matching funds scheme, in both its science and outreach line. Please do not print out this form. Save it to your computer, fill it in electronically and return attached to an email addressed to: <mailto:ERC.Assistant@geolsoc.org.uk>.

Science projects

Science projects should demonstrate their congruence with one of the TEN broad science themes set out in the Year's prospectuses, and by demonstrating societal relevance.

Proposers will improve their chances of funding by demonstrating how their proposal will help answer one or more of the "Key Questions" set out in each prospectus. You can obtain all prospectuses by download from www.yearofplanetearth.org.

Outreach projects

Before completing this form, proposers of outreach projects should read the outreach Prospectus (#11), entitled Bringing the Earth Sciences to Everyone.

Proposers will improve their chances of funding if they demonstrate that their outreach project helps to convey an understanding of and sympathy towards the scientific issues raised in the science prospectuses.

All proposals will improve their chances by demonstrating that they are inclusive, multidisciplinary, and international.

This form must be submitted electronically. You may expand the space provided below. Please use as much space as you need, but consider that it is only an Expression of Interest. When completed, the form should not be longer than 2-3 pages. CVs and appendices should not be included.

EoI Form is in the next page. It also can be downloaded from the IYPE website &/or from YNC_IYPE Secretariat.

Form for the Expression of Interest

(Please fill in electronically, expanding as required)

Project Title:

Science Line

Outreach Line

(Please strike through that which does **not** apply)

Short title and/or Acronym (optional):

Brief description of Project (maximum half a page)

Date of Submission:

Leader or Leaders (name, mailing address, email and/or fax; list up to 4 key project members with addresses):

Planned International Participation (indicate *firm* commitments in *bold italics*):

Duration (start date and term):

Major Objectives (specify annual targets, if appropriate):

Methods/Approach:

Planned Results:

Please indicate the wider societal benefit of your research

Please indicate the target audience of your outreach activity (if applicable) and explain the need

Planned Workshops (meetings/ field, date and venue if known):

Proposed Publications (scientific, technical report, guidebook, book):

Other Products (e.g. database, instrument, policy document, etc.):

Involvement of other bodies (list entities and nature of involvement):

Plans for Including Scientists from Developing Countries and/or Young Scientists in Project and Leadership:

PROPOSED BUDGET (in €or \$ (US)):

Travel:

Workshops/ Meetings:

Administrative Costs (must be less than 10% of total allocation):

Other Costs (specify):

TOTAL: €/\$

Sum sought from International Year:

Sum requested, pledged or obtained from other sources:

Date:

Your coordinates:

Name

Postal address

Email

Telephone

Fax

Web

Planet Earth logo in Arabic



The official version of the Arabic IYPE logo was adopted and have already forwarded to the IYPE Secretariat.



Bad land use, Sana'a City

Contact IYPE

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YNC_IYPE Chairman

Eng. Ali J. Alwai
YNC_IYPE Secretary General

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www.esfs.org



PLANET EARTH NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 4

April 2007

Yemen International Year of Planet Earth National Committee

YNC_IYPE, Sana'a, P.O. Box: 18558, Republic of Yemen, Tel. / Fax: + 9671 420318 - Phone + 967 733 212 929 – 733 805 454; althourk@gmail.com

Patrons for YNC and IYPE

Dr. Abdelkarim A. Al-Eryani, the Political Advisor of the President of the Republic of Yemen (ROY), has met on Thursday 26th of April Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour the Chairman of the YNC_IYPE who brief him about the progress made since January, 2007 and the cooperation activity between the YNC and the IYPE, Inc. Dr. Al-Thour also highlight the significance of the IYPE concept, mission and objectives. Dr. Al-Eryani indicates his support for the IYPE mission

YNC_IYPE Executive Board has already agreed to nominate the former Yemeni Prime Ministers Dr. Abdelkarim A. Al-Eryani, Mr. Abdelaziz Abdelghani, Mr. Mouhssin Al-Eyeni, Dr. Farag Ben Ghanim, as well as, the acting Prime Minister Dr. Ali M. Majawer as patrons for the IYPE, Inc.

We Seek Your Help!

The Republic of Yemen has established the Yemen National Committee for the International Year of Planet Earth (YNC_IYPE) which is broadly representative of geoscience community in Yemen. Its purpose is to maximise the impact in Yemen of IYPE and to convince decision makers and the public that geoscience is an exciting and important discipline which makes critical contributions to society. Arising from various meetings and working groups within the committee a Draft Programme of Events for 2007 - 2009 has been prepared. We urge all interested parties, be they geoscientists or non-scientists, to read the draft program in the next page and offer us feedback on it to our address on the last page of this newsletter. We also invite everyone to contribute by generating ideas for implementation of the YNC_IYPE &/or IYPE projects or by actively supporting current ideas on the national, regional or international levels.

Seminar on Remote Sensing Application

The YNC_IYPE have participated in the above seminar which has been held in Sana'a 25th of April, 2007. The seminar was an excellent opportunity to publicize the IYPE. A meeting between YNC_IYPE and Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System Center (RSGISC) is planned during May, 2007.



Samsara' at al-nahass, Sana'a City

Arab World NC's

Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour Senior Advisor of the IYPE have invited the geoscientific community in the Arab World to join the International Year of planet Earth (IYPE) activities and establish their national committees. Morocco have established their NC for IYPE and a Memorandum of Understanding have been signed between MNC and the IYPE. Dr. Eduardo de Mulder the Executive Director of the IYPE has acknowledge such efforts made by Dr. Al-Thour and YNC_IYPE.

Planet Earth logo on journals



The Executive Board supplied the Planet Earth logo, both Arabic and English version, for three journals. The Journal of the Geological Society of Yemen, the Bulletin of Faculty of Science, Sana'a University and the Journal of the Earthquake and Studies Center of Yemen show the Planet Earth logo on these covers or back covers to present their support to the International Year.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2007- 2009

