

## Every year should be an International Year of the Planet Earth !



A closing Conference of the **International Year of the Planet Earth** called “*The Planet Earth Lisbon Event*” (PEL2009) was held in the Parque das Nações in Lisbon during November 20 to 22nd, 2009. Introductory report see page 518.

“**OneGeology**” is an another type of IYPE activity, which MARKO KOMAC from EuroGeoSurveys talked about. This activity unites the geological knowledge collected by geological mapping throughout all the world. The produced digital database is translated into unified computer language. It should be transformed into a digital geological map (“Mother Earth undressed”), which can result in a further dimension of popular geographic websites such as “Google Earth”. Since its start, this initiative already associates 113 national geological surveys.

The “**GeoAlpina**” initiative joined geological communities of Alpine countries, which created public open set of pedestrian tourist itineraries through mountains crests. Slovak and Polish geologists are preparing a map making geoscientific knowledge on the High Tatra Mts structure and evolution accessible to the wider public, they achieved the declaration of several geoparks. The idea of **Earth Learning**, providing an elegant way of helping teachers to explain sometimes complicated geological problems, represented another successful IYPE initiative. The Springer Editorial House edited a series of geoscientific books, dealing with all principal IYPE themes.

Several interesting contributions were contained in specialized sessions of the PEL2009 Conference. The famous British publicist, Professor of Zoology in the Oxford University AUBREY MANNING stated that the growing need for energy threatens the economic and political stability of countries all over the world, but it also brings great opportunities for geoscience and technology. The General Secretary of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists JEAN-CLAUDE AUDREY appealed for wider exploitation of renewable energy sources: solar, tide, wind, hydrologic, geothermal and, above all, biofuels, which are still used inadequately. The former Managing Director of the Param Agricultural Soil Survey, SELLIAH PARAMANANTHAN challenged the scientific approach in the global warming campaign, in which half-truths and hunting for sensations often prevails over deliberate problem analysis. An unconsidered approach is always more harmful than a rational one. As an example, he introduced the Malayan megaproject of self-sufficiency in rice production: millions of hectares of land covered by serpentinite weathering products were deforested and transformed onto rice fields: it resulted in production of both nutrients and surface waters contaminated by Ni and Cr.

Evaluation of the activity of national committees indicated that common intention to raise geoscientific awareness in the decision making sphere and the public on the national level was (at least partially) completed. Especially an effort to intensify the interest of the young generation in geoscience, to which the **Young Earth Scientists** (YES) initiative was also oriented, met with success in many countries. Invitation of selected students from IYPE participating countries to PEL2009 stressed an important role of coming generations in completing the goals of sustainable development set by United Nations Organization. The most active national committees from France, Portugal, Italy, Tanzania, USA, Great Britain and eleven other countries of the world were awarded.

EDUARDO F.J. DE MULDER suggested to continuing the IYPE initiative by establishing the **Planet Earth Institute**, which could coordinate the activity of national committees in participating countries.



Jozef Michalik