

The Planet Earth Lisbon Event (PEL2009) terminated the "International Year of the Planet Earth"



The **International Year of the Planet Earth (IYPE)**, which has been active over a triennium 2007-2009, was co-founded by the **International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)** and by UNESCO being declared by the **United Nations Organization**. The IYPE aimed at ensuring greater and more effective use by society of the knowledge accumulated by 400,000 Earth scientists from all nations of the world over more than two centuries. It was oriented to increasing awareness of the importance of the Earth Science in the mind of policy makers,

politicians and the general public, fostering sustainable development and promoting local, national, regional and international action.



Under the high patronage of the President of the Portuguese Republic ANIBAL CAVACO SILVA, a closing Conference of the IYPE called "*The Planet Earth Lisbon Event*" (PEL2009) was held in the Parque das Nações in Lisbon during November 20 to 22nd, 2009. This conference, organized under the auspices of the Portuguese IYPE National Committee, was conducted by the Chair of the PEL2009 Organizing Committee EDUARDO F.J. DE MULDER, and by the President of the Portuguese Commission for UNESCO FERNANDO ANDRESEN GUIMARÃES.

Executive Director of the IYPE Secretariat, EDUARDO DE MULDER, stated that the most important IYPE constituents, eighty National and Regional Committees joined together key participants from sometimes competing organizations. PEL2009 associated scientists,

politicians and captains of industry to evaluate the results of the IYPE (2007-2009) and perspectives. This retrospective reflected in the PEL2009 subtitle "*Planet Earth, Present for the Future*" dominated the whole Conference. PEL2009 erected three important themes: "**Renewable Energy**", "**Sustainable Land and Water Management**" and "**Planet Ocean**". These themes were highlighted from viewpoints of politicians, scientists and industry entertainers.

The president of the European Commission, JOSÉ MANUEL DURAO BARROSO appreciated the IYPE effort to press leading politicians to consider a greater role for geoscience information in decision making processes in order to make human society safer and more prosperous. Former President of the Portuguese Republic MARIO SOARES, Portuguese Minister of Environment and Space Planning DULCE PASSARO and Minister of Education of Cape Verde VERA DUARTE referred to positive results in this aspect. Minister of Environment of Angola FATIMA JARDIN and Minister of Education and Vocational Training of Tanzania JUMANNE A. MAGHEMBE appreciated an initiative of Angolan geologists, which resulted in the foundation of the African Forum for Development, working side-by-side with the IYPE.

IUGS President ALBERTO RICCARDI appreciated the fact, that since the start of the IYPE triennium, thousands of activities were performed. A substantial part of them was related to education and graduation. Just the knowledge and information represent the principal demands of social, political and economical development. Geoscientific education and advancement is of basic importance in the formation of a safer, healthier and wealthier global society. Minister of Research and Higher Education of Norway TORA AASLAND perceived progress in geoscientific knowledge, UNESCO Assistant Director General for Natural Science WALTER ERDELEN highly estimated the increase in the number of geoscience university students during the last three years.

The report continues on page 534 under the title "**Every year should be an International Year of the Planet Earth !**"

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