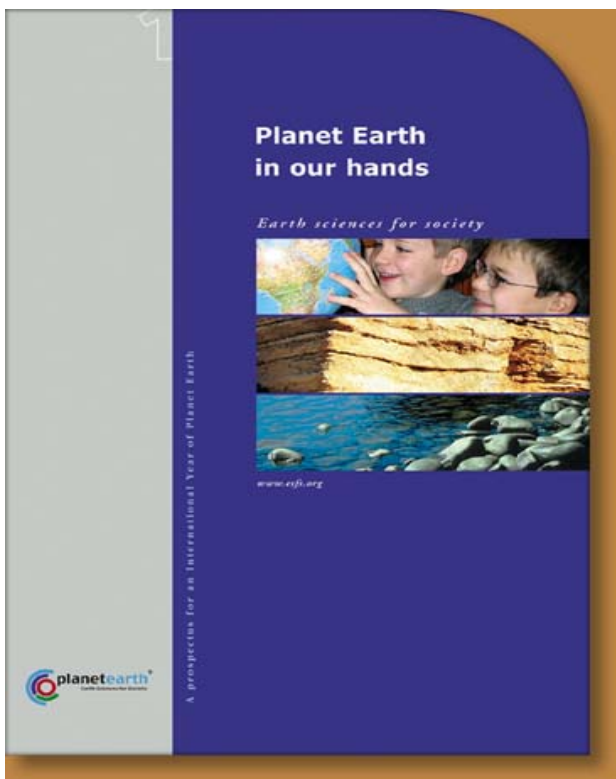
Draft Programme of Events

The Yemen National Committee for IYPE (YNC_IYPE) has carried out an initial scoping of events that might comprise our 2007-2009 activities. The suggested long list of activities are partly confirmed, proposed or planned. The idea is to encourage coordination between geoscientific community and line ministries, running projects, industry and media. This draft programme is shown below:

Activity I: the Outreach Programme:

The Outreach Programme consists of variable and comprehensive activities on the national, regional and international level. Some plans and outreach projects include:

- Translation, printing and distribution of the IYPE Science Programme Brochures, key reports, outreach programme materials, and make them available to individuals, authorities, ministries, ... etc;
- Governorates Planet Earth Carnivals:
- Annual Yemeni Planet Earth Prize &/or Certificate;
- Mobile Geosciences Museum;
- Universities Geology Week;
- Teaching courses for journalists and teachers;
- Geo-bus Tours for youth, school and university students;
- Geosciences Film Shows in schools, youth clubs, cultural foundations & universities;
- TV documentary on Planet Earth;



- Monthly Media Awareness Programmes;
- Seasonal Seminars for all YNC_IYPE Supportive Groups;
- Biannual Geoscience and Society Meeting;
- Shoura Council Planet Earth Conference (2008);
- Special books, journals and articles with focus on "Planet Earth";
- Buses and cars painted in the year's logo colours;
- Yemen International Year of Planet Earth Stamp;
- Geo-Arts Competitions;
- Geo-Poetry book;
- Selection of several and important geological sites protection areas;
- Opening of Geoparks (2008-2009);
- Establishment of Geological Museums (2008-2009);
- International Geotourism Conference to be held in Yemen 2009;
- New Journal on "Geoheritage" (2009);
- Development of International Standards in Geo-Information;
- Quality Control Medical Geology terminology;
- Transparent Earth, through 1:1M World digital geological map (OneGeology);
- Structural and Plate Kinematics Map of the World (1:50);
- Metallogenic and Geological Map of Middle East (1:5M).

Activity II: the Science Programme:

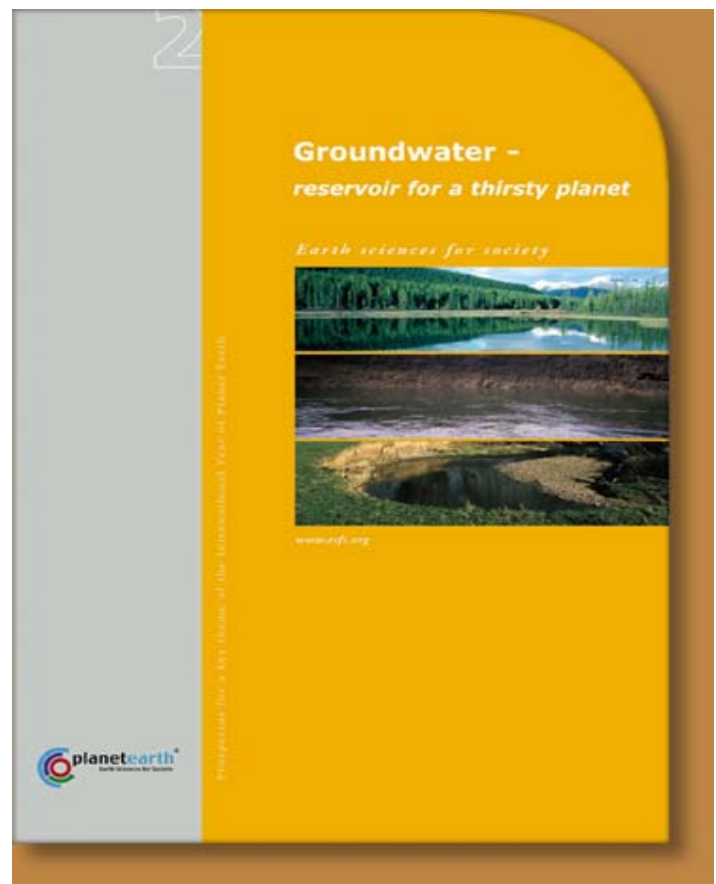
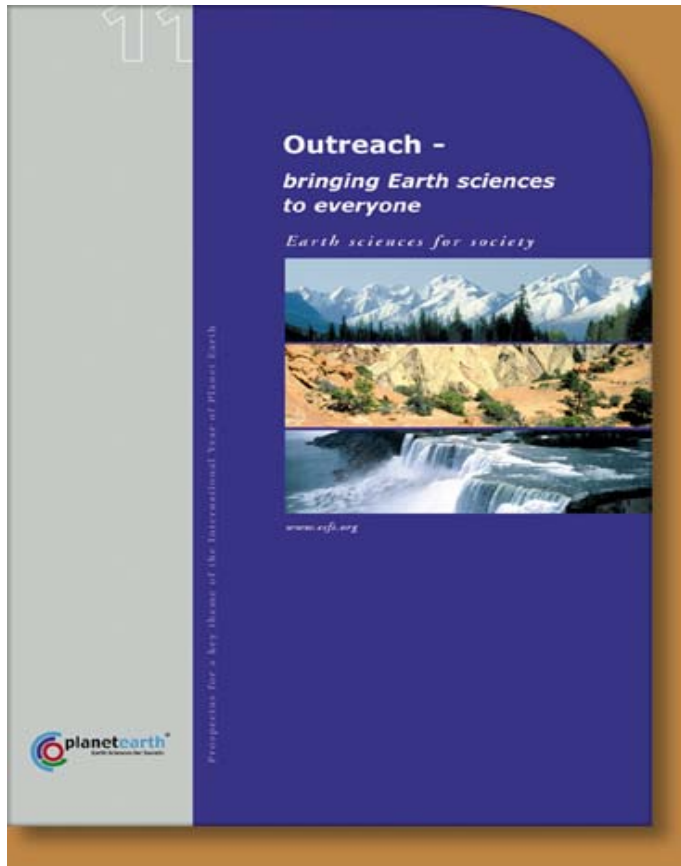
The Science Programme consists of open number of activities on the national, regional and international level. YNC_IYPE Secretariat and committees will provide technical advice and support, in the preparation and design of national, regional and international projects, for individuals, authorities, ministries, ...etc. Some plans and science projects are under-way according to the country priority.

Where can I find information about National IYPE events?

The IYPE website for Yemen www.yemenyearofplanetearth.org is under construction. In the meanwhile you can have access to YNC_IYPE via the IYPE Inc. However, national IYPE events are listed at the entries for National Committees. Some selected events are also listed on the International Calendar. Entry to the national events is achieved by clicking on the Yemen flag on the IYPE home page [www.yearofplanetearth.org].

National Water Resources Authority (NWRA)

A joint meeting between the Yemen National Committee for IYPE (YNC_IYPE) and National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) have been held at YNC_IYPE office. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour Chairman of YNC_IYPE and Eng. Salem H. Bashuaib Chairman of NWRA. The meeting have discussed in detail the importance of cooperation between the two parties and agreed in forming an outreach team for the related themes of the IYPE science program. Eng. Mohamed A. Al-Fusail talked about the necessity of developing a research program to study in detail the main basins in Yemen. While Eng. Ali J. Alwai raised the need for increasing awareness programs. The meeting concludes that a monthly seminar is a vital to discuss and agreed on awareness and research activity priorities. Several board and supportive group members of the YNC_IYPE have attend the meeting.



As renewable fresh water is measured using flow rate (cubic kilometres (km³) per year, cubic metres (m³) per second, etc.), while non-renewable fresh water reserves are measured by their volume or mass (km³, m³), the two are difficult to compare quantitatively.

- Polluted groundwater can be decontaminated only by expensive long-term procedures.



Yarim, Yemen

Finance

We invite politicians, decision makers, regional and international donors and diplomatic representatives in Yemen to cooperate with us and support IYPE mission in the Republic of Yemen. We also urge all Yemeni and international business men including national and international companies to sponsor selected programmes either from the list mentioned above or through recommendation of activities with relevance to the IYPE.



Kettab, Yemen

The International Year is as much about public awareness as it is about science



Damt, Yemen

YNC_IYPE CALL FOR ACTION!

If you might think of joining us in the planning of some national &/or international events for IYPE why not let us know - we could perhaps help, support & publicise it using various tools? Or perhaps you might have some ideas that you'd like to see discussed via YNC_IYPE activities? If so then please do let us know:

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2007 - 2009

GeoArabia

Frutifull cooperation between YNC_IYPE and Gulf PetroLink led to getting a free copy of the Middle East Petroleum Geosciences journal "GeoArabia" for Sana'a University, Thamar University, Ministry of Oil and Minerals and Yemen IYPE National Committee. Dr. Al-Thour have delivered the copies to the related departments and request them to write to Dr. Moujahed Al-Husseini and thank him for his support.



Seminar on Earth and health

The YNC_IYPE have organized a seminar on the subject mentioned above. Details on page 2.

TSUNAMI IN YEMEN

Tsunami have killed 300.000 people overall the world, but the international community didn't know that the Republic of Yemen (ROY) have severely affected by Tsunami. As a matter of fact Tsunami have stroked the whole region of the Indian Ocean.



Tsunami have reached the Yemeni southern coast at 2.00a.m. at Al-Mahara'a Coast and followed to Hadhramaout (including Socotra Island), Shabwa'a, Abyein and Aden Governorates. The waves height reached 6m. The sea invade the continent and reached to 400m. Several agricultural farms, groundwater wells, fishery equipments and boats have been affected &/or damaged, and several people killed and injured.

Workshop on Clean Development Mechanism

The YNC_IYPE have participated in the CDM Workshop which has been held in Sana'a 30th of May, 2007. The workshop was an excellent opportunity to publicize the IYPE. A future cooperation between YNC_IYPE and Environment Protection Authority (EPA) have been agreed.

Planet Earth Brochures on CD's

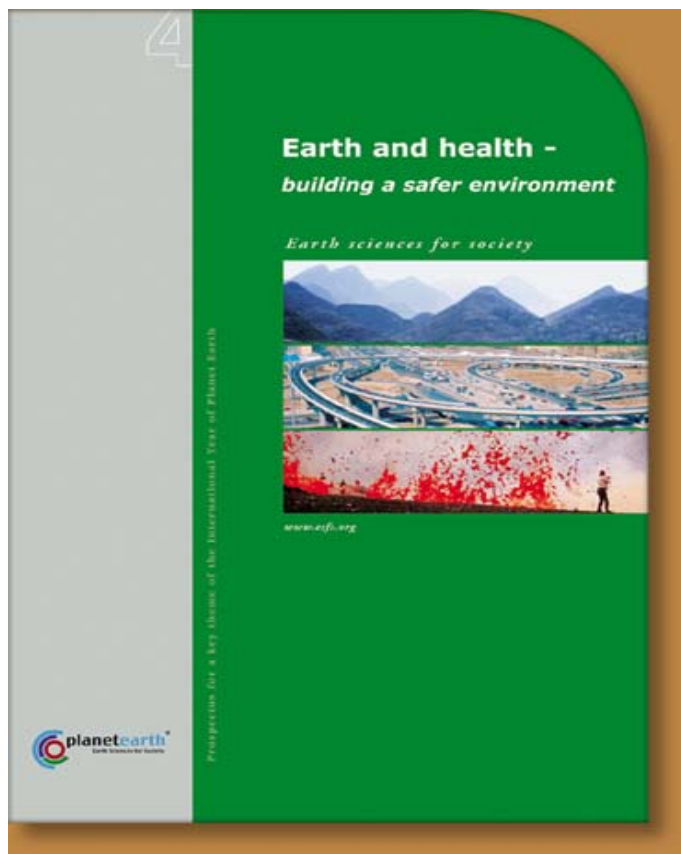
Eng. Ali J. Alwai the Secretary General of the YNC_IYPE announced that the YNC secretariat have already distributed an electronic copy of all science program brochures, as well as, outreach brochure and expression of interest form (EoI) to Ministry of Oil and Minerals (MOM), Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI), Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR), Ministry of Public Health and Population (MPHP), Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH), Ministry of Culture (MC), as well as other authorities and acting projects (e.g. SU, AU, TU, HU, EPA, NWRA, GSCP, SFD,..etc.).



Seminar on Earth and health - building a safer environment

The YNC_IYPE have organized a seminar on the “Earth & Health” theme. The seminar chaired by Eng. Ali J. Alwai the YNC_IYPE Secretary General who welcome the audience and gave a brief summary about the seminar subject and put forward important question why earth and health is one of the IYPE Science Program themes? Then, Eng. Alwai introduce the speaker Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour the Chairman of the YNC_IYPE.

Dr. Al-Thour thanks Mr. Alwai and highlight the IYPE mission and objectives. He said we have decided to start our seminars with Earth and Health for several reasons, the most important of which is to use it as a model for the IYPE activities and to help scientists to prepare an EoL project. Dr. Al-Thour also indicates why earth and health is a priority in the IYPE and Yemen National Committee. He clarify how some projects could answer one &/or more key question mentioned in the E & H brochure; and how a research team could be organized according to the problem exist and perspective methodology of research. Dr. Al-Thour have encouraged Yemeni scientists to concentrate on the major problems (e.g. groundwater, air pollution) and develop their projects with scientists from Europe, USA, SE Asia, Canada, Australia, Africa, ...etc.



Earth and health - building a safer environment

Earth and Health - a priority in the International Year of Planet Earth.

- Many diseases and conditions can be traced to sources in natural Earth materials.
- There is an urgent need to apply geochemical and mineralogical techniques to pathology and the study of internal pathways. Both beneficial and harmful aspects of the links between Earth materials and human health need to be more fully understood. In particular, the relation between human health and excesses or deficiencies of elements, ions and key micronutrients (e.g. iodine, selenium, iron, arsenic, radon and many others), as well as globally widespread but less well-defined agents (e.g. quartz), need to be highlighted.
- Scientists will benefit from the experience that they will gain in bridging gaps and breaking down barriers between the components of this intrinsically interdisciplinary and socially relevant scientific field. The partnership will involve Earth scientists, medical researchers, pathologists, toxicologists, veterinarians, epidemiologists, medical geographers, veterinary scientists, dental scientists and wildlife managers.
- Research in such relevant specialisms will require close integration if there is to be significant progress. A close working relationship between the Earth science community and professionals in community health will also be needed.

The Earth and health - some key questions

- *Can we identify the environmental causes of known health problems and, in collaboration with biomedical/public health researchers, seek solutions to prevent or minimize these problems?*

Soils, sediments and water

- *How can we identify geochemical 'highs' and 'lows' in soils, sediments, and water that may impact on health - and what are the critical links between these and the health of humans and animals?*

The air we breathe

Atmospheric dust

- *How extensive is the health impact of global dusts?*
- *Will we be able to predict health problems arising from breathing dust, and how will this threat be mitigated?*

Raising public awareness

- *How can we reassure the public over health problems arising from geological materials or processes?*
- *How can links between developed and developing countries be established so as to provide solutions to common health problems?*

Overview of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

1. Background

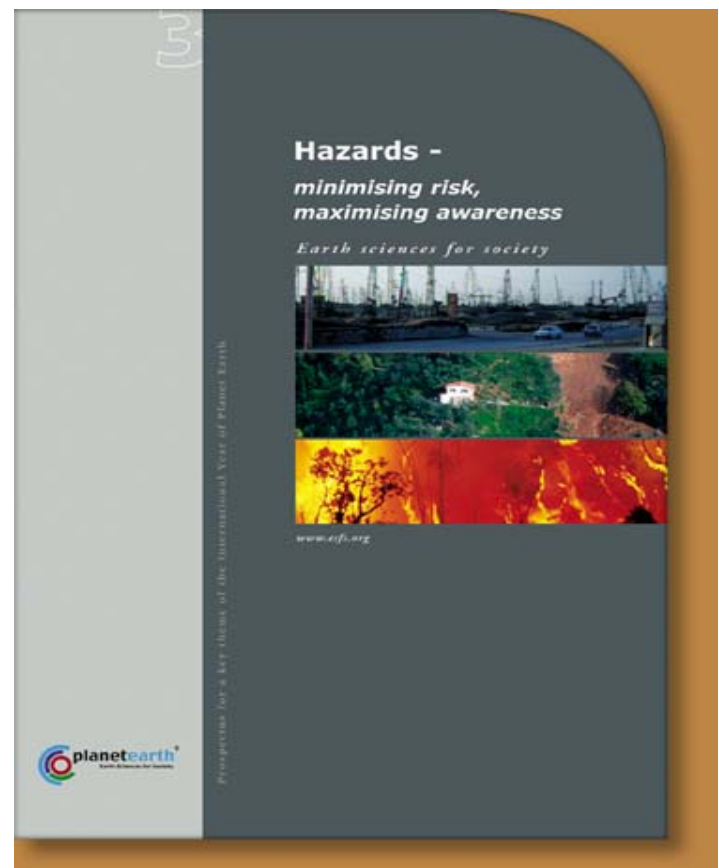
Climate change emerged on the political agenda in the mid 1980s with the increasing scientific evidence of human interference in the global climate system and with growing public concern about the environment. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to provide policy makers with authoritative scientific information in 1988. The IPCC, consisting of hundreds of leading scientists and experts on global warming, was tasked with assessing the state of scientific knowledge concerning climate change, evaluating its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts, and formulating realistic policy advice.

The IPCC published its first report in 1990 concluding that the growing accumulation of human-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere would “enhance the greenhouse effect, resulting on average in an additional warming of the Earth’s surface” by the next century, unless measures were adopted to limit emissions.

The report confirmed that climate change was a threat and called for an international treaty to address the problem. The United Nations General Assembly responded by formally launching negotiations on a framework convention on climate change and establishing an “Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee” to develop the treaty. Negotiations to formulate an international treaty on global climate protection began in 1991 and resulted in the completion, by May 1992, of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The UNFCCC was opened for signature during the UN Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992 and entered into force in March 1994. The Convention sets an ultimate objective of stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases at safe levels. To achieve this objective, all countries have a general commitment to address climate change, adapt to its effects, and report their actions to implement the convention. The Convention divides countries into two groups: Annex I Parties, the industrialized countries who have historically contributed the most to climate change, and non-Annex I Parties, which include primarily the developing countries. The principles of equity and “common but differentiated responsibilities” contained in the Convention require Annex I Parties to take the lead in returning their greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000.

“Direct links between geology and health are provided by the food chain and by inhalation of atmospheric dusts and gases”



2. Kyoto Protocol

The Convention established the Conference of Parties (COP) as its supreme body with the responsibility to oversee the progress toward the aim of the Convention. At the first session of the COP (COP 1) in Berlin, Germany, it was decided that post-2000 commitments would only be set for Annex I Parties. During COP 3 in Kyoto, Japan, a legally binding set of obligations for 38 industrialized countries and 11 countries in Central and Eastern Europe was created, to return their emissions of GHGs to an average of approximately 5.2% below their 1990 levels over the commitment period 2008-2012. This is called the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention.

IYPE Promotion

The Yemen IYPE National Committee (YNC_IYPE) have translate into Arabic language a useful document entitled "Frequently asked questions about the International Year of Planet Earth". The document have been distributed in ministries, authorities, universities and media. An electronic copy have been forwarded to the IYPE Secretariat, as well as, to Arab countries NC's &/or Geoscientific and Environment experts whom have been invited to establish their national committees. You can get free copy from YNC_IYPE Secretariat.



Clean Development Mechanism

2. Kyoto Protocol

The targets cover six main greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); perfluorocarbons (PFCs); and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). The Protocol also allows these countries the option of deciding which of the six gases will form part of their national emissions reduction strategy. Some activities in the land-use change and forestry sector, such as afforestation and reforestation, that absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, are also covered.

Negotiations continued after Kyoto to develop the Protocol's operational details. While the Protocol identified a number of modalities to help Parties reach their targets, it does not elaborate on the specifics. After more than four years of debate, Parties agreed at COP 7 in Marrakech, Morocco to a comprehensive rulebook – the Marrakech Accords – on how to implement the Kyoto Protocol. The Accords also intend to provide Parties with sufficient clarity to consider ratification.

3. Conclusion

CDM projects offer opportunities for creating synergies between climate change policies and SD policies that encompass major national development priorities. These combined policy goals may be supported through a process in which potential CDM projects are screened against chosen SD criteria representing economic, social, and environmental aspects that host countries find important. Host countries can choose from a long list of potential indicators, including financial and technology transfer, income generation, employment creation, local environmental impacts, health, social development, and equity.

It may be advantageous to integrate SD evaluation into more general national development planning activities, for example through organisation of broad stakeholder workshops, evaluation of linkages to development plans, and careful screening of CDM projects with regard to their ability to assist SD.

For more information contact Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) &/or CDM Project in Yemen.



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٢٤ مايو ٢٠٠٧



اللجنة الوطنية للعام العالمي لكوكب الأرض – الجمهورية اليمنية



Contact IYPE

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANET EARTH 2007 - 2009



Central Organization For Control & Auditing (COCA)

Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanafie the President of the COCA have received in his office Dr. Al-Thour who introduce the IYPE mission and objectives and invite him to support the IYPE activities. Dr. Al-Sanafie welcome the idea and discussed the methodology on how COCA can play a major role in supporting the IYPE projects and plans. He suggest that the YNC_IYPE experts visit the gtz office at COCA and inform them about the IYPE activity and together recommend the appropriate methodology to support the year's mission. Dr. Mohamed S. Al-Haj have attended the meeting.



Ministry Of Culture (MC)

Dr. Mohamed A. Al-Maflahi Minister of Culture have received in his office on Saturday 9th of June, 2007 the Executive Board of the YNC_IYPE. Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour summarize the IYPE development, mission and objectives, and provide the minister with a copy of the YNC_IYPE draft program which include activities that might be organized by the ministry. The Minister welcome the idea and express his deep interest to support the year's mission and agreed to open an office of the YNC_IYPE at the ministry and appointed Mr. Jamal Majam as the ministry – YNC_IYPE Coordinator. Eng. Ali J. Alwai the Secretary General of the YNC and Dr. Mohamed S. Al-Haj attends the meeting.

Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research (MHESR)



Dr. Mohamed M. Mutafer Vice-Minister (MHESR) have received in his office on Saturday 9th of June, 2007 Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour who breifs him about the IYPE activities, mission and objectives. Both men have agreed to organize a national workshop under the patronage of the Minister of MHESR and invite all Yemeni Universities and Research Centers to participate in the IYPE activities. Dr. Mohamed S. Al-Haj attends the meeting.

Ministry of Water & Environment (MWE)

Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour have provide the MWE with a full set of information and documents about the IYPE and YNC_IYPE, as well as, an electronic copy of the Science Program Brochures and Eol Form. Dr. Al-Thour invite the MWE to benefit from the IYPE activities.



Dr. Al-Gunaied Deputy Minister thanks Dr. Al-Thour and confirm the ministry support for the IYPE and YNC.

Sana'a University (SU)



Dr. Khaled A. Tamim President of Sana'a University have received on Sunday 24th of June, 2007 Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour Senior Advisor to the IYPE and Chair of the Yemen IYPE National Committee who informed him about the progress made so far. Dr. Al-Thour invite the president of Sana'a University to support the IYPE activities and YNC_IYPE program. He also asked him to provide a building for the national committee secretariat and activities. Dr. Tamim indicate his support for the IYPE. Dr. Al-Subaary Vice-President, Dr. Al-Kotbbah Dean of Faculty of Science & Dr. Al-Haj have attended the meeting.

Seminar on Resources Issue- towards Sustainable use

The YNC_IYPE have organized a seminar on the “Resources” theme. The seminar chaired by Eng. Mohamed A. Al-Fusail, Member of the YNC_IYPE, who made a very good background on the importance of sustainable use of our resources. Mr. Al-Fusail indicate that “the term ‘sustainable development’, as stated in the IYPE Science Program Resources Brochure, came from opposition between those who supported policies preserving the ‘sustainability’ of the Earth’s environment and those who advocated economic development. Environmentalists acknowledged that economic development was necessary, in part to avoid imposing the costs of environmental protection on those least able to afford them, but also because economic stagnation often reduces support for environmental protection efforts. Likewise, those who advocated economic development recognized a parallel between the protection of environmental endowments and the concept of protecting capital in a sustainable economy. A viable economy must live off its income without a net reduction in capital over time. Similarly, a population must live within the carrying capacity of its ecosystem, which represents a form of natural capital”.



Flaring represents a huge energy loss every year, and possible negative environmental consequences



Resources Issue- (... continued ...)

Mr. Al-Fusail added, “nearly everything we make or build, and nearly all the energy we use, comes out of the Earth. Modern society is increasingly dependent on mineral and fossil energy sources. They are non-renewable, they differ in their availability, in the cost of production, and in their geographical distribution”. Then, Eng. Al-Fusail introduce the speaker Eng. Alwai the Secretary General of the YNC_IYPE.

Eng. Ali J. Alwai thanks Mr. Al-Fusail and the attendance of the seminar and said let me start with the summary of the research agenda as it came in the IYPE Resources prospectus. Eng. Alwai state that “the impact of the natural resource industry on the economies of many countries is so dominant that understanding their technological, social and geoscientific constraints commands broad interest. The International Year of Planet Earth will help focus attention on how the geosciences can generate prosperity locally and globally, as well as sustainability issues in both developed and developing countries”. He added “the Theme shows how, for example, natural resources may sometimes be linked to corruption and social unrest on the one hand, and yet may also contribute to sustainable development”.

After that Eng. Alwai have made a good review of the history and progress of the oil and mineral industry in Yemen and highlighted the major problems face such industry in Yemen. He also indicate the importance of Environmental Impact Assessment Studies (EIA) for all projects and confirm that the IYPE science and outreach programs is an open gate for decision makers, politicians, academic, media, and individuals to raise their understanding and knowledge; exchange of information, ideas and experience. He said we should work together to protect our planet and preserve it’s resources. Eng. Alwai also discussed the key questions the scientists and researchers should find appropriate answers for them, depending on their owen environment, education and culture.

The three key questions are listed in the next page

•Many great civilizations have collapsed for a variety of reasons, including climate.

The Theme will focus on answering three key questions

1. *How can our improved knowledge of valuable geological resource endowments feed through into better planning, governance, social stability and advancement, in a climate of sustainable development?*

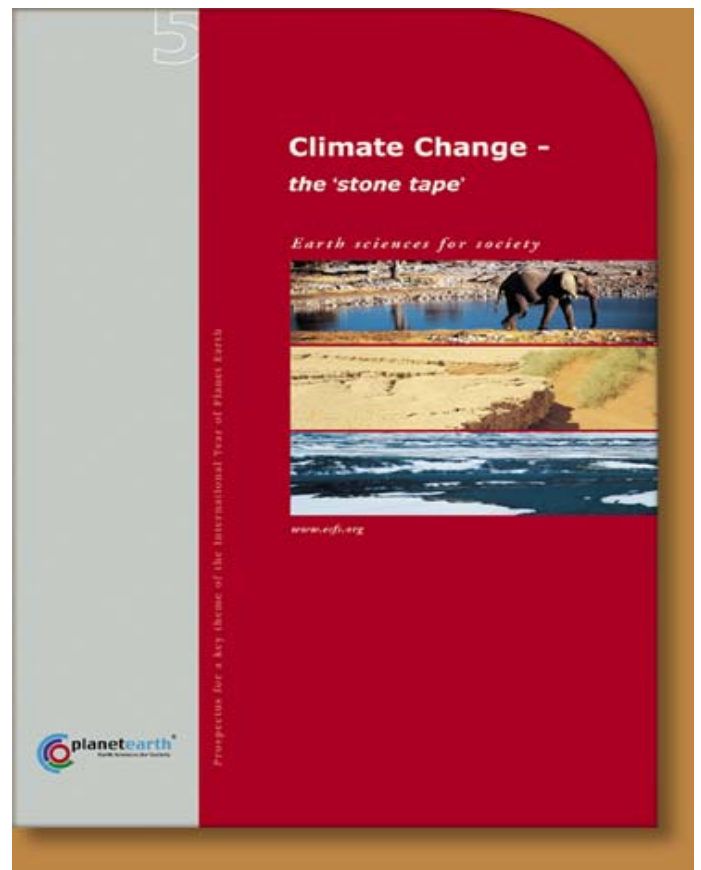
Specific projects under this heading might address the following questions:

- Can democratic institutions lessen any adverse effects associated with resource development?
- Can land use planning methods be used to resolve conflicting aims between different users in a region with overlapping claims?
- Do resource-rich areas attract foreign intervention that affects the social framework of the host nation?
- Do resource-rich areas tend to form separate states?
- Do revenues from fossil fuels weaken a state's institutional capacity?
- Is economic development part of the problem or part of the solution?
- What specific natural resources are particularly likely to lead to a decline in a country's quality of governance, or rise in lawlessness?
- What can be learned from the countries in which there is no history of resources leading to social unrest?
- How is it possible to promote the diversification of a country's economy, so that it is not based on one commodity alone?
- To what degree should the developed countries, in seeking to guarantee sustainable development, intervene to ensure that other industries are built up alongside emerging extractive industries?

2. *To what extent can geo-methane and methane hydrates contribute to global energy production, and what is the likely environmental impact?*

Specific projects under this heading might address the following questions:

- Can methane hydrate resources be estimated by a common quantitative “gradetonnage” approach used to assess undiscovered mineral resources?
- How can we assess the regional and local resource potential of shallow methane, both as free gas and as methane dissolved in water?
- How can alignment of incentives and institutional development minimise flaring?
- How can we visualise methane hydrate accumulations in 3D?
- How soon can methane hydrates become a significant energy source?
- What is the role of gas hydrates as a geological hazard and as a climate mediator?
- What is the true nature of bottom simulating reflections (BSR) and how do they develop?
- What methods might be suitable for assessing shallow gas potential?
- What role do mud volcanoes play in the accumulation of methane hydrates and how much is released to the atmosphere?



Wood cutting, Sada'a



three key questions

3. *Can the increasing industrial use of mineral resources and especially the Platinum Group Elements be supported by sustainable new production?*

Specific projects under this heading might address the following questions:

- How can scientists get access to, and exploit the available databases on PGE resources?
- Are we constrained by our current models for the future discovery of world class PGE deposits?
- How comprehensive is the established world PGE resource Inventory?
- What are the environmental consequences of PGE extraction and industrial consumption?
- Can some of the currently sub-economic PGE deposits around the world be made economically viable by the establishment of markets for saleable by-products?
- Can we secure a future sustainable supply of PGE through exploration?

•Human activity has resulted in changes to atmospheric chemistry and land cover, and caused serious decline in biodiversity.

Sana'a University

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
(DEES)



Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour Senior Advisor to the IYPE and Chair of the Yemen IYPE National Committee have invited all staff members of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Sana'a University to take the lead in the IYPE activities. He asked them to organize a geology week, develop projects, participate in other activities mentioned in the draft program &/or suggest new activities. Dr. Al-Thour indicates that the success of the IYPE is our responsibility. Dr. Al-Thour thanks Dr. Al-Thour and invite all staff members to act properly and develop their projects. Dr. Ahmed A. Al-Kotbbah Staff Member and Dean of the Faculty of Science (FOS) thanks Dr. Al-Thour and confirm the FOS support of the IYPE activities and invite staff members to include both graduate and postgraduate students in the year's activities, projects and plans.

The reactive mode is expected to be

the dominant mode of expenditure from

the Outreach Programme's budget

Central Organization for Control & Auditing (COCA)



Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour Chair of the Yemen IYPE National Committee and Dr. Mohamed S. Al-Haj have met Mr. Abdelhakim Al-Sharjabi the Public Relation and Project Cooperation Officer at gtz Office in COCA. They have discussed the output of Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanafie the President of COCA meeting and agreed in the necessity of establishing of an environmental department within the COCA structure. They also agreed that Dr. Al-Thour will discuss the results, in detail, in the next meeting of the YNC_IYPE Exective Board, as well as, with relevant authorities and write to the president of COCA.

Absence of Sewerage System, Abein



Social Fund for Development (SFD)

Dr. Khalid A. Al-Thour Senior Advisor to the IYPE and Chair of the Yemen IYPE National Committee have paid a visit to the SFD office in Sana'a and have been met by Mr. Abdelwahab Al-Moujahed the Director of the Environmental Department. Dr. Al-Thour provide Mr. Al-Moujahed with an electronic copy of all the IYPE Science program brochures and EoI Form and invite the SFD to support the IYPE mission. Mr. Al-Moujahed thanks Dr. Al-Thour and indicate his support for the year's activities. A scheduled meeting with the SFD Chair is planed in September 2007.



Contact IYPE

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www.yearofplanetearth.org

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Yemen International Year of Planet Earth National Committee

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IYPE Student Contest

The General Assembly of the United Nations has proclaimed 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE). Its subtitle 'Earth Sciences for Society' reflects the IYPE's main ambition: to make our planet a safer, healthier and wealthier place for its human societies by ensuring a greater and more effective use of the knowledge accumulated by the world's 400.000 Earth scientists.

A large variety of activities for the International Year of Planet Earth are being developed by the 45 National IYPE Committees. On an international level, several major events are scheduled including the Global Launch Event of the International Year of Planet Earth, to be held in Paris at UNESCO headquarters on February 12th and 13th 2008. This Global Launch Event includes discussions on four challenging topics (provisional titles):

- 1) Earth's natural resources and the sustainable development of our society
- 2) Geohazards: Minimizing risk – maximizing awareness
- 3) Megacities and soils: How to feed 9 billion people in 2050?
- 4) The future of Planet Earth.

During this Event world leaders in politics, science and industry will share their views and visions on these challenges and raise issues concerning their solution or mitigation.

Apart from these VIPs, a maximum of 350 students from all around the world will be invited to participate in the Global Launch Event. It is considered that the creativity and perception of these students will contribute to new perspectives on the major themes of the International Year of Planet Earth.

In order to bring this about, the International Year of Planet Earth Corporation is organizing an International **IYPE Student Contest**.

SANA'A CINEMA FESTIVAL

Dr. Mohamed A. Al-Maflahi Minister of Culture and Dr. Khalid Al-Thour Chairman of the YNC have met Mr. Masakazu Toshikage the Japan ambassador in Yemen. Dr. Al-Maflahi informed his excellency about the future cooperation between the ministry, YNC_IYPE and Cultural Heritage Protection Foundation (althour_CHPF) and other activities and events agreed upon. The minister request his excellency to support such activity in the preparation of Sana'a Cinema Festival which will be held in Sana'a in August 2008. The ambassador thanks the minister and indicate his support through cultural exchange cooperation program.



(The Rules and guidelines of the IYPE Student Contest are in pages 3 & 4 of this NEWSLETTER)



Yemen – U.K. Scientific Research

An official meeting have been held on Tuesday 24th of July, 2007 at the YNC_IYPE Secretariat between Dr. Khalid Al-Thour Chairman of the Yemen NC and Mr Roland Lewcock the British Historian. Dr. Al-Thour have briefed him about the IYPE mission and objectives and invited him to develop a scientific research program between Yemeni and British Scientists.

National/Regional Committees

From the onset of 2007, 15 more nations established a National Committee bringing the total number to 46 nations. In the last three months alone, 9 new nations (in bold below) joined in. These include: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Turkey, UK, USA and Yemen. In addition, there is one Regional Committee for IYPE, for East and Southeast Asia. A report of the Vienna meeting for National Committees was distributed early in May 2007.

Financial situation & fundraising

As expected, income generated by National Committees through national sources is increasing more rapidly than on the international level by the Corporation. Nevertheless, the financial situation of the Corporation continued to improve by new entries as International Partners, including the Geological Survey of Japan (AIST), the Geological Survey of Ireland, and the American Geophysical Union (AGU). There are positive indications that 10 more International Partners and sponsors will enter before the end of 2007.

The relation between rocks,

minerals and human health

has been known for centuries

Launch Events

Preparations for the Global IYPE Launch Event at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on 12 and 13 February, are in full swing now. About 700 guests are expected, including some 350 students from all corners of the world. Heads of State, leading scientists and CEOs of major international companies will address four key issues dealing with Earth Sciences for Society. A second continent-wide IYPE Launch event will take place on 22 and 23 May, 2008 in Arusha, Tanzania, and preparations are in hand for a comparable event in Latin America later in 2008.



Science Programme Committee

Guidelines for Science Project Proposals were developed. The Science Programme Committee evaluated more than 30 Expressions of Interest of which about two-thirds are considered capable of further development. It is expected that some modest funding for the Science programme will be available in the course of 2007. A meeting of the SIT leaders is scheduled for September or October 2007.

Outreach Programme Committee

Guidelines for Outreach Project Proposals were produced. The Outreach Programme Committee evaluated over 30 Expressions of Interest. A Vice-Chair of the OPC was appointed, Dr. Phil Manning (UK). A group has been created to secure the corporate identity of the IYPE. Work on transforming the IYPE website into a web portal is expected to start soon. Ten thousand copies of a new, 8 page flyer were produced and preparations are being made to reprint 5000 copies of the very first IYPE Brochure, 'Planet Earth in our hands'. In addition, the IYPE brochures are in the process of being translated into a variety of languages. Some 10,000 copies of the Soil brochure will be printed in French. On June 22nd a contract was signed between the IYPE Corporation and the Boston & Hannah Company for the production of the IYPE book, with a target completion date of February 2008.

Rules and guidelines IYPE Student Contest

Rules and guidelines IYPE Student Contest

Who may participate?

All 18-22 year old students from around the world are invited to participate in the **IYPE Student Contest**.

How to participate?

To enter the **IYPE Student Contest**, all students are invited to approach one of the questions mentioned below in a creative way. This might vary from writing an essay, song or poem, producing a drawing or painting, making a short video film, a cartoon story, a photograph, et cetera. Students are invited to focus their item of work on one or more of the following ten topics..

Topics

- Groundwater – towards sustainable use
- Hazards – minimizing risk, maximizing awareness
- Earth & Health – building a safer environment
- Climate – the 'stone tape'
- Earth's Resources – towards sustainable use
- Megacities – going deeper, building safer
- Deep Earth – from crust to core
- Ocean – abyss of time
- Soil – Earth's living skin
- Earth & Life – the origins of diversity

We invite students to approach their preferred topic(s) from their own, personal perspective, driven by their individual cultural background and education. For more information about these topics we invite you to read or [download](#) the respective brochures from the year's web site.

Language

Students are invited to produce their work in English or French unless prior agreement on other languages is obtained from their National Committee. Award winning works must be translated into English or French (see under: How to submit?)

Evaluation (brief)

All work produced will be evaluated by the respective National IYPE Committees, and the five best per nation will then be selected as award-winners. Work produced by students in countries that do not yet have a National IYPE Committee should be sent to the IYPE Secretariat (address, see below) for evaluation by the IYPE's Outreach Programme Committee.

Acknowledgement and awards

Trip to Paris

Dependent on the available funds, the best or all award-winning students, subject to a maximum 350, will be

invited to take a four-day (11-14 February) trip to Paris, entirely free of charge, and to participate in the Global Launch Event of the International Year of Planet Earth on 12 and 13 February 2008. Funds will be sought from or through National IYPE Committees, from industry, Foundations and donors. Industrialized nations are invited to support travel and expenses for award-winning students from developing countries.

Performance on stage

Four out of all award-winning students will be selected and invited to perform or display and comment upon their work on stage during the Global Launch Event as an introduction to each of the four debates (see above).

Certificate

All Award-winning students will receive an Official Certificate.

Publicity

The works of all award-winning students will be posted on the website of the International Year of Planet Earth (www.yearofplanetearth.org). Also, a publication with a selection of the award-winning works will be published some time after the Global Launch Event and will be sent to all invited students.

Geo Song

A cultural event has been scheduled for the first day of the Global Launch Event (on February 12th). This will have at its core a performance of a dedicated "Geo Song". In the interests of maximum audience involvement and to imbue this event with an appropriate international flavour designed to generate a sense of community, all 350 students are invited to participate in some aspect of the presentation of the Geo Song. A rehearsal will take place on the evening prior to the Global Launch Event under the direction of a professional conductor.

How to submit?

1. If a National IYPE Committee is active in your country, please submit your work to that National Committee. Check flags on the [IYPE home page](#) for details
2. If no National IYPE Committee exists in your country, please submit your work to the IYPE Secretariat. Address: IYPE Secretariat, attn. Åse Minde, NO-7491, Trondheim, Norway.

All works should be labeled as follows: full name, date of birth, place of birth, email address (if applicable) and student ID number together with a certification that the student is able to understand English or French. All documents should be written in Microsoft Office Word.

Rules and guidelines IYPE Student Contest

Deadline

Works must be submitted so as to ensure delivery to National IYPE Committees **no later than November 15th 2007**.

Evaluation procedure and deadlines

Submitted products will normally be evaluated by the National IYPE Committees, the evaluation being delegated to one or more individuals from within the membership of National Committees. It is recommended that the evaluation process should take place in the period **November 16th to December 7th, 2007**.

Critical evaluation criteria include:

- Creativity and originality
- Vision
- Empathy with the topic
- Style of production (design, wording, etc.).

Ultimately on December 7th 2007, National IYPE Committees will select the five best works (ranked 1-5, with 1 being the best) and inform the IYPE Secretariat of their decision by email (to iype.secretariat@ngu.no). This should immediately be followed by the dispatch by airmail (PRIORITY) of a high quality copy of the selected works with a 5-line motivation per student to the Secretariat.

On December 20th 2007, the IYPE Corporation will determine the number of students for whom funds are available to enable them to come to Paris. This information will be conveyed directly by email to the contact persons in the National IYPE Committees who will inform the selected students.

If applicable, the National IYPE Committees will translate all award winning works into English and/or French before January 15th, 2008.

Only works in English or French are eligible for submission directly to the IYPE Secretariat. Such works must be dispatched so as to arrive at the Secretariat in Norway **on or before November 15th 2007**. A team of Officers of the IYPE Outreach Programme Committee will then select the best entries (a maximum of 5 per country). Depending on the available funds, a number of these award-winning students will be chosen to attend the Global Launch Event. The students selected will be informed by the Secretariat (by email) before December 20th 2007.

From all award winning works (both those submitted to the National IYPE Committees and those sent to the IYPE Secretariat) the Outreach Programme Committee will select the four most appropriate works for presentation on stage on January 20th 2008. The four students will be informed of their selection no later than January 30th 2008.

Additional Information about the IYPE Student Contest for National IYPE Committees

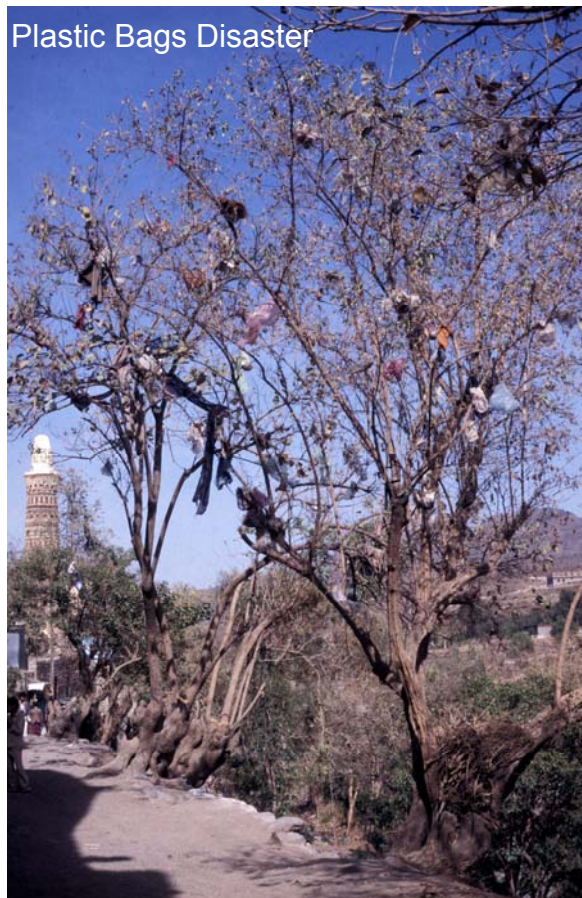
● **Engaging the public in scientific activities**

is a fashionable method of demystifying

the work of science and scientists ●

- **15% of the world's land area receives less than 200mm average annual precipitation**
(c. 200 litres per square metre).

Plastic Bags Disaster



Contact IYPE

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